



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (Wales) Regulations 2017 General Guidance

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Introduction

Since 2002, the Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (Wales) Regulations (the EIA Regulations) have permitted the majority of agricultural works to proceed through the EIA regime, ensuring that important environmental features are not significantly impacted. The purpose of the EIA Regulations is to consider the effects of agricultural projects on the environment (e.g habitats, species and historic features).

What is the purpose of the Regulations?

Farmers perform an extremely important role in helping to look after our countryside and wildlife. Managed sensitively, farmland can support a range of environmentally important flora and fauna. As our natural habitats become fragmented, well-managed farmland can provide a vital link between environmentally important sites, helping wildlife to move about freely and access a patchwork of interconnected natural spaces.

The primary objective of the Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (Wales) Regulations 2017, “the EIA Regulations” is to consider the effects (if any) of agricultural Cofund projects on the environment before they begin.

The EIA Regulations also apply to land containing historic assets (sites of archaeological, historical or cultural value), as these sites form an integral part of the wider Welsh historic environment and landscape.

The relationship between the Regulations and Cross Compliance

There is a requirement under Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC) 6 to comply with the EIA Regulations.

Not fulfilling the requirements of GAEC 6 (Soil and Organic Matter Maintenance) constitutes a breach of cross compliance, and may affect your Basic Payment Scheme payment.

EIA Agriculture; protecting Wales’ habitats and historic assets

The EIA Regulations have directly avoided significant impacts on 89 grassland sites of high quality ecological or historical value between 2002 and 2016, which come under no other protected designation.

A practical approach from Welsh Government, helping farmers through the process.

In the period 2002 – 2016 the EIA team have worked with 1,494 farmers and land owners in Wales. The majority of these will have been visited on farm and their proposed project discussed with them. In many cases applicants would have been directed to other useful information and guidance.

During the same period, 100 screening applications were either withdrawn or amended following a site visit, showing the benefit of farmers engaging with the EIA process, and face to face contact. It should be noted the EIA Regulations are not in place to obstruct farming practices. Welsh Government officials will be on hand to offer individuals the support and guidance required to work within the regulations.

What projects are subject to the EIA Regulations?

What is a project?

A project is any farming operation undertaken to increase agricultural output from semi-natural land that significantly changes:

- the way land is farmed so that it is used more intensively; or
- the species composition of the surface vegetation over the longer term.

The key test is where the land contains less than 25% improved agricultural grass species and/or white clover is subject to the regulations.

Land falling within this definition is classed by the Regulations as semi-natural and a Screening Application must be made prior to any works commencing on that land. This test is paramount and overrides all other tests.

1. Land improvement works

How can I identify if my land is semi natural?

Semi-natural areas are largely defined by the plants and wildlife they support, and often have not been subject to cultivation/reseeding in recent years. They may have had low levels of physical disturbance such as chain harrowing or low levels of nutrient input from organic manures or inorganic fertilisers. Such areas can include lowland and upland grasslands where they contain less than 25% improved agricultural grass species and/or white clover.

These projects apply to works on semi-natural land and do not apply to those on:

- arable land;
- short-term grass leys; and,
- agriculturally improved land that has been intensively cultivated and fertilised in recent years.

Not-with-standing this, land with the following semi natural features will need to go through the EIA process, if intensification activities are proposed. Photos and more detailed descriptions are provided overleaf:

Acid Grassland (species rich grassland)

1. Bog
2. Bracken
3. Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland
4. Calcareous Grassland
5. Coastal Habitats
6. Dwarf shrub heath
7. Fen, marsh and swamp
8. Marshy Grassland
9. Montane Habitats
10. Neutral Grassland and Hay Meadow
11. Scrub
12. Standing water and canals.

If in doubt whether land is semi-natural, please contact the EIA team for advice – or submit a screening application.

www.gov.wales/eiaagriculture

Description of land types considered to be semi-natural:



Acid Grassland

Typically found on dry acid soils in the lowlands or damp acidic grasses on gleys or shallow peats elsewhere, usually with a pH less than 5.5.

Acid-tolerant plants such as heath bedstraw, tormentil and sheep's sorrel are characteristic.

This type of grassland includes moorland that has been heavily grazed to the exclusion of the heather cover.



Bog

Peat forming vegetation associated with Sphagnum (bog) mosses and Haretail cotton grass.



Bracken

Areas with a continuous canopy cover of bracken – at the height of the growing season.



Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland

Woodland above a certain threshold is considered under the EIA (Forestry) (England and Wales) Regulations 1990.

Other areas of semi-natural scrub (having colonised naturally) are included as semi-natural areas.

Contact Welsh Government if in doubt.



Calcareous Grassland

This is found on well drained soils rich in limestone or other lime-rich rocks, usually with a pH>6.

Lime-loving plants such as salad burnet, wild thyme, common rock rose and ladies bedstraw are characteristic and largely confined to this type of grassland.



Coastal Habitats

These include saltmarshes, sand dunes, coastal cliffs and slopes.



Dwarf Shrub Heath

This habitat is characterised by at least 25% cover of dwarf shrubs, including heather (ling), bilberry and western gorse. This includes heathland in both the uplands and lowlands.



Fen, Marsh and Swamp

This habitat is found on groundwater fed, permanently or periodically waterlogged peats or mineral soils.

Fens occur on peats, where rainfall, groundwater and run-off maintain waterlogged conditions for most of the year.

Swamps are characterised by tall stands of emergent vegetation (standing in water for part of the year) – this includes reed-beds.

Marshes refer to fen meadows and rush pasture, which may have the appearance of species-rich grassland but will be waterlogged at least for the winter period.



Marshy Grassland

These wet grasslands are typically dominated by rushes, purple moor-grass, meadowsweet or yellow flag iris.

They often have a taller sward structure than drier grassland habitats.

They may occur on peaty soils but never on deep peat.



Neutral Grassland and Hay Meadow

Characterised by vegetation dominated by grasses and herbs on a range of soils (usually pH of 4.5 – 6.5).

It includes enclosed dry hay meadows and pastures that have been managed with the annual or periodic addition of organic manures or low levels of inorganic fertilisers in both the uplands and lowlands.

Improved and some semi-improved grassland types which have been modified by management (particularly reseeded and the addition of inorganic fertiliser) in recent years are not considered semi-natural.



Montane Habitats

Vegetation above the tree line (i.e. usually over 600m above sea-level).



Scrub

Vegetation dominated by shrubs for example common gorse, hawthorn, blackthorn or bramble

Standing Water and Canals

This includes natural systems such as lakes, meres and pools, as well as man-made waters such as reservoirs, canals, ponds and gravel pits.

It includes the open water zone (which may contain submerged, free-floating or floating-leaved vegetation) and water fringe vegetation.

Ditches with open water for at least the majority of the year are also included in this habitat type.

EIA and the Historic Environment

The EIA regulations afford protection to historic assets (archaeological, historic and cultural sites) located on land parcels that are semi-natural (routine maintenance is permissible).

Therefore you are strongly advised to check whether you have any historic assets recorded on your land prior to submitting your project proposals.

Please use the on-line searchable Archwilio* facility, to determine whether there are any historic assets within the land parcel boundaries. If Archwilio shows historic assets within the land parcel boundaries please seek advice from staff at the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust by following the links on Archwilio.



Which agricultural operations are exempt from the EIA Regulations?

The Regulations do not apply to the following types of operation:

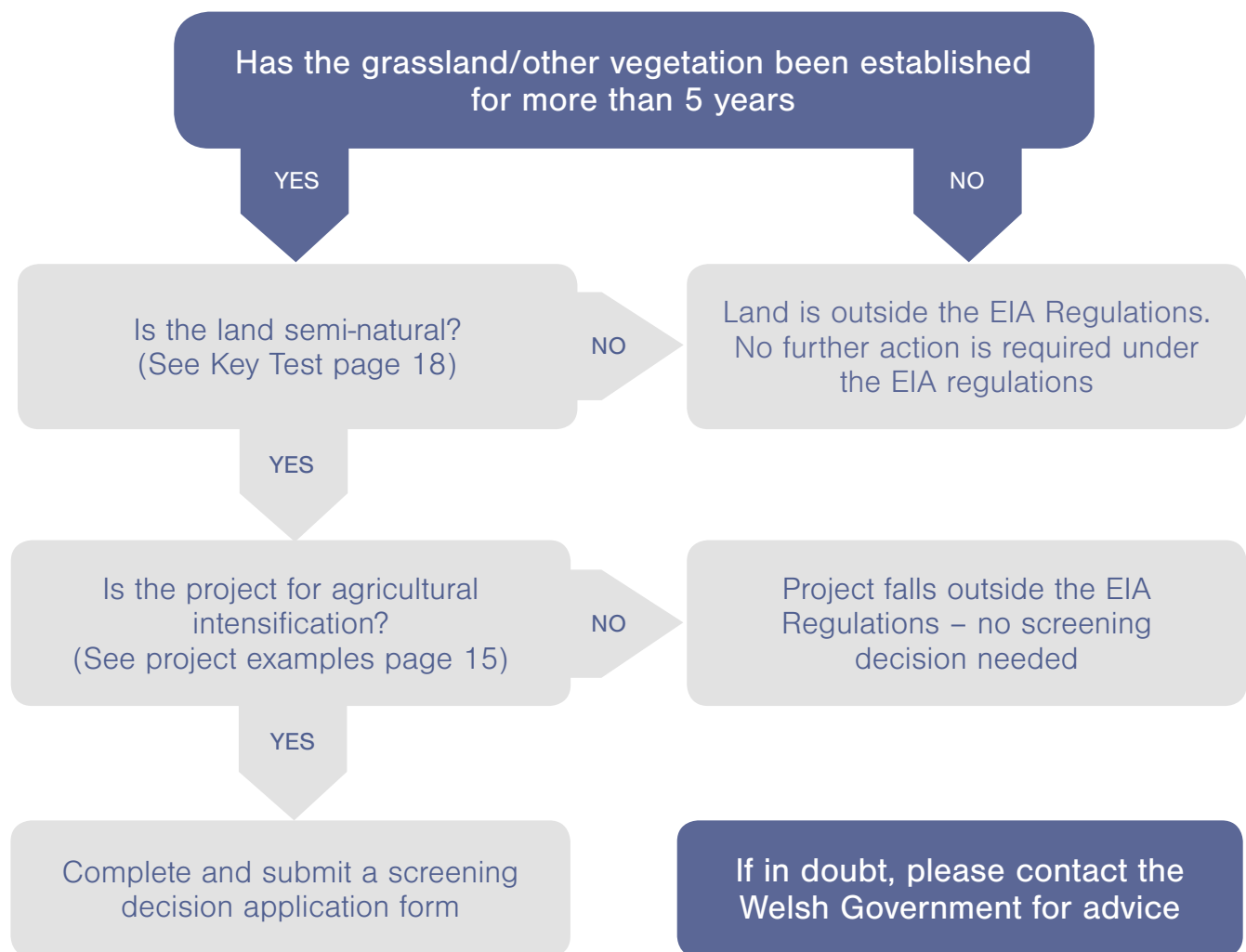
- Routine operations that have been carried out regularly over a number of years. Examples might be routine cleaning out of ditches (carried out on a regular basis), routine bracken control not followed by re-seeding, or regular applications of fertiliser.

- Agricultural work on arable land, temporary grasslands or pastures containing more than 25% improved agricultural grasses and/or white clover.

To help you decide whether the Regulations apply to the work you are considering carrying out: the following flowchart may help. If after reading this you are still in doubt please contact the EIA team for advice or submit a screening application.

* Archwilio provides public access to the historic environment records (HERs) for each local authority area in Wales. It includes information relating to known historic assets across Wales. The HERs are maintained on behalf of the Welsh Ministers by the four regional Welsh Archaeological Trusts and in fulfilment of the requirements of the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016. www.gov.wales/eiaagriculture

Which agricultural operations are exempt from the EIA Regulations?



2. Restructuring of rural land holdings

This relates to LARGE SCALE operations, such as removal of field boundaries and re-contouring / reshaping agricultural land. This will not apply to most intensification proposals in Wales, due to the high threshold levels of the category. On non-sensitive land the thresholds are:

- modifying at least 4 kms of field boundaries
- moving at least 10,000 cubic metres of earth or rock
- re-structuring an area of at least 100 hectares.

The thresholds on sensitive areas (e.g. National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) are half the above.

Unlike Land improvement projects, restructuring projects may also be covered by existing planning or other controls (see below).

Restructuring projects on any type of land (including cereals, improved grassland and semi-natural habitats), not just those areas classed as semi-natural come within the scope of the EIA Regulations.

For more detail on Category 2 type projects or if you consider that your project may fall into this category, please contact the Welsh Government EIA team.

What the EIA Agriculture Regulations do not cover

The EIA Agriculture Regulations do not apply to the following land management activities:

Forestry and Woodland Operations:

Forestry works in some circumstances need EIA Forestry Consent these include deforestation, planting, creating roads and quarrying within forest. Forestry related projects are dealt with by Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

Contact NRW or e-mail its forestry division:

forestregulations@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

Hedgerow Removal:

Works that would remove or damage hedgerows or traditional boundaries, or parts of them, require consent from your Local Authority. Removal of a small section of hedgerow for a gateway, where no other access exists, is exempt, but if in doubt contact your Local Authority.

www.wlga.gov.uk/authorities for clarification.

Removal of areas of Scrub:

Exempt unless the land will be subsequently farmed (grazed or cropped), when this will be subject to the EIA Agriculture Regulations and Welsh Government should be contacted, via

Rural Payments Wales.

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/rpwwonline/contactus/?lang=en>

Removal of individual trees:

If the tree is subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) then permission must be sought to remove the tree and may be needed to carry out subsequent works; including trimming and cutting branches. Your Local Authority is the body that deals with this type of Consent; it can also advise on which trees are subject to TPOs. Contact your Local Authority:

www.wlga.gov.uk/authorities

Transport, fish farming and large scale land drainage projects:

These types of projects have their own regulations and consenting authorities and are unlikely to apply to the majority of farm level activity in Wales. Contact WELSH GOVERNMENT via the Rural Payments Wales Customer Contact Centre for advice.

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/rpwwonline/contactus/?lang=en>

The EIA Screening process

Submitting a screening application

If you are planning to undertake:

- a) a project on semi-natural land; OR
 - b) a large-scale restructuring on your holding
- then it will be necessary for you to complete a Screening Application Form,

<http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/150417-eia-screening-decision-app-form-en.pdf>
available from the Welsh Government.

By completing and submitting this form to Welsh Government, you are notifying the authorities that you wish to carry out work that may be affected by the Regulations. Welsh Government has produced Guidance on how to fill in the Screening Application form.

<http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/150427-eia-guidance-notes-en.pdf>

If you are planning to undertake a project, you will need to provide the following:

- a map identifying the land affected;
- a brief description of the nature, extent and purpose of the project and its possible effects on the environment;
- any other information you may wish to include, for example the management history of the land and the reasons for the project;
- If applying for multiple parcels of land, it is best to list separately on the form. This allows more flexibility in decisions;
- any mitigation measures proposed.

Once you have submitted this information, Welsh Government will acknowledge receipt of the application within two or three days and will then carry out any investigations deemed necessary in order to assess the project.

Full use will be made of a Geographical Information System (GIS) to identify any likely significant environmental effects and to process the case as quickly as possible. If Welsh Government has insufficient information to determine your case, it may carry out a site visit or contact you to provide more information.

EIA working with land managers:

During the period 2002 to 2016, further details of the proposed work was only requested in 7% of cases submitted to Welsh Government and 82% of submissions were judged to be non-significant or outside the scope of the Regulations. An answer was given for the great majority of cases much quicker than the 35 calendar day statutory response time.

Please take care when preparing your screening application as a screening decision is only valid for the project notified. It will be invalidated if:

- your project affects land other than that notified to Welsh Government;
- the operations carried out are different to those notified;
- you fail to undertake measures that you notified for reducing environmental effects.

Welsh Government will consider your application and provide you with a written response based on the criteria set out in Annex 2. Annex 2 contains the criteria used for screening decision responses.

Contact Welsh Government if in any doubt:

It can advise you if it is necessary to complete a screening decision application form.

You can contact the EIA team on
eia.unit@wales.gsi.gov.uk/eia.unit@gov.wales

Need to speak to Welsh Government?
Ring the Customer Contact Helpline
0300 062 5004

Assessing a screening application

Welsh Government carefully assesses all applications to decide whether they fall within the scope of the Regulations and if so whether the proposal is likely to have significant adverse effects on the environment, including but not limited to habitats, species or archaeological / cultural features.

Welsh Government may consult with other statutory bodies such as Natural Resources Wales, Cadw, Local Authorities and non-statutory bodies such as the Welsh Archaeological Trusts, Wildlife Trusts and Biological Record Centres as necessary. A desk study will be carried out which will involve viewing a range of data sources including

current and historical aerial photography, designated site information, land cover maps, botanical, historical and archaeological survey data and Ordnance Survey mapping.

Applicants may be consulted by telephone for further information, clarification or to discuss the proposal. The site may also be visited.

Welsh Government will assess your screening application and provide you with a formal written response, within 35 days. Straightforward cases can often be dealt with much more quickly.

Worth Knowing: The 35 day response time is calendar days and includes weekends.

What kinds of decisions are given at the end of the screening process?

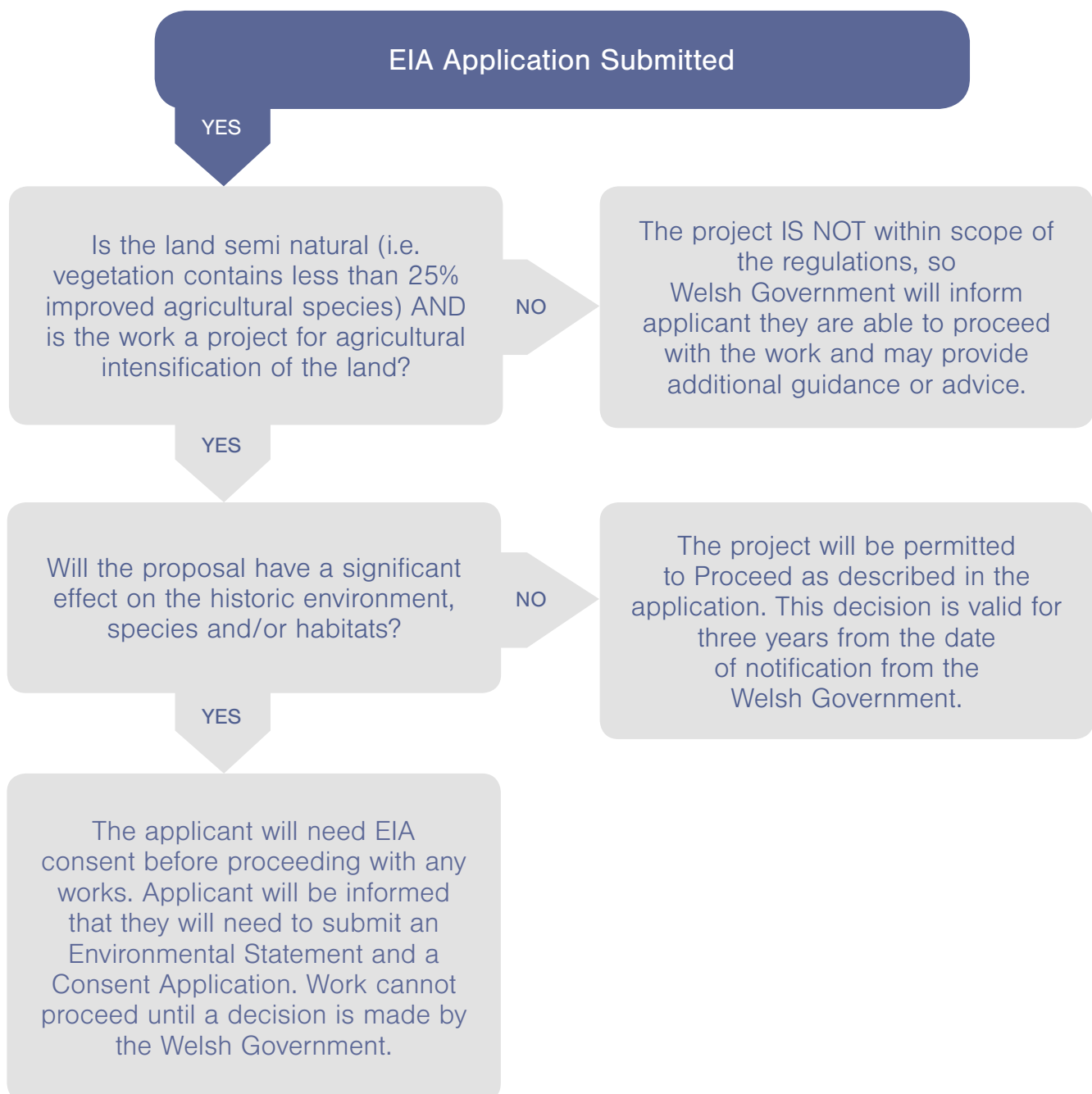
The following flowchart outlines the range of decisions the EIA team can make regarding your screening application.

If you have been informed that your project falls within the scope of the Regulations, and that you need to prepare an Environmental Statement (ES), you will find Guidance Note 3 (Preparing an Environmental Statement) useful.

<http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/150427-eia-preparing-environmental-statement-en.pdf>

You will also need to submit an EIA Consent Application; this application form will be provided to you by the Welsh Government EIA team. Guidance on the Consent Application process is available – see Guidance Note 4 (EIA Consent).

<http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/110318-eia-consent-application-en.pdf>



Case Study Scenarios

In order to try and demonstrate how screening requests are dealt with by the EIA team, a number of example scenarios, typical of EIA screening cases in Wales, have been produced. For each scenario the type of project is described, followed by a brief description of the site, its history, a comment on why the applicant decided to submit a screening application, and finally a description of how the EIA team assessed the request and reached a decision.

Scenario 1

Proposed activity:

To plough and reseed approximately 7 hectares of improved grassland.

Site description & management history:

The fields in question were last reseeded 5 years ago, and had been subject to regular applications of fertiliser since. There were no signs of any archaeological features.



Application process:

The applicant decided to apply for screening despite being fairly certain that the fields were classed as improved with >25% ryegrass. The applicant called the Welsh Government Customer Helpline and was sent the EIA Screening Decision Application Form EIA2(w), which he completed providing his contact details, a list of field numbers and planned actions along with an annotated Single Farm Payment map. This was sent to the Welsh Government Divisional Office.

EIA Assessment & Outcome:

The Welsh Government EIA team carried out a desk study and, based on available historical data and aerial imagery it seemed clear that the land had been agriculturally improved in the recent past and probably fell outside the EIA Regulations. The EIA team rang the applicant and had a short conversation which confirmed the land was outside the Regulations. Agreement was given for the works to proceed within several days.

Scenario 2

Proposed activity:

To plough, reseed, fertilise and lime 3 hectares of damp fields and to carry out hedge coppicing and maintenance works.

Site description & management history:

The fields in question were last reseeded approximately 8 years ago and had received irregular applications of fertiliser. The pasture units had become less productive and were looking less uniform, and duller in colour as the years had passed.



Application process:

The applicant thought that the fields were probably outside of the Regulations, however he was not sure and applied for Screening, as a precautionary measure.

EIA Assessment & Outcome:

An initial desk study was carried out which suggested that the fields in question might not be classed as improved. A site visit was arranged with the applicant and a botanical survey carried out which showed that the pasture actually contained more than 25% agricultural species. The applicant was given consent for the works within 20 days of the screening application being received. He was also given advice on the best timings and approach for carrying out hedge works so as to protect and maximise bird and other wildlife interest. He was also advised that if any sections of hedge were to be removed that the Local Authority should be contacted.

What happens if I don't comply with the EIA Regulations?

The Regulations are important and Welsh Government has tried to make it as easy to comply with them as possible. However, if you do not comply, by failing to apply for Screening or abiding by decisions taken, the Welsh Government has a range of powers at its disposal.

The Welsh Government has powers to act if work is undertaken without an appropriate screening decision or EIA consent, or if an applicant has provided false information. The Welsh Government can stop unauthorised operations and undertake remediation work at the offender's cost. Financial penalties may be imposed by a Court of Law. Payments through the Basic Payment Scheme can also be withheld.

Stop notices and Remediation

Stop notices may be served if a person has begun a project without the necessary permission. Normally, this relates to there being a requirement for an EIA screening permission. The notice orders work to stop immediately, usually pending an investigation by Welsh Government. It is an offence to contravene a stop notice.

Remediation notices can be served if Welsh Government considers a relevant project has been carried out, without the necessary permission. Remediation notices may require the land to be reinstated to its previous condition.

It is an offence to contravene a remediation notice. Failure to comply may result in Welsh Government carrying out the work itself and charging the person concerned for costs incurred.

Stop and Remediation Notices are only served in exceptional circumstances.

Is there an Appeals Procedure?

When implementing the EIA Regulations Welsh Government may issue the following notices:

- Screening decisions;
- Consent decisions;
- Stop notices;
- Remediation notices.

The Regulations enable you to appeal against the decision and notices listed above.

If any of the above notices affect you, Welsh Government will explain in writing why it has issued such notices. Welsh Government will also advise you fully of your grounds for appeal.

You can appeal against a screening decision or a consent decision within three months of the date you are notified of the decision by Welsh Government.

You can appeal against a stop notice or remediation notice within 28 calendar days of the relevant notice being served by Welsh Government. Your appeal should be sent to:

**Agriculture –
Sustainability and Development Division**
Welsh Government
Spa Road East
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 5HA

Any written appeal will be considered by Welsh Government, and this process may include:

- a request, and consideration of, written representations;
- an oral hearing; or
- a local inquiry.

Where can I get further information?

If you want further information, you should contact the Rural Payments Wales (RPW) Customer Contact Centre initially, on:

Tel: 0300 062 5004

E-mail: rpwonline@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Opening hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30-17:00

Annex 1

A guide to help you decide if your Grassland is Semi-Natural

The most important overriding definition is 'the KEY TEST', as follows:

Land Within The EIA Regulations (i.e. semi-natural land)	Land Outside The EIA Regulations
Less than 25% rye grass, white clover and/or other agricultural species.	More than 25% rye grass, white clover and/or other agricultural species.

The table below can also be used as a guide to help you decide whether your land is semi-natural, however please remember that the above definition takes priority over this guide. If in doubt whether land is semi-natural, please contact Welsh Government for advice or submit a screening application.

Land Within The EIA Regulations (i.e. semi-natural land)	Land Outside The EIA Regulations
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Past Agricultural Management History

Not ploughed and reseeded within recent years.	Arable land or pasture that has been ploughed and reseeded on a routine basis as part of normal agricultural management.
Little or no input of inorganic fertiliser/farmyard manure.	High inputs of inorganic fertiliser/farmyard manure/slurry/sludge.
Little or no liming – swards often becoming acid.	Routine liming as necessary.
Low productivity – just one cut of hay or silage taken annually.	High productivity – often two to three cuts of silage per year or a single high yield crop of hay. Generally considered as good, productive land.
Forage crops typically taken as hay.	Forage crops typically taken as silage.
Sometimes poorly drained – prone to waterlogging/rush infestation but can be very dry for example on a well-drained substrate such as limestone.	Usually well-drained.

Wildflowers and Grasses

Sometimes has a good range of different wild flowers and grasses typical of the soil type. Wild flower species may include knapweed (hardheads), yellow (or hay) rattle, oxeye daisy, birds foot trefoil (eggs and bacon), harebell and tormentil. Sometimes can be dominated by one non-agricultural grassland species for example Yorkshire fog. Typical grasses include finer-leaved species such as bents or fescues and sweet vernal grass. Swards are sometimes mossy.	A very limited range of wild flower species. Typical flower species found in improved grasslands include creeping buttercup, creeping thistle, docks, nettles and chickweed.
These grassland species usually spread throughout the field – occasionally a higher cover of wildflowers than grasses.	Most of the field dominated by very few species – typically agricultural species such as ryegrass or white clover.

Associated Wildlife

A wide variety of invertebrates (butterflies, grasshoppers, beetles and other insects) though these will not always be obvious. Anthills occasionally.	Associated wildlife is limited. Poor variety of invertebrates and no anthills.
Nesting birds for example skylark, curlew, snipe, and lapwing.	Typically few nesting birds though some partially improved grasslands can support populations of important bird species for example lapwing.

Annex 2

Criteria for Screening Decisions

The EIA Directive¹ lists the full criteria that Welsh Government must apply when making screening decisions.

The key criteria are as follows:

- The nature and size of the project including proposed mitigation measures.
- Cumulative effects taken together with other projects including:
 - The amount (area or distance) of land affected.
 - Amount of waste or pollution.
 - The nature and potential magnitude of the environmental effect.
 - Numbers and size of populations affected.
 - The capacity of the environment to tolerate the impact of the project.
 - The regenerative capacity of the environment in terms of the likelihood and duration of environmental recovery.
- The extent and severity of effects on sensitive areas, including:
 - Impact on land with an environmental designation, for example Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC), a RAMSAR site, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and Heritage Coast.
 - Effects on biodiversity, in particular, level of impact on priority habitats and wildlife covered by Species Action Plans in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.
 - Impact on historic assets (sites of archaeological, cultural and historical value) in particular, designated sites such as scheduled monuments.

¹ Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment.

Annex 3

Definitions, Clarifications and Further Information

Permanent Pasture	Permanent pasture is defined as grazing 'land that has been established for five years or longer'.
Regularly	A regular activity is one carried out with equal or similar amounts of space or time between one occurrence and the next. The Regularity will depend upon the action, and Welsh Government may have to use some subjectivity in its application, however there is an assumption that the action will have been carried out a number of times in the past.
Routine Operation	A routine operation is an action that has in the recent past been carried out regularly.
Significant Effect	A significant effect is one that has a marked change at a habitat, species or environmental level, the change being considered is likely to be negative.
Agri-environment schemes	<p>If you are an agreement holder in an agri-environment scheme, for example Glastir and are proposing to carry out works not already approved in your agreement, you should first consult your contract manager or the RPW Customer Contact Centre. They will confirm whether it is appropriate to submit a screening application form.</p> <p>Any agricultural improvement works affecting semi-natural habitats and semi natural rough grazing could breach the conditions of an agri-environment scheme. You are advised that an EIA screening response does NOT authorise you to breach any agri-environment scheme conditions that might apply to your land.</p>
Costs	Welsh Government will not levy any charge for screening applications, scoping advice or EIA consent applications; the service is Free. However, if you choose to use private consultants then you are advised that they are likely to charge for any assistance that they provide.
Guidance	<p>There are separate Guidance Notes and application forms covering each aspect of the EIA process. You are advised to obtain copies and familiarise yourself with the process. The guidance notes currently available include the following:</p> <p>Guidance Note Number and Topic</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 General Guidance: Overview of Regulations 2 Scoping 3 Preparing an Environmental Statement 4 EIA Consent Applications

Other Regulations	<p>These Regulations are additional to other statutory requirements such as those covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedgerows; • operations on Scheduled Ancient Monuments; • measures to protect Sites of Special Scientific Interest; • development control policies in National Parks; • consent or licences issued by NRW; • licences for operations affecting wildlife species; • Habitat Regulations. <p>Where such other types of consent are required you will need to obtain these as well as making a screening or EIA consent application.</p>
Public Register	<p>Formal screening decisions are recorded on a register which is available for public examination online, on the Welsh Government website.</p> <p>http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/conservationbiodiversity/eiahome/publicregister/?lang=en</p>
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designation	<p>Sites of Special Scientific Interest are given protection against any damaging operations. Before any operation/activity not normally undertaken can be carried out on a SSSI, consent must be obtained from Natural Resources Wales (NRW). You are strongly advised to contact NRW before submitting an EIA screening application affecting a SSSI.</p>
Scheduled Monument (SM) designation	<p>Before any work or alterations can be undertaken on a Scheduled Monument, Scheduled Monument Consent has to be obtained. Scheduled Monument Consent is a legal obligation and is administered by Cadw. You are strongly advised to contact Cadw before submitting an EIA screening application affecting a Scheduled Monument. Please send any enquiries to:</p> <p>amadminplanning@wales.gsi.gov.uk.</p>
Timescale	<p>Welsh Government will seek to respond as quickly as possible but where it needs to consult others there may be delays. Many screening decisions will be made within 14 days although some may take up to 35 days. EIA screening permission is valid for 3 years from the date of the decision letter. There is no problem applying for permission well before you intend to start the works.</p> <p>Although it is Welsh Government's intention to be as helpful as possible, if you are required to produce an Environmental Statement and need to go through all stages of the process then this may take a long time. It will be necessary to take this into account when planning work so that you allow enough time to get the necessary permission to start.</p>