

ENRD Seminar – 13 June 2017 Opportunities and future perspectives for Resource Efficiency in Rural Areas

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# Developing Result-based Approaches Experience from England

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Image: James LePage/Natural England

# Overview



1. Background
2. Experience so far
3. Challenges
4. Applicability to resource efficiency

# Background



- **Pilot project in England, 3 year project, half way through**
- **Delivered by Natural England in partnership with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority**
- **One of 3 pilot projects funded by DG Environment (for more details see [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/rbaps/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/rbaps/index_en.htm))**
- **Testing 4 Biodiversity Objectives**
  - **2 in arable farming systems**
    - Provision of winter bird food
    - Provision of nectar resources for pollinators
  - **2 in upland grassland farming systems**
    - Provision of wet grassland for breeding waders
    - **Species rich grassland**

# Located in Wensleydale – Dale (valley) in the Yorkshire Dales National Park in northern England

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# Traditional Management Based Approach - GS6: Management of species-rich grassland



**7 mandatory prescriptions (tailored for the site)**

**13 optional prescriptions (selected and tailored for the site)**

**11 Potential additional payment supplements (each with their own prescriptions) eg**

- GS15 [Haymaking supplement](#),
- GS16 [Rush infestation control supplement](#)
- SP1 [Difficult sites supplement](#)
- SP3 [Bracken control supplement](#)
- SP6 [Cattle grazing supplement](#)

**Agreement holders have to provide evidence that prescriptions have been satisfied eg keeping records of stocking rates/movements, invoices, photographic evidence etc for each of these prescriptions.**

# Result Based Approach

**Assessment must happen before the hay is cut and once the majority of species are in flower (late June to late July)**

- 1. Presence of particular plant species recorded at 10 stops on a diagonal transect across the meadow.**
  - Score based on positive indicator species +ve and negative indicator species –ve to give total meadow score.**
- 2. An overall assessment of whether the land has been affected by damaging activities – points deducted if the sward has been damaged by machinery.**



- **Overall points score translates to a payment band.**
- **Calculation of payments consistent with 'income foregone and additional costs approach'**

<b>Tier</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total points</b>	<b>40 -79 points</b>	<b>80-119 points</b>	<b>120-159 points</b>	<b>160-199 points</b>	<b>200+ points</b>
<b>Grant £/ha</b>	112	186	260	334	371

# Benefits for farmers – Learning so far



Farmers have been incredibly positive and receptive

- They like the link between payment and result which focuses them on owning and understanding the results, rather than simply following management prescriptions.
- They really value the freedom to manage as they see fit to achieve outcomes in their specific location. Allowing them to use their own local knowledge and expertise. The lack of prescriptions provides flexibility at the field, farm, local, regional level – rather than a national ‘one-size fits all’ set of prescriptions.
- If payment rates are structured carefully they can be motivated to try and achieve the higher environmental outcomes.
- They really appreciate not having to provide evidence/keep records that management prescriptions have been met!
- They are happy to accept the risk/trade-off between the freedom of the approach and the payment linked to results (at the start of the process at least!)



# Key Challenges

Image: Stephen Chaplin/Natural England

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- Identifying results Criteria/Assessment methodology
- Balancing risk vs reward
- Control /Audit
- Advice and support

# Applying the Approach to Resource Efficiency



**No reason why this approach can't be applied in the context of resource efficiency. Key is identifying suitable result measures:**

Objective	Measure
Climate change mitigation	Soil Carbon
Soil health	Soil organic matter
Diffuse pollution	Soil Nutrient Status
Soil biodiversity	eDNA species counts

- **Landscape/catchment scale – Scope to do water quality testing and eg Sediment finger printing to identify precise sources.**
- **Most simple and inexpensive laboratory based analysis**