

Landscape Features in the context of GAEC and EFA

LPIS (linked with GAEC-greening) workshop
Brussels 24 September 2014



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Overview

- Landscape Features - GAEC
 - Irish Examples
 - Management of Features
- Landscape Features – EFA
 - Irish Examples
- Summary



Landscape Features - GAEC

- Article 6 73/2009 – Annex III

Minimum level of maintenance: Ensure a minimum level of maintenance and avoid the deterioration of habitats	— Retention of landscape features, including, where appropriate, hedges, ponds, ditches trees in line, in group or isolated and field margins
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- Irish Context
 - “Hedges”
 - Trees in a Line
 - Ditches

Irish Examples- Hedge (1)



Irish Examples- Hedge (2)



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Irish Examples- Trees in Line



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Irish Examples- Ditch



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Management of Features

- Part of the LPIS reference parcel area
- Management by reference to orthophotography
- No explicit requirement to know the spatial attributes of Landscape Features

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Management of Features



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Landscape Features - EFA

• 1307/2013 Article 46

2. By 1 August 2014, Member States shall decide that one or more of the following are to be considered to be ecological focus area:

(a) land lying fallow;

(b) terraces;

(c) landscape features, including such features adjacent to the arable land of the holding which, by way of derogation from Article 43(1) of this Regulation, may include landscape features that are not included in the eligible area in accordance with point (c) of Article 76(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013;



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Landscape Features - EFA

- 639/2014 Article 45

4. Landscape features shall be at the disposal of the farmer and shall be those that are protected under GAEC 7, SMR 2 or SMR 3 as referred to in Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 as well as the following features:
- (a) hedges or wooded strips with a width of up to 10 meters;
 - (b) isolated trees with a crown diameter of minimum 4 meters;
 - (c) trees in line with a crown diameter of minimum 4 meters. The space between the crowns shall not exceed 5 meters;

Landscape Features - EFA

- Hedges
 - Now need explicit linear measurement
 - Need to confirm width not greater than 10
 - Need to know location
 - EFA guidance
 - “Woody species”
 - Gaps > 1m not eligible

Landscape Features - EFA

- Hedges - Questions for MS
 - “What is a hedge?”
 - “Is there a difference between a “designated hedge” and an “EFA hedge”?”
 - “How do you control?”
 - Gaps must be measured...
 - Width must be checked...
 - Species must be checked...



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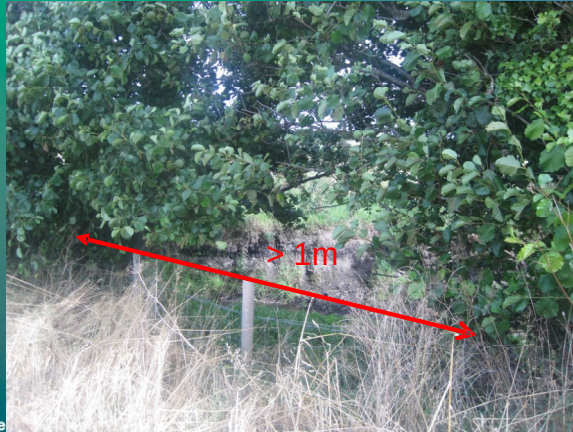
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Summary

- Landscape Features
 - Drains consistent
 - Hedges
 - Definition under GAEC/EFA different?
 - Confusion for applicants
 - Practicalities of control

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