



*Permanent Pastures and Meadows —
adapting CAP instruments to take
account of public goods*

*The UK Case
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Permanent Pasture Definition

SCOTLAND

Permanent pasture is land that is used to grow grasses or other herbaceous forage either naturally (self-seeded) or through cultivation (sown) and has not been included in the crop rotation of the holding for 5 years or longer i.e. from 16 May 1998. (Scottish Government guidance to farmers).

N. IRELAND

Permanent Pasture is defined as:

- *Land used to grow grasses, clover, lucerne, sainfoin or forage vetches and Land which has not been used to grow an arable crop for five years or more. (N. Ireland Guide to Land Eligibility)*



Determining permanent pasture

Scotland

Scottish IACS a distinction is made between the following types of grassland:

- *Rough grazing (RGR)*
- *Grass over 5 years (PGRS)*
- *Grass under 5 years (TGRS)*
- *Open woodland (grazed) (WDG)*

Permanent Pasture area is the combined total of WDG, RGR and PGRS



Determining permanent pasture

N.Ireland

Under N Ireland IACS Grassland is recorded under the code FR1, which includes:

(grass for grazing, hay and silage, rough grazing, grazed heather, sainfoin, clover, lucerne and forage vetches).

The permanent pasture area is the total annual area recorded under FR1 (providing it has been FR1 for over 5 years).



Protection of Permanent Pasture

Scotland

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Uncultivated Land and Semi-Natural Areas) (Scotland) Regulations 2002 apply to uncultivated land and semi-natural areas.

GAEC 12 Ploughing pasture of a high environmental value.

GAEC 13 Protection of rough grazings/semi natural areas

GAEC 14 Application of lime and fertiliser on rough grazings/semi natural areas



Protection of Permanent Pasture

N. Ireland

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 apply to uncultivated land and semi-natural areas.

GAEC 6. Protection of Habitats (Wildlife Areas) Archaeological Sites and Permanent Pasture.

You must retain and do not damage semi-natural habitats, including broadleaved woodland, scrub, moorland, wetlands and species-rich grasslands.



Present threats to permanent pasture

- *Land eligibility rules*
 - *hedgerows*
 - *scrub, wet hollows, parkland trees*
- *Poor implementation of GAEC rules*
- *Lack of baseline information*







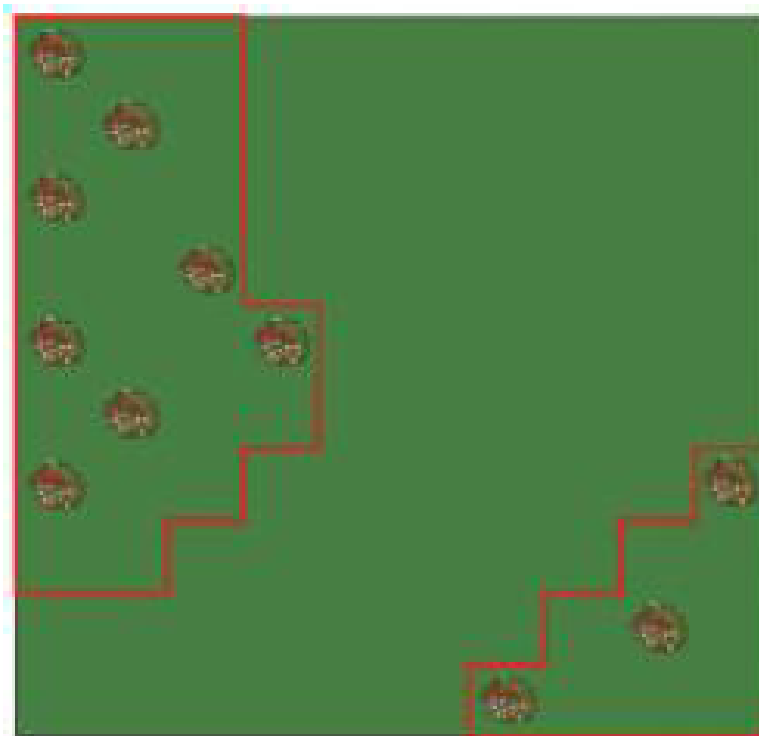
Example 2

Scattered scrub contained in two areas of the field.

Your field is 2 ha but there are two patches of scattered scrub.

You should apply the scorecard to the two areas to help you assess how much area you need to deduct.

Patch scrub 0.5 ha.
Scrub cover
assessed at 30%
therefore 35%
ineligible = 0.18 ha



Patch scrub 0.2
ha. Scrub cover
assessed at 20%
therefore 10%
ineligible = 0.02 ha



In this case, using scorecard 3, you have worked out that the area of scrub of 0.5 ha is between 21-50% dense, so you make a deduction of 35%.



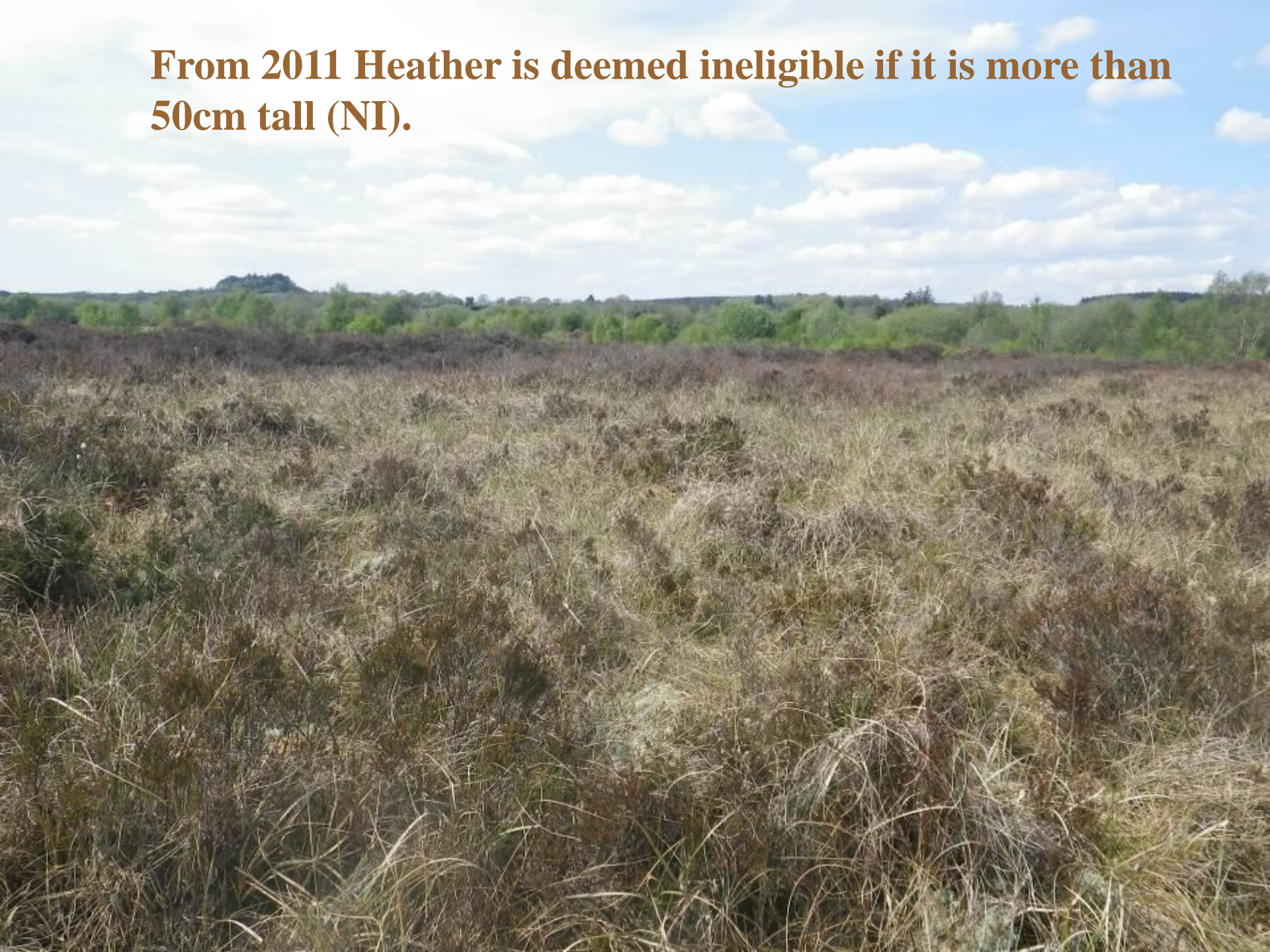








From 2011 Heather is deemed ineligible if it is more than 50cm tall (NI).



Recommendations

- Redefine eligibility to incorporate landscape features.
- Use GAEC approach in preference to eligibility where land can/should be more positively managed.
- Commission and national authorities to promote flexible and pragmatic solutions that do not impact negatively on environment and on farmers.

