

6.3 Parkland

Definition: parkland is a term used to describe areas of open grassland with widely spaced mature trees within an historic designed landscape. Eligible parkland must either be (i) recorded on the Inventory of Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes (compiled by the Department of the Environment – Environment and Heritage Service); (ii) show clear evidence on the ground of a designed landscape being (or having once been) present, or (iii) have historical or documentary, e.g. Ordnance Survey (OS) map, evidence for an historic designed landscape having been created on the site.

Aims: To maintain, enhance and replant areas of parkland through sensitive land management and a programme of replacement tree planting thereby benefiting the local landscape and associated wildlife.

Biodiversity objectives: this option contributes to the NI Biodiversity Action Plan targets for Lowland wood-pasture and Parkland.

Management requirements

- Reseeding, ploughing and drainage of existing parkland grassland is not permitted during the period of the agreement unless specifically agreed by DARD
- Fertilisers, slurry, farmyard manure, sewage sludge, herbicides, lime, insecticides, pesticides, sheep dip, fungicides, or application of any other material, are not permitted within a 10m radius from **the edge** of the canopy of a parkland tree
- Parkland must not be used for supplementary feeding sites or for the storage of round bale hay or silage
- No alteration to, or removal of, existing landscape features (eg gorse, scrub, bracken, field boundaries) is permitted without the prior written approval of DARD
- All standard trees planted under the scheme must be staked and protected from grazing
- No poaching

Further advice

Standard trees or whips may be used to establish replacement parkland trees. A farm specific restoration plan, (based on the original design of the

historic landscape), will be drawn up by DARD and will include the tree species and number of trees to be planted.

Tree surgery may be necessary to prolong the life of some veteran parkland trees or for Health and Safety reasons, but it should be kept to the minimum (standing dead wood in veteran/old trees and branches is an important habitat for many insects and fungi).

Noxious weeds *may* be controlled within the 10m radius from the edge of the tree canopy **but only** applied using a weed wiper or spot sprayer.

Management plans are provided for participants in the **Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Countryside Management Schemes**

