

## Prioritisation of 2010 applications to NI Countryside Management Scheme

Around 4800 applications were received to the NICMS in 2010. It was announced in February 2011 that funding is available to progress approximately 2300 applications to agreement stage. Therefore all eligible applications will be prioritised using a set of criteria based on environmental benefit. The prioritisation criteria are summarised below, with 1 indicating highest priority and 12 indicating lowest priority.

Level of priority	Priority Code	Description
1	N	Business application includes land inside SAC, SPA or Ramsar.
2	D	Business application includes land inside ASSI, but not SAC, SPA or Ramsar.
3	E	Business application includes land inside ESA area, but not SAC, SPA, Ramsar or ASSI and with no fields under ESA0/ESA1/ESA2 agreement
4	G	Business application includes land inside Geopark, but not SAC, SPA, Ramsar, ASSI or ESA.
5	A	Business application includes land inside AONB, but not SAC, SPA, Ramsar, ASSI, ESA or Geopark.
6	W	Business application includes land inside Ancient Woodland, but not SAC, SPA, Ramsar, ASSI, ESA, Geopark or AONB.
7	R	Business application includes land inside Marine Nature Reserve or National Nature Reserve, but not SAC, SPA, Ramsar, ASSI, ESA, Geopark, AONB, or Ancient Woodland.
8	C	Business application includes land outside SAC, SPA, Ramsar, ASSI, ESA, Geopark, AONB, Ancient Woodland, Marine Nature Reserve or National Nature Reserve. Applicant Business has no fields under ESA0/ESA1/ESA2/CMS1/CMS2 agreement.
9	AE2	Business application includes land outside SAC, SPA, Ramsar, ASSI, Geopark, AONB, Ancient Woodland, Marine Nature Reserve or National Nature Reserve. Applicant Business has an existing ESA0 agreement and all fields are under agreement.
10	AE3	Business application includes land outside SAC, SPA, Ramsar, ASSI, Geopark, AONB, Ancient Woodland, Marine Nature Reserve or National Nature Reserve. Applicant Business has an existing ESA1/CMS1 agreement and all fields are under agreement.
11	AE4	Business application includes land outside SAC, SPA, Ramsar, ASSI, Geopark, AONB, Ancient Woodland, Marine Nature Reserve or National Nature Reserve. Applicant Business has an existing ESA2/CMS2 agreement and all fields are under agreement.
12	AE1	Applicant Business has an existing ESA0/ESA1/ESA2/CMS1/CMS2 agreement and has one or more fields not under ESA0/ESA1/ESA2/CMS1/CMS2 agreement.

## Key to terms and abbreviations

ASSI	Area of Special Scientific Interest
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
CMS1	Countryside Management Scheme signed in 2001 – mid 2005
CMS2	Countryside Management Scheme signed in mid 2005 – end of 2006
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
ESA0	ESA Scheme signed in 2001
ESA1	ESA Scheme signed in 2002 – mid 2005
ESA2	ESA Scheme signed in mid 2005 – end 2006
Geopark	A territory with a geological heritage of European significance and a sustainable development strategy with a strong management structure, supported by a European funding programme, to aid further development.
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
Ramsar	A wetland designated by the contracting parties of the Ramsar Convention for inclusion in the list of wetlands of international importance because it meets one or more of the Ramsar criteria, particularly related to protection of bird populations.