



## National Parks & Wildlife Service – Corncrake Grant Scheme 2022

**To be returned:** The Corncrake Grant Scheme, NPWS, Ballinafad, Co. Sligo F52K752

<b>Bird ID:</b>	<b>Corncrake Site:</b>
<b>Fieldworker:</b>	<b>Dates Recorded:</b>
<b>Is this land within a (SPA) Special Protection Area Y/N:</b>	<b>Name of SPA:</b>

<b>Name of Applicant:</b>
<b>Address &amp; Eircode:</b>
<b>Phone No:</b>
<b>Email:</b>
<b>Herd No:</b>
<b>Name of Agricultural Consultant:</b>

I, the Owner/Tenant\*:

1. Am the person entitled to avail of the Corncrake Grant Scheme on the lands outlined above, and I confirm that no other person is using or declaring these lands for grant aid under any scheme administered by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. I declare that I am not in any agri-environmental farm plan schemes (incl. AEOS, GLAS, Other, etc.), where I am receiving grant aid for the management of the above lands for Corncrake.
2. Agree to delay mowing/grazing the areas outlined in table 1 until the dates specified in this agreement. I also agree to abide by the Terms & Conditions of the scheme, as attached. By doing so, I will be eligible for grant aid as outlined in the terms and conditions on the reverse of this form.
3. Agree to mow the area outlined in the table above employing a Wildlife Friendly technique, as agreed with the NPWS Corncrake Fieldworker. I also agree to abide by the Terms & Conditions of the scheme, as attached by doing so, I will be eligible for WFM grant of €50 per Ha.
4. Understand that failure to comply, or intentional breaches of the Terms and Conditions of the scheme will result in an appropriate penalty/sanction and the possible non-payment of the grant.
5. Understand that any false declaration or the provision of false or misleading information above may result in non-payment of the grant and the refund of monies paid in 2022.

**SIGNED:**

Owner/Tenant ..... Date:.....

Corncrake Fieldworker ..... Date:.....

\* The owner/tenant must be the person using the land, and the land cannot be submitted by anyone else for any other scheme (**including the Basic Payment Scheme 2022**), other than by the applicant.



## Corncrake Grant Scheme 2022 – Office Use Only

Is this participant in AEOS or GLAS, or any other agri-environmental plan scheme or agreement? <b>Y/N</b>
If yes, which scheme? (Specify)
Are any of the land parcels above included in their AEOS/GLAS/Other plan <b>Y/N</b>
If yes, what GLAS measures are they signed up for? Please provide details:

LPIS No.	Area (Ha.)	Measure

Table 1

Mowing	Payment€/ha.	Grazing	Payment€/ha.
(A1)WFM on lands prior to Aug 1 <sup>st</sup> (Non SPA only)	€100		
(A2)Delay mowing until 1 <sup>st</sup> August (Non SPA only)	€125	(B1) Delay grazing until 1 <sup>st</sup> August	€100
(A3) Delay mowing until 15 <sup>th</sup> August	€250	(B2) Delay grazing until 15 <sup>th</sup> August	€150
(A4) Delay mowing until 1 <sup>st</sup> September	€300	(B3) Delay grazing until 1 <sup>st</sup> September	€200
(A5) WFM	€50	(B4) SPA	€25
(A6) SPA	€50		
(A7) Refuge area (per plot)	€100		
(A8) Island mowing	€75		

LPIS No.	Area Ha.	Max. Eligible Area as per BPS	Delay-1 <sup>st</sup> of August	Delay-15 <sup>th</sup> August	Delay 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept.	Wildlife Friendly Mowing <i>*see T&amp;Cs</i>	Area Bonus <i>*see T&amp;Cs</i>	Refuge Area Margin <i>*see T&amp;Cs</i>	Intensive Farmer – Non SPA <i>*see T&amp;Cs</i>

Payment Details	Ha.	€ per Ha.
Delay Code(s) Specify:		
WFM/Island WFM: (T&C18-22)		
Refuge Area(T&C13)		
Area Bonus(T&C15)		
SPA Payment		
Other Scheme-Restricted Specify (T&C 16)		
<b>Invoice No.:</b>	<b>Total Payment</b>	



## Corncrake Grant Scheme 2022 – Terms and Conditions

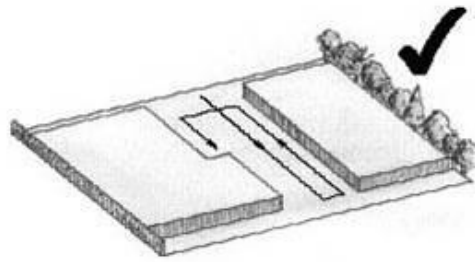
1. The presence of Corncrakes must be confirmed by a NPWS Corncrake Fieldworker. An application form must be completed as soon as possible after a visit by the Fieldworker. This must be signed by both the Applicant and the Fieldworker.
2. To enter the scheme an application form must be completed by the **1<sup>st</sup> July**. The later cutting dates of 15<sup>th</sup> of August and 1<sup>st</sup> September will be offered in Corncrake priority areas at the Fieldworker's discretion. Applications after the 1<sup>st</sup> July will usually involve delaying mowing for not less than six weeks from the date of the application.
3. A minimum of 0.1ha of the field must be within 250m of the call male Corncrake, i.e. if only part of a field falls within the buffer zone, the entire field is eligible for the Corncrake Grant Scheme.
4. Land must be in use/actively farmed (not abandoned). Payment are only made where mowing is verified.
5. Habitat must be classified as grassland
6. Sward height must be at least 10cm at the time of signing up to the Corncrake Grant Scheme.
7. Permanent pasture generally is not eligible.
8. Generally rush (*Juncus*) cover should be <30%
9. Applicants must be the landowners/land users. Applicants must declare that the lands are not being used by any other farmers or being declared by another farmer under any other schemes.
10. Applicants must not be already receiving grant aid for managing for Corncrake (GLAS,FPS)
11. Non-SPA (intensive) Farmers - A payment rate is available to Farmers in areas outside SPA Designations of €100/ha who agree to mow meadows Wildlife Friendly. This payment is capped at €500. Meadows mown before August 1<sup>st</sup> may also qualify for refuge area payments. This is payment rate is decided at the discretion of the Fieldworker. The bonus payment is available subject to the cap.
12. Capping - The maximum payable to a land Owner/Manager is €1,500 for one territory. If the land supports >1 Bird-then the payment cap is €3,000
13. Refuge Areas/Margins – A payment of €100 is available for leaving a refuge area of a minimum of 0.05 ha (1/8<sup>th</sup> of an acre) in a mowed plot. Refuge areas are paid per plot and must be left in-situ for two weeks post mowing, (no grazing). These areas must be clearly delineated can be a 2m strip 250m long or a block of land e.g. 50m by 10m such as a headland. A maximum of €500 is available for refuge areas i.e. five separate mowed plots. The bonus payment is available subject to the cap.
14. Wildlife Friendly Mowing – WFM is conditional on any plots which are being mowed.
15. Area Bonus – If the area eligible for the Corncrake Grant scheme exceeds 2.5 Ha. Of continuous land the land Owner/Manager may qualify for a 10% bonus payment. The bonus payment is based on the following and cannot exceed the payment threshold:  

Date of Management/delay + Refuge Areas
16. Participants in the following existing agri-environmental schemes; REAP, GLAS (Traditional Hay Meadow/Breeding Waders/Curlew) may avail of a grant of €150 per ha for delayed wildlife friendly mowing until September 1<sup>st</sup>. Refuge Areas/Margins are not available to these participants. They may avail of the Area bonus of 10%, whilst remaining under the Capping rate (see T&C 12).
17. Participants in the following existing agri-environmental schemes; GLAS (Twite/Corncrake) may avail of a grant of €100 per ha for delayed wildlife friendly mowing until September 1<sup>st</sup>. Refuge Areas/Margins are not available to these participants. They may avail of the Area bonus of 10%, whilst remaining under the Capping rate (see T&C 12).
18. In relation to Wildlife Friendly Mowing, the Applicant must notify the Fieldworker as early as possible before mowing the relevant area. **If no attempt is made to contact the Fieldworker in advance of mowing, the grant may not be paid.**
19. Wildlife Friendly Mowing involves:
  - cutting a small area for turning at either end of the field, mowing down the centre of the field and then continuing to mow from the centre outwards; or
  - driving to the centre of the field, leaving a small island of grass in the middle and continuing to mow in a spiral outwards. The remaining island in the middle can then be slowly strip-cut at the end; or
  - cutting the field in strips from one side to the other.

Ideally Wildlife Friendly Mowing should adhere to the following:

- Meadows must be cut by the “centre out” method – see diagram below.
- Mower speed should be kept at a low enough speed (e.g. 4mph.) to allow corncrakes move away.
- The mower must not exceed 10 feet in width. Mowers greater than 3.6m (12 feet) are generally not permitted.
- Applicants must notify the NPWS 24 hours in advance of the intention to mow.

The decision of the Fieldworker on what constitutes Corncrake Friendly Mowing is final.



20. **It is not allowable to cut any rounds around the outside of the field before starting centre-out mowing.** If any rounds are cut outside-in, this does not constitute Wildlife Friendly Mowing and will not qualify for this payment. If you are unsure about the best method to use, please consult the NPWS Corncrake Fieldworker before starting.
21. **The decision of the fieldworker on Wildlife Friendly Mowing is final. Please note that failure to abide by the conditions for Wildlife Friendly Mowing may incur a penalty of 25% of the grant for delayed mowing in addition to the loss of the grant for Wildlife Friendly Mowing.**
22. Payments for delayed mowing and Wildlife Friendly Mowing, and other measures may be combined.
23. Areas of hay or silage within a circle of 250 metres radius around the Corncrake's night-time calling point, as determined by the Corncrake Fieldworker between midnight and 3 a.m., are eligible. The exact determination of the areas to be included will be assessed and mapped by the Fieldworker.
24. Livestock must continue to be excluded from grant-aided areas between the date of application and the agreed mowing date. Rolling, fertilising or spraying of grant-aided areas is not allowed. Areas that have already been mown in the current year may be entered into the scheme at the Fieldworker's discretion, but will not be eligible for the €150 Intensive Farming Rate.
25. The grants are payable to the landowner or, in the case of rented land, to the tenant. Payments will be made within three months of verification of compliance.
26. Completion of the application form does not automatically confer acceptance into the scheme. Due to the limited funding available, not all applications can be accepted. Unsuccessful applicants will be informed no later than 4 weeks after submitting the completed application form.
27. Any variation in the conditions is only acceptable if it is agreed in writing with the National Parks & Wildlife Service.
28. The NPWS reserve the right to exchange your information with the Corncrake LIFE project (LIFE18 NAT/IE/000090) for operational reasons. This includes allowing the LIFE project or contractors acting on their behalf access to the plots within the grant for consultation and habitat assessment reasons.
29. Application forms should be returned to the NPWS Corncrake Fieldworker or posted to:

**The Corncrake Grant Scheme,  
National Parks & Wildlife Service,  
Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht,  
Ballinacorney,  
Via Boyle,  
Co. Sligo**