

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Organic Farming Scheme

Application for Payment for Land to be Converted

Name

Address

.....

Please supply details of land that you plan to convert to organic, using a different line for each block. You should also attach a map of the land.

Acreage	Date conversion to start	Date conversion to be completed	Authorising Body
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

TOTAL ACREAGE TO BE CONVERTED

Do you own the land or are you a tenant? (If you are a tenant you must provide written consent of your landlord(s) to include land in the scheme).....

I hereby claim payment under the Organic Farming Scheme for acres of land that I will convert to Organic Status, and provide certificate(s) from the Authorising Body approving my conversion plan.

I/we make application under this scheme, to the best of my/our knowledge; the information in this application is correct and complete. I/we understand that if I/we have deliberately or carelessly given any inaccurate information then I/we could render myself/ourselves liable to prosecution.

Signed Date

FOR OFFICIAL USE

Amount Approved £.....

Authorising Officer

Signed **Date**

An applicant shall be required to give the following undertakings in support of any application

- (a) before claiming aid in respect of any organic parcel, to furnish to the Department a certificate of registration in respect of that organic parcel;
- (b) for the duration of the specified period-
 - (i) to retain a certificate of registration in respect of each organic parcel on which aid has been claimed;
 - (ii) to farm the land that is the subject of his application, and such part of the organic unit comprising that land as at any given time is being farmed by organic farming methods, in accordance with the proposals set out in his application and with UKROFS standards and the standards set out in Schedule 2;
 - (iii) to ensure that no livestock other than organic livestock or livestock undergoing conversion are grazed on his organic unit for more than 120 days in each grazing year unless with the prior written agreement of the Department;
 - (iv) to ensure that any such organic livestock undergoing conversion which are kept on his organic unit are kept in accordance with UKROFS standards; and
 - (v) where at the date of his application the applicant has introduced organic farming on a part of his holding other than the part which is the subject of the application, to ensure that that other part conforms to UKROFS standards and he continues with organic farming on that other part of his holding, in accordance with UKROFS standards and the standards set out in Schedule 2; and
- (c) to complete the conversion of each organic parcel no later than the fifth anniversary of the date on which the conversion period in respect of the organic parcel in question begins.

Standards to be observed

1. The main beneficiary shall not plough, reseed or improve, by use of drainage, manures or liming agents, any heathland, grassland of conservation value, (including species-rich grassland,) or rough grazing. The beneficiary shall not graze any such semi-natural habitats so as to cause poaching, over-grazing or under-grazing affecting the conservation value of such habitats.
2. The beneficiary shall avoid localised heavy stocking in the nesting season on areas of semi-natural vegetation, including heathland, species-rich grassland and rough grazing.
3. The beneficiary shall not carry out field operations, such as harrowing and rolling, on species-rich grassland or rough grazing during the nesting season.
4. The beneficiary shall not cultivate or apply fertilisers to the land within 1 metre of any boundary features, such as fences, hedges or walls.
5. The beneficiary shall retain traditional farm boundary features, for example hedges and walls. He shall carry out hedge-trimming in rotation, but not between 1st March and 31st August. The beneficiary shall maintain any stock-proof boundaries, using traditional methods and materials.

6. Ditch maintenance shall be carried out in rotation, but not between 1st March and 31st August.
7. The beneficiary shall maintain streams, ponds and wetland areas.
8. The beneficiary shall retain any copses, farm woodlands or groups of trees.
9. The beneficiary shall ensure that in farming the land he does not damage, destroy or remove any feature of historical or archaeological interest.
10. The beneficiary shall abide by the Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Water published by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.