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Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

A Guide to the *GAEC 8 & Eco-Scheme Space for Nature* Panels For Farmers and Advisors

Introduction:

The Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM) launched the GAEC 8 and Eco -Scheme Space for Nature Panels in September 2022 to aid farmers in understanding their GAEC 8 and Space for Nature position ahead of the new schemes under the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027.

From 2023, farmers must meet the 4% Conditionality requirement under GAEC 8. Under the Eco-scheme, farmers may select the Space for Nature Agricultural Practice, as one of their Eco-scheme practices if their contribution is 7% or greater. An enhanced option is available, which would count as two practices, if their contribution is 10% or greater.

On agfood.ie farmers can now see their GAEC 8 and Space for Nature indicative estimates. For each eligible land parcel, the contribution estimate defaults to the most beneficial, be it a Feature e.g., drain/hedge or the Crop. Farmers and advisors can switch between each to determine how it impacts their overall contribution.

This user guide will assist farmers and advisors access the new GAEC 8 and Eco-Scheme Space for Nature panels on agfood.ie and to help understanding of the data available.

Guide to GAEC 8 & Eco-Scheme Space for Nature Panels for Farmers and Advisors

Login to Agfood

Using your Username, Password and **PAC**, (Personal Access Code), you will be able to login to the Agfood Online system at www.agfood.ie. When you are on www.agfood.ie, the first page you will see is the Login page as shown in the image below.

To log in, please follow the steps below:

1. Enter your Username which you created when you registered
2. Enter the 3 requested digits from the 7 digits of your **PAC** (Personal Access Code) which you received in the post after you registered
3. **Enter your password which you created when you registered**
4. Click on the **Logon** button at the bottom of the screen

Once logged in, click on the [Direct Payments \(BPS/Greening/SPS\)](#) link to enter the BPS Portal.

1. Payments under Basic Payment Scheme & Greening are now available online.
Please click on the Direct Payments link on the left hand side of this page to access these payment details.

Authorised Applications

[Animal Event Recording System](#)

[Animal Identification and Movements](#)

[Beef Data Genomics Programme \(2015 - 2020\)](#)

[Beef Environmental Efficiency Pilot](#)

[Beef Environmental Efficiency Programme - Suckler \(BEEP-S\)](#)

[Direct Payments \(BPS/Greening/SPS\)](#)

[Exceptional Aid Measures](#)

[Forestry Grants and Premiums](#)

Change Password

You can change your Password at any time here

[Change](#)

My Details

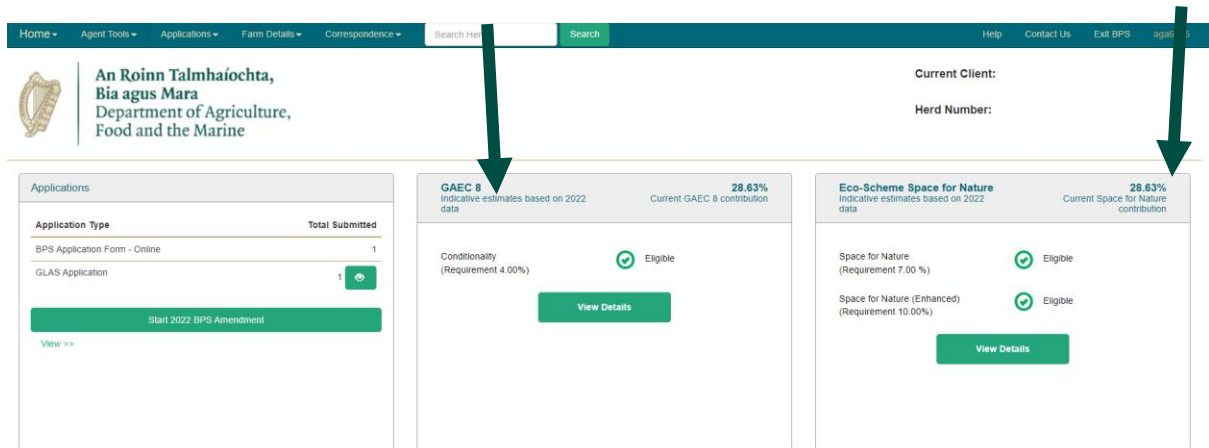
You can update your contact details with the Department here

[Update](#)

Viewing your GAEC 8 and Eco-Scheme Space for Nature Panels

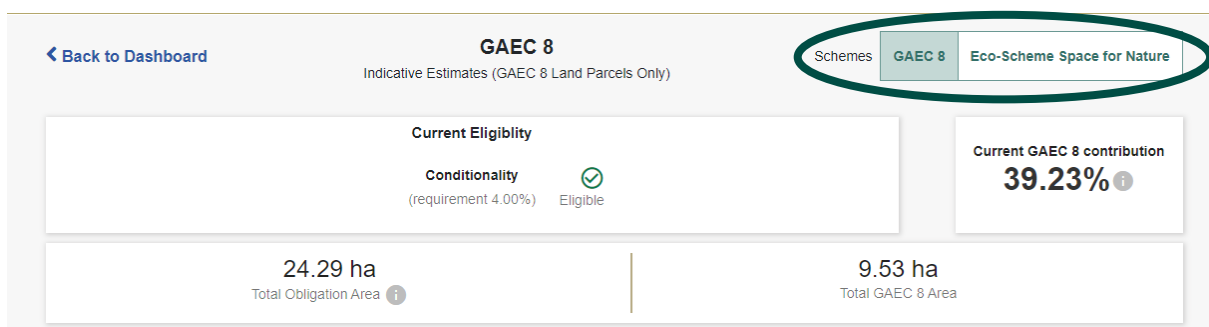
You are now on the Direct Payments Homepage.

The new **GAEC 8 and Eco-Scheme Space for Nature Panels** are accessible from this screen, as shown in the image below.



Note – If you enter the GAEC 8 panel using the View Details button, you can then easily toggle between both the GAEC 8 and Eco-Scheme Space for Nature panels using the buttons, as shown in the image circled below.

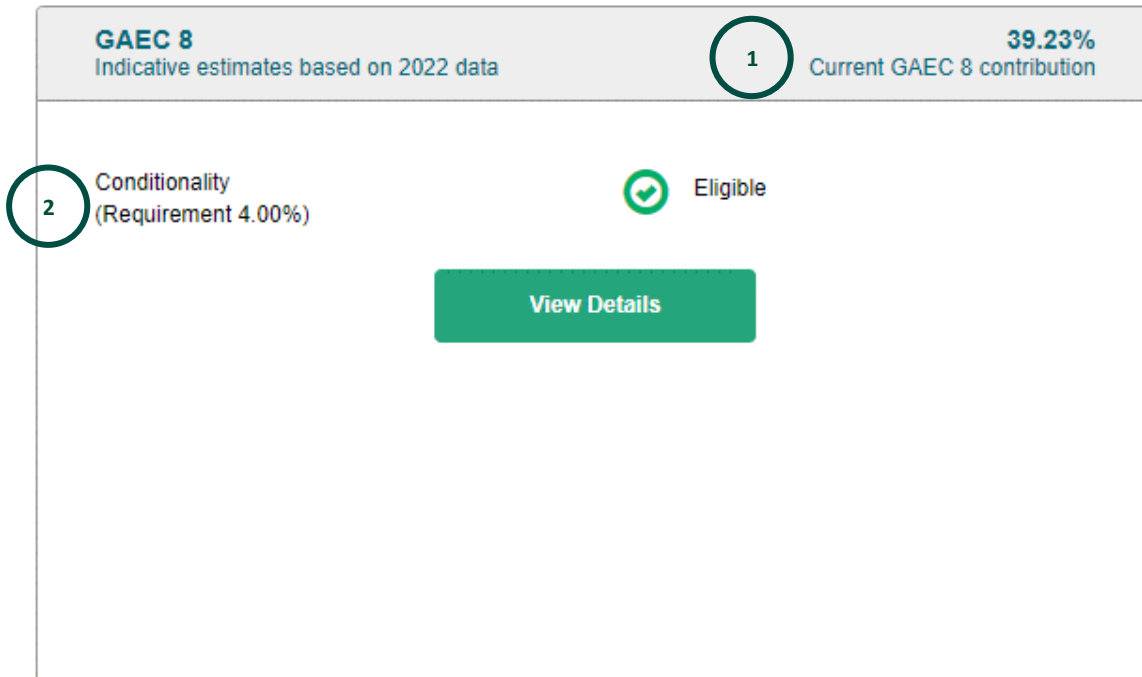
You do not need to return to your dashboard to switch between panels.



Viewing your GAEC 8 Panel

Before selecting View Details, the front panel gives an overview of your current data, outlining the below information:

1. Current GAEC 8 contribution
2. Conditionality requirement status

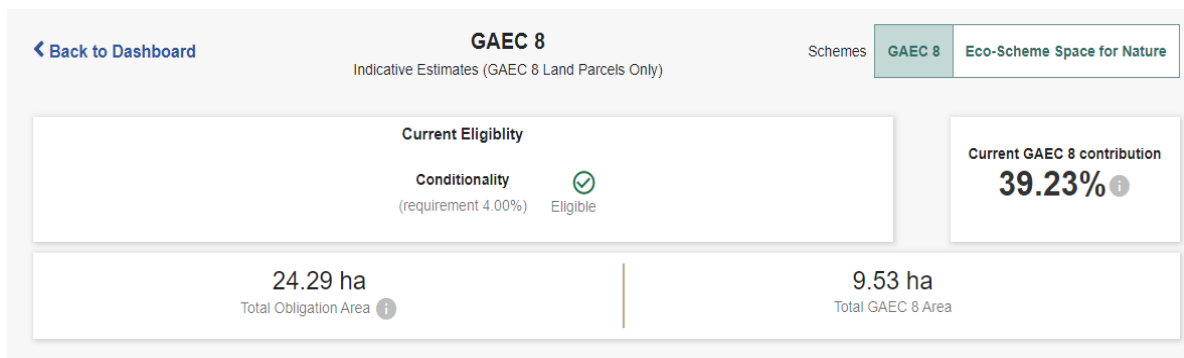


The image shows a GAEC 8 Panel overview. At the top, there's a header with 'GAEC 8' and 'Indicative estimates based on 2022 data'. To the right of the header, there's a circled '1' next to 'Current GAEC 8 contribution' with a value of '39.23%'. Below the header, there's a section for 'Conditionality (Requirement 4.00%)' with a circled '2' next to it. To the right of this section, there's a green checkmark icon and the word 'Eligible'. In the center of the panel, there is a green button labeled 'View Details'.

Select the **View Details** button.

Understanding the GAEC 8 Data

You are now in the GAEC 8 Panel. On navigation to this screen all the data presented **will give indicative estimates on GAEC 8 land parcels only and is calculated based on your 2022 declarations.**



The image shows a GAEC 8 Data Overview. At the top, there's a header with 'GAEC 8' and 'Indicative Estimates (GAEC 8 Land Parcels Only)'. To the right of the header, there's a 'Schemes' section with 'GAEC 8' and 'Eco-Scheme Space for Nature'. Below the header, there's a section for 'Current Eligibility' with 'Conditionality (requirement 4.00%)' and a green checkmark icon, and the word 'Eligible'. To the right of this section, there's a box with 'Current GAEC 8 contribution' and a value of '39.23%'. At the bottom, there's a section with '24.29 ha' and 'Total Obligation Area' on the left, and '9.53 ha' and 'Total GAEC 8 Area' on the right.

The below information outlines what your data on the **GAEC 8** screen represents from left to right:

- **Current Eligibility - Conditionality** - *The required Conditionality Percentage is a minimum of 4% under BISS Terms and Conditions*
- **Current GAEC 8 contribution** – *This is your current GAEC 8 contribution total, calculated as:*

Total GAEC 8 Area

= Current GAEC 8 Contribution

Total Obligation Area

- **Total Obligation Area (Ha)** – *This is the sum of the obligation area from each qualifying parcel on the holding listed*
- **Total GAEC 8 Area** – *This is the sum area of all GAEC 8 contributions selected. The lands in this calculation will exclude the following land types.*
 - *Commonage*
 - *GAEC 2 Wetlands and Peatlands*
 - *GAEC 9 Environmentally Sensitive Permanent Grasslands*
 - *Forestry*

Eligible and Ineligible

Based on the data available, the GAEC 8 screen will inform you if you have met your requirements of 4% for Conditionality. **Eligible** signifies you meet the requirement; **Ineligible** signifies you do not meet the requirements.

GAEC 8 Data

[Back to Dashboard](#)


GAEC 8
Indicative Estimates (GAEC 8 Land Parcels Only)


Schemes


GAEC 8

Eco-Scheme Space for Nature





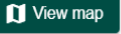



Current Eligibility

Conditionality
(requirement 4.00%)  Eligible



Current GAEC 8 contribution
39.23% 

24.29 ha
Total Obligation Area 

9.53 ha
Total GAEC 8 Area

Parcel No. 	Townland	Parcel Use	GAEC 8 Contribution	Obligation Area 	GAEC 8 Area	
 P2030700008	Cloongee	Low Input Permanent Pasture	Feature		1.05	0.27 
Feature Areas						
Hedge		0.27 ha				
 P2030700018 *	Cloongee	Permanent Pasture	Feature		3.03	0.70 

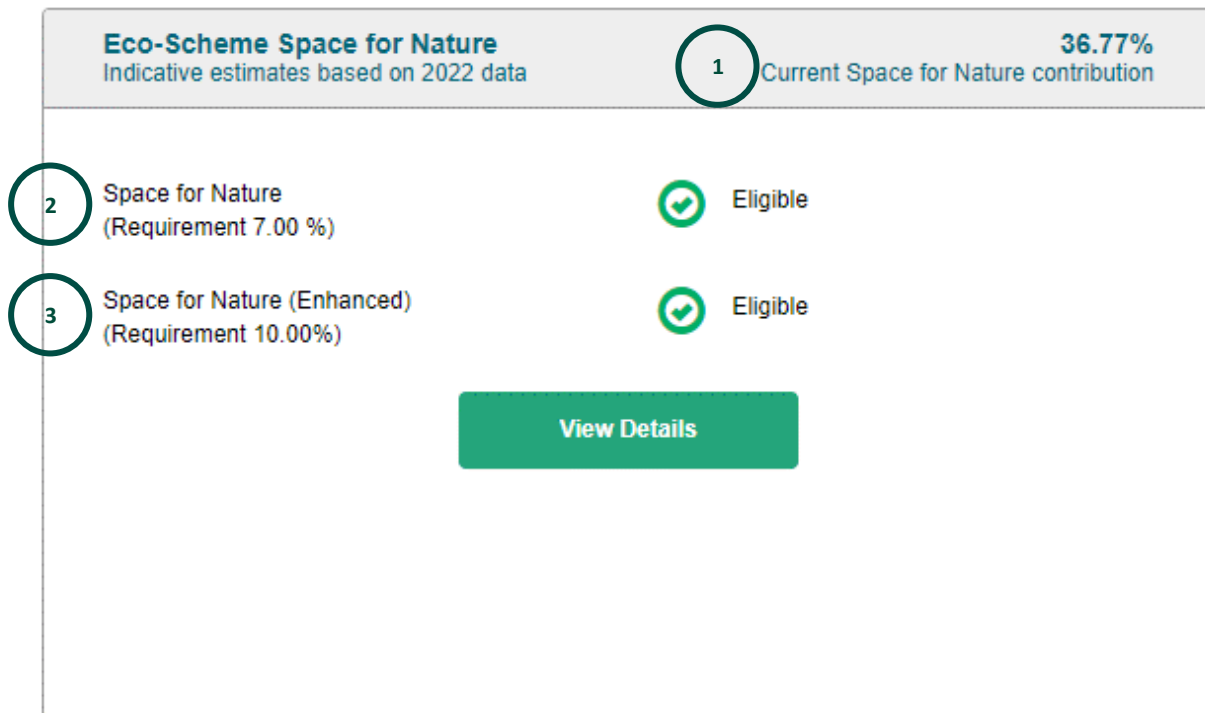
The GAEC 8 table gives an overview of each GAEC 8 parcel and its contributions. The information presented will depend on the data available. Displayed will be:

- **Parcel number** - clicking on the  icon will drop down the parcel row to display Feature Areas if more than one is selected
- **Townland** - Where the parcel is located
- **Parcel Use** - Crop declared on your 2022 BPS Application
- **GAEC 8 Contribution** - The GAEC 8 contribution **defaults to the most beneficial calculation** for each parcel, you can populate any of the alternative options (Crop, Feature, Not Claimed) by clicking on the dropdown icon  on the parcel row below the GAEC 8 contribution heading, this will allow you to see the impact on your current contribution/requirement percentages that any change will make.
- **Obligation Area** – This is the eligible area for the parcel where the parcel is currently eligible for payment, except in the case of commonages and temporary sub-divisions where the claimed area will apply. Where parcels, have an MEA of 0, are not eligible for payment, but contain qualifying features, the obligation area will be the area of the crop/features present.
- **GAEC 8 Area** – this is the eligible area of the crop/features selected
- **View Map** – This will allow you to view the map of the parcel

Viewing your Eco-Scheme Space for Nature panel

Before selecting View Details, the front panel gives an overview of your current data, outlining the below information:

1. Current Space for Nature contribution
2. Space for Nature requirement status
3. Space for Nature (Enhanced) requirement status



The panel displays the following information:

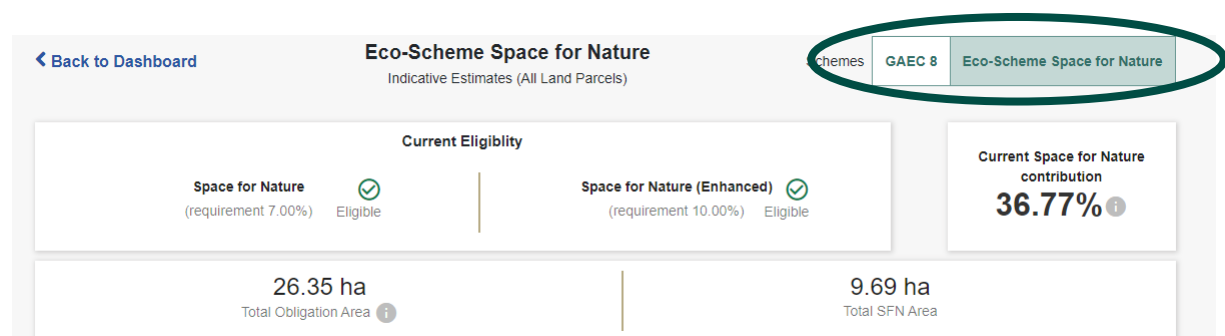
- Eco-Scheme Space for Nature**
Indicative estimates based on 2022 data
- 1** Current Space for Nature contribution: **36.77%**
- 2** Space for Nature (Requirement 7.00 %): **Eligible** (indicated by a green checkmark icon)
- 3** Space for Nature (Enhanced) (Requirement 10.00%): **Eligible** (indicated by a green checkmark icon)
- View Details** button

Select the View Details button.

Understanding the Eco-Scheme Space for Nature Data

You are now in the Eco-Scheme Space for Nature Panel. On navigation to this screen all the data presented **will give indicative estimates on all land parcels and is calculated based on your 2022 declarations.**

Note: Here you can tab between the GAEC 8 & Eco-Scheme Space for Nature panels if needed.



The panel displays the following information:

- Back to Dashboard** link
- Eco-Scheme Space for Nature**
Indicative Estimates (All Land Parcels)
- Schemes** tab: **GAEC 8** | **Eco-Scheme Space for Nature** (selected)
- Current Eligibility**
 - Space for Nature** (requirement 7.00%) **Eligible** (indicated by a green checkmark icon)
 - Space for Nature (Enhanced)** (requirement 10.00%) **Eligible** (indicated by a green checkmark icon)
- Current Space for Nature contribution**: **36.77%** (indicated by an information icon)
- 26.35 ha** Total Obligation Area (indicated by an information icon)
- 9.69 ha** Total SFN Area (indicated by an information icon)

The below information outlines what your data on screen represents from left to right:

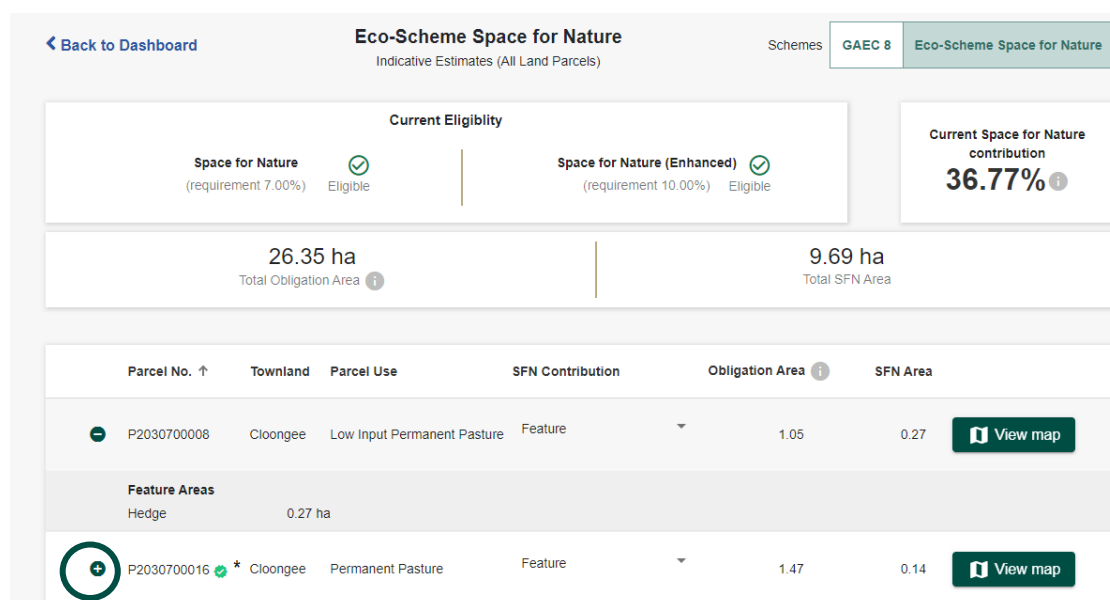
- **Current Eligibility – Space for Nature**- *The required Space for Nature Percentage is a minimum of 7%*
- **Current Eligibility – Space for Nature (Enhanced)**- *The required Space for Nature (Enhanced) Percentage is a minimum of 10%*
- **Current Space for Nature contribution** – *This is your current GAEC 8 contribution total calculated as:*

$$\frac{\text{Total SFN Area}}{\text{Total Obligation Area}} = \text{Current Space for Nature Contribution}$$
- **Total Obligation Area** – *This is the sum of the obligation area from each qualifying parcel on the holding listed*
- **Total SFN Area** – *This is the sum area of all SFN contributions selected. The area calculation will be on all land parcels.*





Eligible and Ineligible

Based on the data available, the Eco-Scheme Space for Nature screen will inform you if you have met the requirement for the Eco-Scheme. **Eligible** signifies you meet the requirement; **Ineligible** signifies you do not meet the requirements.

Eco-Scheme Space for Nature Data

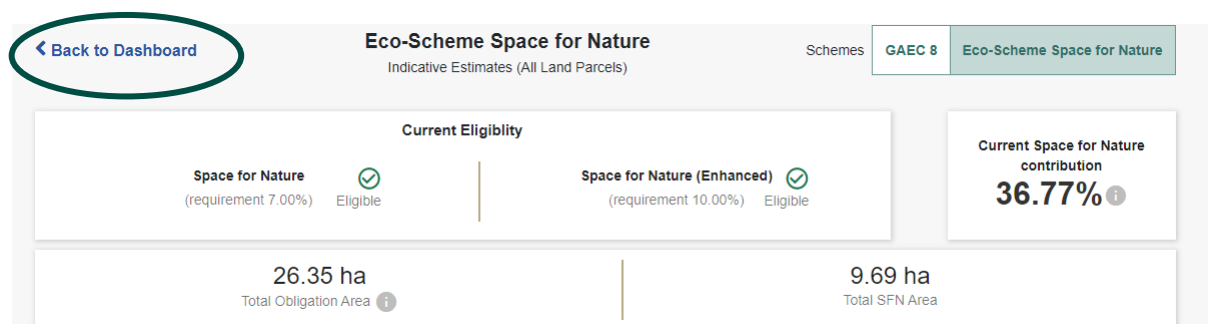


The Eco-Scheme Space for Nature table gives an overview of each Space for Nature parcel and its contributions. The information presented will depend on the data available. Displayed will be:

- **Parcel number** – clicking on the  icon will drop down the parcel row to display Feature Areas if more than one is selected.
- **Townland** - Where the parcel is located
- **Parcel Use** -Crop declared on your 2022 BPS Application
- **SFN Contribution** - The SFN contribution defaults to the most beneficial calculation for each parcel, you can populate any of the alternative options (Crop, Feature, Not Claimed) by clicking on the dropdown icon  on the parcel row below the SFN contribution heading, this will allow you to see the impact on your current contribution/requirement percentages that any change will make.
- **Obligation Area** – This is the eligible area for the parcel where the parcel is currently eligible for payment, except in the case of commonages and temporary sub-divisions where the claimed area will apply. Where parcels have an MEA of 0 and are not eligible for payment, but contain qualifying features, the obligation area will be the area of the crop/features present.
- **SFN Area** – this is the eligible area of the crop/features selected
- **View Map** - This will allow you to view the map of the parcel
- If a parcel was excluded from the GAEC 8 calculation, it will appear on the SFN screen with a green icon  a corresponding message will display on the bottom of the SFN screen: -  *This parcel was excluded from GAEC8 calculation*

Return to Dashboard

Once you have reviewed the GAEC 8/Eco-Scheme Space for Nature information, you can press the **Back to Dashboard** button, and log out of Agfood.



Contact information.

Below is a list of useful contacts if you need further assistance or advice on GAEC 8 or Eco-Scheme Space for Nature.

Area/Division	Contact Number	Contact Email
Direct Payments Helpdesk	057 86 74422	directpaymentscorrespondence@agriculture.gov.ie
AgFood Account Queries	049 43 68288	agfood@agriculture.gov.ie
BPS Online Facility Assistance	057 86 74422	bpsonline@agriculture.gov.ie
Eco-Scheme	057 86 74422	directpaymentscorrespondence@agriculture.gov.ie



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