

**Circular 09/2015**

**14<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

**To: GLAS Advisors**

**AMENDED VERSION OF GLAS SPECIFICATION**

**NB:** An amended version of the GLAS Specification, dated 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 has been issued and has replaced the GLAS Specification dated 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2015 on the Department's website.

The amended version has changes to the following, which should be noted and brought to the attention of your GLAS clients:

1. **Introduction** – 'Note: It is expected that successful participants will receive a commencement date for GLAS 1 of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 and all dates for completion of actions as set out on page 7 are predicated on this date' **was replaced** with 'Note: It is expected that successful participants will receive a commencement date for GLAS 1 of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015 and all dates for completion of actions as set out on page 7 are predicated on this date'.
2. **Introduction** – Bullet point 3 'All actions must be delivered on leased or owned lands' **was replaced** with 'Participants must ensure they have control of the lands for the duration of the GLAS contract whether owned, leased or rented'.
3. **Introduction** – Bullet point 9 'Catch Crops sown for the purpose of fulfilling greening equivalence criteria under Pillar I of CAP are eligible for payment' **was replaced** with 'Catch Crops sown for the purpose of fulfilling greening equivalence criteria under Pillar I of CAP are eligible for a reduced GLAS payment'.
4. **Introduction** – Bullet point 15 'The Allowable actions chart is available in Annex 3 of the Terms and Conditions document' **was added**.
5. **Introduction** – Bullet point 17 'Phosphorous is allowed up to the soil test limits' **was replaced** with 'Phosphorus is permitted to be applied on area based actions in line with the requirements of SI 31/2014'.
6. **Introduction** – Bullet point 23 'For the following Conservation of Bird Actions (Twite A, Chough, Corncrake, Hen Harrier and Breeding Waders), if the GLAS participant has more lands than are required to receive the maximum payment rate in GLAS of €7,000, his/her GLAS advisor can complete a Form 1A on the GLAS online system for these parcels, allowing the participant to dispense with the fertiliser restrictions in the GLAS specification for the action(s) concerned' **was replaced** with 'Where the application of the entire GLAS specification for the following Farmland Birds (Twite A, Chough, Corncrake, Hen Harrier and Breeding Waders ) threatens farm viability, or could lead to hardship due to inability to produce sufficient fodder for livestock, applicants may remove up to 20% of the GLAS-identified area from payment. Entire parcels can be removed, or existing parcels may be split to reserve areas for fodder production or other farm use. These areas will NOT receive payment for the relevant Bird action and no other GLAS action may be selected on them. In exceptional cases and only where the GLAS participant has committed at least 19 hectares of Farmland Birds to GLAS and delivers these to the full GLAS specification, he/she may remove

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**MORE** than 20% of the entire area from the GLAS specification by the GLAS Advisor completing a Form 1A (Appendix 17) clearly justifying why more than 20% is required.

In addition to above and where the GLAS participant has already delivered 19ha of the Farmland Birds listed in the previous bullet point, the GLAS advisor can set out in Form 1A, those LPIS parcels where he/she does not wish to be bound by the fertiliser restriction imposed within the GLAS specification. This form must be uploaded on the GLAS online system at the time of submitting the GLAS application’.

7. **Page 7** – Farmland Habitat (Private Natura) minimum area of 0.25ha **added**.
8. **Page 7** – Protection of Watercourses from Bovines completion deadline of ‘31<sup>st</sup> December 2015’ **was replaced** with ‘31<sup>st</sup> March 2016’.
9. **Page 17** – Breeding Waders ‘Farmland Bird Actions can only be undertaken on private lands i.e. not on commonage lands’ **added**.
10. **Page 17** – Breeding Waders point 1 ‘Produce a sward cover by extensive grazing of parcels in receipt of the breeding wader payment to allow for a mosaic of short, medium and tall vegetation cover to develop between 15<sup>th</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> July annually’ **was replaced** with ‘Produce a sward cover by extensive grazing of parcels within the GLAS contract to allow for a mosaic of short, medium and tall vegetation cover to develop between 15<sup>th</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> July annually’.
11. **Page 18** – Breeding Waders point 4 ‘No machinery operations can be carried out between the 15th March and 15th July on parcels in receipt of a breeding wader GLAS payment’ **was replaced** with ‘No machinery operations can be carried out between the 15th March and 15th July on parcels within the GLAS contract’.
12. **Page 18** – Breeding Waders point 5 ‘Fertilisers and other chemicals are not permitted’ **was replaced** with ‘Fertilisers and other chemicals are not permitted on parcels in receipt of the GLAS Breeding Wader payment’.
13. **Page 18** – Breeding Waders point 7 ‘No silage or hay can be cut from parcels in receipt of a GLAS breeding wader payment’ **was replaced** with ‘No silage or hay can be cut from parcels within the GLAS contract’.
14. **Page 18** – Breeding Waders note ‘Where the fencing of a watercourse for bovines is a priority action, a derogation may be sought from Johnstown Castle not to fence the watercourse on parcels with breeding waders. The Derogation must be sought and approved by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015. Where a derogation is approved, the participant will remain eligible for GLAS, but will receive no payment for the fencing of watercourse action for the lengths concerned within the Derogation’ **was replaced** with ‘Where the fencing of watercourses for bovines is taken as a priority action (High Status Water Site or Vulnerable Status Water Site (Wet)), a derogation may be sought from Johnstown Castle not to fence the watercourse on parcels with breeding waders and/or Geese and Swans. The Derogation must be sought and

approved by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. Where a derogation is approved, the participant will remain eligible for GLAS but will receive no payment for the fencing of watercourse action for the lengths concerned within the derogation. See Appendix 17 – Derogation Form for Specific GLAS actions which must be uploaded on the GLAS online system and emailed to [glas@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:glas@agriculture.gov.ie).

15. **Page 19** – Chough point 1 ‘Produce a suitable sward by developing an appropriate grazing plan to maintain a tightly grazed short sward throughout the year on the areas entered for GLAS payment’ was replaced with ‘Produce a suitable sward by developing an appropriate grazing plan to maintain a tightly grazed short sward throughout the year on the areas within the GLAS contract’.
16. **Page 19** – Chough point 2 ‘The action must be delivered on full LPIS parcel(s). The LPIS plots selected must be marked on the map submitted with the GLAS application’ was replaced with ‘The action can be delivered on full or split LPIS parcel(s). Where the action is on a split parcel, it must be digitised out and marked on the map submitted. Parcels must be fenced and stock-proof from the commencement date of the GLAS contract’.
17. **Page 19** – Chough point 6 ‘Maximum chemical nitrogen usage is 40 kg N per ha per annum’ was replaced with ‘Maximum chemical nitrogen usage is 40 kg N per ha per annum on parcels in receipt of the GLAS Chough payment’.
18. **Page 21** – Corncrake point 2 ‘The action must be delivered on full LPIS parcel(s). The LPIS plots selected must be marked on the map submitted with the GLAS application’ was replaced with ‘The action can be delivered on full or split LPIS parcel(s). Where the action is on a split parcel, it must be digitised out and marked on the map submitted. Parcels must be fenced and stock-proof from the commencement date of the GLAS contract’.
19. **Page 22** – Corncrake point 8 ‘Maximum chemical nitrogen usage is 30 kg N per ha per annum’ was replaced with ‘Maximum chemical nitrogen usage is 30 kg N per ha per annum on parcels in receipt of the GLAS Corncrake payment’.
20. **Page 24** – Geese and Swans note ‘Where the fencing of watercourses for bovines is a priority action a derogation may be sought from Johnstown Castle not to fence the watercourse on parcels with breeding waders and/or Geese and Swans’ was replaced with ‘Note: Where the fencing of watercourses for bovines is taken as a priority action (High Status Water Site or Vulnerable Status Water Site (wet)), a derogation may be sought from Johnstown Castle not to fence the watercourse on parcels with breeding waders and/or Geese and Swans. The Derogation must be sought and approved by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. Where a derogation is approved, the participant will remain eligible for GLAS but will receive no payment for the fencing of watercourse action for the lengths concerned within the derogation. See Appendix 17 – Derogation Form for Specific GLAS actions which must be uploaded on the GLAS online system and emailed to [glas@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:glas@agriculture.gov.ie)’.
21. **Page 25** – Grey Partridge note ‘Natura 2000 designated lands or commonages are not eligible for this action’ was removed.

22. **Page 25** – Grey Partridge '*If you select this action the only other actions you can select on this LPIS parcel are*' **was replaced** with '*The only allowable actions you can select on Grey Partridge parcels are*'.
23. **Page 28** – Hen Harrier point 2 'The action must be delivered on full LPIS parcel(s). The LPIS plots selected must be marked on the map submitted with the GLAS application' **was replaced** with 'The action can be delivered on full or split LPIS parcel(s). Where the action is on a split parcel, it must be digitised out and marked on the map submitted. Parcels must be fenced and stock-proof from the commencement date of the GLAS contract'.
24. **Page 28** – Hen Harrier point 4 'Maximum chemical nitrogen usage is 40 kg N per ha per annum on parcels in receipt of the GLAS Hen Harrier Payment' **was replaced** with 'Maximum chemical nitrogen usage is 40 kg N per ha per annum on parcels in receipt of the GLAS Hen Harrier payment'.
25. **Page 29** – Hen Harrier point 6 'Parcels with rush cover are valuable to the harrier, with a target rush cover of up to 70%, with tussock type vegetation between the rushes. This can be delivered by either grazing and/or topping. If grazing does not prevent rushes from exceeding 70% cover, mowing/topping may be necessary; however where this is practiced it must be in alternating strips of 10m on a rotational basis over the course of the contract' **was replaced** with 'Parcels with rush cover are valuable to the hen harrier. Where rushes are present within a Hen Harrier parcel and grazing does not prevent them exceeding approximately 70% of the area of the parcel, they must be cut rotationally by cutting no more than 50% of the rushes in a parcel on an annual basis'.
26. **Page 31** – Twite A point 2 'The action must be delivered on full LPIS parcel(s). The LPIS plots selected must be marked on the map submitted with the GLAS application' **was replaced** with 'The action can be delivered on full or split LPIS parcel(s). Where the action is on a split parcel, it must be digitised out and marked on the map submitted. Parcels must be fenced and stock-proof from the commencement date of the GLAS contract'.
27. **Page 31** – Twite A point 6 'Maximum chemical nitrogen usage is 35 kg N per ha per annum' **was replaced** with 'Maximum chemical nitrogen usage is 35 kg N per ha per annum on parcels in receipt of the GLAS Twite A payment'.
28. **Page 35** – Catch Crops note 2 'Catch Crops may be rotated on different LPIS parcels each year of your contract. Where catch crops are rotated, the area sown each year must be at least equal in size to the contract area established in year 1 and the relevant parcel(s) selected must be notified to DAFM through the BPS application annually' **was replaced** with 'Excluding where catch crops are grown as equivalence for crop diversification, they may be rotated on different LPIS parcels each year of your contract. Where catch crops are rotated, the area sown each year must be at least equal in size to the contract area established in year 1 and the relevant parcel(s) selected must be notified to DAFM through the BPS application annually'.

29. **Page 37** – Commonage Management Plan & Commonage Farm Plan – note ‘GLAS advisors and shareholders should familiarise themselves with the Explanatory note on Commonages which is available on the GLAS section of the Department’s website’ was **added**.
30. **Page 47** – Low Emission Slurry Spreading *If you select this action the only other actions you can select on this LPIS parcel are:* ‘Traditional Dry Stone Wall Maintenance’ was **added**.
31. **Page 55** – Planting New Hedgerow point 6 ‘All newly planted hedges whether planted in a grass or tillage field must be fenced off and protected from livestock, from the time the hedge is planted. The fence must be stock-proof and fit for purpose’ **was replaced** with ‘All newly planted hedges whether planted in a grass or tillage field must be fenced off and protected from livestock, from the time the hedge is planted. However, where the newly planted hedgerow bounds a private laneway, public road or watercourse, fencing is not required on the laneway/road or water body side as long as the hedge is not being damaged by livestock. The fence must be stock-proof and fit for purpose’.
32. **Page 56** – Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological Monuments note ‘Monuments in farmyards are not eligible for payment in this action’ **was replaced** with ‘Monuments on LPIS parcels with a 0 reference area (for example a farmyard) are not eligible for payment in this action’.
33. **Page 57** – Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological Monuments point 1 ‘Manage vegetation on or around a visible monument’ **was replaced** with ‘Manage vegetation on or around a visible monument by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017’.
34. **Page 59** – Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological Monuments note ‘Where this action is chosen, all monuments on eligible LPIS parcel(s) on the holding must be included for maintenance and for the establishment of a buffer margin’ was **removed**.
35. **Page 60** – Protection of Watercourses from Bovines note 1 ‘Tier 1 and 2 applicants in high status water sites and/or vulnerable status water sites (wet) must select this action. Watercourses on commonage and/or non-contract lands are not eligible for this action and do not have to be fenced. All watercourses are identified and marked on the GLAS online mapping system. Lakes are not eligible watercourses for this action’ **was replaced** with ‘Tier 1 applicants in high status water sites must select this action. Applicants with vulnerable water status sites (Wet) must select this action to become eligible as a Tier 2 (a) applicant, unless they have a TIER 1 PEA other than High Status Water Sites’.
36. **Page 60** – Protection of Watercourses from Bovines note ‘Where GLAS applicants have a parcel(s) of mountain land or rough grazing that is/are NOT grazed by bovines and will NOT be grazed by bovines at anytime during the GLAS contract, there is a facility in the GLAS online system to remove this action from such a parcel(s), if the GLAS Advisor/applicant wish to do so’ was **added**.
37. **Page 60** – Protection of Watercourse from Bovines ‘In addition, where a watercourse is marked on the GLAS online system but there is no watercourse on the LPIS parcel concerned,



the GLAS Advisor can remove this action through selecting this option on the GLAS online system was added.

38. Where a LPIS parcel is being split within one of the farmland bird actions (see page 5), the mandatory validation to deliver the “Protection of Watercourse from Bovines Action” where HSWS or Vulnerable (Wet) will be removed automatically to allow the parcel to be split was added.
39. **Page 60** – Protection of Watercourses from Bovines ‘If a farmer comes into GLAS through an action other than High Status Water Sites or Vulnerable Status Water Sites as they don’t have bovines at the time of entering GLAS; they must fence all watercourses in future years should there be bovines on the holding during the period of the GLAS contract’ was removed.
40. **Page 61** – Protection of Watercourses from Bovines note ‘Where the fencing of watercourses for bovines is a priority action a derogation may be sought from Johnstown Castle not to fence the watercourse on parcels with breeding waders and/or Geese and Swans’ was replaced with ‘Where the fencing of watercourses for bovines is taken as a priority action (High Status Water Site or Vulnerable Status Water Site (wet)), a derogation may be sought from Johnstown Castle not to fence the watercourse on parcels with breeding waders and/or Geese and Swans. The Derogation must be sought and approved by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. Where a derogation is approved, the participant will remain eligible for GLAS but will receive no payment for the fencing of watercourse action for the lengths concerned within the derogation. See Appendix 17 – Derogation Form for Specific GLAS actions which must be uploaded on the GLAS online system and emailed to [glas@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:glas@agriculture.gov.ie)’.
41. **Page 61** – Protection of Watercourses from Bovines note ‘If a watercourse is in a designated SAC and fencing is not allowed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service this action cannot be selected’ was replaced with ‘Similarly if the watercourse is in a designated SAC and fencing is not allowed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service / Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, a derogation may be sought from Johnstown Castle not to fence the watercourse on these parcels. The Derogation must be sought and approved by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. Where a derogation is approved, the participant will remain eligible for GLAS but will receive no payment for the fencing of watercourse action for the lengths concerned within the derogation. See Appendix 17 – Derogation Form for Specific GLAS actions which must be uploaded on the GLAS online system and emailed to [glas@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:glas@agriculture.gov.ie)’.
42. **Page 61** – Protection of Watercourses from Bovines point 4 ‘All watercourses must be fenced a minimum of 1.5 metres from the top of the bank of the watercourse to exclude bovines by 31st December 2015’ was replaced with ‘All watercourses must be fenced a minimum of 1.5 metres from the top of the bank of the watercourse to exclude bovines by 31st March 2016’.
43. **Page 64** – Rare Breeds note ‘Livestock Passports and where applicable pedigree certificates must be in participants own name’ was replaced with ‘Livestock Passports and where applicable pedigree certificates must be in GLAS participants own name or where in joint names at least one of those persons must also be on the herd number used when applying for GLAS’.

#### 44. Page 64 – Rare Breeds:

##### Requirements:

##### Participants must:

1.	Be a member of an approved breed society for the period of the contract.
2.	Register all progeny from a purebred mating with the relevant breed society where they are seeking a GLAS rare breed payment on the animal.
3.	Maintain an up-to-date monthly record of all registered animals owned by you.
4.	Record all animals on the Rare Breeds Record Sheet.

##### Documents required for payment:

1.	Registration and identification certificates for each registered animal.
2.	A copy of the completed Rare Breeds Records.

##### Was replaced with:

##### Requirements:

##### Participants must:

1.	For Bovines and Ovines be a member of a breed society approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine, for the period of the contract.
1a.	For Equines be a member of a studbook approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine, for the period of the contract.
2.	For Bovines and Ovines register all progeny from a purebred mating with the relevant breed society where they are seeking a GLAS rare breed payment on the animal.
2a.	For Equines, register all progeny from a purebred mating with the relevant studbook where they are seeking a GLAS rare breed payment on the animal.
3.	Maintain an up-to-date monthly record of all registered animals owned by you.
4.	Record all animals on the Rare Breeds Record Sheet.

#### 45. Page 65 – Rare Breeds:

##### Equines:

1.	All equines must have a passport.
2.	All registered females and entire males between 6 months and 3 years of age will be considered for payment.
3.	An adult female (s) (over 3 years of age) must be mated to a purebred male of the same breed at each mating. Breeding females must produce registered offspring before the end of the contract, otherwise there will be full claw back.
4.	Entire adult males greater than 3 years of age up to a maximum of 1 stallion per 5 mares will be considered for payment.

**Was replaced** with:

Equines:

1.	All equines must be registered in an approved studbook and have a studbook passport with pedigree recorded on sire and dam.
2.	All registered females and entire males between 6 months and 3 years of age will be considered for payment
3.	An adult female (s) (over 3 years of age) must be mated to a purebred male of the same breed at each mating. Breeding females must produce registered offspring before the end of the contract; otherwise there will be full claw back.
4.	Entire adult males greater than 3 years of age that have met the inspection requirements within their studbook of origin up to a maximum of 1 stallion per 5 mares will be considered for payment.

46. **Page 67** – Riparian Margins 'If the watercourse is in a designated SAC and fencing is not allowed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service / Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, a derogation may be sought from Johnstown Castle not to fence the watercourse on these parcels. The Derogation must be sought and approved by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. Where a derogation is approved, the participant will remain eligible for GLAS but will receive no payment for the fencing of watercourse action for the lengths concerned within the derogation. See Appendix 17 – Derogation Form for Specific GLAS actions which must be uploaded on the GLAS online system and emailed to [glas@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:glas@agriculture.gov.ie)' was **added**.
47. **Page 68** – Traditional Dry Stone Wall Maintenance *If you select this action the only other actions you can select on this LPIS parcel are:* 'Low Emission Slurry Spreading' was **added**.
48. **Page 71** – Traditional Hay Meadow point 4 'Selected LPIS parcels must not have been cultivated in the last 8 years and must have been declared as forage on the SPS for the previous 8 years' was **added**.
49. **Page 107** – **Added** Appendix 17 – Derogation Form for Specific GLAS actions.
50. **Page 108** – **Added** Appendix 18 – Form 1A for Farmland Birds.

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14th April 2015