

## EFS AGREEMENTS COMMENCING 01 JANUARY 2023

<b>NPI Name:</b>	<b>Parkland/Fruit/Standard native tree guard</b>
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<b>NPI Code:</b>	<b>SNS</b>
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<b>NPI Payment:</b>	Year 1: £147.00 per guard
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<b>NPI Aim(s):</b>	To protect newly created EFS Options and to facilitate remedial management of EFS(H) sites.
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<b>Scheme Applicability:</b>	Wider – EFS(W) <input type="checkbox"/> Higher – EFS(H) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Group – EFS(G) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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<b>This NPI is:</b>	Permanent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rotational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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<b>NPI Description and Outcome:</b>	'Parkland/Fruit/Standard native tree guards' are eligible in any EFS(W) Option where they are available as an approved additional capital works item. This NPI is eligible where it will maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of EFS(H) sites and is included in the site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP). The 'Parkland/Fruit/Standard native tree guard' will protect newly planted parkland/fruit/standard trees from damage by grazing animals and wild animals and facilitate implementation of the ssRMP.
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<b>No. of traps Permitted:</b>	<b>Minimum</b> 1 <b>Maximum</b> Not Applicable*
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\*The number of 'Parkland/Fruit/Standard native tree guards' applied for must be indicative of the EFS Option area or length they are associated with.

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### Requirements and Controls:

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type <sup>1</sup>		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
SNT1C	'Parkland/Fruit/Standard 'native tree guards' must be erected by the end of Year 1.	✓		✓
SNT2C	The claimed number of 'Parkland/Fruit/ Standard 'native tree guard/s' must be erected in the in the field(s) where they have been approved.	✓		✓
SNT3C	New materials must be used.	✓		✓
SNT4C	The 'Parkland/Fruit/Standard native tree guard' must be stock-proof and rabbit-proof.			✓
SNT5C	The newly erected 'Parkland/Fruit/ Standard 'native tree guards' must be erected to comply with the Specification detailed below.			✓
SNT6C	Field records must be kept detailing location, number and date erected for each 'Parkland/Fruit/Standard native tree guard'.	✓		✓

<sup>1</sup> The possible control types for each requirement may be:

'Admin' – administrative checks, 'CwRS' – Control with Remote Sensing, 'OTSC' – On-the-Spot Check

### Specification:

- The 'Parkland/Fruit/Standard native tree guard' must:
- be a post and rail fence comprising of 4 rails 32 mm (depth) x 90 mm (width) sawn timber;
- be at least 1.20 m high from the ground to the top of the top rail;
- have posts at least 95 mm x 95 mm sawn timber and set at centres not greater than 1.80 m;
- form a perimeter of at least 6.00 m around the newly planted parkland/fruit/standard tree;
- be constructed using new, pressure treated timber;
- have one row of barbed/plain wire along the top and one row of barbed/plain wire along the bottom with woven wire and rabbit-proof fencing attached;
- include rabbit-proof fencing with galvanised wire netting at least 1.05 m wide with mesh no larger than 31 mm;

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- have the top of the rabbit-proof fencing fixed to the tree guard at least 0.75 m from the ground;
- have the rabbit-proof fencing fastened to the tree guard fencing and the bottom edge of the rabbit-proof fencing must be buried and secured in the ground;
- have all fencing wire properly strained and secured; and
- be erected and maintained as detailed in the ssRMP for EFS(H) sites.

### **Further Advice:**

Approval should be sought from DFI Transport NI, before a 'Parkland/Fruit/Standard tree guard' is erected along a roadway.

The guard posts should be at least 1.80 m long.

To allow for future adjustments and to prevent damage to the galvanising, staples must be driven in at an angle, but not fully home.

The bottom edge of the rabbit-proof fencing should be buried in the ground to a depth of 150 mm. Do not attach rabbit-proof fencing to trees, hedgerows or electricity poles.