

Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru
Countryside Council for Wales

The Tir Gofal Scoring System

Introduction

Points are awarded for a range of habitats and features. No points are awarded where there is already a legal requirement concerning a feature on the applicant's land (for example, the maintenance of public rights of way in an unobstructed condition), or for designations such as SSSIs. Points are generally awarded on a per hectare or a metre basis depending on the type of feature, although access and historic features are allocated an absolute score.

In order to qualify for a Tir Gofal agreement the proposals for your farm will need to score 100 points or more.

How the system works

Point scores are allocated to environmental features and agricultural enterprises as set out below. The method of calculating the score varies according to the type of feature under consideration.

Category A features – a set number of points awarded for the feature

Category B features – points are calculated using $\frac{\text{Area of habitat} \times \text{weighting factor}}{\text{Area of enclosed land on holding}}$

Category C features – points are calculated using $\frac{\text{Area of Habitat} \times \text{weighting factor}}{\text{Area of all land on the holding}}$

Having completed the individual calculations, these are added together to obtain the final score.

1. Which of the following livestock and crops are present on your farm? **Category**

Dairy cattle (at least 2)	5 points	
A		
Beef cattle (at least 2)	5 points	A
Sheep (at least 10)	5 points	A
Cereals, cereal/legume mixtures, oilseeds, maize, hemp and flax grown for sale or as forage	5 points	A
Non cereal forage crops such as turnips, swedes, mangolds, rape, beet and legumes but excluding grass	5 points	A
Horticultural and other crops such as potatoes, cauliflower, flowers and soft fruit excluding those grown under glass	5 points	
A		

Do you farm organically, or is your farm under conversion	25points	A
Are you or any of the business partners under 40 years of age	10 points	
A At the date of this application?		

2. Whole Farm Section (area of enclosed land divided by number of fields)

<i>Average field size < 2ha</i>	<i>6 points</i>	A
<i>Average field size 2-5ha</i>	<i>4 points</i>	A
<i>Average field size >5ha</i>	<i>2 points</i>	A

Scheduled Ancient Monument	4 points	
A Scheduled Ancient Monument (2 or more)	6 points	
A		

Non –designated archaeological feature:		
1 only	1 point	A
2 to 5	2 points	A
6 or more	3 points	A

Traditional farm building		
1 only	2 points	A
2 or more	5 points	A

Rock outcrops (1 or more)	1 point	A
Rivers and /or Streams	2 points	
A Ponds or Lakes	2 points	A

3. Which of the following wildlife habitats occur on your farm?

Unenclosed or Open Land

Species rich rough grassland	50 weighting	C
Heathland, wetland, woodland and scrub	100 weighting	C

Enclosed Land

Broadleaved woodland, scrub	200 weighting	
B Parkland and orchards	100 weighting	B
Species- rich rough grassland and species- rich meadows	200weighting	B
Wetlands including improved land with permanently wet ditches	200weighting	B

Sand dune, saltmarsh and species- rich cliff top grazing 200weighting
B

4. Are you prepared to restore any existing wildlife habitats ?

Taking a hay crop, and no longer applying any fertilisers, lime or pesticides to your partially improved grassland (rough land which you previously fertilised and which now consists of a mixture of agricultural species and broad leaved herbs)

100weighting B

By reducing stocking levels on your acid grassland to less than 0.05LSU/ha /yr for at least 5 years 400 weighting C

By breaking up drains and blocking ditches over whole fields 200weighting
B

5. Are you prepared to create any new habitats on your intensively managed (agriculturally improved) grassland?

By reducing stocking levels, taking a hay crop and no longer applying any fertilisers, lime or pesticides. (max 10ha) 100weighting B

By establishing woodland, wetland 400weighting B

By establishing heathland 400weighting C

By no longer applying any fertilisers, pesticides or lime to a corridor at least 6 metres wide adjacent to rivers, streams and lakes and then fencing against livestock 2 points per 100metres

By raising water levels 200weighting
B

Introducing arable or roots crops, grown without the use of pesticides, into an all grass system. 500weighting
B

6. Are you prepared to change the management of your existing arable land ?

By growing cereals, or oilseeds without the use of pesticides 150 weighting
B

By retaining winter stubbles until 1st March 150 weighting B

By growing undersown spring cereals without using insecticides 200 weighting
B

By growing unsprayed root crops followed by winter grazing 200 weighting
B

By establishing rough grass margins or fallow margins (max 3ha) 400weighting B

By establishing wildlife cover crops (max 3ha) 400weighting
B

By converting to grassland certain kinds of arable land such as
parkland, coasts, archaeological sites
and fields adjacent to wetlands 200weighting
B

7. Are you prepared to restore other environmental features?

Traditional field boundaries such as hedges and walls
50- 499 metres over 5 years 5 points
500 – 999 metres 8 points
>1000 over 5 years 10 points

Historic earthworks and historic stone features 10 points

**8. Are you prepared to provide any new public access in addition to any
Public Rights of Way or legally defined open access?**

New footpaths, bridlepaths or routes for disabled people 8 points
New access areas 8 points