

Round Table 4

Result-based AECM in the Burren

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An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta
Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht



Department of
Agriculture,
Food and the Marine
An Roinn
Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara

Burren Programme

- Article 28 measure in RDP 2014-2020
- Maintain and enhance Natura habitats (SACs)
- Grazing management payments
- Complementary capital works
- Delivery through Project team and specialist trained farm planners

Burren Programme

Burren grassland payments

- Performance-related/indicator based
- Stepped payments based on field scoring system, for a range of environmental quality parameters related to biodiversity, soil and water quality
- Banded payments i.e. degressive rates applied >40ha, >80ha and >120ha

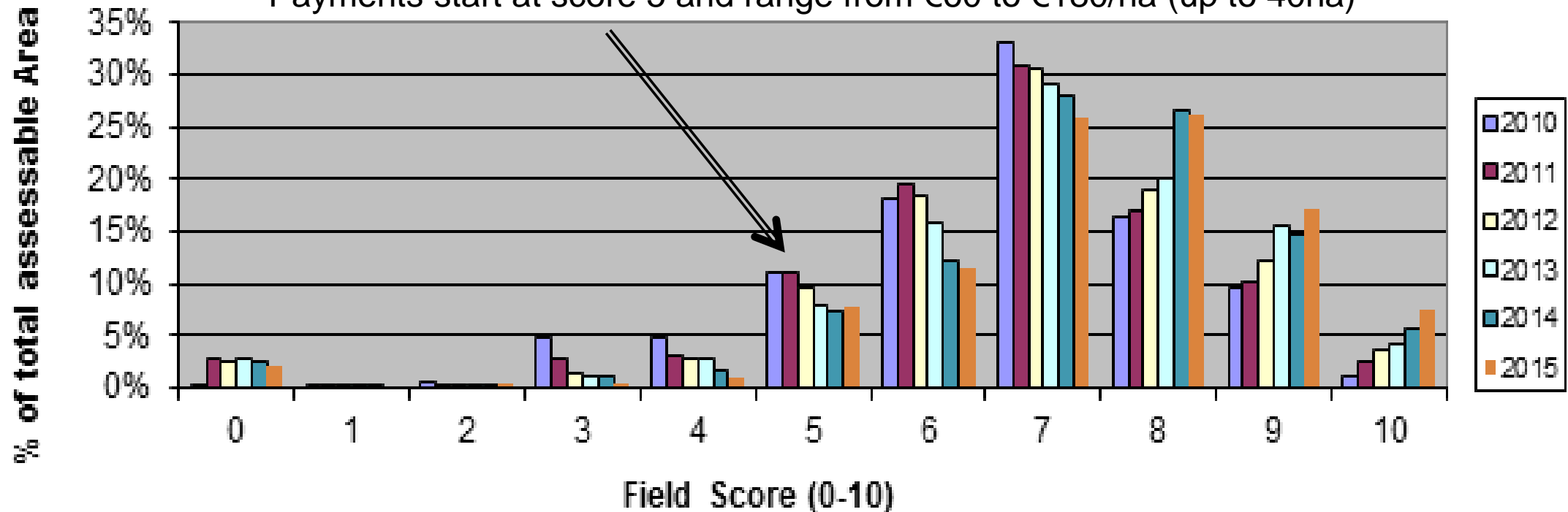
Burren Programme – Scoring criteria

- Grazing/plant litter levels, amount of immature scrub,
- Bracken, purple moor grass, other weeds
- Ecological integrity of the field (diversity and conservation value)
- Damage around feed troughs/water sources,
- Bare soil/erosion
- Any damaging activity

Burren Programme – Scoring overview

Variation in Field Scores 2010-2015

Payments start at score 5 and range from €60 to €180/ha (up to 40ha)



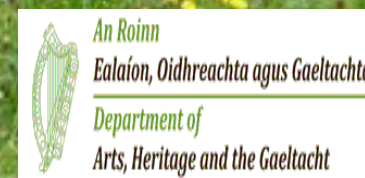
Burren Programme

■ Advantages

- ✓ Payments only where environmental dividend achieved
- ✓ Higher scoring benefits farmers & encourages optimum environmental management
- ✓ Not counting individual species – more understandable for planners/farmers
- ✓ Result indicator updated and available on-ongoing basis

■ Disadvantages

- ❖ 100% field assessments/scoring each year (Scalability?)
- ❖ More difficulty in budgeting & variable payments for farmers
- ❖ Higher administrative/running costs



AECMs under Article 35

Pilot AECMs targeted at biodiversity, climate and water

- Spatially targeted:
 - Hen Harrier SPAs
 - Fresh Water Pearl Mussel catchments
- Collective actions for landscape scale benefits
- Identification of critical source areas and bespoke design of appropriate mitigating actions
- Potential for habitat scoring, inbuilt monitoring and result-based payments similar to the Burren programme