

The Burren Programme — Results-Based Payments for Farmland Biodiversity

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Ireland

Quality score: 47/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

From 2010–2022, Ireland's Burren Programme paid 328 farmers across 23,000 ha of karst grassland by ecological scorecard rather than prescription; independent evaluation found average field scores rose from 6.61 to 7.43 (2010–2019), worth an estimated €32.8M.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	3/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	1/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-31

[Burren Programme \(successor to BurrenLIFE\), Ireland's National Parks and Wildlife Service, EU LIFE programme](#) — accessed 2026-08-31

[Ireland NPWS/DHLGH — Evaluation of the Burren Programme \(PDF\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-31

[ScienceDirect — Pilots, proponents and policy windows: how RBPS became mainstream in Irish agri-environmental policy](#) — accessed 2026-08-31

[Burren Programme — Impact & Outputs](#) — accessed 2026-08-31

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