



## EIA (Agricultural) Regulations



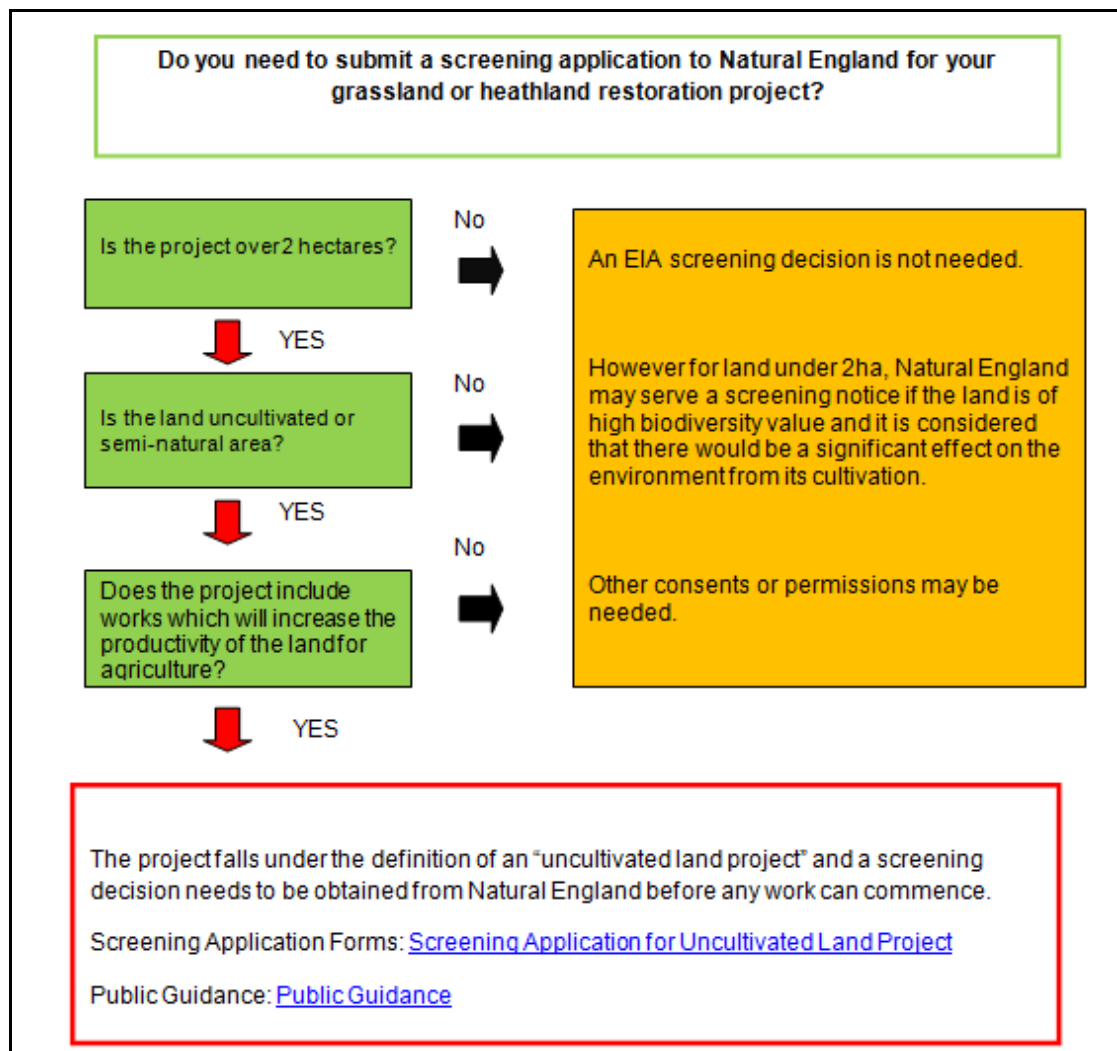
Are you thinking about undertaking a grassland or heathland restoration project?

Does it need EIA screening?

## What are the EIA (Agricultural) Regulations?

The purpose is to protect priority and semi-natural habitats from agricultural intensification.

## When do the Regulations apply?



## Definitions

Uncultivated land is any area where no physical or chemical cultivation activities have taken place in the last 15 years. Physical cultivation is considered to be agricultural soil-disrupting activities and chemical cultivation is considered to be the enhancement of the soil through the addition of increased levels of organic and inorganic fertilizers and soil improvers including lime.

## Your Project and the Regulations

Listed below are methods used for restoration of grassland/heathland and how they fit with the Regulations;

**Cutting** - No screening application is needed for commencement of cutting activities but if the proposal is to introduce intensive grazing on uncultivated land, particularly if supplementary feed is going to be used, a screening application should be submitted.

**Wildflower Seed** - The addition of wildflower seeds during semi-natural habitats restoration projects, through green hay, brush-harvested seed, wildflower seed mixture, or heather brash from a donor site, will have no impact on the soil and therefore, no screening application needs to be submitted.

**Bare Ground** - If bare ground is being created, a screening application does not need to be submitted, as long as a clear audit trail can be provided to indicate that all the activities undertaken through this process have not increased the productivity of the land for agriculture.

**Scrub** - Scrub is defined as a semi-natural area under the Regulations and therefore, if any project includes clearance of scrub of an area over 2 hectares a screening application needs to be submitted.

**Invasive Species** - If non-native invasive species are being cleared only no screening application will be needed.

## What do you need to do if your project does come under the Regulations?

You will need to submit a [Screening Application Form](#) and await a response before proceeding.

Responses can take up to 35 days so please plan ahead. There is no charge for the screening process and decisions are valid for 3 years.