

In response to question 1.14.1.1. Part b in relation to RR-039, RR-061, RR-083 and RR-113. My clients land has been subject to regenerative agricultural practices for the previous 4 years. This practice involves considerable investment in the growing of cover crops, monitoring inputs and increasing or decreasing these inputs as required. In addition to this, my client also undertakes specific cultivation of the soils with the aim of improving soil health and condition. The long term aim is to reduce the requirement for high input farming, significantly increase soil biology and let the soil self-structure so that it becomes more resilient to climate change effects of wet winters and dry springs and works with the farmer to produce crops using fewer artificial inputs and maintaining crop production yields, all while sequestering carbon and positively contributing to tackling the climate crisis. My client would anticipate to start seeing the benefits more fully within 5 years and the full effects in approximately 10 years.

My client has worked very closely with their advisors to monitor the soil structure and biology over the last 4 years and have incurred considerable expense in doing this. Over my clients land they have already started to see the benefits of this investment with increased soil biology and improved soil structure. Once the land has been used for the A428 project this investment will be lost as the land requires continuous management. In order to restore the land back to the current stage of regeneration this would require approximately 4-5 years of well managed herbal leys which would result in loss of production on this land for the period.

I trust this answers the question however should there be any further questions in relation to this then my client would be pleased to answer them. My client has further concerns over the use of temporary land and the impact on their farming system.