

Overview of Non-Productive Investments for ACRES Co-operation approach October 2023

Non-Productive Investments (NPIs) are actions that are available to participants in the Co-operation approach of the Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) to address environmental issues on the farm, directly contribute to environmental objectives or increase the farmers capacity to improve field scores through management.

NPIs are applied for by the ACRES advisor in an NPI - Annual Works Plan ('AWP') or by the ACRES Co-operation Project (CP) team in a Landscape Action - Annual Works Plan ('LA-AWP') through the GLAMS mapping system maintained by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM).

The NPI actions are screened by the CP Team, upon receipt of the application, and either approved or rejected. Authorisation for approved NPI actions is from the date of issue of the NPI-AWP Approval letter. DAFM reserves the right to carry out inspections, audits, assessments, research, monitoring, and evaluation at reasonable times for NPIs on lands farmed by participants which can be after the ACRES contracts ends.

The Local Action Plan for each CP region outlines the environmental assets and associated objectives and targets. Funding will be prioritised for actions that contribute to the delivery of those objectives and targets. Where an action applied for does not address farm-level issues that have been identified in the scorecard assessments and/or does not benefit any Local Action Plan objectives or targets, it may be rejected.

Non-Productive Investments differ from Landscape Actions (LAs) in they are generally smaller in scale and are standalone actions on a single farm. A separate document outlining details and requirements for Landscape Actions will be available in due course.

Funding for NPIs, LAs and Landscape Bonus Payments

- I. The total maximum budget for an ACRES CP participant over the 5-year contract is €52,500 (5 x €10,500).
- II. A maximum budget of €7,000 per year is available for ACRES CP Core Payment. 'Core Payment' is the sum of all ACRES CP results-based payments plus ACRES General Action payments.
- III. An additional NPI/LA fund of €17,500 (€3,500 x 5) is available for NPIs/LAs/Landscape Bonus over the 5 years of the contract.
- IV. Where a farmer does not claim up to the maximum €7,000 core payment ceiling in any year of the ACRES contract, the balance of unclaimed funds is added to the total NPI/LA/Landscape Bonus fund for that participant. This ensures that farmers who do

not achieve a score of 8, but who were restricted on payments they could receive from ACRES General actions due to the ring-fencing rule* (and organic farmers who only receive reduced payment for scores of 8/9/10), will have the ability to get the full €52,500 ACRES payment over the 5-year contract.

- V. Where NPIs are approved, payment will be limited to the remaining fund ceiling for that participant. The total maximum Budget of €52,500 will not be exceeded.
- VI. Maximum ceilings for Registered Farm Partnerships shall be the maximum outlined above multiplied by the number of holdings, up to a maximum of 3.

*An explanation of the ringfencing rule is published in the ACRES Specification for Tranche 1 (November 2022) available on the Department's website – see pages 5 and 6 of that document).

There are 3 categories of proposed NPIs to be made available to ACRES Co-operation participants.

- Section 1 NPI Habitat and Wildlife Support
- Section 2 NPI Infrastructure
- Section 3 NPI Scrub/Track (Burren/Aran CP Zone only)

With the NPIs in each category outlined in the tables below.

NPI Habitat and Wildlife Support	NPI can be selected on**
NPI Barn Owl/Kestrel Nest Box	All Parcels CP and Non-CP
NPI Bat Boxes	All Parcels CP and Non-CP
NPI Bracken Strimming	Scored CP Fields Only
NPI Bracken Mechanical	Scored CP Fields Only
NPI Conservation of Cultural Heritage Sites Arable	Monument on all Parcels
NPI Conservation of Cultural Heritage Sites Grassland	Monument on all Parcels
NPI Field Margin 3m	Non-CP Only
NPI Hedge Rejuvenation	All Parcels CP and Non-CP
NPI Planting New Hedgerows	All Parcels CP and Non-CP
NPI Planting Traditional Orchard 10 trees	All Parcels CP and Non-CP
NPI Planting Trees	All Parcels CP and Non-CP
NPI Repair of Traditional Stone Wall 1 or 2 sides	All Parcels CP and Non-CP
NPI Riparian Margin Tree planting	All Parcels CP and Non-CP
NPI Riparian Margin	All Parcels CP and Non-CP
NPI Riparian Margin (Sheep fencing)	All Parcels CP and Non-CP
NPI Rodenticide Free Rodent Control	All Parcels CP and Non-CP
NPI Small Woodland 160 trees 0.05Ha/300 0.09Ha	All Parcels CP and Non-CP
NPI Swallow Boxes	All Parcels CP and Non-CP
NPI Swift Boxes	All Parcels CP and Non-CP
NPI Wader Scrapes	Scored CP Fields Only

NPI Infrastructure	NPI can be selected on**
NPI Culverts	Scored CP Fields Only
NPI Fencing Barbed Wire	Scored CP Fields Only
NPI Fencing Permanent Electric	Scored CP Fields Only
NPI Fencing Sheep Wire	Scored CP Fields Only
NPI Installation of Gates	Scored CP Fields Only
NPI Installation of Heritage Gates*	Scored CP Fields Only
NPI Mobile Cattle Feed Troughs*	Scored CP Fields Only
NPI Mobile Feed Storage Bins	Scored CP Fields Only
NPI Pasture Pumps	Scored CP Fields Only
NPI Rainwater Catchers	Scored CP Fields Only
NPI Solar Electric Fencer Unit	Scored CP Fields Only
NPI Solar Pumps	Scored CP Fields Only
NPI Water Storage Tanks	All Parcels CP and Non-CP
NPI Water Troughs	Scored CP Fields Only
NPI Scrub/Track	NPI can be selected on**
NPI Area Scrub Removal Hand Tools High*	Scored CP Fields Only
NPI Area Scrub Removal Hand Tools Med*	Scored CP Fields Only
NPI Area Scrub Removal Hand Tools Low*	Scored CP Fields Only
NPI Area Scrub Removal Hand Tools Scattered*	Scored CP Fields Only
NPI Strip 2m Scrub Removal Hand Tools High*	Scored CP Fields Only
NPI Strip 2m Scrub Removal Hand Tools Low*	Scored CP Fields Only
NPI Strip 4m Scrub Removal Hand Tools High*	Scored CP Fields Only
NPI Strip 4m Scrub Removal Hand Tools Low*	Scored CP Fields Only
NPI Track Re-Surfacing Gravel*	Scored CP Fields Only
NPI Wild Bird Cover Plot	CP Arable Parcels and Non-CP
NPI Wild Bird Cover Strips	Scored CP Fields Only
NPI Winter Stubble	CP Arable Parcels and Non-CP

Notes:

*These NPIs are only available to select on a NPI Annual Works Plan for ACRES CP participants in the Burren Aran CP Zone that are managed by the Burren Aran CP Team.

**Allowable Parcels is an overall summary as guidance only. There will be more specific rules and validations that will apply depending on scorecard type and will be detailed in site suitability for each NPI.

Minimum units, payment rates and maximum payable per NPI-AWP

ACRES NPI Action	Units	Minimum to be delivered	Maximum units payable per NPI-Annual Works Plan	Payment Rate	Maximum Payment per NPI-Annual Works Plan	Maximum Units Payable per 5-year ACRES Contract
NPI Habitat/Wildlife Support						
NPI Barn Owl/Kestrel Nest Box	Box	1	6	€294.40	€1,766.40	6
NPI Bat Boxes	Box	3	15	€56.43	€846.45	15
NPI Bracken Strimming	Hectare	0.01	2	€835.44	€1,670.88	
NPI Bracken Mechanical	Hectare	0.01	6	€242.76	€1,456.56	
NPI Conservation of Cultural Heritage Sites on Arable Land	Unit	1	10	€299.91	€2,999.10	10
NPI Conservation of Cultural Heritage Sites on Grassland	Unit	1	10	€133.71	€1,337.10	10
NPI Field Margin 3m	Metre	10	500	€5.45	€2,725.00	500
NPI Hedge Rejuvenation	Metre	10	200	€18.88	€3,776.00	
NPI Planting New Hedgerows	Metre	10	300	€23.10	€6,930.00	
NPI Planting Traditional Orchard 10 trees	Orchard (10 trees)	1	2	€1,302.61	€2,605.22	2
NPI Planting Trees	Tree	3	120	€31.17	€3,740.40	
NPI Repair of Traditional Stone Wall 2 sides	Metre	10	1000	€3.03	€3,030.00	
NPI Repair of Traditional Stone Wall 1 side	Metre	10	500	€1.59	€795.00	
NPI Riparian Margin Tree planting	Tree	10	120	€13.93	€1,671.60	
NPI Riparian Margin	Metre	10	1000	€5.50	€5,500.00	
NPI Riparian Margin (Sheep fencing)	Metre	10	1000	€9.48	€9,480.00	
NPI Rodenticide Free Rodent Control	Unit	1	6	€272.06	€1,632.36	6
NPI Small Woodland 160 trees 0.05Ha	Woodland (160 trees)	1	2	€1,247.48	€2,494.96	2
NPI Small Woodland 300 trees 0.09Ha	Woodland (300 trees)	1	2	€2,309.20	€4,618.40	2
NPI Swallow Boxes	Box	3	12	€29.32	€351.84	12
NPI Swift Boxes	Box	3	9	€134.04	€1,206.36	9
NPI Wader Scrapes	Scrape	1	5	€265.28	€1,326.40	5
NPI Wild Bird Cover Plot	Hectare	0.25	3	€1,286.00	€3,858.00	
NPI Wild Bird Cover Strips	Metre	50	400	€5.41	€2,164.00	
NPI Winter Stubble	Hectare	0.04	50	€119.42	€5,971.00	

ACRES NPI Action	Units	Minimum to be delivered	Maximum units payable per NPI-Annual Works Plan	Payment Rate	Maximum Payment per NPI-Annual Works Plan	Maximum Units Payable per 5-year ACRES Contract
NPI Infrastructure						
NPI Culverts	Unit	1	10	€476.22	€4,762.20	
NPI Fencing Barbed Wire	Metre	10m	1000	€2.60	€2,600.00	
NPI Fencing Permanent Electric	Metre	10m	1500	€1.52	€2,280.00	
NPI Fencing Sheep Wire	Metre	10m	1000	€3.44	€3,440.00	
NPI Installation of Gates	Unit	1	10	€185.61	€1,856.10	
NPI Installation of Heritage Gates	Unit	1	10	€496.61	€4,966.10	
NPI Mobile Cattle Feed Troughs	Unit	1	6	€59.22	€355.32	
NPI Mobile Feed Storage Bins	Unit	1	4	€175.20	€700.80	
NPI Pasture Pumps	Unit	1	10	€289.04	€2,890.40	
NPI Rainwater Catchers	Unit	1	2	€716.84	€1,433.68	
NPI Solar Electric Fencer Unit	Unit	1	6	€257.50	€1,545.00	6
NPI Solar Pumps	Unit	1	2	€1,852.50	€3,705.00	2
NPI Water Storage Tanks	Unit	1	4	€798.66	€3,194.64	4
NPI Water Troughs	Unit	1	10	€290.66	€2,906.60	
NPI Scrub/Track NPI Burren Aran CP Zone only						
NPI Area Scrub Removal Hand Tools High	Hectare	0.01ha	0.5	€14,784.90	€7,392.45	
NPI Area Scrub Removal Hand Tools Med	Hectare	0.01ha	1	€9,550.55	€9,550.55	
NPI Area Scrub Removal Hand Tools Low	Hectare	0.01ha	2	€4,022.16	€8,044.32	
NPI Area Scrub Removal Hand Tools Scattered	Hectare	0.01	6	€480.97	€2,885.82	
NPI Strip 2m Scrub Removal Hand Tools High	Metre	1m	1000	€2.69	€2,690.00	
NPI Strip 2m Scrub Removal Hand Tools Low	Metre	1m	1000	€0.96	€960.00	
NPI Strip 4m Scrub Removal Hand Tools High	Metre	1m	1000	€5.28	€5,280.00	
NPI Strip 4m Scrub Removal Hand Tools Low	Metre	1m	1000	€1.82	€1,820.00	
NPI Track Re-Surfacing Gravel	Metre	10m	1000	€2.99	€2,990.00	1000