

ACRES West Connacht

Non-Productive Investment

To be informed by scorecard results and/or align with objectives outlined in the Local Action Plan.



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Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



Non-Productive Investment

- Advisor apply for NPI - Annual Works Plan 2023
- Every NPI drawn on GLAM will have a unique ID number and abbreviation
- Consult with the CP team while NPI are in draft format.
- GLAMS may reject NPI:
 - CP land only
 - Non-CP parcels only
 - Non-CP Parcels or parcels declared as arable
 - Farm buildings
 - OSI with rivers and streams



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- Non- productive investments are applied for on an annual basis, **you do not apply for an action once and get paid for 5 years**
- Do not carry out actions until written approval is received from DAFM
- Pages 10 and 11 of the specification document shows the maximum units which can be applied for annually under each action and also if there is a limit over the 5 years of the scheme



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	



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NPI	Action Objective	Category
NPI Bracken Strimming/Mechanical	Encroaching onto priority habitats	Habitat and Wildlife support
NPI Field Margin 3m	Create corridor, uptake nutrients and sediment	Habitat and Wildlife support
NPI Hedge Rejuvenation	Create corridor, stockproof and animal shelter.	Habitat and Wildlife support
NPI Planting New Hedgerows	Create corridor, uptake nutrients and sediment	Habitat and Wildlife support
NPI Planting Traditional Orchard 10 trees	Create corridor, biodiversity, pollinators and heritage	Habitat and Wildlife support
NPI Planting Trees	Create corridor, uptake nutrients and sediment	Habitat and Wildlife support
NPI Small Woodland 160 trees 0.05Ha/300 trees 0.09Ha	Carbon sequester, Support Biodiversity	Habitat and Wildlife support
NPI Wader Scrapes	Provide for wader and chicks feeding areas	Habitat and Wildlife support
NPI Wild Bird Cover Plot	Pollinators, birds feeding and cover, wildlife corridor	Habitat and Wildlife support
NPI Wild Bird Cover Strips (Upland Farms)	Pollinators, birds feeding and cover, wildlife corridor	Habitat and Wildlife support
NPI Winter Stubble	Pollinators, birds feeding and cover, wildlife corridor	Habitat and Wildlife support
NPI Bat Boxes	Provide roost sites for bats	Farmyard Biodiversity
NPI Rodenticide Free Rodent Control	Rodent control, complementary to Barn Owl measures	Farmyard Biodiversity
NPI Swallow/Swift Boxes	Provide swallow boxes	Farmyard Biodiversity
NPI Barn Owl/Kestrel Nest Box	Artificial nest sites for Barn Owl/Kestrel	Farmyard Biodiversity
NPI Conservation of Cultural Heritage Sites on Arable Land/Grassland	Protect and maintain cultural heritage	Heritage
NPI Repair of Traditional Stone Wall 2 sides/1 sides	Protect and maintain cultural heritage	Heritage
NPI Installation of Heritage Gates	Grazing management and stockproof.	Heritage
NPI Fencing Barbed Wire /Sheep Wire	Grazing management and stockproof.	Infrastructure
NPI Fencing Permanent Electric	Grazing management and stockproof.	Infrastructure
NPI Installation of Gates	Grazing management and stockproof.	Infrastructure
NPI Mobile Cattle Feed Troughs	Supplementary feeding	Infrastructure
NPI Mobile Feed Storage Bins	Supplementary feeding	Infrastructure
NPI Pasture Pumps	Water supply for grazing	Infrastructure
NPI Rainwater Catchers	Water supply for grazing	Infrastructure
NPI Solar Electric Fencer Unit	Water supply for grazing	Infrastructure
NPI Solar Pumps	Water supply for grazing	Infrastructure
NPI Water Storage Tanks	Water supply for grazing	Infrastructure
NPI Water Troughs	Water supply for grazing	Infrastructure
NPI Riparian Margin Tree planting	Support biodiversity and protect water quality	Protect water quality
NPI Riparian Margin/Sheep fencing	Support biodiversity and protect water quality	Protect water quality
NPI Culverts	prevent sediment and nutrient discharge into drains.	Protect water quality

1. Habitat and wildlife supports

2. Farmyard Biodiversity

3. Heritage

4. Infrastructure

5. Protect water quality

1. Habitat and Wildlife Support NPI's

- Bracken Strimming/Mechanical
- Planting Traditional Orchard
- Planting Trees
- Planting small woodland - 160/300 trees
- New hedgerow
- Hedge Rejuvenation
- Field Margin 3m
- Wader scrapes
- Winter stubble



2. Farmyard Biodiversity NPI's

- Installation of bat boxes, Owl/Kestrel boxes, Swallow and Swift boxes
- Reduction of rodenticide
- Increase availability of feed source
 - Wild bird cover plot and wild bird cover strips
- Creation of Field Margin
- Reduce bracken- mechanical/strimming- reduce bracken for scorecard



3. Heritage NPI's

- Conservation of Cultural Heritage Sites on Arable Land
- Conservation of Cultural Heritage Sites on Grassland
- Repair of traditional stonewalls 1 side/2 sides internal and external
- Installation of Heritage gates (LA for CP team)





4. Infrastructure NPI's CP Only

- Fencing - barbed wire, permanent electric, sheep wire
- Installation of gates
- Increasing water source availability - pasture pump, rainwater catchers, solar pumps, water troughs, water storage tank.

5. Water quality protection NPI's

- Riparian margin - sheep fencing or electric
- Riparian margin tree planting
- Culverts



Non-Productive Investment

Advisor apply for
NPI's December
Deadline Dec 6th

CP teams NPI
screen matrix
Jan 2024.

Farmer to receive
a letter outlying
all Approval and
Declined NPI



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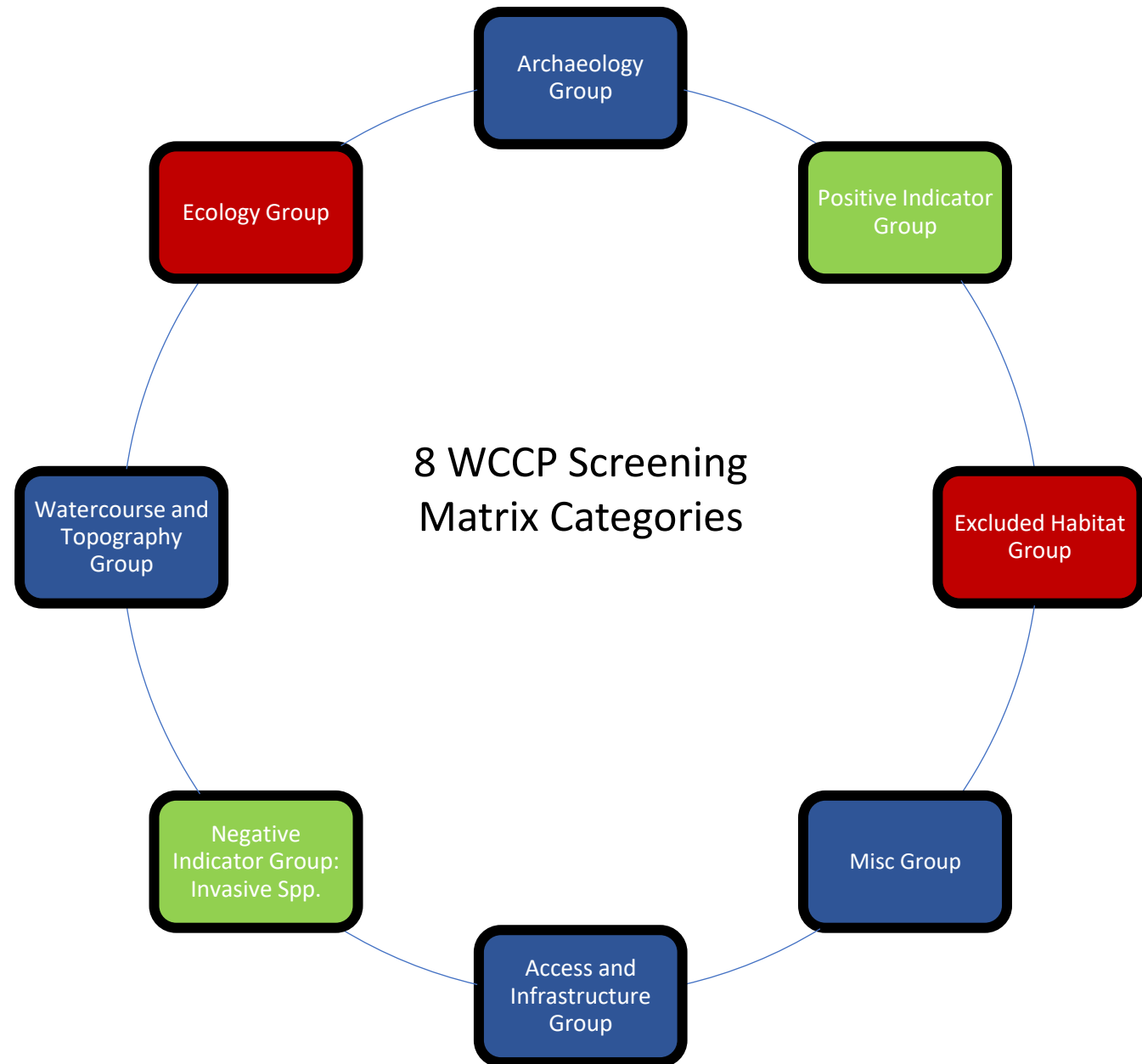
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Non-Productive Investment CP screening matrix

Screens all records overlaps with proposed NPI action:

1. Spatial features (OS waterline, archaeology, slope, motorway, woodland etc)
2. Designations (SCA/SPA and qualifying interests)
3. Scorecard data
4. Local Area Plan Objectives



Repair of traditional stonewall - Boundary Quality

Q6A: on ACRES CP Grassland, Rough Grazing Scorecard

A6 Field boundary quality.
Assess the quality of the **WORST 30m** of field boundary in the field. Refer to guidance document for details.

Poor: Wire fence only or very poor quality field boundary present.	0
Moderate: Moderate field boundary quality.	5
Good: Good field boundary quality.	10

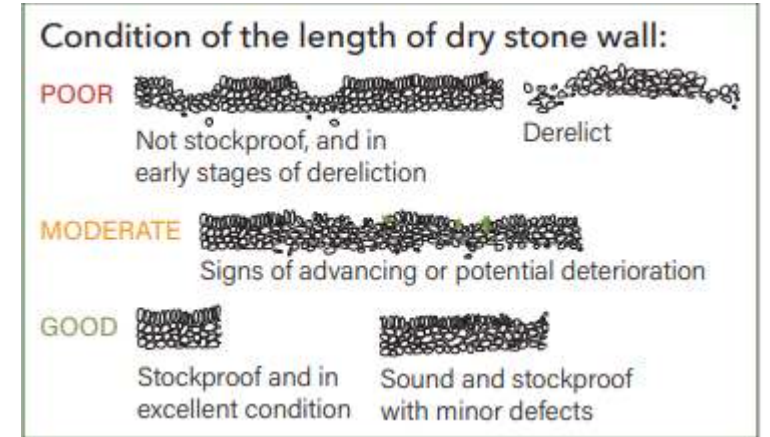
What is the dominant field boundary in this field?

Dominant:

Hedgerow Treeline Earth bank Stonewall Drainage ditch Wire fence

Also present:

Hedgerow Treeline Earth bank Stonewall Drainage ditch Wire fence



Scorecard Guidance:

Poor = 0	Moderate = 5	Good = 10
Stone walls in need of maintenance. Often no lichen or moss cover.	In good repair. Lichen and moss cover present but <20%	In good repair. >20% Lichen and moss cover. Plant such as bramble or ivy may also be present.

Tip Sheet: ACRES CP Grassland Scorecard

- External Boundaries
- Assess the worst 30m (continuous)
- Mossy intact stockproof stone walls - *GOOD*

Stonewall repair not maintenance

Repair **freestanding** dry stonewall where it has fallen into disrepair (moderate/poor for field boundaries question)

- Traditional dry-stone walls (**no mortar**)
- **External** farm boundaries
 - Boundary walls select RTSW 1 Side
 - Internal walls Select RTSW 2 Side
- **CP** and **Non-CP** parcels
- **No machine-built 'boulder walls'**
- NPI selected on **different walls** that were selected in ACRES General.
- Each length only **applied for once**.
- Only walls that are visible and accessible and in need of repair – **No scrub removal**
- Stones must not be taken from other walls or built structures within the zones of notification around archaeological monuments.

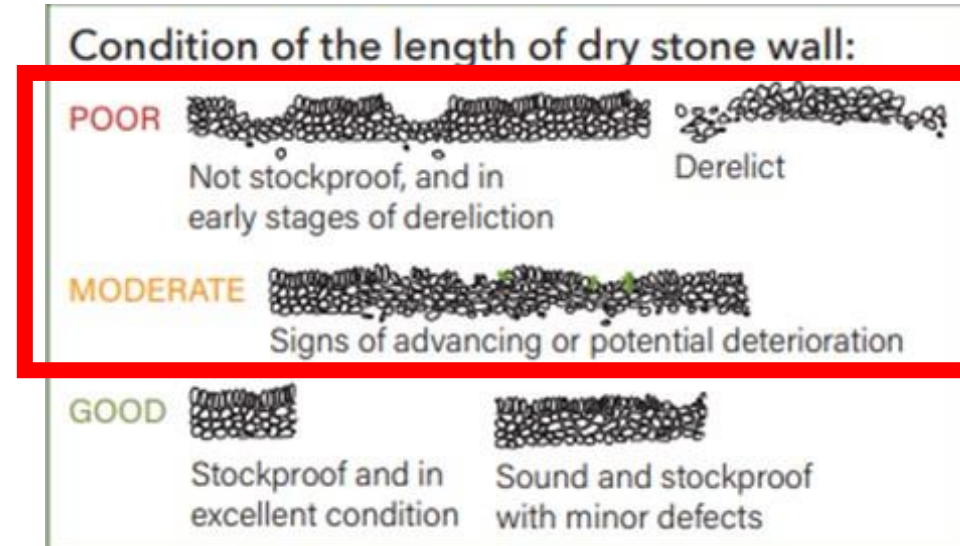
1 sides:

Min 10m **continuous** – Max 500m **continuous**

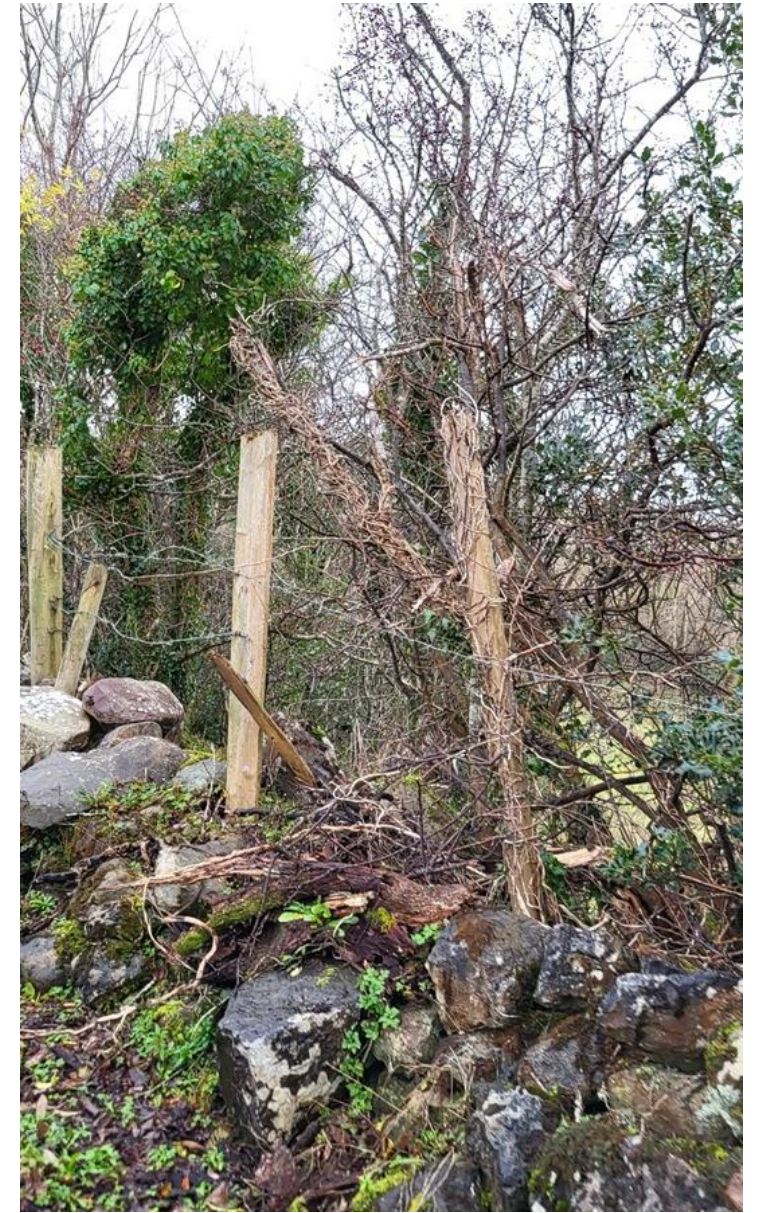
2 sides:

Min 10m **continuous** – Max 1000m **continuous**

 **field score: Q A6**



Grassland and Rough Grazing SC



NPI Traditional Stonewall repair, minimum of 10m continuous



field score: Q A6



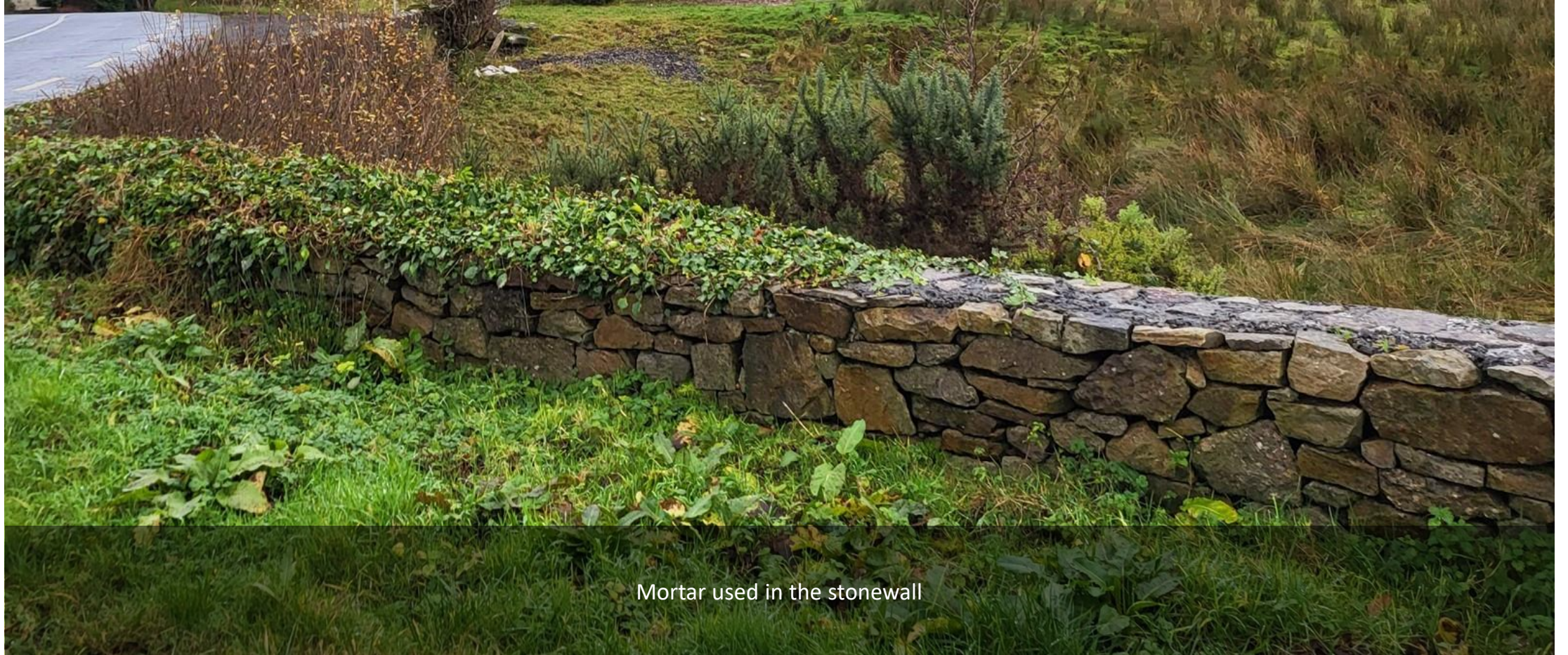
Example of 'good' stonewall, **action not required.**

- Stockproof.
- Only walls that are visible and accessible and in need of repair
- No scrub removal.
- No tree removal.
- No herbicide/pesticide use

Example: Walls are not visible or accessible : repair action is not required.



Not Traditional Stonewall



Mortar used in the stonewall

Barn Owl Nest Box

- Safe and secure locations where **barn owl are abundant**
- Not within 500m of motorway
- Below 300m altitude.
- If site is suitable – introduce an Integrated Peat Management approach....
- Rodenticide Free control NPI is encourage with this NPI – Integrated Pest Management
- Barn Owl nest boxes can be placed in an interior space (e.g. **inside a quiet shed, barn or outbuilding**) or exterior space (e.g. **a tree or on the outside of a building**).
- Min 1 - Max 6
- Installed by 31st of July
- CP and Non-CP. MEA ≥ 0

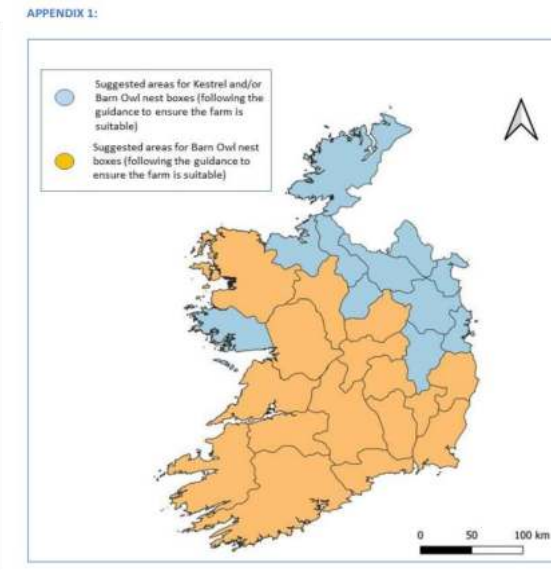
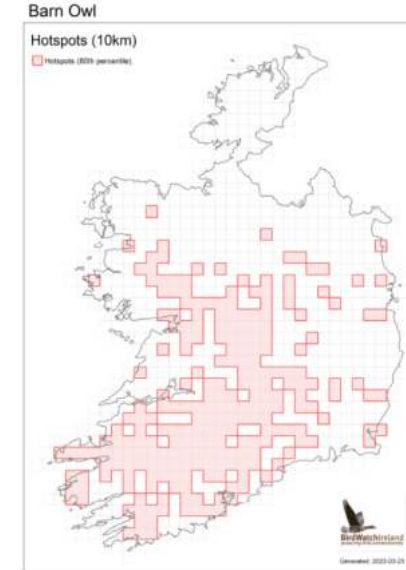
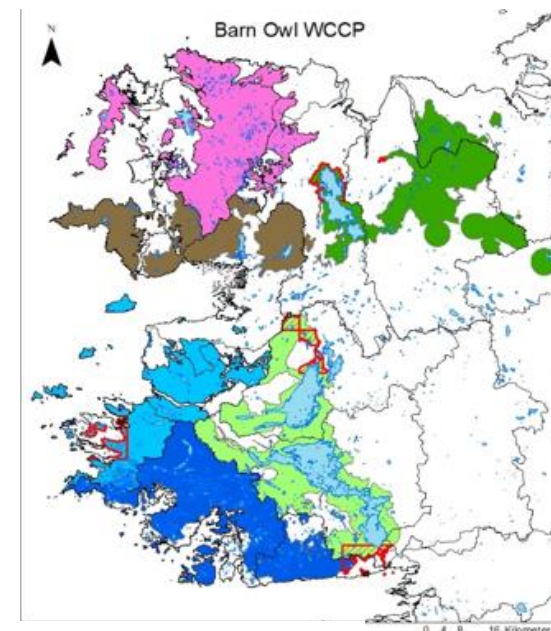


Figure 12. The areas which indicate suitability for Barn Owl nest boxes and the areas which may be more suitable for Kestrel nest boxes based on the distribution of the Barn Owl population and nest site availability. Note that this map provides a guide to the areas which are suitable for nest boxes for either species however the specific criteria for suitability on the farm need to be met (for example avoid placing Barn Owl nest boxes within 500m of a major road).

Lusby & McCarthy (2022)



WCCP LAP Appendix IV



Barn Owl Nest Box – Interior Appendix 1

- Interior nest boxes must be placed in buildings that are **dry and not exposed to the elements**
- **No creosote** used on boxes.
- Building must be permanently open and preferably large entrance/exits to the building.
- Installed by 31 July (can be installed at any time of the year up to this time).
- **Do not to be disturbed** (essential maintenance in December only).
- Recommend Boxes to be register Bird Watch Ireland (through the CP team)



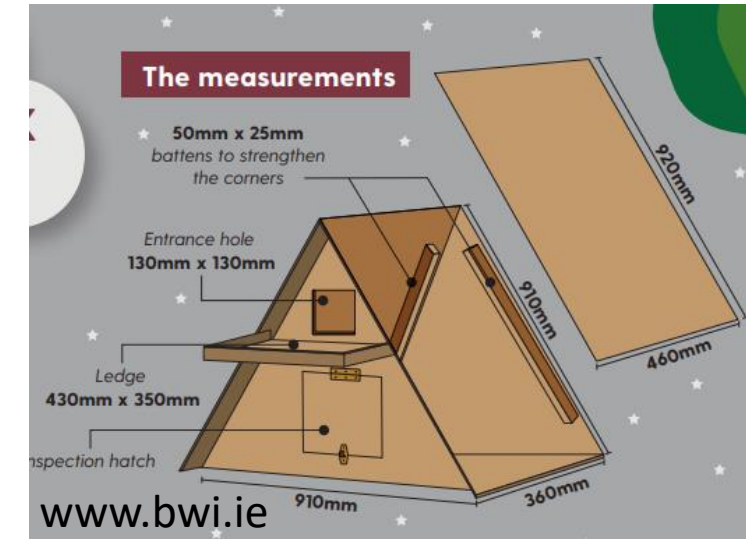
The completed interior nest box (image: Alan McCarthy)

Lusby & McCarthy (2022)

- Rodenticide Free control NPI is encourage with this NPI – Integrated Pest Management
- Install Bat boxes facing away from Barn Owl to reduce predation

Barn OwlNest Box – Exterior Appendix 2

- Exterior nest boxes - made of exterior grade marine plywood suitable to withstand the elements.
- No creosote used on boxes.
- Placed on a suitable mature tree or on the outside of a building.
- Placed **4 m** off the ground facing out onto open land.
- Facing away from prevailing weather conditions.
- Do not to be disturbed (essential maintenance in December only).
- Recommend Boxes to be register Bird Watch Ireland



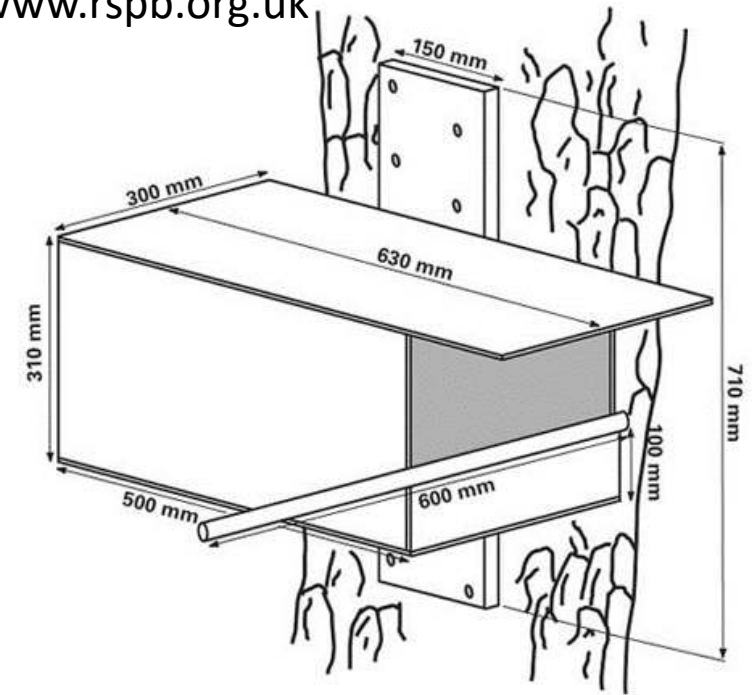
The completed exterior nest box (Image: Alan McCarthy)

Lusby & McCarthy (2022)

- Rodenticide Free control NPI is encourage with this NPI – Integrated Pest Management
- Install Bat boxes facing away from Barn Owl to reduce predation

Kestral Nest Box – Exterior Appendix 3

- Exterior nest boxes - made of exterior grade marine plywood suitable to withstand the elements.
- No creosote used on boxes.
- Placed on a suitable mature tree or on the outside of a building.
- Placed **4 m** off the ground facing out onto open land.
- Facing away from prevailing weather conditions.
- Do not to be disturbed (essential maintenance in December only).
- Recommend Boxes to be register Bird Watch Ireland
- Rodenticide Free control NPI is encourage with this NPI – Integrated Pest Management



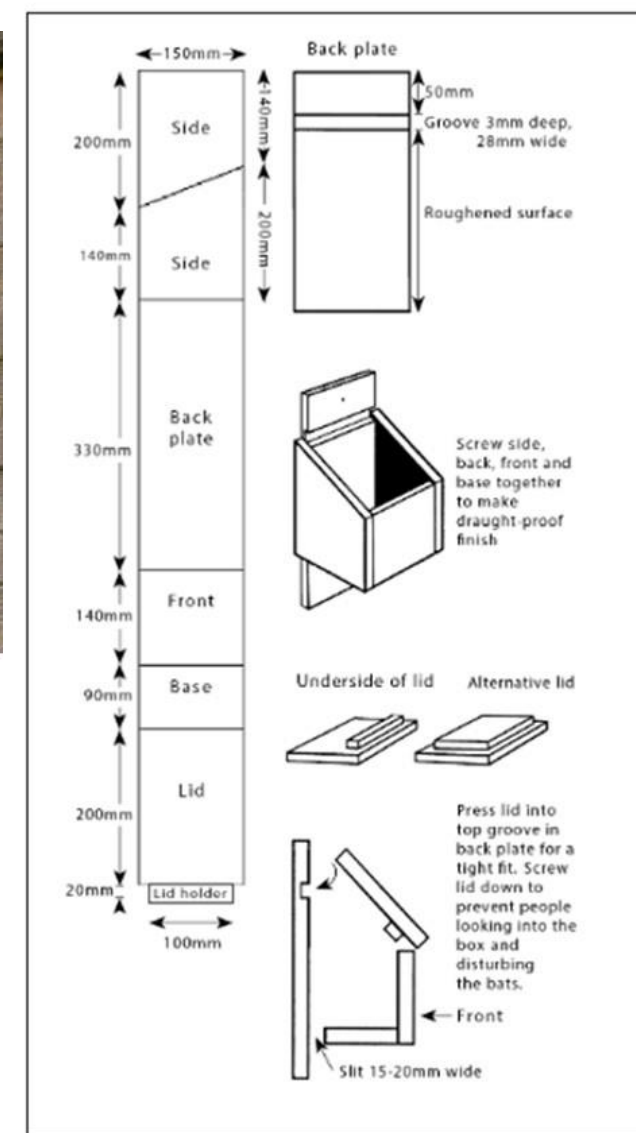
Rodenticides Free Rodent Control

- For farmyard only – not in fields.
- Removal to protect predatory birds from ingesting poisoned rats/mice
- CP or non-CP
- Place in farmyards and maintained
- Leave unset for a week or two
- Dark hidden corners adjacent to a wall.
- Animal feed should be stored/sealed
- **Switch off trap if Bran Owls are in the vicinity.**



Bat Boxes Interior or Exterior

- Eligible on CP and non-CP
- MEA $>$ or $=$ 0
- Min boxes 3 - Max 15
- New Bat boxes in groups of 3 per location.
- Locate boxes near **hedgerows, woodland, treelines** and **farmyard buildings**.
- Do not place near lights.
- Must not be attached to archaeology monuments
- Untreated timber can be made or purchased
- 4m above ground clear of obstacles.
- Marked clearly and left for 5 years



Q. Can farmer make bat boxes themselves or do they need receipt from approved supplier?

A: Bat boxes can be purchased through retailers or can be made.

- Where actions require a new purchase and/or contractor, receipts from suppliers and contractors must be retained.
- Bat boxes located near woodlands/hedgerows, treelines and farm buildings, SAC. Install in groups of 3:
- The current spec asks for *install new bat boxes* (p14).
- Where you purchase a new bat box from recycled timber or make your own box from timber on the farm, it must be fit for purpose: P15 Bat boxes: *If you are making your own boxes, use untreated, unpainted timber and the finished product must be well constructed and draft free and fit for purpose and last for the duration of the contract.*
- For repurposing old Bat boxes- *Once the box is installed, they should not be opened*, so you should never try to repurpose existing boxes from other schemes.
- Timber should not be treated with creosote.

Bracken Management - CP area only.



Can apply for annually on the same plot with decreasing area.

C6/B6 What is the cover of bracken?

High: Dense stands of bracken covering over half or more of the field, forming closed canopy.

Moderate: Bracken forming dense stands covering parts of the field, mostly forming closed canopy.

Low: Bracken absent or some scattered fronds and none forming closed canopy. Can include some isolated small patches or some larger patches on steep slopes.

-20
-10
0

Grassland, Chough LIPG, Peatland, RG(CP team approval only).

Restricted on Rough Grazing and known Hen Harrier Winter Areas

NPI is approved on or before 15th May, it is taken that the applicable NPI will be delivered in that year or withdrawn before 15th of June.



field score: Q B6/C6

Bracken Management

 field score: Q B6/C6

Strimming

- Min 0.01ha – max 2ha across the farm
- p17: due to potential env effects areas greater than 1ha may not be approved.
- Only method allow around archaeological sites.
- All CP Parcels only

Mechanical

- Min 0.01 – Max 6ha
- CP Forage only

- Stimmed twice per year
- Between 1st May-15th June and 6 weeks later up to 31st July.
 - Not available on steep slopes.
- Follow up treatment for two consecutive years



Restricted on Rough Grazing and known Hen Harrier Winter Areas

Conservation of Cultural Heritage Sites

 field score: Q B1

Applied for **once** and must be maintained for the contract
Min 1 – Max 10

B1 Is there any evidence of damaging activities to habitat, vegetation, or archaeology?		
High: Damage occurring across a large area (≥21%) or of a serious nature if confined.	-30	
Moderate: Damage occurring across a moderate area (≥6-20%) or of a moderate nature if confined.	-20	
Low: Damage occurring across a small area (<5%) or of a minor nature if confined.	-10	
None: No damaging activities.	0	
Damaging activities: (tick relevant damage & describe in comments)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Damage from supplementary feeding	<input type="checkbox"/> Quarrying	<input type="checkbox"/> Boundary damage
<input type="checkbox"/> Damage to archaeological features	<input type="checkbox"/> Burning	<input type="checkbox"/> Removal of mature scrub/trees
<input type="checkbox"/> Inappropriate herbicide use	<input type="checkbox"/> Dumping	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):

Arable

- CP and Non-CP within LIPS declared as arable.
- 10m wide grass margin around the perimeter of the monument by 31st August.
- No ploughing/cultivation within the margin
- Margin must be maintained – strimmed/mown/lightly grazed

Grassland

CP and Non-CP with any scorecard submitted.

- Only sites define as National Monuments Sites
- Monuments must be visible
- Control encroaching vegetation with **hand tools only**.
- Pesticide herbicide for spot treatment only.
- Bracken management by strimming only.
- NPI not available on commonages

Field Margins

- Available on Non-CP grassland parcels only
- Not available on SAC/SPA and specie rich grasslands
- Create a grass margin by erecting a permanent stockproof fence 3m from a field boundary by 15th May.
- No fertilizer or lime
- No herbicides /pesticides
- Min continuous length 10m
- 500m max length payable per NPI AWP & 5yr ACRES Contract.
- Each margin only eligible for one NPI payment and maintained for remainder of contract.



Year 1: Establish before 15th May and fence off, do not cut/graze

Year 2: Cut/graze (no poaching)
Sept/Dec not below 10cm.

Hedge Rejuvenation: Boundary Quality

1. Habitat and wildlife supports

Q6A: Grassland, Rough Grazing Scorecard

 **field score: Q A6**

A6 Field boundary quality.
Assess the quality of the **WORST 30m** of field boundary in the field. Refer to guidance document for details.

Poor: Wire fence only or very poor quality field boundary present.	0
Moderate: Moderate field boundary quality.	5
Good: Good field boundary quality.	10

What is the dominant field boundary in this field?

Dominant:	<input type="checkbox"/> Hedgerow	<input type="checkbox"/> Treeline	Also present:	<input type="checkbox"/> Hedgerow	<input type="checkbox"/> Treeline
	<input type="checkbox"/> Earth bank	<input type="checkbox"/> Stonewall		<input type="checkbox"/> Earth bank	<input type="checkbox"/> Stonewall
	<input type="checkbox"/> Drainage ditch	<input type="checkbox"/> Wire fence		<input type="checkbox"/> Drainage ditch	<input type="checkbox"/> Wire fence

Scorecard Guidance:

Low	Moderate	Good
(50 % of 30m), not stockproof. One or fewer native woody species per 30m length of hedgerow. Presence of non-native species.	Up to 2m wide and at least 1.5m tall. Occasional gaps present but only along the base and not greater than 30m long. 'A' shape absent, Hawthorn/ Whitethorn often top heavy. 2-3 native woody species per 30m length.	Continuous hedgerows 2+m wide and at least 1.8m tall. Few gaps along the base. Varied structure with 'A' shape throughout. Suitable for nesting birds. At least 3 or more native woody species per 30m length.



- External Boundaries
- Assess the worst 30m (continuous)
- Biodiversity value and stockproof

Hedge Rejuvenation

 **field score: Q A6**

- External farm boundaries **CANNOT** be entered for this action and will not be paid unless the external farm boundary adjoins a public road, watercourse or water body.
- You must have control of both sides of the hedgerow for ongoing maintenance.
- CP and Non-CP
- Min of 10
- Each length is only eligible for one NPI payment and maintained for remainder of contract.
- Work carried outside bird nesting season (1st Sept – 28th Feb)
- Infilling 4 plants per metre/ Coppicing/Laying
- Newly laid /coppiced hedgerow must be fenced and protected from livestock until established.
- Competing vegetation around hedge must be controlled until established.



1. Coppicing of hedgerow

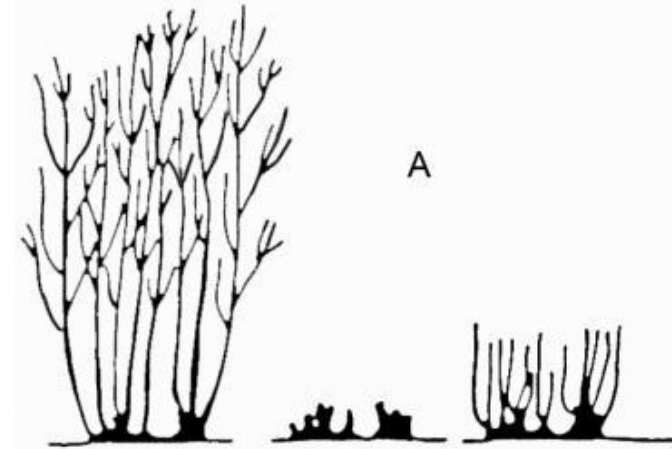
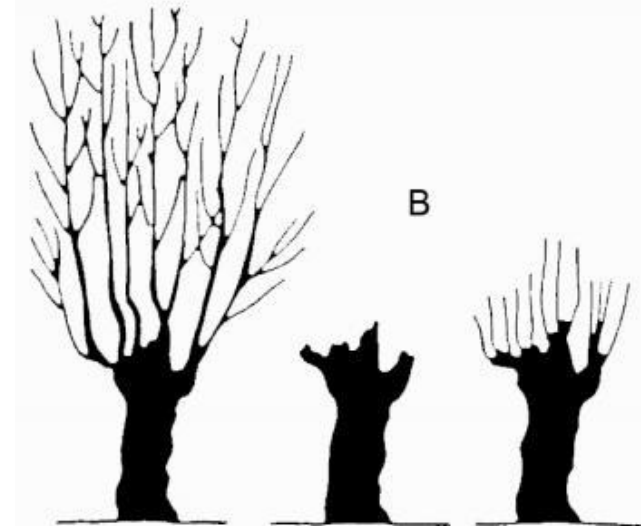


Fig. 8 Sketch of a coppice and pollard system.

A - a hazel coppiced stool with several years' growth of rods; middle, clear-felled of all rods;



B - one year's rapid growth of straight rods. The pollard system works the same way, but the stem is cut above the height of grazing cattle and deer.

2. Laying of Hedgerows



Planting New Hedgerow

- CP and Non-CP LPIS parcels
- Planted – mixed spp by 31st of March
- **Not placed** against an **existing hedgerow** or **stone wall** or under shaded tree line.
- 5 plants per metre
- Irish Origin or Irish provenance + passport
- Protected from livestock with a permanent fence.
- Competing vegetation to be controlled until established.
- Replace failed plants.

1. Habitat and wildlife supports

 **field score: Q A6**



Planting Traditional Orchards

- 10 trees planted 5m apart not in a row (0.05ha)
- CP or non-CP
- Grassland and Rough Grazing scorecards.
- Only eligible for one NPI payment and maintained for remainder of contract.
- Plant passport needed
- Permanent fenced off from livestock
- Grazing can take place by sheep as long as no damage occurs
- No herbicide/Pesticides
- Competing vegetation to be controlled until established.
- Replace failed/dead trees.



Specialist training needed?

Planting Trees

Does not contribute to planting as part of the Eco Scheme from Pillar 1 payments.

- CP or non-CP
- Planted by 31st March
- Not under overhead wire, 20m from railway line and 60m from dwelling
- Plant of Irish origin + passport.
- Plants >60cm in height and plant 3 native trees minimum
- 4m between trees 12m between rows
- Fit trees with staked tree shelter or individual protector.
- Fence off from livestock.
- No herbicide/pesticide
- Control competing vegetation.



Riparian Margin 3m and Trees

QB2/C2: All Scorecard

B2 What is the level of risk to the quality of natural water bodies within, adjacent to and downstream of the field due to pressures relating to flow, sediment, nutrients or other pollutants?

The source - pathway - receptor model should inform the assessment (see guidance).

High:	-25	Low:	-5
Moderate:	-15	None:	0



Impeded pathway to water body.

Scorecard Guidance:

Impeded pathway to water body:

- Flow is impeded by well vegetated surface.

Non-functional pathway:

- Intact buffer zone of adequate width considering slope

 **field score: Q B6/C2**



Figure 3: Characterising source, pathway, & receptor to enable assessment of risk.

Riparian Margin and Riparian Margin Sheep fencing 3m

- CP & Non-CP, not on **Breeding Wader**
- **3m margin + mandatory watercourse requirements.**
- Each length is only eligible for one NPI payment
- Min 10m continuous length
- Stockproof
- Sheep fencing 100mm above ground to allow wildlife access
- No fertiliser/chemicals
- Can be cut/lightly grazed between September and end of February



 field score: Q B6/C2

Riparian Margin Tree Planting

Riparian Margin Tree Planting Can only be selected once RM /RM Sheep have been selected.

- CP and non-CP
- Minimum 10 trees with 2.5m spacing, Irish origin + passport
- Each point (10 trees) is only eligible for one NPI payment
- Purchase minimum 60cm height (staked)
- Not under overhead wires/20m from railway/60m from dwelling
- 1m from riparian fence to prevent unwanted grazing
- Control competing vegetation
- No Chemicals/Fertilizer.



Small Woodlands

Habitat and wildlife supports

- CP or non-CP
- MEA $>$ or $=$ 0
- Planted by 31st of March 1 year advanced.
Planting to take place between Nov 1st and March 31st
- 160/300 trees 0.05ha or 0.09ha respectively.
- 1.5 - 2m spacing between trees and rows
- Tree must be purchased minimum of 60cm tall, Irish origin and passport.
- Stockproof



Swallow Nest Boxes

- CP or non-CP
- MEA > or =0
- **3 Boxes** per point **installed before 31st March**
- Only be installed inside outbuildings (e.g sheds/barns)
- Allow access to shed
- Do not install near lighting
- Must not be attached to archaeology monuments
- Must be purchased!!! available on the www.bwi.ie-acres
- **Minimum 2m off the ground**



Swift Boxes

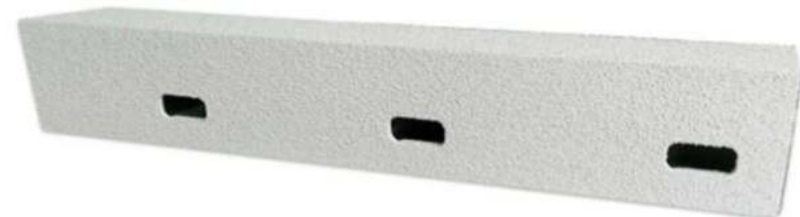


- CP or non-CP. MEA > OR = 0
- **3 Boxes** per point **installed before 31st March**
- Must be externally installed on outbuildings e.g. sheds, barns, under roof eaves and at least 5m high on a sheltered non-south facing wall.
- Must not be attached to archaeology monuments
- Must be purchased new, available on the www.bwi.ie-acres
- A caller or Lure (wall mounted speaker) is required (electricity access needed) when installing nest boxes.
- Lure installed as close as possible to the boxes and on Dawn for 3-6hour and 6pm to dusk. Once swift are nesting, they are faithful to nest sites and lure can be removed.



3 single entry @ €50 each

Or



1 triple entry @ €130

www.bwi.ie [Triple Entry Swift Box \(ACRES\)](http://www.bwi.ie-acres) - BirdWatch Ireland

Wader Scraps

- **CP only** (min 1 - max 5)
- Not located within 30m of scrub/hedgerow
- In place for 5 years only eligible for one NPI payment.
- Reduce the gradient on natural wet areas for young birds/create wet features for birds.
- Put in low-lying areas where it will retain water.
- Must not be fenced off
- No more than 50cm deep in centre
- Minimum surface area of 48m² - max 225m².
- In place before March 1st.

Habitat and wildlife supports

B Wet features & hydrology	
Poor: No accessible wet features for foraging birds.	-10
Limited: Wet features rare. Or if present, too dry and/or over vegetated and/or too steep.	0
Good: Wet features present, but plot could be improved by increasing the amount /quality.	10
Excellent: Features of appropriate slope, wetness and vegetation cover	15

Breeding wader scorecard

 **field score: Q B**



Wild Bird Cover Plots

Habitat and wildlife supports

- CP arable and non-CP grassland/arable
- Not close to residential houses/schools.
- Plot minimum 0.25ha maximum 3ha
- 2m uncultivated between field edge and crop
- Planted by 30th June
- Certified seed only
- No herbicide post sowing.
- One or more Cereal: oats/triticale/wheat/barley
- Two or more: linseed/oil seed-rape/phacelia/fodder radish/mustard/spring vetch/lucerne/chicory or birds foot trefoil
- Fenced from livestock until the 1st of March, can be grazed after 1st March.

Can apply for more than 1 plot around the farm.



Wild Bird Cover Strip

Habitat and wildlife supports

- **CP only**
- Establish strip 9m width x 50m length minimum + 2m uncultivated zone.
- Cultivated 6m at least from water course.
- Applied for annual to a max of 400m
- Establish not close to residential houses/schools.
- Planted by 30th June
- Certified seed only
- No herbicide post sowing.
- One or more Cereal: oats/triticale/wheat/barley
- Two or more: linseed/oil seed-rape/phacelia/fodder radish/mustard/spring vetch/lucerne/chicory or birds foot trefoil
- No harvest of crop: Fenced from livestock until the 1st of March, can be grazed after 1st March.



Winter Stubble

Habitat and wildlife supports

- CP arable/ non-CP parcels
- Applied for annually
- Only suitable for on stubble ground following the harvest of a cereal crop/oil-seed rape or linseed, not on Maize.
- Two options:
 1. Shallow cultivate no later than September 30th to allow green cover to be produced
 2. Leave stubble in situ until the 1st of February
- Leave is situ with livestock excluded until 1st Feb.
- No fertilizer/chemicals



Culverts

Protect water quality

- **CP only.** MEA >0
- Culvert reduces potential pollution for drains.
- Not permitted on natural watercourses.
- Only eligible for one NPI payment
- **Consult with CP team**



Fencing:

Not permitted to have two separated fencing NPI claimed along the same length.

Infrastructure

CP only

- New posts and wire - Existing field boundaries, existing internal boundaries
- Fencing set back 1.5m from water courses + mandatory watercourse requirements.
- Fence must be stockproof
 - **Barb Wire** min 10m – 1000m. Two strands minimum and strained tightly between posts (timber or metal/PVC alternatives).
 - **Permanent Electric** fencing 10m – 1500m. One strand of wire minimum
 - **Sheep wire** 10m – 1000m. Sheep mesh + 1 strand of wire. The lowest line of sheep wire must be 100mm above ground for wildlife.
- Only eligible for one NPI payment.
- Not permitted to attached fencing to trees.



Gates

- CP only.
- MEA >0
- Replacing existing functioning gates that have fallen into disrepair on internal boundaries/existing entrances.
- Purchased new, tubular steel or wrought iron, 2.4m minimum, galvanised
- Free standing
- Must not impede traffic when opened to main road. Must be capable of opening inwards
- All spoil removed after installation



Mobile Feed Storage Bins

- **CP only.** Mea >0. Any scorecard.
- Purchased new; 1000 L minimum capacity
- Feed bins should not be placed on or within close proximity of a monument.
- They may be stored away from fields when not in use.
- Not places in close proximity to a monument.



Pasture Pumps

- CP only
- MEA>0
- Must be placed where marked on map
- Purchased new
- No disturbance to watercourse or bank, placed 20m from watercourse.
- Not places in close proximity to a monument.
- May be secured to post or weight if needed
- River or stream should have adequate supply



Rainwater Catcher

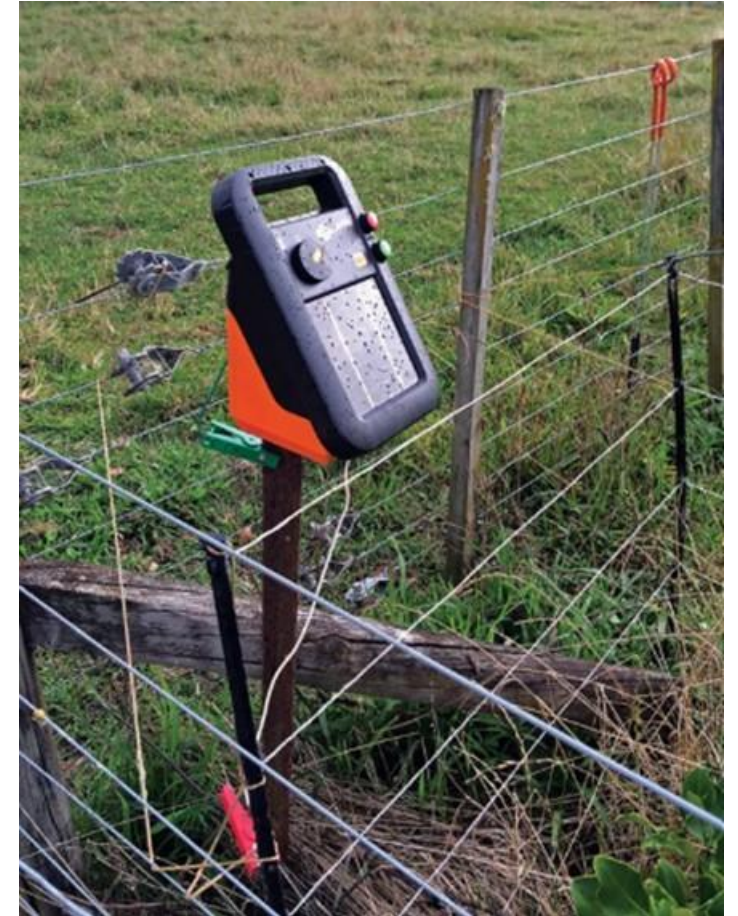
- CP only
- MEA > or = 0
- New constructed with concrete blocks and cement and marked on the map.
- Repair to rainwater catchers is not available under this NPI.
- Not constructed in close proximity to a monument.
- Consult with the CP team.



Source: Caomhnú Árinn

Solar Electric Fencer Unit

- CP only
- MEA > 0
- Purchase and install of new solar electric fence unit (min standard of 0.4 Joule).
- Target location to be mapped.
- Do not place in shade
- Can be lifted and put into storage when not in use.



Solar Pump

- CP only
- MEA > 0
- Support supply of water to troughs
- The bed of the water course should not be disturbed.
- River or stream should have adequate supply
- Not places in close proximity to a monument.
- Must be purchased new
- Must be stored on the farm holding when not in use.



Water Storage Tanks

- CP or Non-CP
- MEA $>$ or $= 0$
- New storage tank must be a potable water storage tank.
- Can be located on farmyards must supply at least one trough.
- Storage tank must be a potable water storage
- Stored in an assessable decreet location.
- Not places in close proximity to a monument.
- Minimum 2500 litres
- Must be mobile and installed in sheltered locations.



Water Troughs

- CP only MEA >0
- New
- 318 Litres minimum precast concrete/PVC with a ballcock installed.
- Portable
- Must be located away from wet/waterlogged ground.
- Must be located 20m from watercourses.
- Must be connected to water supply
- Not places in close proximity to a monument.
- Can have multiple troughs in a field
- Troughs should sit on a solid (gravel chip) level surface in an accessible area.
- Avoid installing in pinch points or corners to reduce poaching or damage to archaeological features

