

Wader Scrapes

Objective:

To create opportunities for waders to feed and to support aquatic insects through the creation of small, shallow, and often seasonal pools.

Background:

Small, seasonal pools support a wide range of invertebrates and provide feeding opportunities for waders and other bird species alike. Wader scrapes are shallow pools which can be created to increase the area of wet feature edge. They are typically located in naturally low-lying areas. Wet flushes occur when the water table is high and/or there is low soil permeability.

Site Suitability:

- This action can only be selected on parcels with an Eligible hectare > 0.
- This action is available on CP parcels only that will be claimed by the participant for the remainder of the ACRES contract.
- This action can only be selected on fields that have a scorecard submitted and is only available the following scorecard types: Grassland, Rough Grazing, Coastal, Peatland (restricted to cutover), Low Input Peat Grassland and Breeding Wader.
- Wader scrapes should not be located within 250m of a wind turbine.
- Wader scrapes should not be located within 30m of major roads, such as motorways and busy national or regional roads due to risk of collision of birds with traffic.
- Wader scrapes should not be located within 10m of watercourses as there is a risk during times of high rainfall or flooding of run off and water quality impacts.
- Do not locate wader scrapes within 30m of scrub, hedgerows, woodland or forestry which could provide cover for predators.
- This action cannot be selected within an archaeological monument buffer.

Requirements:

1. Select the LPIS parcel for the wader scrape, each point drawn on GLAM represents one wader. Each wader scrape applied for is only eligible for one NPI payment and once claimed must be maintained for the remainder of the ACRES contract.
2. Create a scrape with a minimum surface area of 48m² by the end of February in the year following year of approval or by the 31st of December in the final year of the ACRES contract. The wader scrapes should be no larger than 225m².
3. Works must not take place during the bird nesting season (March 1st to August 31st).
4. Edges must have a gently sloping bank and soil must not be banked around the perimeter.
5. Scrapes must not be fenced off as grazing around the edges can help improve accessibility for waders.

Additional Guidance:

- Long linear shaped wader scrapes are preferable (7.5m W x 30m L). Contact the CP team for further advice.
- It is recommended to have a varied depth to increase biodiversity with a maximum depth of 50cm to 100cm at the centre.
- Choose naturally low-lying areas where the water table is anticipated to be near the surface and will retain water within the field. Consider the location of a scrape with the practical management of the field in mind. Machinery access, movement of livestock and other factors should be considered.
- Additional guidance and useful waterbird identification tips and survey information can be found on [BirdWatch Ireland](#).

Picture 4: Example of Wader Scrape (7.5m Width x 30m Length).



Source: ACRES West Connaught