

# Water Storage Tanks

## Objective

To encourage the installation of a network of clean water sources that will offer multiple benefits for livestock management on species-rich areas.

## Background

Having a well-installed water supply and storage system is vital for appropriate livestock management on scored fields. They provide alternative drinking points to natural water sources which can become damaged if overused by stock. They can be strategically installed to encourage grazing in specific areas of a plot. Water storage tanks can play a key role in storing water for these systems.

## Site Suitability

- This action can be selected on parcels with an Eligible hectare  $>$  or  $=$  0
- This action is available on CP and Non-CP LPIS parcels that will be claimed by the participant for the remainder of the ACRES contract.
- This action can be selected on fields that have a scorecard submitted and is available on any scorecard. It can also be located in a farmyard, or on improved agricultural grassland (IAG) but must supply at least one water trough, which provides an environmental benefit to the farm i.e., a trough on a scored field or trough on IAG where the water course has been fenced off as part of another NPI or landscape action.
- Storage tanks should be installed at an accessible, discreet location which makes the most of the local topography (scrub, walls, hollows) while ideally minimising the visual impact.
- The machine access route must be considered when choosing a location. The tank must not be located where there is a risk of damage to habitats and/or archaeology on the route to the proposed site.
- Water storage tanks should not be placed on or within close proximity to an archaeological monument. The machine access route must be considered when choosing a location. The tank must not be located where there is a risk of damage to habitats and/or archaeology on the route to the proposed site. Ongoing monitoring will be required to ensure that archaeological monuments are not impacted upon.

## Requirements

1. The initial location of the water storage tank must be identified and marked on the map.
2. All water storage tanks must be purchased new. Each water storage tank applied for is only eligible for one NPI payment and once claimed must be retained for the remainder of the ACRES contract.
3. The minimum water storage tank size permitted is 2500 Litres.
4. Storage tanks must be a potable water storage tank made from plastic or concrete. The use or reuse of old oil/water/slurry tankers or IBCs are not permitted.

5. All storage tanks must be mobile, i.e., not built from blocks on a permanent concrete base.

#### **Additional Guidance**

- Plastic storage tanks should be well anchored to avoid wind-blow. They should only be installed in a sheltered location and always kept partially filled.

**Picture 11:** Example of a 2500L Water Storage Tank



**Source:** ACRES Burren Aran