

Installation of Heritage Gates

Specification extract · Pages 79–81

What this document is

This is an extract of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) document “ACRES Co-operation Non-Productive Investments Specification”, Version 2.2, July 2026. It contains the pages covering the Installation of Heritage Gates action (pages 79–81 of the full specification).

Because the specification runs each action straight into the next, the first and last pages of this extract may also show the end or beginning of a neighbouring action. The section for this action starts on page 79 (the printed page number matches the page number in the full document).

Always check the current version

DAFM updates the specification from time to time. The full document is the authoritative version and should be consulted before undertaking any work. It is available from:

Full specification (PDF, opens at this action):

https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/f8e2ccf8/NPI_specifications_July_2026_2.pdf#page=79

ACRES NPI page on gov.ie:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/f5a48-agri-climate-rural-environment-scheme-acres/#non-productive-investments>

About this action on the ACRES CP website

<https://acresireland.ie/action-projects/npi-installation-of-heritage-gates/>

Installation of Heritage Gates

Objective

Install heritage gates in appropriate locations to increase farmers capacity to target grazing and implement rotational or conservation grazing regimes. Heritage gates may also be installed at locations where they visually enhance the appearance of the landscape.

Background

Heritage gates, used in conjunction with walls and fences, allow for optimised grazing management of annex habitat. They offer the additional benefit of improving the visual appeal of the landscape while also supporting local businesses and preserving local cultural heritage.

Site Suitability

New heritage gates can be installed on any existing field boundary within a land parcel in a CP zone. They will not normally be supported along new boundaries dividing an existing field. The only exceptions are where the new boundary is a new hedge or traditionally built new stone wall, or is being created as part of a riparian margin, an enclosure, or a new pond.

- This action can only be selected on parcels with an Eligible hectare >0.
- This action is available on Burren Aran 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 with the following scorecards submitted: Grassland, Rough Grazing, Coastal, Winterage, Peatland, Scrub/Woodland and Chough.
- New gates must not be selected in a location where there is an existing functioning gate. However, new gates can be installed at a location where an existing gate has fallen into disrepair.
- Heritage gates can be installed to replace existing, fully functioning field gates where there is a justifiable visual benefit in terms of landscape (i.e., along public roads and walkways) within the CP zone.
- If applying for this action on external farm boundaries along public roads, this action is only available where there is an existing entrance in place.

Requirements

1. The location for each heritage gate must be identified on the LPIS parcel(s) and marked on the map submitted.
2. Each gate applied for is only eligible for one NPI payment and once claimed must be retained for the remainder of the ACRES contract.
3. Heritage gates must be designed in a style typical of the area and should only be purchased from a list of CP team approved suppliers. Contact the local CP team for contact details. The minimum size of the heritage gate is 1.2m/4ft.
4. The gate(s) must be made of steel (non-tubular) or wrought iron, suitably galvanised or painted to protect it from corrosion.
5. The gate must be fixed to a free-standing concrete, stone or block pillar, metal post or treated timber post and capable of being opened in at least one direction to allow livestock access.

6. Existing gate pillars may be re-used for this action once the new gate is fully functioning upon completion.
7. Gates on entrances from public roads must not impede the flow of traffic on the road when opened. They must be capable of opening inwards onto the field unless there is an adequate set back distance from the road. The width of gateways on entrances from public roads cannot be increased without the consent of the Local Authority or if appropriate the National Roads Authority.
8. All spoil, excess and waste materials (including old gate if applicable) should be removed from site and disposed of appropriately.
9. Only one claim for payment is allowed per approved NPI-Annual Works Plan. This action can only be claimed for payment once delivered in accordance with NPI Specification.

Additional Guidance

- Retain existing stone pillars where possible. Once the hanging post is in position, align the gate before securely installing the latch post. Consider using closing slots rather than holes as a gate can sag over time.
- The top gate bar or gate post should not protrude excessively (>30cm) above the height of any adjoining stone walls. The height of the wall should be measured prior to ordering the gate.
- Gates must have a latch or a bolt and be capable of being fixed into a closed position by means of fastening to a free-standing pillar, post or in the case of double gates to another gate.
- Removal of scrub/vegetation should be minimised and if prior scrub/tree removal is required to prepare the gate site, this removal must not take place during the bird nesting season (1st March-31st Aug).
- Ground clearance beneath the gate must be low enough to prevent livestock from passing underneath but high enough to clear the ground on at least one side when opened.

Picture 6: Example of a Heritage Gate



Source: ACRES Burren Aran