

Repair of Traditional Stonewalls (1 side)

Specification extract · Pages 42–43

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 Repair of Traditional Stonewalls (1 side) action (pages 42–43 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 42 (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=42

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-repair-of-traditional-stonewalls-1-side/>

Repair of Traditional Stone Walls (1 side and 2 sides)

Objective

To repair freestanding dry stonewalls where they have fallen into disrepair. An intact network of traditional stone walls enhances the visual landscape, enables effective grazing management and are an important part of our cultural heritage.

Background

Dry stone walls are walls built using stones that sit comfortably without the use of mortar and constructed in a style traditional to the locality. In addition to their agricultural contribution as stockproof boundaries and shelter to livestock, these also act as nature corridors, which provide protection to wildlife and are significant habitats for both flora and fauna.

Site suitability

- This action can only be selected on parcels with an Eligible hectare >0.
- This action is available on CP and Non-CP parcels that will be claimed by the participant for the remainder of the ACRES contract.
- This NPI must not be selected on the same walls that are included in the ACRES general action Traditional Dry-Stone Wall Maintenance.
- This action is to be targeted at stonewalls that have fallen into disrepair and is not for the maintenance of fully intact stonewalls.
- This action should not be applied for on machine-built 'boulder walls'.
- Walls built with mortar are not eligible for this NPI action and mortar must not be used in their repair.
- All stone walls which are to be repaired as an NPI must have sufficient fallen and dislodged stones in the direct vicinity of the wall.
- While trees and shrubs are often found growing along stone walls, only stone walls that are visible, accessible and in need of repair are eligible for this action.
- If an internal stone wall is only accessible and visible on one side, NPI Repair of Traditional Stone Wall 1 side can only be chosen at that location.
- Repair of Traditional Stone Wall 1 side should be chosen for external stone walls except those that front onto a public roadway, private laneway or water body where the farmer has control over both sides of the wall for repair.
- Repair of Traditional Stone Wall 1 side should only be chosen for repair of walls that are on a boundary with a commonage.
- In all cases for stone walls to be eligible for payment they must be visible, accessible, repaired and maintained as fully intact stone walls.

Requirements

1. External farm stone walls and walls that are on a boundary with a commonage entered for this action are payable at half rate except for external stone walls that front onto a public roadway, private laneway or water body where the farmer has control over both sides of the wall for repair.

2. Internal stone wall lengths must only be counted once and must be repaired and maintained on both sides.
3. Stone walls eligible to be paid at the 2-sides rate should be selected as Repair of Traditional Stone Wall 2-sides with the location and length marked on the map submitted.
4. Stone walls eligible to be paid at the half rate should be selected as Repair of Traditional Stone Wall 1 side with the location and length marked on the map submitted.
5. To be eligible for this action, the minimum continuous length to be delivered is 10m. Each length applied for is only eligible for one NPI payment and once claimed must be maintained for the remainder of the ACRES contract.
6. All sections of wall mapped for repair must be repaired to a solid, secure, and stock proof standard; unstable sections should be knocked and rebuilt.
7. Repair work must be done in the traditional style that is consistent with the existing wall and be evenly topped-off.
8. Walls must not be repaired using large machine placed boulders in a 'boulder wall' style and must not be repaired with mortar.
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

- Stones used to repair walls should be fallen stone from the existing wall. If additional stone is required, it must not be taken from other walls or from within the Zones of Notification around any archaeological sites or monuments.
- The stone used for repair should not be an integral part of a protected habitat type, such as limestone pavement or consist of dug up 'earth-fast' stone. Fallen and loose scattered stones may be used.
- Where there are mature trees along the wall, these must be retained, though suspended side branches may be cut back to facilitate wall repair.
- Embedded, 'earth-fast' stones must not be extracted from underlying archaeological walls if present.
- Stone should not be removed from other stonewalls or built structures. Any old structures within walls - stiles, pickets/ sheep passes, marker stones, should be retained.
- When applying Plant Protection Products and fertiliser, a one-metre margin should be left along the selected wall as it will allow the development of a beneficial nature corridor for flora and fauna. If spraying to control noxious and invasive weeds along the wall, they should be applied by spot treatment only.

Riparian Margin and Riparian Margin (Sheep fencing)