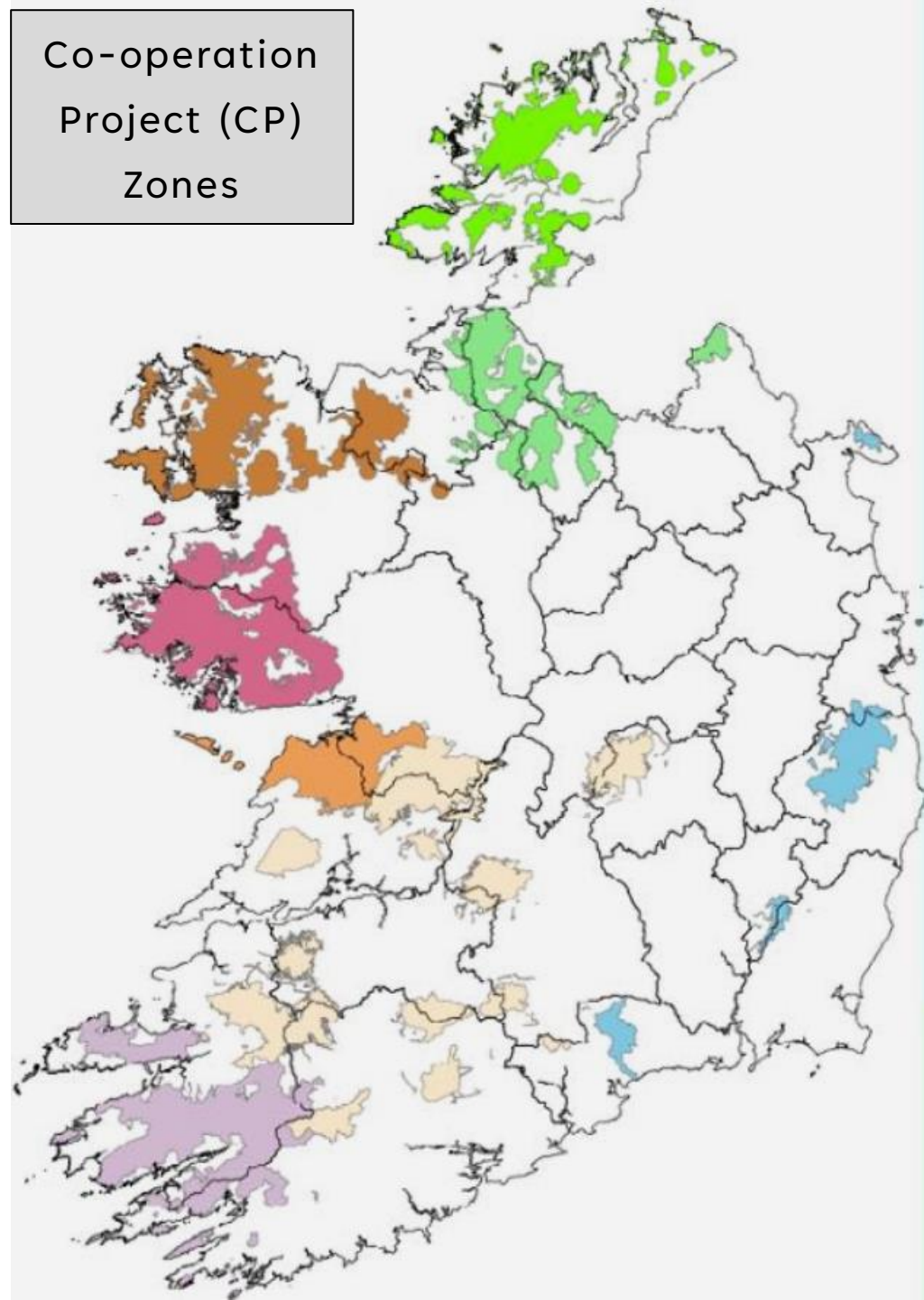




ACRES
BURREN ARAN

Donal Hogan

Co-operation
Project (CP)
Zones



ACRES Donegal



ACRES Breifne



ACRES West Connacht



ACRES West Connacht



ACRES Burren Aran



ACRES Munster South Connacht



ACRES Kerry West Cork



ACRES Leinster

8 CP Zones

Comprising mainly extensively farmed upland areas. Based on protected areas (SAC/SPA) and priority water catchments

ACRES



LOCALLY
LED SCHEME

Main CP Team office in Carron
CP zone divided into 3 regions:

- *Aran Islands, Clare Burren, South Galway*





CARRON OFFICE

065 7089000
info@acresburrenaran.ie

PROJECT MANAGER

Dr. Joanne O'Connell

CLARE BURREN

Neal Jeuken
085 1483134

Primary contact – your
Farm advisor

Contact the local office
and teams with further
queries.

Scheme is organised by
a local team.

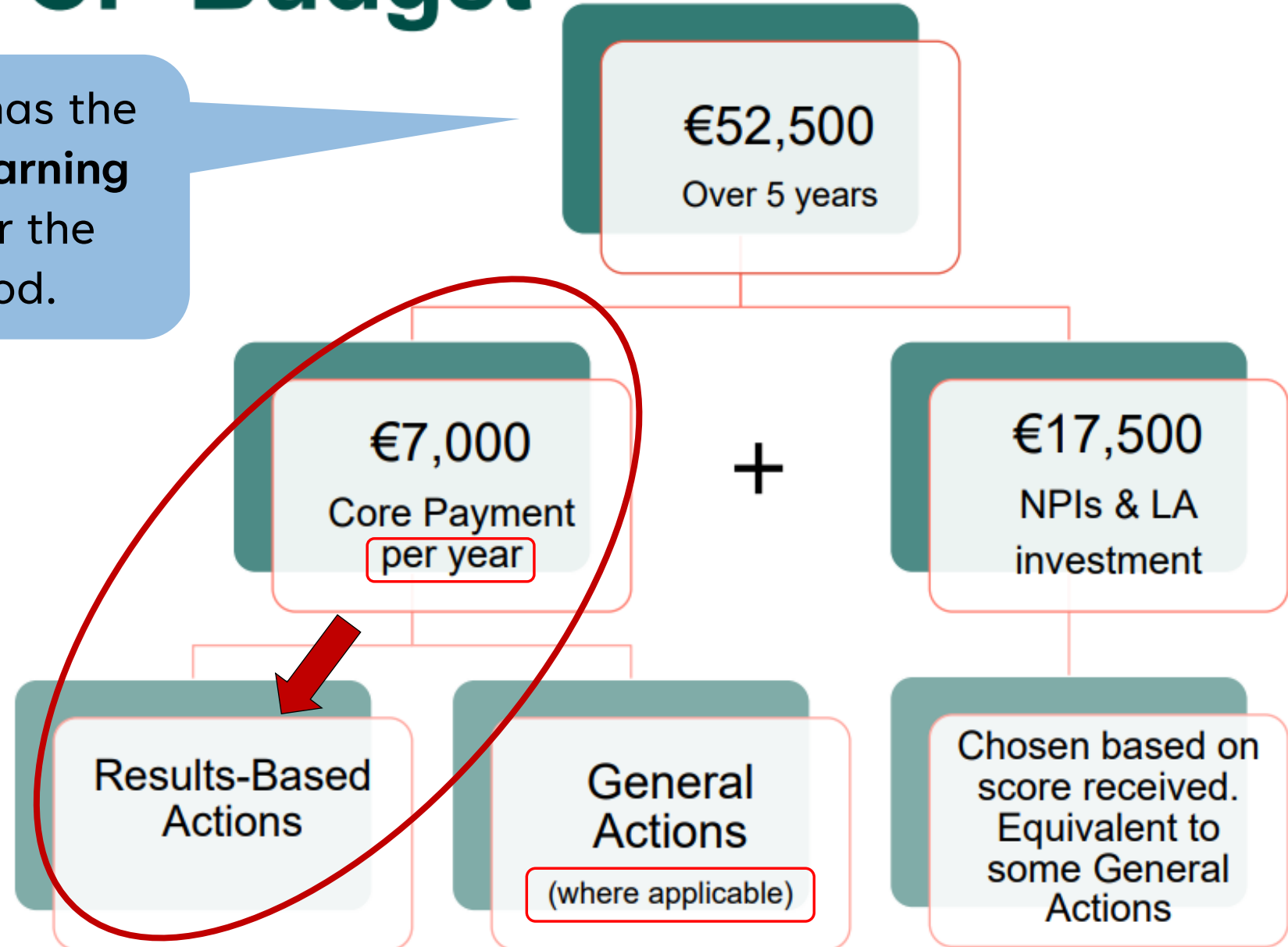
SOUTH GALWAY

Donal Hogan
085 1414073

LOCAL CP
TEAM

ACRES CP Budget

Every farmer has the potential of **earning** €52,500 over the 5 year period.



RESULTS-BASED APPROACH



FREEDOM TO FARM

Moves away from flat-rate payments for restrictions on your land.



PAYMENTS FOR WHAT YOU DELIVER

In ACRES CP, up to €400ha



MARKET FOR BIODIVERSITY

Puts value on biodiversity, water quality & climate benefits



SCORING

Higher the score, higher the payment rate; fairer & better value for money

ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL FARMLAND PRODUCTS

WOODLAND

GOOD WATER
QUALITY

SPECIES-RICH
GRASSLANDS

HEDGEROWS

WHILE STILL
PRODUCING
AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTS



THE CORE “€7,000” PAYMENT

Results-Based Payment Rates (Private land)								
Field Score	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	<4
Payment Rate (ha)	€400	€350	€300	€250	€205	€175	€150	0





FIELD SCORING

Fields are scored by your Farm Advisor in the 1st, 3rd and 5th years of the scheme

Declaration in years 2 and 4 stating scores are the same as previous year

What do the scorecards look for?

A5 Marsh Frutillary suitability
 assessment in primarily
 grazed grassland

A6 Field boundary quality.
 Assess the quality of the
WORST 30m of field
 boundary in the field. Refer to

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

Dominant grassland type:
 Wet grassland Dry grassland Mineral soil Peat soil

Soil type:
 Mineral soil Peat soil

A Ecological integrity

A1 What is the number of **positive indicators** in the field? Tick all positive indicators present below.

Note all positive indicators present as you walk a 'W' through the field.

- Positive indicators:** (tick those present)
- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bedstraws & Stitchworts | <input type="checkbox"/> Lady's smock (Cuckooflower) | <input type="checkbox"/> Orchids |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird's-foot-trefoil | <input type="checkbox"/> Lesser spearwort | <input type="checkbox"/> Ox-eye daisy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carline thistle | <input type="checkbox"/> Louseworts (Common & Marsh) | <input type="checkbox"/> Purple loosestrife |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Ragged robin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Scabious (Devil's bit) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-heal & Bugle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heathers | <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh thistle | <input type="checkbox"/> Sorrel (Common & Sheep's) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kidney vetch | <input type="checkbox"/> Meadowsweet | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knapweeds | <input type="checkbox"/> Meadow thistle | <input type="checkbox"/> Small rushes (Spikes, Woodrushes, Heath) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lady's mantle | <input type="checkbox"/> Mints (all) | |

Are there different native wildflowers?

A2 What is the cover of all positive indicators throughout the entire field?
 Cover is the proportion of the field taken up by all positive indicators (listed above).

High: You encounter positive indicators with every step taken.
Very high: You encounter multiple different positive indicators with every step taken.

Are these wildflowers common?

A3 What is the combined cover of **negative indicators/weeds** throughout the field?

High >25%: Occurring in dense patches or abundant throughout the field.
Low <5%: Some present but scattered or small clumps. Overall cover should be less than 5%.

Are there (a lot of) weeds?

A4 **Vegetation Structure.** Note: If grassland is primarily grazed use A4(a) assessment; OR, if grassland is cut for hay or silage, use A4(b). Refer to the guidance for more information.

A4(a) What is the vegetation structure in grasslands which are **PRIMARILY GRAZED**? **OR** **A4(b)** What is the vegetation structure in grasslands which are **CUT** for hay or silage?

Over-grazed: Sward short throughout with little variation in height of vegetation. Few plants in flower. **-10**

Moderate: Field has short vegetation. **-5**

What is the grazing regime?

Good: Field sward medium height throughout with positive indicators flowering. Areas of taller and/or shorter sward also occur. **25**

Moderate (under-grazed): Mostly tall vegetation. 50-75% of field has tall sward. Litter and dead vegetation occurring. **15**

Under-grazed: Rank vegetation present throughout the field. **-10**



Scorecard Guidance

Version 1.0
 June 2023

This document is providing guidance to advisors on how to carry out field assessments and complete ACRES scorecards. Please refer to the most up to date ACRES Circulars, ACRES Terms & Conditions and ACRES Specifications for information on the rules and timelines around the submission of ACRES scorecards.



Funded by the European Union

Are the field boundaries good?

- Dominant field boundary in this field?
- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hedgerow | <input type="checkbox"/> Wireline | <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 |

g activities to

(1) or of a serious nature if confined.	-30
	-20
	-10
	0

activities?

Total score B
 (sum of B1 to B6) /10

B2 What is the level of risk to water quality?
 Model should inform the assessment (see guidance).

Risks to water quality?

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

erosion?
 of the field. Bare soil may also be extending out significantly from the main field boundary. **-20**
 excessive areas of bare soil? **-10**
 No soil loss. **10**

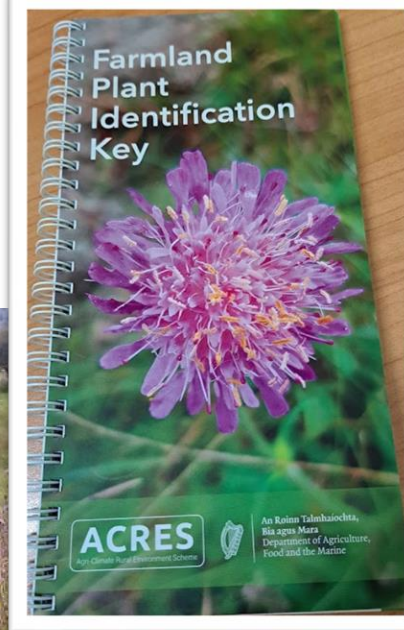
invasive species? **Non-native invasive species: (tick if present)**
 many seedlings. **-20** Rhododendron Himalayan balsam
-native invasive species? Weed Suckle Giant hogweed Other (please specify): **0**

immature scrub?
 field has immature scrub cover, some well-established saplings may be present. Field has effective management such as signs of recent grazing or signs of livestock. **-20**
(a lot of) encroaching scrub? **-10**
 if immature scrub or individual seedlings of immature scrub with overall Grass growth easily seen underneath the scrub. **0**
patches of dense bracken? **-20**
 patches of bracken covering over half or more of the field, forming closed canopy. **-10**
areas of dense bracken? **0**

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consider reducing fertiliser inputs. | <input type="checkbox"/> Consider establishing a field margin. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consider using supporting actions to slow or impede the flow of drains. | <input type="checkbox"/> Field boundaries - reduce cutting. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use stock to graze field more evenly. | <input type="checkbox"/> Field boundaries - consider planting gaps with suitable native species. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improve stock management, supporting actions e.g. Fencing / drinking facilities are available. | <input type="checkbox"/> Field boundaries - continue current management of high quality boundaries. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Move feeders / troughs regularly and keep away from drains and rivers. | <input type="checkbox"/> No management advice. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other management advice. |

ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

Does the field retain native
wildflowers?
&
Does the grazing (or mowing)
regime still **allow at least some**
of these to flower?





THREATS & PRESSURES

Are there **problem plants** and any **problem activities** impacting the fields condition?

Is there a **risk to water quality**?



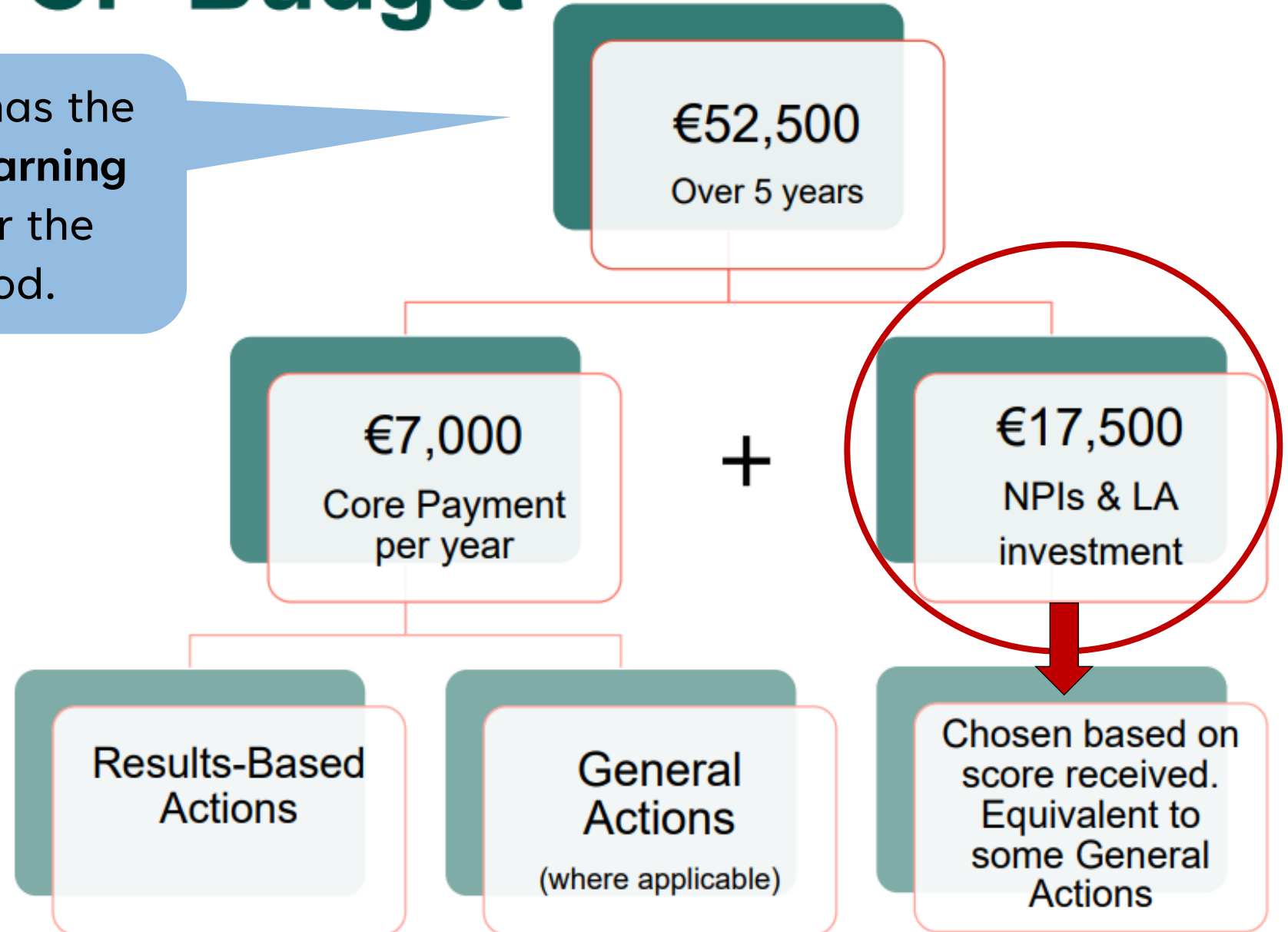
Scorecards	What does well	Total area	% of CP Area	No of Fields
Grassland (LIG)	Fields with lots of wildflowers	27,002ha	50%	10,758
Winterage	Good winter grazing, low scrub, no silage feeding	19,927ha	37%	1,446
Rough Grazing	Wildflowers, some rush and scrub cover	4,755ha	9%	1,456
Scrub woodland	A few tree species, values a patch of scrub woodland in a field, minimal disturbance	1,844ha	3.4%	603
Peatland	High water table, few drains	523ha	1%	69
Coastal grassland	Balanced grazing, low coastal erosion	159ha	<1%	89
Others	Chough, Breeding Wader	152ha	<1%	40

Overall..

- Good water quality, protected/minimally damaged water courses.
- Low nutrient inputs
- Balanced grazing i.e. not skinned nor ungrazed
- Good, (i.e. not a fence) boundaries - stonewalls, hedges, treelines, earthbanks

ACRES CP Budget

Every farmer has the potential of **earning** €52,500 over the 5 year period.



NON-PRODUCTIVE INVESTMENTS

Actions which...

1. Help increase the field scores
2. Enhance biodiversity on the farm
3. Generate additional farm income

- Works must have clear benefits for Biodiversity, Water Quality, Climate and/or Cultural Heritage.
- Work plans are drawn up by the Farmer & Farm Advisor once per year and submitted during the submission window(s).
- All work plans are looked at by the CP team to sort out any permissions (NPWS, NMS, Co.Co, Forestry) and to ensure local objectives are being met.
- TAMS remains available for modernisation actions.

FIELD INFRASTRUCTURE NPIS

To be targeted for better **grazing** management

- Installation of Gate (€185) - 4ft min*
- Heritage Gate (€496) - 4ft min*
- Stone Wall Repair (€3/m internal or €1.50/m ext.)
- Fencing
 - Permanent Electric (€1.52/m)
 - Barbed Wire (€2.60/m)
 - Sheep Wire (€3.44/m)
- Solar Electric Fencer (€257/unit) - 0.4 joule min*

*costings based on minimum spec/size



NPIs FOR WATER QUALITY

To be targeted for **water quality** benefits

- Riparian Margin (€5.50/m); with Sheep Fencing (€13.93/m)
- Riparian Tree Planting (€13.93/tree) - min 10 trees
- Rainwater Catcher (€716/unit)
- Solar Water Pump (€1852/unit)
- Water Storage Tank (€798/unit) - 2500 litre min*
- Water Trough (€290/unit) - 70 gallon min*
- Pasture Pump (€289/unit)
- Culvert (€476/unit)

*costings based on minimum spec/size



BURREN-ARAN CP ONLY NPIs

To be targeted for the management of **winterages** and species-rich grassland fields

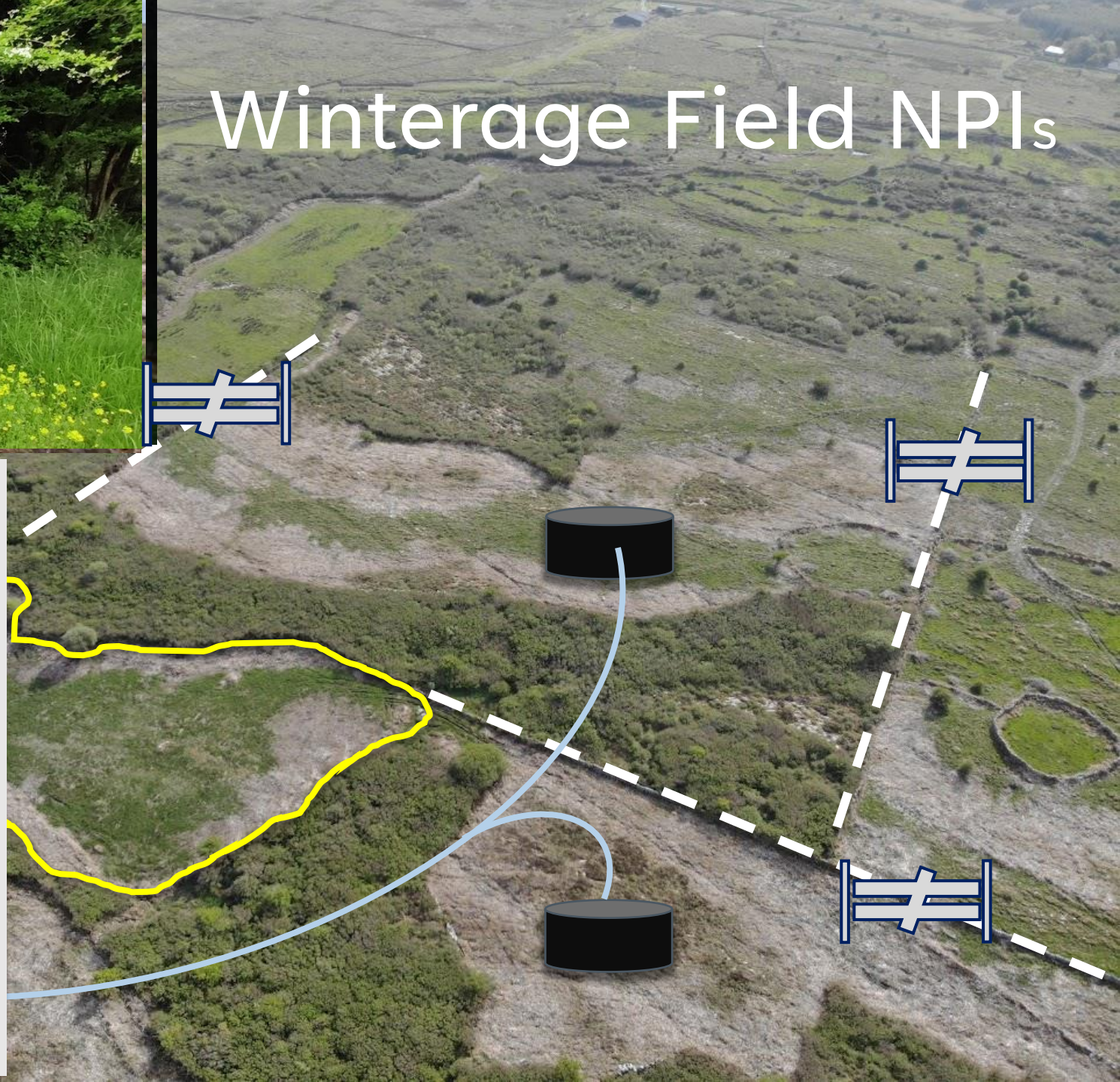
-
- Mobile Feed Troughs (winterage-only) (€59/unit)
-
- Feed Storage Bins* (€175/unit) - 1 cubic metre
-
- Winterage Track Repair (€3/m)
-
- **Scrub Control** (chainsaw) – areas & paths (€14,784/ha)
-

*costings based on minimum spec/size





Winterage Field NPIs



- Land that's easier to manage.
- Easier to graze fields fully.
- Cleaner water for livestock.
- Improves long-term prospects.
- Higher score & higher payment.

HABITAT CREATION NPIS

Creating and enhancing farm habitats
for the long term

-
- Tree planting, 3 options:
 - 3 trees (€31)
 - 160 trees 0.05ha (€1247/ha)
 - 300 trees 0.09ha (€2302/ha)
-
- Planting Traditional Orchard (€1302) - 10 trees
-
- Planting New Hedgerows (€23/m)
-
- Hedge Rejuvenation (€18/m)
-



Seed Savers



Teagasc

HABITAT MANAGEMENT NPIs

- Bracken management - Strimming (€835ha) and/or Mechanical (€242ha)
- Conservation of cultural/archaeological sites €133/monument
- Field margin (non-CP fields) (€5.45m)

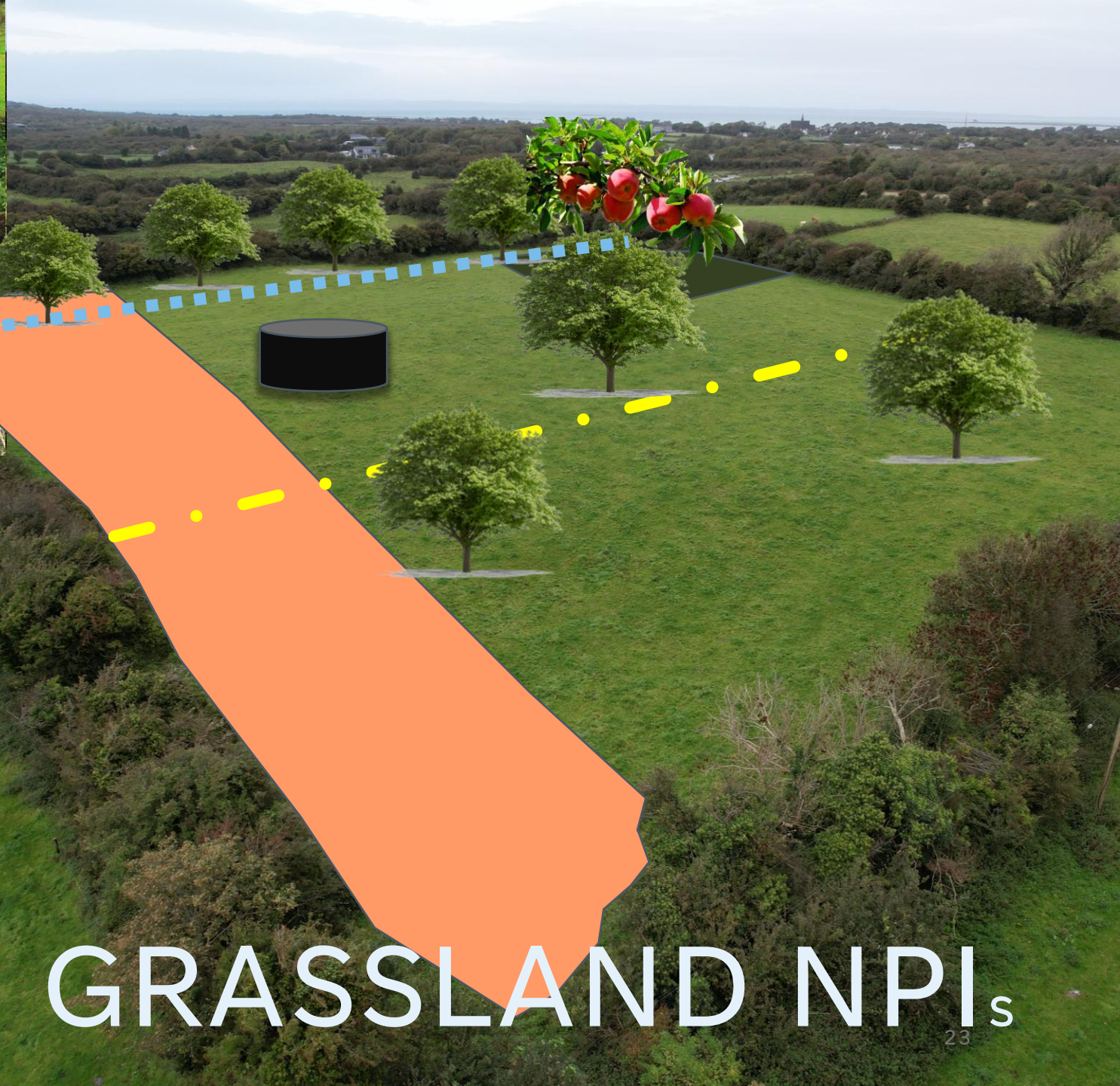
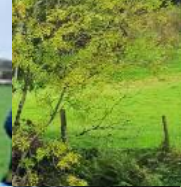


WILDLIFE SUPPORTS NPIS

Actions to support declining or endangered wildlife

- Barn Owl/Kestrel Nest Box (€294)
- 3 Bat Boxes (€56)
- Swift Boxes (€134)
- Wader Scrapes (€256)
- Wild bird cover plots and strips €540 per 100m
- Winter Stubble (€119/ha)
- Rodenticide-free rodent control (€272)
- Feed storage bins* (€175)– 1 cubic metre





- WILD BIRD COVER
- TRADITIONAL ORCHARDS
- PLANTING TREES
- RIPARIAN MARGINS
- WATER TROUGHS

GRASSLAND NPI_s

ROUGH GRAZING NPIs

HEDGEROW PLANTING

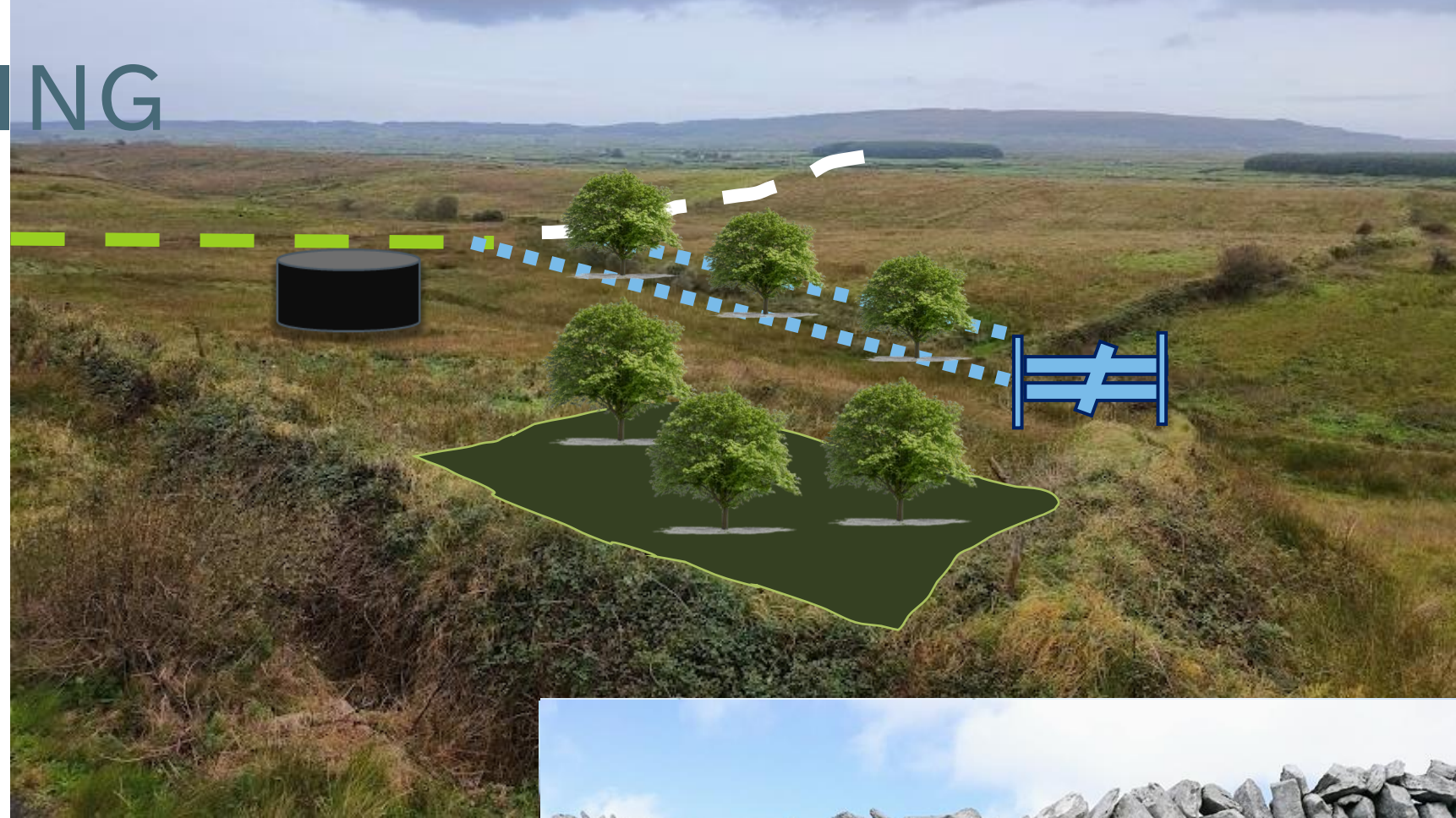
STONE WALL REPAIR

PLANTING TREES

RIPARIAN MARGIN

GATE INSTALLATION

WATER TROUGH INSTALLATION



FARMYARD NPIS

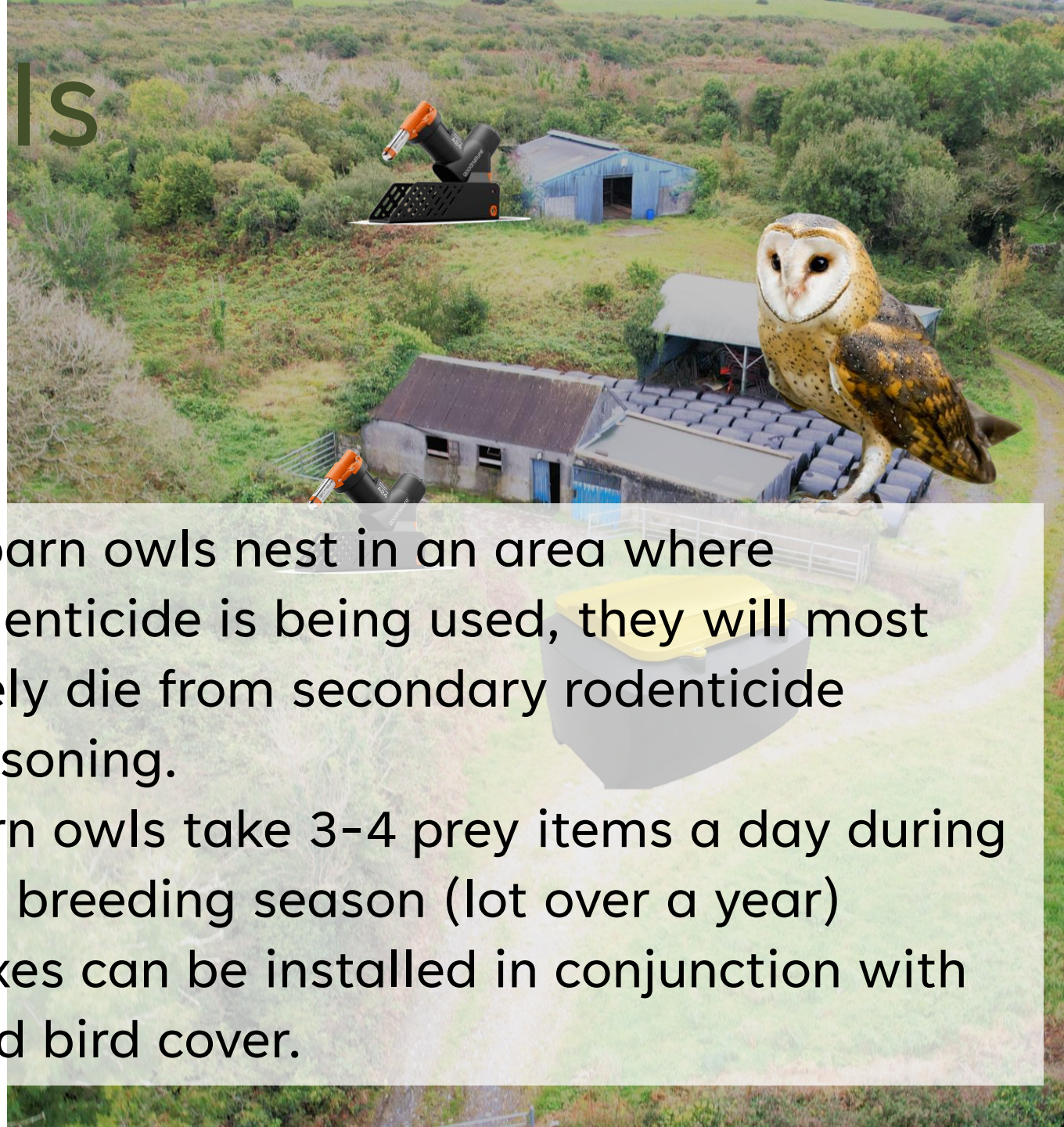


BARN OWL BOXES

RODENTICIDE-FREE RODENT CONTROL

FEED STORAGE BINS

- If barn owls nest in an area where rodenticide is being used, they will most likely die from secondary rodenticide poisoning.
- Barn owls take 3-4 prey items a day during the breeding season (lot over a year)
- Boxes can be installed in conjunction with wild bird cover.



NPI examples on 'Green' Farms

- Barn Owl Box x2 (€588)
- Mobile Feed Storage Bin (€175)
- Rodenticide-Free Rodent Control x2 (€544)
- Wild Bird Cover Strip - 100m (€540) - annual
- Hedgerow Planting - 200m (€4,600)
- Traditional Orchard (€1,302)
- Conservation of Heritage Sites x2 (€266)



You could be paid;
€8,015

NPI
SCHEME
LIMITS

NPI	Scheme Limit
Barn owl box	6 boxes
Bat boxes	15 boxes
Traditional Orchards	2 orchards
Rodenticide-free rodent control	6 units
Swift Boxes	9 boxes
Swallow boxes	12 boxes
Wader scrapes	5 scrapes
Solar Electric Fencers	6 units
Solar pumps	2 units
Water Storage Tanks	4 units

CP Teams can reject actions if they don't meet objectives of the scheme

LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

Large-scale actions planned with the CP, contact the team direct or through farm advisor.

Example list:

- Machine Scrub Control
- Full Stone Wall Rebuild
- Spring Protection
- Lesser Horseshoe Bat Roost
- Peatland Restoration
- Invasive Species Control
- Wildlife Ponds
- Virtual Fencing

- Earliest window is Spring 2024



INVASIVE SPECIES

Aim is to support farmers in removing as many infestations of invasive species as possible



Rhododendron



Japanese knotweed

- Works plans drawn up with CP team.
- Good payments for removal (either for yourself or funding for contractors)
- Do **not** remove without guidance!

NPI APPLICATION WINDOW OPEN NOW

- Your farm advisor has **6-week** window to apply for an NPI plan on your behalf this year.
- There will be at least one window each year throughout the scheme for greater flexibility.
- Plans (inc. maps) will be sent out in spring 2024.
- Once actions are completed, tick off completed works, send back to DAFM for payment.
- Actions are optional and paid upon completion.
- Only tick off works that are complete.
- Retain receipts etc.

LINKS BETWEEN ACTIONS AND SCORES

More & targeted work will
help lead to higher scores

View the works as a way to
increase score and thus income

Opportunity to do work
on designated land

CP team sort permissions from NPWS, NMS, CoCo. etc



QUESTIONS

