

Track Re-surfacing Gravel

Objective

To resurface, using gravel chip-only existing vehicle access tracks which aid in the farming management of parcels within the Burren Aran CP Zone.

Background

Having good access to farmland, including vehicle access, is of great benefit to a farmer for the herding and feeding of livestock, and can be important when required to treat sick animals or to remove fallen ones. This is particularly the case where the site is very remote and extensive (e.g. Burren winterages). Over time, gravel tracks can fall into disrepair and require re-surfacing occasionally, while some existing, driven routes may never have been appropriately surfaced. In these cases, it is beneficial to repair (re-surface/surface) these tracks in an appropriate manner.

Site Suitability

- 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.
- On Burren Aran CP Parcels, this action can only be selected on fields with the following scorecards submitted: Grassland, Rough Grazing, Winterage, Peatland, Scrub/Woodland, and Chough.
- This action must only be selected where there is an existing vehicle track route.
- Track repair will only be considered where it is of environmental benefit in managing a Winterage.
- Tracks should only be selected for this NPI where there is a low risk of erosion from surface water flow.

Requirements

1. To be eligible for this action, the minimum continuous length to be delivered is 10m.
2. The location and length (metres) must be identified on the LPIS parcel(s) and marked on the map submitted.
3. At a minimum, two wheel tracks (ca.50cm wide sections of the gravel track on which the wheels repeatedly pass over) must have a new cover of gravel applied along the entire claimed length. In some cases, it may be necessary to gravel the full width of the track, but this is not considered a requirement and is done at the farmer's expense.
4. Each length of track for resurfacing applied for is only eligible for one NPI payment and once claimed must be maintained for the remainder of the ACRES contract.
5. All potholes must be filled in to create a level surface.
6. The track must consist of gravel typical of the local area e.g. limestone chip in limestone areas of the Burren or Aran islands.
7. Tracks must be finished with fine (maximum 3" down) limestone chip placed along the wheel tracks.
8. Bedrock must not be disturbed, with levelling of the track achieved by in-filling with gravel or loose stones.

9. Archaeological features, including the remains of old walls, must not be damaged during resurfacing of tracks.

Additional guidance

- Do not import material from sites where there is a risk of infestation with invasive species.
- Machinery must only travel on the route of the track where possible, minimising tracking on adjacent habitats.
- Re-surfacing work must stick closely to the existing route of the track and must not involve the widening or alteration of the route.

Picture 12: Example of Track Re-surfacing Gravel



Source: ACRES Burren Aran