

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 must be repaired in a traditional style and must not be repaired using large machine placed boulders in the 'boulder wall' style.
- 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.
- 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 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 wall lengths must only be counted once and must be maintained on both sides.

3. Stonewalls eligible to be paid at the 2-side rate should be selected as Repair of Traditional Stone Wall 2-side with the location and length marked on the map submitted.
4. Stonewalls 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 style that is consistent with the existing wall and be evenly topped-off.

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 should not be an integral part of a protected habitat type, limestone pavement or earth-fast stone for example should not be used. 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 pesticides and fertiliser, a one-metre margin left along the selected wall is beneficial as it will allow the development of a nature corridor for flora and fauna. If using herbicides to control noxious and invasive weeds, they should be applied by spot treatment only.