Farming for cleaner water and healthier soil

Make the most of Environmental Stewardship and the Campaign for the Farmed Environment



Good farming practice can prevent runoff and erosion at source. There are also some ELS options available to help you manage the source of pollution including: undersown spring cereals, management of maize crops to reduce soil erosion and winter cover crops.



If you cannot control the source of a problem, there are a suite of ELS options available to help you manage the pathways of runoff and erosion including: in field grassed areas, beetle banks, taking field corners out of production and the sensitive management of grassland.



There are some ELS options available to help you create a barrier to pollution including buffer strips or watercourse fencing. It is important to remember receptor options represent the last line of defence for streams and ditches so always think about how you can tackle problems at source and/or better manage the pathway of any water flow from the field.



ELS Code	Options	ELS/OELS Points	CFE code		
1 Tackle the source					
Always try to tackle any resource protection problem or concern at the source – your Soil Protection Review should be used to address this					
EG1/OG1	Undersown spring cereals	200/150 per ha			
EJ2/OJ2	Management of maize crops to reduce soil erosion	18 per ha			
EJ10	Enhanced management of maize crops to reduce soil erosion and runoff	94 per ha			
EJ13/OJ13*	Winter cover crops	65 per ha	🔑 C7b		
2 Slow the pathway					
EF1/OF1	Management of field corners	400/500 per ha	🔑 C3a/b		
EF7/OF7	Beetle banks	580/750 per ha			
EJ5/OJ5*	In-field grass areas to prevent soil erosion and runoff	350 per ha	Q C2		

ELS Code	Options	ELS/OELS Points	CFE code		
2 Slow the pathway (continued)					
EK1/OK1	Take field corners out of management	400/500 per ha			
EK2/OK2	Permanent grassland with low inputs	85/115 per ha			
EK3/OK3	Permanent grassland with very low inputs	150/180 per ha			
EK4/OK4	Management of rush pastures	150/180 per ha			
3 Protect the receptor					
EE9/OE9	6 m buffer strip on cultivated land next to a watercourse	400/500 per ha			
EE10/OE10	6 m buffer strip on intensive grassland next to watercourse	400/500 per ha			
EJ9/OJ9	12 m buffer strips for watercourses on cultivated land	400/500 per ha	♦ C1		
EJ11/OJ11	Maintenance of watercourse fencing	4 per 100 m			
	Sown wildflower headlands		Q C13		

* New options from 2010. At time of printing, these options had not received final approval and therefore may be subject to change.























