

Resurfacing of sections of farm tracks and installation of cross-drains

Funding is available for resurfacing and reprofiling sections of farm tracks which are heavily trafficked, worn and rutted and have connectivity to a watercourse. A new farm track will provide a more resilient surface to reduce the mobilisation and subsequent channelling of sediments and nutrients into a nearby watercourse. Where appropriate, cross-drains (to intercept and divert runoff into soakaway areas, swales, sediment traps and wetlands) and culverts can be installed at the same time.

Length of agreement available

- 10 years from the date of completion of the work. This is the minimum period of time that the resurfaced section of livestock track, cross-drains and culverts should be kept and maintained in good working order.

Where to use this measure

- On sections of farm tracks which are heavily trafficked, worn and rutted
- Where a farm track is channelling sediments and nutrients into a nearby watercourse

Where this measure cannot be used

- For farm tracks that will be funded by any other funding scheme (such as Countryside Stewardship)
- For new farm tracks

Requirements

- Final construction designs and product specifications must be approved in writing by a member of the project team
- Construct a new resurfaced section of farm track according to final approved construction designs and product specifications in order to provide a more resilient track surface
- Dig out the rutted track and fill with stone or hardcore and profile and compact it to produce a convex camber
- Use the excavated material to profile the edge of the track to ensure that the track is above the level of the surrounding ground
- Use cross-drains to intercept and divert runoff into soakaway areas, swales, sediment traps, wetlands or on to the surrounding grassland

Consents and permits

Where this item is proposed on a Public Right of Way you must consult the local Highways Authority to seek advice or consent which you need,

Record keeping and payment terms

Agreement holders will need to keep the following records and supply them with the payment claim. Payment will only be made upon satisfactory receipt of all of the following records:

- Photographs of the site before and after completion of the work
- Copies of any consents or permissions connected with the work
- Copies of any quotes connected with the work
- Farm and field information needed to run a phosphorus loss tool for the farm and calculate the reduction in phosphorus loss to water arising from this work. This will include farm data relating to livestock numbers, cropping areas and fertiliser / manure inputs.
- Self-declaration that the terms of the project agreement have been adhered to (key terms are listed above).

- Successful applicants are required to sign a declaration confirming that:

o reasonable precautions are taken to prevent nutrients and soil from the relevant field entering watercourses or from being leached to groundwater - to an extent that could cause pollution.

o the relevant fields have not been (i) the source of a recorded pollution incident which could have been prevented by the farmer taking reasonable precautions to prevent that pollution and/or (ii) the subject of a warning, fine, prosecution or BPS deduction issued to the farmer by the Environment Agency or RPA for a breach of NVZ rules or Farming Rules for Water in the past 5 years.

- It is expected that to support and inform the above declaration, successful applicants will complete the Environment Agency's Agricultural Compliance Tool (ACT) by 31st December in each year of the agreement and submit it when completed to Wessex Water (who will hold it in confidence) and address any actions identified by the ACT. For agreements involving annual payments of more than 5 years duration and/or with a value in excess of £5,000 of annual payments, this is a requirement.

- Agreement holders are required to complete a Wessex Water supplier application form in order to receive their first payment. A copy of this is available on the scheme website.



Resurfaced cow track with cross-drains installed.
Funded by the Somerset Rivers Authority / FWAG-SW Hills to Levels project. (Photo credit: FWAG-SW)



Examples of heavily trafficked livestock tracks in the Brinkworth Brook catchment with potential for runoff reduction through resurfacing and cross-drain installation.

Additional information

Livestock tracks can act as a conduit for sediment and nutrient laden water to enter a watercourse. New sections of farm tracks and cross-drains can reduce compaction and erosion caused by livestock and machinery.

Check the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) [website](#) for more information on effective use of water on dairy farms.

Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) operates in parts of the country where there are water quality issues linked to farming. The scheme provides farmers with free advice and training. See guidance for further information on [CSF](#).