LENs® LANDSCAPE ENTERPRISE NETWORKS

# Programme handbook

## East of England 2026

# Who we are

**Landscape Enterprise Networks**
LENs brings organisations together to privately co-fund regenerative agriculture and nature-based solutions that improve the health and resilience of the landscape. We define this as healthier soils, improved water quality, increased biodiversity, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions, while supporting productive, resilient farm businesses.

LENs has been working with farmers since 2019 in the UK and across Europe, supporting practical on-farm changes that deliver outcomes for nature and for farm businesses.

The LENs model is consistent, but every landscape is different. Each funding cycle is designed around local priorities, farming systems, and local environmental and business needs.

**Visit our website:**
https://landscapeenterprisenetworks.com


Our aim is to regenerate the landscapes we **all** rely on

LENs® LANDSCAPE ENTERPRISE NETWORKS

# 2026 Funding cycle - East of England

This handbook explains what's on offer this year, who can apply, and how the support works. It also sets out what you can expect after you're funded, including delivery requirements, verification, and how payments are made.

LENs funding is:

- → **By practice**, for those beginning the regen journey,
- → **By performance**, for those leading the way,
- → **For innovation**, to reduce the risk of trying something new.

Use this handbook to navigate the 2026 cycle including

- Timeline
- Eligibility
- Regional map
- How to apply (**9 Feb–30 Mar 2026**)
- Resilience Pathway
- Measuring impact (MRV)
- Innovation funding
- Measures list & requirements
- Contracts & payment process
- Data protection & privacy

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**Funders**
A funder is an organisation that invests through LENs to support practical changes on farms that strengthen the resilience of their own business - for example by improving water security, reducing supply chain risk, and supporting lower-carbon, nature-positive production. LENs currently works with a range of sectors including agri-food businesses, water and utility, retailers, local governments, insurance and banking.

Funders participating in the East of England 2026 funding cycle are:

Affinity Water, love every drop anglianwater, Cargill, cpw, Nestlé Purina, Suntory

**Supply Aggregators**
A Supply Aggregator is an organisation already connected to the relevant funder's supply chain (for example a buyer/processor, grower group, or adviser) that helps farmers in that supply chain take part in LENs.

Supply aggregators participating in the 2026 funding cycle are:

Cefetra Group, Charles Jackson, Chilton Grain Ltd., frontier, Openfield

## Who to contact to be involved in the scheme

Reach out to a contact at your **Supply Aggregator**

If you need further support reach out to:

**LENs Regional Manager**
**Tristan Baxter-Smith**

Email: **tris.baxter-smith@the-lens.co**

Phone: **+44 7356 134251**

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# Contents

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# Benefits of joining

In 2026 LENs offers a mix of funding and technical support to help farms make changes that fit their system and local priorities. Eligible farmers are invited to apply for the following support - please note that applications are competitive and funding is not guaranteed until contracts are signed. What you can apply for will depend on a farm's location, supply chain, crops and rotation. The 2026 funding cycle relates to activities for, around and on crops harvested in 2027.

## Technical support and networking

Alongside funding, farmers can choose to access practical support such as **workshops and peer-to-peer learning** through a region specific scheme delivered by an experienced training provider, working with the LENs team and agronomist. With sessions on soil and farm system health, natural capital and environmental stewardship and the business case for regen ag and innovation.

## Farm Insights

Participating farms will also receive MRV insights: an **individual farm report** summarising your MRV results and progress over time, so you can use the data to support on-farm decisions and track change year-on-year.

## Meaningful financial support

You make the decisions that best fit your management system and context. LENs does not prescribe practices, we reward eligible farmers regardless of their farm size or experience in practicing regenerative farming principles.

### Payment for measures

This handbook contains the list of measures, guide prices and eligibility criteria. Measures include **"in field" practices** (operational changes to cropping or land management decisions), **nature-based solutions** (e.g. hedgerow restoration), **innovation** and **capital expenditure** that facilitates the adoption of regenerative practices.

### Resilience Payments

This is an annual payment for farms already meeting the **Advanced or Leading level on the Resilience Pathway.** We reward meeting the relevant criteria specified in the Resilience Pathway applied to the **whole arable system**.

The Resilience Payment is paid out at a per hectare rate on the crop of interest.

Some eligible measures are available *alongside* the Resilience Payments.

Resilience Payments are contingent on verification you meet all criteria in Harvest 2027.

## Important features

**No upfront cost to you**

All of our services are provided at **no cost to you**. In exchange, we ask that you accept to provide data relating to farm management practices and your business every year, and participate where relevant in regional events. We provide in person support for verification so the data onus doesn't fall on you alone.

**Access competitive interest rates**

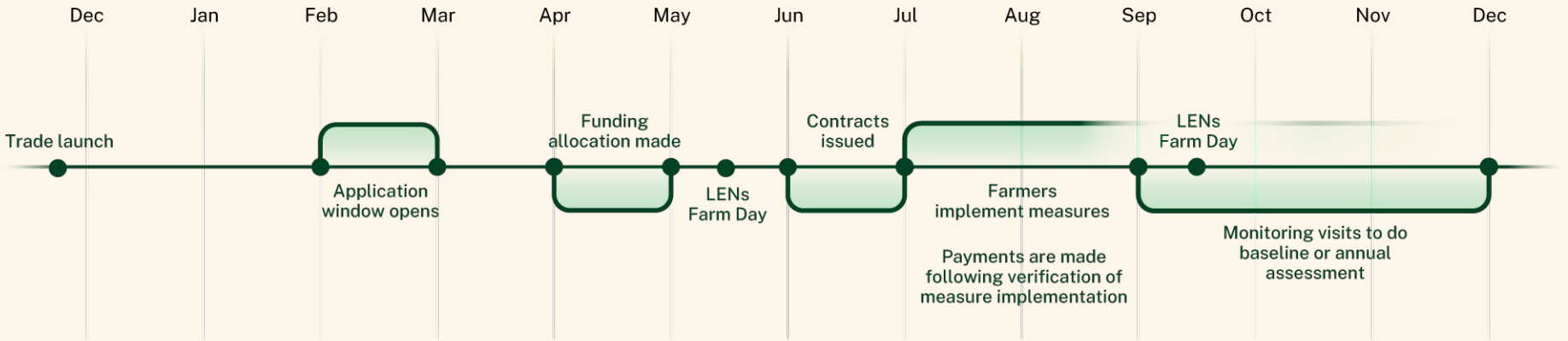
Our partnership with Oxbury Bank gives all LENs farmers the option to access competitive interest rates through the Oxbury Transition Facility. To learn more read more here.

**No foregoing of your carbon assets**

LENs is not a carbon credit scheme. This means no carbon credits are generated and locked into perpetuity or sold onto others. You retain the full value of your natural assets.

# Timeline

This timeline shows the planned steps in the LENs programme and when key actions typically happen:




## Feedback and Events

**LENs Farm Days** bring farmers and supply-chain partners together to share progress, learn from each other, and shape what's delivered locally. We will reach out to farms and funders closer to the events. If you would like to host or participate in these events please contact the Regional Manager.

**LENs Farmer Forums** give farmers a direct route to shape how LENs works in the region-feeding back on what's working, what needs improving, and what's needed locally. There will be a number of meetings held throughout the year. If you would like to learn more or participate contact the Regional Manager.

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# Resilience Pathway

The Resilience Pathway is how LENs defines progress towards a more resilient farming system. It uses a set of practical criteria and groups performance into the following levels. **Your Pathway level should reflect your current practices at the point of application (Feb-Mar 2026).**

The Annex contains contains **definitions and clarifications**, please read this before applying.

| | | Practice-based funding | | Performance-based funding | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Principles** | **Criteria** | **Entry** | **Engaged** | **Advanced** | **Leading** |
| **Maximise crop diversity** | What is the % of your arable land with 3 or more different types of crops over 3 years? | ≥30% | ≥30% | ≥50% | ≥70% |
| **Keep soil covered** | What is the % of your arable land that is covered at least 10 months of the year? | ≥30% | ≥30% | ≥50% | ≥70% |
| **Use cover crops** | What is the % of your arable land where cover crops will be used this year? | N/A | ≥10% | ≥30% | ≥50% |
| **Minimise soil disturbance** | What is the % of your arable land that is under minimum tillage (<15cm)? | N/A | ≥20% | ≥50% | ≥70% |
| **Reduce use of synthetic inputs - Integrated Nutrient Management** | Do you meet Farming Rules for Water, have a nutrient plan (2026/27), and soil test at least every 4 years? | all 3 criteria | | | |
| **Reduce use of synthetic inputs - Integrated Pest Management** | Do you comply with pesticide legislation, use drip trays and dispose of caps/seals safely, and have a written IPM plan (2026/27)? | all 3 criteria | | | |
| **Land for nature** | Area of land with positive impacts for biodiversity | N/A | ≥ 1% | ≥ 5% | ≥ 6% |

# Proposal pricing

## Fixed and variable prices

Some measures are offered at fixed payment rates, while others have variable costs. Fixed prices have been developed using historic LENs data, in-house expertise, baselining against other schemes (i.e. SFI), and following consultation with farmers.

All measures with fixed prices are categorised as either:

**Incentive**

A payment designed to shift practice along the Resilience Pathway. Covers part of the cost of changing practice and/or the materials required to do so.

**Cost of Resource**

This measure contributes to the cost of the product or practice being adopted, but generally excludes fuel and delivery time, as these are expected to be reflected in the alternative practice. Income forgone is not included.

**Capital**

Payments will be set as a percentage of the cost of the relevant item(s) (for Procurement and Innovation Capital items) and may be combined with other applicable government schemes where permitted.

**Innovation**

Innovation costs vary by type and must be clearly defined at the proposal stage, including what is covered and the expected outcomes.

## Payment rates

The maximum amount that LENs will award a farm is not formally set. However we look to distribute funding across the LENs regional cohort. This means that it is **unlikely for a farm to be awarded more than £50,000 across all of its proposals.** The average farm received roughly £25,000 through LENs in 2025. Measures are reviewed on their own merit and funding remains competitive.

## Resilience Payment crop and rates

This is a 1-year measure and is contingent you meet all the criteria of either Advanced or Leading levels during Harvest 2027.

Payment rate depends on whether your farm is at the Advanced or Leading level on the LENs Resilience Pathway.

Payment is specific to the volumes of **wheat** harvested in 2027. While there is no requirement to sell wheat through the Supply Aggregator, crop supply information may be considered as part of funding decisions and alignment with their trade goals.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Advanced:** | **£114 / ha** |
| **Leading:** | **£160 /ha** |

**Clarifications:**

- The maximum number of hectares that any one farm business can enrol into Resilience Payments is **200 ha.**
- Resilience Payments are competitive, and the number of hectares funded is subject to available funder budgets. Funding offers may be partial.
- You can find out your Resilience Level by completing our short Application Form (see section How to Apply)
- We will be consulting via Farmer Forums and the wider LENs Stakeholder Community this year on how farms are expected to progress through the programme over time.

# Proposal criteria

## Crops in scope

LENs works through the supply chains of agri-food businesses. That means that to receive funding, farms usually need to be in the right supply chain for the relevant funder (i.e., supplying the processor/route-to-market the funder is working through).

Supply chains we're currently working with include:

**Cefetra** – wheat

**Charles Jackson** – wheat, oats, barley

**Chilton Grain** – wheat

**Frontier** – wheat, malting barley, sugar beet

**Openfield** – wheat

If your buyer isn't currently involved in LENs, please share our details with them - we're happy to discuss how they could participate in future years.

## Catchments in scope

LENs also works with water companies and local councils whose criteria for funding is based on whether or not the farm is in their catchment area. See overleaf for more information.

## How LENs will assign funding

LENs initially assigns funding, but final sign off and approval of the measures is contingent upon each individual funder.

All of the measures a farm is eligible for have been chosen by the funders and stand a realistic prospect of receiving funding.

LENs will consider the overall quality of each application as well as the following factors in making a decision:

**1. Resilience Pathway**

The extent to which a measure will progress a farm along the Resilience Pathway.

**2. Crop volumes**

Funding is determined by funder budgets and may be prioritised based on the volume of crop supplied through the Supply Aggregator, particularly for Resilience Payments.

**3. Co-funding**

The relevance of a measure to multiple funders, including opportunities for co-funding, will be considered as part of funding decisions.

**3. Trade targets**

The extent to which a measure delivers value for money for the goals of the trade, this includes:


# Regional map

**LENs is geographically rooted**: each trade is built around a defined region, with measures funded where they deliver the most value locally.

Some funders participate through their agri-food supply chains (supporting farms that grow or supply key crops),

Others - like water companies and local authorities - prioritise funding based on place-based needs (e.g., catchments and local environmental priorities).

Farms that both supply participating funders and sit within the priority geography are well placed to access additional funding - including water-focused measures where relevant.

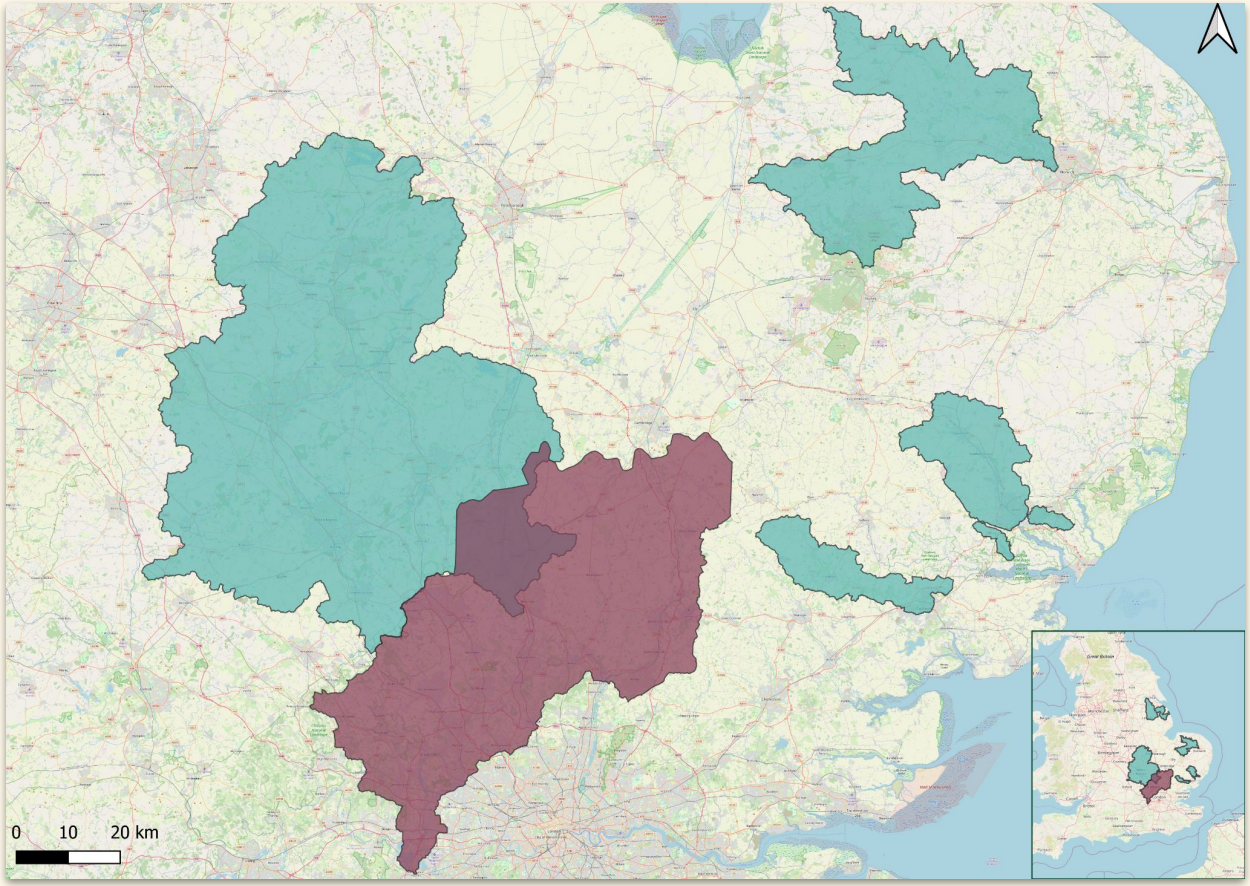
An interactive map can be found on our Application Form. Available via NatureBid

**View water specific measures from page 15 onwards.**

**Legend:**

Affinity Water

Anglian Water



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# How to apply

**NatureBid**
**Application window open**
09 February → 30 March

**Application review and selection**
April 2026

**Agreements issued to farmers**
May-July 2026

**Measure implementation**
Autumn onwards

**MRV and baselining for new farmers**
Autumn every year

Whether you are an existing or new farmer to LENs, we ask that you complete an application form via our platform **NatureBid** which can be accessed here:
https://lens-england.naturebid.org.uk/

Further support is available through a **video walkthrough on NatureBid**, or by speaking to your regional manager.

### 1 Speak to your Supply Aggregator

Contact your Supply Aggregator. They will provide you with a code to access NatureBid.

### 2 Login / Sign up to NatureBid

Go to NatureBid and enter your access code (and log in / set up your account if needed). Follow the on-screen steps to enter Farm Business Information

### 3 Complete the Application Form

Fill in the short questionnaire. This will confirm which measures you're eligible to submit.

### 4 Upload form + select eligible measures

Upload the Application Form to NatureBid and select **only eligible measures**.

### 5 Confirm submission

Check for an on-screen confirmation.

# Eligibility

## Who can apply?

If you're interested in applying and have had contact with a Supply Aggregator that you work with, you're eligible to apply. If you're unsure whether that organisation is a confirmed Supply Aggregator, your regional LENs point of contact can help.

## What measures will I be eligible for?

Not every measure is available to every farm. This is because LENs seeks to **fund measures that are additional to your existing farming practices**, relevant to your farm and local priorities, within the scope of funding partners and to avoid double funding for the same action. Your eligibility is based on the information linked to your application, including:

- Resilience Pathway level
- Location (e.g. whether you're in a priority area such as a water catchment)
- Supply chain (the route you're applying through)
- Crops and rotation (some measures are crop-specific)
- Any local priorities specific to your region

Our funding is **intended to help farms progress up the Resilience Pathway.**

To do this, the measures shown to farms are filtered against your current pathway position:

- if you already meet Advanced/Leading for a particular criterion, you won't be eligible for measures that are intended to improve that same criterion;
- if you're at an earlier level (Entry/Engaged) for another criterion, you will be offered measures that help you improve this. This helps target funding where it can make the biggest difference and supports steady progress over time.

**You don't need to work this out yourself.** The application tool will only show the measures and funding options you're eligible for.

If something you expected to see isn't available, it's usually because one of the eligibility filters above isn't met (or a farm detail needs updating). In that case, speak to your usual LENs contact before submitting your application. If you are not eligible for a measure, do not apply for something comparable as an Innovation Measure.

## LENs and public schemes

**LENs funding is designed to complement public schemes**. Where a publicly funded alternative is available for the same action (ex: SFI in England), farms are expected to access that support first, where it is available.

LENs support may be accessed where the public option isn't available to your farm, doesn't fit your circumstances, or where you're using LENs to go further or faster than the public scheme supports.

Recognising the uncertainty around SFI in 2026, LENs has anticipated the offer that will be available to farmers and this is represented in the measures list.

## LENs and other private schemes

Depending on the type of scheme, you may be able to stack with LENs. We will ask you for details. For example: you can participate in other private schemes for land physically separate from your productive farmed land (e.g. nature recovery schemes).

However, the general rule is that participating in LENs would preclude you from joining an alternative private scheme that collects data on your crops and farm products (such as carbon credit schemes). Participation in LENs does not prohibit joining another private scheme in the future, just not simultaneously with LENs.

# Measuring impact

## Why we measure

Measuring, Reporting and Verification - known as MRV - evidences the impact that LENs funding is having - at individual farm level, supply shed level and landscape level. We do this by collecting data from farms participating in LENs which is of the agreement farms make when they decide to take part.

## What we measure

LENs takes a holistic approach and covers five impact areas, which together contribute towards building farm and landscape resilience. We report annual results against these five impact areas, showing progress from a farm's original baseline (when you join LENs) and comparisons with regional performance.


## What you receive

Each year you will receive a Farmer Impact Report that shows how your farm is changing from your baseline, how you compare with the wider LENs region, and what this means for your business - helping you target actions, track outcomes, and evidence impact for customers and future funding.


LENs Farmer Impact Report

All farm data is stored in accordance with the **Farm Data Principles**, read more in the Annex.

## How we measure

There are two aspects to MRV:

1. Verification of Delivery to ensure LENs measures have been implemented correctly;
2. Outcome measurement, to assess the environmental outcomes resulting from those measures.

Verification of delivery will require farms to evidence implementation and may happen at different times of year depending on the measure - the nature of what is required depends on the measure. Verification of Delivery is linked to payment for the measure. If you are receiving a Resilience Payment, we can collect verification and outcome data at the same time.

**Outcome verification happens once a year in the autumn.** An MRV provider will visit your farm to collect data which will help us determine environmental outcomes for your farm. These outcomes will be used to generate an individual farmer report for you and an aggregated report for funders. **Individual outcome data is not shared with funders.**

MRV providers inform farms about information needed prior to arrival but typically includes:

- General farm information such as farm size, rotation, different land uses;
- Farm management practices relating to arable systems (including types of agrochemicals used on farm, water consumption, fuel use);
- Practices that support biodiversity or soils; and
- Information pertaining to the LENs measures (status to date, location).

Farms new to LENs will also undergo soil sampling to measure Soil Organic Carbon, with re-sampling conducted after five years (if applicable).

In 2026, returning farmers will be given the option for MRV visits to be conducted by phone or to complete a self-assessment (if appropriate).

# Innovation measures

Innovation funding supports **farmer-led ideas and trials** that aren't already covered by the standard measures list. It is designed to give you flexibility to propose what will work on your farm - including new practices, technology, or capital/infrastructure.

## What makes a good proposal?

Because Innovation is farmer-designed, there isn't a fixed technical specification. Instead, we're looking for a **clear, practical plan** that explains what you want to do and why it's worth funding.

When proposing these measures, applicants are asked to provide a description of the measure, including the outcomes it addresses, how the proposed innovation links to regenerative agriculture, and/or progression along the Resilience Pathway and/or other natured based solutions (i.e. flood management).

Proposals should be **clearly different from the standard measures** listed in this handbook.

To encourage greater learning and uptake, LENs will ask you to help document results and lessons from your innovation, including participation at farmer events to feed back your experience.

## Innovation themes

In 2026, LENs funders are particularly interested in supporting:

- Agroforestry
- Water quality improvements
- Alternative crop protection/pest management
- Reducing pesticide applications/active ingredient,
- Improving soil health and structure
- Developing alternative products/enabling farmers to trial new product,
- Field monitoring equipment to track changes in biodiversity (e.g. bioacoustics, smart beehives, soil biology)

## Examples of innovations LENs has supported

R-leaf — Foliar photocatalyst that captures atmospheric NOx pollutants and converts them to plant feed

Messium — AI-driven precision nitrogen management solution

Closed transfer system (CTS)

Cover crop seeds into standing wheat by drone

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# Measures list: in-field measures

**Price:** ~ means price is set by the applicant
**Scoring:** + (Low) / ++ (Medium) / +++ (High) / - (n/a)

| Measure Code | Measure Name | Price | Nature | Carbon | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FLD_KSR_002 | Arable reversion to species-rich grassland with no fertiliser input | £4,000 / ha | +++ | ++ | 18 |
| FLD_KSR_004a | Establish cover crops in the autumn - 5+ species mix | £90 / ha | +++ | ++ | 20 |
| FLD_KSR_005 | Catch crops | £57 / ha | ++ | + | 21 |
| FLD_LIV_001 | Introduce Grazing Livestock | ~ | + | - | 22 |
| FLD_MPD_001a | Grain legumes before a main/cash crop with reduced fertiliser rate | £56 / ha | + | + | 23 |
| FLD_MPD_002 | Undersown crops | £57 / ha | ++ | + | 24 |
| FLD_MPD_003 | Intercropping | £57 / ha | ++ | ++ | 25 |
| FLD_MPD_004 | Companion cropping | £57 / ha | ++ | + | 26 |
| FLD_MPD_005 | Herbal Ley | £300 / ha | ++ | + | 27 |
| FLD_MSD_001 | Adopt reduced cultivation systems | £60 / ha | + | + | 28 |
| FLD_PMH_001 | Planting new cross-slope hedges | £33.80 / m | ++ | +++ | 29 |
| FLD_PMW_001 | Planting new woodland | £23,000 / ha | ++ | +++ | 31 |
| FLD_PMW_002 | Riparian woodland / tree planting | £14,000 / ha | ++ | +++ | 32 |
| FLD_RUS_001 | Integrate fertiliser and manure nutrient supply | £107 / ha | + | ++ | 33 |
| FLD_RUS_002 | Use controlled release fertiliser | £100 / ha | + | + | 34 |
| FLD_RUS_005 | Switching from granular to foliar nitrogen applications | £62.50 / ha | + | - | 35 |
| FLD_RUS_006 | Mechanical Weeding – inter row hoe, finger tines through cereal, in place of pesticides | £25 / ha | ++ | - | 36 |
| FLD_RUS_007 | Bio-supportive amendments for soil or plant | £35 / ha | - | - | 37 |
| FLD_RUS_016 | Straw Chopping | £50 / ha | ++ | + | 38 |
| FLD_RUS_017 | FEC and no Avermectin grazed livestock (5 days post treatment) | ~ | - | - | 39 |
| FLD_RUS_018 | Minimising Pesticides | ~ | ++ | - | 40 |
| FLD_WLD_001 | Plant wild bird seed or wild bird/wildlife cover mixes | £615 / ha | +++ | - | 41 |
| FLD_WLD_006 | Hedgerow Management & Restoration for Biodiversity | £27.66 / m | +++ | ++ | 42 |

# Measures list: capital measures

| Measure Code | Measure Name | Price | Nature | Carbon | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CAP_FLM_004 | Sediment ponds, silt traps | £11.88 / m2 | ++ | - | 44 |
| CAP_FLM_005 | Swales (channels) next to farm tracks | £25 / m | + | - | 45 |
| CAP_FLM_006 | Silt filtration dams, sediment filter barriers or seepage barriers in field ditches | £2 / m | + | - | 46 |
| CAP_FLM_007 | Leaky dams and/or woody debris structures | £460 / item | +++ | - | 47 |
| CAP_FLM_008 | Create or maintain floodplain meadows | ~ | +++ | - | 48 |
| CAP_FLM_009 | Floodplain reconnection | ~ | +++ | - | 49 |
| CAP_FLM_010 | Constructed wetlands for the treatment of field run-off and/or land drain water | ~ | +++ | - | 50 |
| CAP_FLM_011 | Wetland scrapes | ~ | +++ | - | 51 |
| CAP_FLM_012 | Design and develop wetlands for biodiversity and/or NFM | ~ | +++ | - | 52 |
| CAP_MSD_001 | Procurement: Direct Drill | ~ | + | + | 53 |
| CAP_MSD_002 | Rewetting organic (non mineral) soils-eg-peat, fen, bog | ~ | +++ | +++ | 54 |
| CAP_RUS_001 | Procurement: Mowers and Flails | ~ | - | - | 55 |
| CAP_TTC_001 | Demonstration farm | £500 / item | - | - | 56 |
| CAP_TTC_003 | Farm walk & Innovation Sharing | ~ | - | - | 58 |
| CAP_TTC_004 | Innovative Biodiversity Monitoring | ~ | - | - | 59 |
| CAP_WQM_001 | New watercourse fencing | £7 / m | ++ | - | 60 |
| CAP_WQM_002 | Installation of piped culverts where field gateways or farm tracks cross water courses | £376 / m | + | - | 61 |
| CAP_WQM_003 | Resurfacing of gateways | £137 / item | + | - | 62 |
| CAP_WQM_004 | Install surface cross drains on farm tracks | £750 / item | ++ | - | 63 |

# Measures list: innovation measures

| Measure Code | Measure Name | Price | Nature | Carbon | Page |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| INV | Farmer innovation: In-field Open Proposals | ~ | - | - | 64 |
| INV | Farmer innovation: Capital Open Proposals | ~ | - | - | 65 |
| INV | Farmer Innovation: Infield measures for Wheat Crops | ~ | - | - | 66 |
| INV | Farmer Innovation: Capital Measures for Wheat Crops | ~ | - | - | 67 |
| INV | Farmer Innovation: Infield measures for Sugar Beet | ~ | - | - | 68 |
| INV | Farmer Innovation: Capital measures for Sugar Beet | ~ | - | - | 69 |
| INV_AGR_001 | Farmer innovation: Agroforestry | ~ | ++ | ++ | 70 |
| INV | Farmer Innovation: Capital Investment in Innovative Nutrient Management | ~ | - | - | 71 |
| INV_RUS_001 | Farmer Innovation: Pesticide (herbicide, insecticide, fungicide) reduction approaches | ~ | + | - | 72 |
| INV_WQM_001 | Farmer Innovation: Water quality, Water resource or Natural Flood Management | ~ | + | - | 74 |

# FLD_KSR_002
# Arable reversion to species-rich grassland with no fertiliser input (1 of 2)

**Measure rationale**
Arable reversion limits soil erosion, surface water runoff (and therefore the risk of flooding), and nutrient losses.
Species-rich semi-natural grasslands and hay meadows provide habitat for a high diversity of grasses and flowering plants. These plants provide a source of nectar to support pollinating insects like bees and provide shelter and food for other invertebrates, small mammals, reptiles and birds. Species-rich grasslands can sequester higher rates of carbon than species-poor grassland and contribute to flood management by providing an area for excess water to stand.

**Funding type:** Cost of Resource
**Price:** £4,000
**Payment timing:** Upfront with Maintenance for following years

**Contract term (years):** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Maintenance required:** Yes

**Projected Nature Benefit:** High
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** Medium

**Eligibility**
Eligible if you have NOT been funded for this measure before or via SFI since 2022

**Requirements**
- Remove scrub, bracken and invasive species and prepare the ground, which should have around 60% bare earth created by disc or chain harrow
- Establish a species rich grassland in the first year by 1st October
- Natural regeneration is permitted only if the recipient site is next to an existing species-rich grassland with direct access for livestock between them. Natural regeneration takes much longer and you'll usually need to add species manually.
- Species rich is defined as
- more than 15 vascular plant species per square metre
- more than 30% cover of wildflowers and sedges (excluding white clover, creeping buttercup and injurious weeds) less than 10% cover of white clover and perennial ryegrass
- Maintain as permanent grassland for the contract term
- Manage the grassland by grazing, hay/haylage cutting, or a mixture of both - ideally alternating graze, cut, graze, by years, in order to maintain or increase the presence and abundance of grassland species.
- If haymaking, 'shut up' meadows by removing all livestock no later than mid May. Cut the meadow no earlier than late June, or mid July in upland areas where grass growth is slower. You can cut later if the weather is wet. Try to avoid repeated late cuts as it will decrease the number of wildflower species. Graze the aftermath.
- You may need to remove livestock for a period in spring or summer to allow plants to flower and set seed.
- Grass cuttings should be baled and removed or they will smother the sword and add to the fertility of the soil, leading to a decline in species-richness.
- Maintain a range of plant heights suitable for invertebrates, birds or other priority species and maintain the appropriate plant heights for the intended grassland type.
- Maintain a continuous cover
- Control undesirable plants and dominating species such as nettles, bracken, injurious weeds or invasive non-native species. Spot applications of herbicides are permitted.
- Ensure soil phosphorus level is and remains low with an index of 0 or 1, or less than 16 mg/l.
- Check for breeding birds before operating machinery or carrying out other activities which may disturb breeding birds or damage their nests. The breeding season runs from February until August.
- Consider use of green hay to further increase species diversity
- Costs for advice can be included in the price proposal for this measure. Applicants may be asked to show invoices for costs.
- This measure should be at least 5 years in duration, but applications for longer conversion will be considered.

LENs LANDSCAPE ENTERPRISE NETWORKS

## FLD_KSR_002

# Arable reversion to species-rich grassland with no fertiliser input (1 of 2)

**What to avoid in implementing:**

In implementing this measure, Do Not:

- Plough, cultivate or reseed after the grassland has been successfully established
- Cultivate to renew part or all of the area under this option. If areas fail, either direct drill or broadcast and harrow to establish new grass or improve the existing sward.
- Cut between 15 March and 30 June
- Allow scrub, bracken or invasive species to encroach
- Use pesticides, except for herbicides to spot-treat to control injurious weeds, invasive non-native species, nettles or bracken
- Allow the soil phosphorus index to rise above 2 during the duration of the agreement (higher P could result in smothering of certain species)
- Apply fertilisers (other than manure from grazing animals during grazing periods)
- Do not supplementary feed livestock during grazing periods, unless essential for animal health.
- Operate machinery or carry out other activities during the bird breeding season that may disturb breeding birds or damage nests
- Do not change any drainage unless maintaining existing drainage that is required for flood risk management.

**Preferences**

If grazing, consider using rotational grazing practices.

**Where to use**

Whole or part parcel.
Minimum plot area 0.4ha.
Cultivated land that has had arable cropping (including maize) for at least the last 3 years.

**Verification (mandatory):**

Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services; Seed mix and sowing weight/density.

**Verification (where relevant):**

Any regulatory consents or permissions required;

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✓ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✓ Land for nature

**Further Information**

https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/create-and-restore-species-rich-grassland/
and
https://meadows.plantlife.org.uk/3-maintaining-meadows/managing-a-flower-rich-pasture-with-grazing/
(Adapted from Countryside Stewardship and Defra Farming Blog)

LENs LANDSCAPE ENTERPRISE NETWORKS

## FLD_KSR_004a

# Establish cover crops in the autumn - 5+ species mix

**Measure rationale**

Planting cover crops in the autumn can reduce nutrient leaching and runoff by providing ground cover over the winter period to intercept and reduce the impact of rainfall, whilst at the same time accumulating and storing nitrogen in the cover crop which would otherwise be leached from the soil into water courses. Cover crops can improve soil structure and counteract compaction, as well as protecting soils from erosion during winter and from sun oxidation. Cover crops can provide short-term suppression of weeds, reducing the need for herbicides.

The cover crop is destroyed in spring before planting the subsequent spring crop. A percentage of the nitrogen in the cover crop will be available to the spring crop, reducing the spring crops nitrogen fertiliser requirements. Other benefits such as improving soil structure, reducing compaction, biodiversity and carbon sequestration may also be provided by cover crops.

**Funding type:** Cost of Resource
**Price:** £90
**Payment timing:** End of year 1

**Contract term (years):** 1
**Maintenance required:** No

**Projected Nature Benefit:** High
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** Medium

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✓ Maximise crop diversity
- ✓ Keep soil covered
- ✓ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✓ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✗ Land for nature

**Requirements**

- Establish a relatively quick-growing cover crop immediately post-harvest that will provide a dense cover over autumn and winter and protect the land from soil erosion and runoff.
- The seed mix should include 5+ species, ideally including a legume species.
- Sowing should be done by the last day of Sept at the latest.
- An additional cover crop must be established if the first sowing fails to establish or is patchy.
- Destroy the cover crop as late as possible and a maximum of 6 weeks before establishing the following spring crop. Do not destroy the cover crop before 15th Jan if the following crop is combinable, or before 1st March if the following crop is maize.
- Different cover crop species have different characteristics and should be chosen to suit field characteristics and cultivation systems. Seek advice on seed mix selection from your environmental / regenerative agriculture adviser, agronomist or other local supports (e.g. seed merchant, FWAG, etc). Select cover crop varieties, species and mixes that are known to reduce nutrient leaching, that are suited to your soils and rotation and that provide any additional benefits being sought.

**Eligibility**

Eligible if you do NOT have an existing SFI agreement for this measure, since 2022;
Eligibility if you are at Regen Pathway levels Entry or Engaged

**Preferences**

Consider grazing to destroy the crop and direct drilling the next crop into the destroyed cover crop, rather than cultivating.

**Where to use**

In arable fields with crops in scope

**What to avoid in implementing:**

In implementing this measure, do not:

- Destroy the cover crop until the land is due to be prepared for the following crop and not before the end of Jan ideally, and absolutely not before 15th Jan.
- Apply any fertilisers or manure.

**Verification (mandatory):**

Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services;

**Verification (where relevant):**

Any regulatory consents or permissions required;

## FLD_KSR_005

# Catch crops

**Measure rationale**

Catch crops can literally 'catch' available soil nitrogen and prevent nutrient losses (via runoff and leaching). If chosen correctly, catch crops can reduce nutrient and sediment losses from fields, which in turn helps to protect local water quality.

Nitrate (a form of nitrogen) is not strongly attracted to soil particles and can be washed away (leached). High levels of nutrients like nitrate in water bodies can lead to algal growth which rapidly depletes oxygen effectively choking other forms of aquatic life.

Phosphate, which is much more readily attached to soil particles, can also be lost in soil run-off (erosion) after heavy rainfall. Such losses are more likely to occur in autumn and winter when soil moisture and rainfall levels are high, especially when soil is left bare & unprotected.

Catch crops can absorb nitrogen at rates of anything between 30 to 120 kg N/ha prior to spring, helping to significantly reduce the risk of nitrate leaching. The added canopy cover and root structure also help to bind the soil reducing the risk of erosion and phosphate run-off. It is important to remember that the amount of nitrogen uptake depends on the species used, drilling date and success of establishment.

**Funding type:** Incentive
**Price:** £57
**Payment timing:** End of year 1
**Contract term (years):** 1
**Maintenance required:** No

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Medium
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** Low

**Requirements**

- Establish a quick growing 'catch' crop immediately post-harvest that will scavenge soil nutrients to reduce losses, and to protect the land from soil erosion / runoff.
- Non legume crops are best, the most effective species are brassicas, cereals and phacelia (if sown early).
- It is widely accepted that deep-rooting crops, such as fodder radish and stubble turnips etc, can reduce nitrogen leaching into watercourses by up to 40%.
- Earlier-drilled (ideally late August) catch crops are more effective at reducing leaching than those drilled later (late September). Cultivations that are later may stimulate the mineralisation of nitrogen that is then not captured by the cover crop, especially if it struggles to grow under cold or unsuitable conditions.
- Rapid early growth and root development are essential.
- The lowest nitrate losses occur on fields with good ground cover. An additional catch crop must be established if the first sowing fails to establish or is patchy.
- Destroy the catch crop as late as possible and a maximum of 6 weeks before establishing the following spring crop.

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✓ Maximise crop diversity
- ✓ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✓ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✗ Land for natur

**Preferences**

Consider grazing to destroy the crop and direct drilling the next crop into the destroyed catch crop, rather than cultivating.

**Where to use**

In arable fields

**What to avoid in implementing:**

In implementing this measure, do not:

- Destroy the 'catch' crop until the land is due to be prepared for the following crop and not before 8 weeks as a minimum.
- Apply any fertilisers or manure.

**Verification (mandatory):**

Before and After Photos;  Receipts for bought in goods or services;

**Verification (where relevant):**

Any regulatory consents or permissions required;

LENs LANDSCAPE ENTERPRISE NETWORKS

## FLD_LIV_001

# Introduce grazing livestock

**Measure rationale**

Acknowledging that livestock integration is a key component of soil health and regenerative agriculture, and that many arable farmers and land managers desire these benefits, this option allows for innovation in this area.

Benefits from arable rotations with livestock include:
Improved soil organic matter
Improved soil structure (leading to better water infiltration and therefore flood risk reduction)
Access to manures providing organic matter and nutrients, which, in turn can reduce inorganic fertiliser use.
Nitrogen fixing, if legumes present in the sward (leading to reduced use of inorganic fertiliser)
grassland wildlife habitat

**Funding type:** Cost of Resource
**Price:** 50% of costs up to £5000
**Payment timing:** End of year 1

**Contract term (years):** 5
**Maintenance required:** Yes

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Low
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✓ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✓ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✗ Land for nature

**Requirements**

- Expansion of role of livestock in rotations, e.g.:
  - Purchased livestock, handling facilities, mobile fencing and water bowsers, No fence technology.
  - Contract grazing
  - Flying flocks
  - Seasonal grazing
  - Minimum hectarage grazed - 5ha.
- FYM from winter housing of livestock used on farm, spread or incorporated in a manner compliant with NVZs and Farming Rules for Water.

**Preferences**

Contact LENs Lead Regenerative Farming Advisor for advice of getting the right stock in the right place before implementing this measure.

**Where to use**

Arable parcels that have not have livestock grazing on them for a minimum of 5 years.

**What to avoid in implementing:**

In implementing this measure, do not:

- Cause poaching or diffuse water pollution
- Carry out supplementary feeding within 10m of any watercourse

**Verification (mandatory):**

Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services; Invoices for bought-in goods and services should include all capital items (fencing, water troughs, livestock, and any contractor fees).

**Verification (where relevant):**

Any regulatory consents or permissions required;

## FLD_MPD_001a

# Grain legumes before a main/cash crop with reduced fertiliser rate

**Measure rationale**

Nitrogen fixing crops (legumes) form symbiotic relationships with bacteria in the soil that allow them to fix atmospheric N and use this in place of N provided by synthetic fertilisers. Increasing the area of grain legumes in arable rotations reduces N fertiliser use, increases soil health and biodiversity (including through mycorrhization) and can improve pest control by breaking the pest life cycle.

**Funding type:** Incentive
**Price:** £56
**Payment timing:** End of year 1

**Contract term (years):** 2
**Maintenance required:** Yes

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Low
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** Low

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✓ Maximise crop diversity
- ✓ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✓ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✗ Land for nature

**Requirements**

- Include a grain legume, such as beans, peas, or chickpeas, in arable rotations.
- Different species have different characteristics and should be chosen to suit field characteristics and cultivation systems. Seek advice on species selection from your adviser or agronomist. Costs for this support can be included in the price proposed, where this practice is new on farm.
- Applicants should specify the legume proposed.
- Applications should state the main/cash crop proposed.
- Applicants should state the planned reduction in inorganic fertiliser application resulting from this measure.
- Applicants should use a recognised fertiliser recommendation system (e.g. RB209, PLANET, MANNER-NPK and other supplementary guidance) to make full allowance of the biological nitrogen fixation benefits of legumes and reduce both organic and inorganic fertiliser inputs accordingly.
- Expected fertiliser reduction of at least 10% compared with previous year's fertiliser application on main/cash crop
- Establishment of the legume crop should follow best practices to maximise potential N fixation
- As the second year of this measure is harvesting the main/cash crop, we expect the payment to be split in two - with 50% in the first year and 50% in the second year.

**Eligibility**

Eligible if you are applying for it within your first two trades with LENs, and/or you are at Eligible if you are at Entry or Engaged level of LEN. After the first two years we expect it to become a normal practice within your rotations or become part of the resilience payment .

**Where to use**

In rotation with either main or cash crops - where the main crop is a crop in scope.

**Verification (mandatory):**

Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services; Seed mix and sowing weight/density. Please provide records detailing fertiliser application and method/equipment used plus impact on fertiliser application rates in Kgs N per hectares and £s.

**Verification (where relevant):**

Any regulatory consents or permissions required; Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery.

## FLD_MPD_002

# Undersown crops

**Measure rationale**

Under sowing cereal crops with other crops, for example, grasses and flowering plants such as clover provides cover over winter which allows many invertebrates to complete their life cycle in the soil. When the overlying crops are harvested the undersown plants provide an instant green sward. When the undersown crops are incorporated into the soil, they can enhance soil nutrients, particularly when nitrogen-fixing leguminous species are used. The continued cover also enhances soil structure, water retention ability and reduces soil erosion.

**Funding type:** Incentive
**Price:** £57
**Payment timing:** End of year 1

**Contract term (years):** 1
**Maintenance required:** No

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Medium
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** Low

**Requirements**

- This measure should be at least a five species mix.
- Select relevant undersown/companion crop based on your objectives, synergies with the main crop, time of the year, soil capacity to provide the plant with the nutrients it needs
- If sowing clover, there must be sufficient phosphate for clover development, with an index of >2.
- Establishment of undersown crops varies depending on the species and timing of establishment of the main cereal crop.
- With spring cereals, the undersown crops can be sown simultaneously to reduce costs.
- Alternatively, the grass/clover can be sown once the spring cereal crop has reached 1 to 1½ leaf stage.
- With winter crops, the grass/clover can be over-sown in the spring following crop establishment, using a broadcast spreader and light harrowing.
- When the cereal is harvested, the undersown crop is exposed and can be allowed to grow and flower to create a grass ley.
- Once the undersown crop has matured it can be cropped for hay, grazed by livestock or incorporated back into the soil as ‘green manure’.

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✓ Maximise crop diversity
- ✓ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✓ Land for nature

**Eligibility**

Eligible if you are at Entry or Engaged level of LENs
Eligible if you do NOT have an existing SFI agreement for this measure, since 2022

**Where to use**

Winter or spring cereals

**Verification (mandatory):**

Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services; Seed mix and sowing weight/density.

**Verification (where relevant):**

Any regulatory consents or permissions required;

## FLD_MPD_003

# Intercropping

**Measure rationale**

Intercropping is the practice of growing two or more crops in proximity. It has been shown to be beneficial for pest, disease and weed management, preventing lodging, improving water quality, soil fertility and biodiversity as well as increasing resilience to climatic and agronomic shocks. A natural selection is cereal / legume intercropping which has the potential to produce 30% higher yields on average. Plants in species mixtures can have divergent and sometimes complementary traits. Beneficial interactions between crop species include facilitation (e.g., suppression of weeds), resource sharing (e.g., mycorrhizal associations) and complementarity (e.g., differing crop architecture) above and below ground reducing competition for resources.

**Funding type:** Incentive
**Price:** £57
**Payment timing:** End of year 1

**Contract term (years):** 1
**Maintenance required:** No

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Medium
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** Medium

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✓ Maximise crop diversity
- ✓ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✗ Land for nature

**Requirements**

- Intercropping is the practice of growing two or more crops in proximity.
- The most common goal of intercropping is to produce a greater yield on a given piece of land by making use of resources that would otherwise not be utilised by a single crop.
- Examples of intercropping strategies are planting a deep-rooted crop with a shallow-rooted crop, or planting a tall crop with a shorter crop that requires partial shade.
- Numerous types of intercropping, all of which vary the temporal and spatial mixture to some degree, have been identified: mixed intercropping, row cropping, relay cropping,
- Row intercropping – growing two or more crops at the same time with at least one crop planted in rows.
- Strip intercropping – growing two or more crops together wide enough to permit separate crop machine production but close enough for the crops to interact.
- Mixed intercropping – growing two or more crops together in no distinct row arrangement.
- Relay intercropping – planting a second crop into a standing crop at a time when the standing crop is at its reproductive stage but before harvesting

**Preferences**

Consider harvesting techniques such as whole-cropping or the incorporation of grazing.

**Where to use**

In arable fields

**What to avoid in implementing:**

In implementing this measure, do not:

- Choose two species that will mature at different times.
- Opt for intercropping combinations that are not suitable.

**Verification (mandatory):**

Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services;

**Verification (where relevant):**

Any regulatory consents or permissions required;

## FLD_MPD_004

# Companion cropping

**Measure rationale**

Companion crops are a range of crop species which are planted alongside the planned cash crop either before or at planting to help aid crop establishment by giving some protection from pests, increasing beneficial predatory insects and improving soil health. This has been practised for nearly a decade in the UK with proven results. Companion cropping can be a key tool in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies and this measure is designed to give farmer the ability to try out this measure for 1 year and subsequently to apply for the equivalent SFI measure.

**Funding type:** Incentive
**Price:** £57
**Payment timing:** End of year 1

**Contract term (years):** 1
**Maintenance required:** No

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Medium
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** Low

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✓ Maximise crop diversity
- ✓ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✗ Land for nature

**Eligibility**

Eligible if you do NOT have an existing SFI agreement for this measure, since 2022
Eligibility if you are at Regen Pathway levels Entry or Engaged

**Requirements**

- A companion crop should:
- Deliver something useful such as increased nitrogen and phosphate, weed suppression etc.
- Support an IPM approach by acting as a trap crop for pests or by suppressing weeds etc.
- Provide a habitat for birds and invertebrates, including pollinators and natural crop pest predators.
- Help to manage nutrient efficiency,
- Aid in the protection of the soil and improve its condition,
- Complement both the root growth and top growth of the main crop, rather than out-competing it,
- Be a species which can be either controlled in crop or easily separated at harvest,
- Be able to germinate under similar drilling conditions.
- The species and type of companion crop you choose will be determined by the main arable or horticultural crop you're growing, soil conditions and the crop pest to be controlled.
- Establish the companion crop so it's growing with the main arable or horticultural crop. You can do this by trap cropping, inter-cropping, or under sowing.

**Where to use**

In arable fields
In Horticultural crops

**What to avoid in implementing:**

In implementing this measure, do not:

- Establish deep rooted species of companion crop on land that contains any historical or archaeological features etc.
- Use legumes as the companion crop on land with peaty soil.

**Verification (mandatory):**

Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services; Seed mix and sowing weight/density.

**Verification (where relevant):**

Any regulatory consents or permissions required;

# FLD_MPD_005
# Herbal ley

**Measure rationale**
Herbal leys (otherwise known as diverse swards) are temporary sown pastures made up of a mix of grasses, herbs and legumes (at least six species). Together they deliver soil fertility, biology and structure, boost livestock health, encourage biodiversity and are productive with low rainfall.

**Funding type:** Cost of Resource
**Price:** £300
**Payment timing:** End of year 1 with maintenance

**Contract term (years):** 5
**Maintenance required:** Yes

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Medium
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** Low
**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✓ Maximise crop diversity
- ✓ Keep soil covered
- ✓ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✓ Land for nature

**Eligibility**
Eligible if you are at Entry or Engaged level of LENs;
Eligible if you have NOT been funded for this measure before or via SFI since 2022.

**Requirements**

- A herbal lay seed mix should ideally consist of five species of grass, three species of legumes and five species of herbs or wildflowers. Legumes mixed with herbs or wildflowers need to make up at least 25% of the mix's weight.
- It may be necessary to balance cost with ley duration - cheaper legume and herb varieties will not last as long.
- Increase the seed rates of legumes and herbs if you find they do not last long in your leys.
- You should sow into a weed-free seedbed or direct drill into stubble. This is the most reliable technique for creating herbal leys.
- Create a well-consolidated, firm, fine, level and weed-free seedbed before you sow, to improve germination.
- You can raise pH with lime or phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) with PK fertiliser. Clovers grow better in soil that is above 6.0 pH and above index 2 for P and K.
- Sow herbal leys when the soil temperature is above 7-8°C and there is available soil moisture. Late summer or early autumn sowing is often more successful than spring or early summer.
- Broadcast (scatter) seed or shallow drill no deeper than 1cm. Small seeds struggle to germinate when sown deeper than 1cm.
- Roll after sowing to retain moisture, ensure good seed-to-soil contact and reduce slug damage. Do not roll where there is a risk of 'capping'.
- Please note that it can take up to four years for the roots to grow enough to improve soil structure and fertility.

**Preferences**

- An even spread of sown grasses, legumes and herbs across the ley.
- Legumes and herbs for the entire life of the ley.
- Open flowers during rest periods in each summer.
- A variety of feeding pollinators.
- No bare ground and few weeds in an established ley.
- Vigorous growth providing high quality and nutritious forage for livestock.
- Improved soil fertility after the ley has been removed

**Where to use**
Sow herbal leys on arable and horticultural land, vegetable fields and temporary grassland.
Herbal leys easily fit into arable and mixed farming rotations.

**What to avoid in implementing:**
In implementing this measure, do not: Use any nitrogen fertiliser on herbal leys. Fertiliser can cause grass to outgrow, smother and kill legumes and herbs.
Do not use pesticides or herbicides apart from to treat injurious weeds or invasive non-native species, which should be done by weed wiping or spot treatment

**Verification (mandatory):**
Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services; Seed mix and sowing weight/density.
**Verification (where relevant):**
Any regulatory consents or permissions required;

## FLD_MSD_001

# Adopt reduced cultivation systems

**Measure rationale**
Reduced cultivation (rather than ploughing) can retain soil surface organic matter and preserve good soil structure and fertility, with the resulting soil conditions improving water infiltration rates and reducing risk of loss of particulate P and sediment. Where there is evidence of compaction in the subsoil - look for signs of compaction such as obvious differences in soil moisture or root growth or visibly hardened layers (called 'pans') - or yields are impacted following monitoring, both at harvest time and when the soil is moist to help target 'problem areas'. And therefore, subsoiling is permitted as part of this measure where necessary.

**Funding type:** Incentive
**Price:** £60
**Payment timing:** End of year 1

**Contract term (years):** 1
**Maintenance required:** No

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Low
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** Low
**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✓ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✗ Land for nature

**Eligibility**
Eligible if you are at Regen Pathway levels Entry or Engaged

**Requirements**

- Reduced cultivations, using discs or tines, to cultivate the soil surface as the primary cultivation in seedbed preparation (typically 10-15cm cultivation depth). OR
- Direct drilling or broadcasting of seed (i.e. no-till).
- Applicants should stipulate the cultivation system to be implemented, and the previous cultivation practice.
- Where subsoiling is required - you must include a note regarding it in your LENs Proposal, highlighting where the cost will change. And follow the additional requirements below:
- Subsoiling is often defined as non-inversion tillage below a depth of 8 - 14 inches using a suitable subsoiler.
- Subsoiling should aim to create larger pores that increase rooting and infiltration.
- The benefits of subsoiling depend upon many factors including soil type, soil management and vehicle management.
- Timing is important with subsoiling. In the latter part of autumn soils can often become too wet, therefore, the time to subsoil is early autumn i.e., before establishing winter oilseed rape or drilling a cover crop.

**Preferences**
Consider Increasing crop rotation, sow cover crops to improve soil health, utilise IPM to help control pests.

**Where to use**
In arable fields with crops of interest due to cultivated in.

**Verification (mandatory):**
Before and After Photos;  Receipts for bought in goods or services;

**Verification (where relevant):**
Any regulatory consents or permissions required;

## FLD_PMH_001

# Planting new cross-slope hedges (1 of 2)

**Measure rationale**

When established across slopes, hedgerows can provide barriers which reduce erosion of soils from wind action or 'downhill creep' due to gravity. They can also slow overland water flow and increase infiltration, reducing the runoff of sediment and pollutants like agri chemicals into waterways. Hedgerows provide habitat for a number of species including birds, small mammals, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates. If appropriately managed, they can provide a source of pollen for pollinating insects and fruit for overwintering birds.

**Funding type:** Capital
**Price:** £33.80
**Payment timing:** Upfront with maintenance for following years

**Contract term (years):** 10
**Maintenance required:** Yes

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Medium
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** High

**Requirements**

- Prepare the ground along a 1.5m wide strip to provide good soil conditions and as little competition from other vegetation as possible; consider mulching for the first 3 years to help reduce competition.
- If necessary to reduce weed competition, appropriate herbicide applications can be made in the August or September prior to planting only.
- Plants must be:
  - 1-or 2-year-old transplants
  - At least 450mm to 600mm high
  - Native broadleaf species typical of the area, with no one species making up more than 60% of the total mix. Where possible, please source trees locally.
  - Planted in a staggered double row 40 cm apart with a minimum of 6 plants per metre.
  - Kept clear of weeds until they are established.
- Remove individual guards and tree shelters once the plants are established.
- Replace all failed plants in the following planting season to avoid gaps.
- Prevent livestock and grazing animals from damaging the hedge by setting fencing at least 1.2m from the centre of the hedge, or, if there is a bank, as close to the base of the bank as possible.
- Only carry out any necessary work following establishment when the hedgerow is dormant (Nov - March) ensuring you avoid the bird nesting season from Feb - Aug.
- Hedgerow should be considered permanent, remaining in place for 20+ years beyond the length of the contract period.
- Include the cost of the management clearly in the proposal for this measure

LENs LANDSCAPE ENTERPRISE NETWORKS

## FLD_PMH_001

# Planting new cross-slope hedges (2 of 2)

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✓ Land for nature

**Preferences**

As the hedge becomes established consider allowing hedgerow trees to emerge at intervals of around, or over 15m.

**Where to use**

Sites where creation would extend or link existing lengths of hedgerow

Sites where creation will help reduce soil erosion and runoff

**What to avoid in implementing:**

In implementing this measure, do not:

Obstruct or block access to open access land

Obstruct public footpaths or access routes

Remove any part of the hedge within 10 years of planting

**Verification (mandatory):**

Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services;

**Verification (where relevant):**

Any regulatory consents or permissions required; LENs may monitor this feature beyond the length of the contract to check item remains permanent. This is in line with GHG accounting standards.

## FLD_PMW_001

# Planting new woodland

**Measure rationale**
Planting new native broadleaf woodland improves biodiversity, creates habitat, sequesters carbon, reduces runoff, improves infiltration, retains water in the landscape and improves flood mitigation.

**Funding type:** Capital
**Price:** £23,000
**Payment timing:** Upfront with maintenance for following years

**Contract term (years):** 10
**Maintenance required:** Yes

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Medium
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** High

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✓ Land for nature

**Where to use**
On areas of more than 0.1ha (0.25acres)

**Requirements**

- Plant 1600 stems (plants) per hectare and attach a tree guard or other protection appropriate to the location immediately after planting.
- Carry out planting work between 1 November and 31 March.
- Prepare the ground to provide good soil conditions and as little competition from other vegetation as possible; consider mulching for the first 3 years to help reduce competition.
- Apply any herbicide to the individual planting sites in August or September prior to planting only.
- Plants must be:
  - 2-year-old transplants at least 450mm to 600mm
  - Native broadleaf species typical of the area, with no one species making up more than 70% of the mix.
  - Please source trees locally, if possible.
  - Planted approximately 2.5m apart
  - Kept clear of weeds until they are established
- If advice on species mix is sought, any costs incurred for this can be included in the proposed price. Applicants may be asked for invoices.
- Remove individual guards and tree shelters once the plants are established.
- Replace all failures in the following planting season.
- Prevent livestock and grazing animals from damaging the woodland by setting fencing at least 1.2m from the outermost trees.
- A permit may be required if trees are within 8m of a main river.
- Woodland should be considered permanent, remaining in place for 20+ years beyond the length of the contract period.

**What to avoid in implementing:**
In implementing this measure, do not do so:

- On areas of existing woodland or that has been woodland in the last 5 years
- On historic or archaeological features
- On a site where woodland planting has previously been supported by a grant
- On areas of existing biodiversity value e.g. species rich grasslands

And, additionally, do not:

- attach any fence to trees or hedgerows
- block or restrict access to Public Rights of Way or open access land
- allow livestock access to the woodland
- cut down or remove any trees

Implement this measures as any form of Agroforestry - cricket bat willow, fruit trees, coppice etc (see INV_AGR_001)

**Verification (mandatory):**
Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services;

**Verification (where relevant):**
Any regulatory consents or permissions required; Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery. LENs may monitor this feature beyond the length of the contract to check item remains permanent. This is in line with GHG accounting standards.

## FLD_PMW_002

# Riparian woodland/tree planting

**Measure rationale**
Trees along watercourses can aid interception of soil water infiltration, improving water quality. They can also help stabilise banks through their roots, reducing bank degradation and soil erosion. Trees shade the river and lower temperature, which can help create more favourable habitat conditions for certain fish species and invertebrates. Trees provide an important habitat for invertebrates and birds. Growing trees sequester carbon.

**Funding type:** Capital
**Price:** £14,000
**Payment timing:** Upfront with maintenance for following years

**Contract term (years):** 10
**Maintenance required:** Yes

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Medium
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** High

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✓ Land for nature

**Eligibility**
Eligible if you have previously been funded in the last two trades for, or are currently proposing being funding for the following types of measures: Flood management (CAP_FLM_001 to 011, INV_FLM_001); Water quality (CAP_WQM_001); Planting hedgerows (FLD_PMH_001) or Planting woodland (FLD_PWH_001)

**Requirements**

- A permit may be required if trees are within 8m of a main river. Applicants must check whether their proposal requires any additional requirements/specs/approvals.
- Plants must be:
  - 2-year-old transplants at least 450mm to 600mm
  - protected by a tree guard or other protection appropriate to the location immediately after planting.
  - kept clear of weeds and watered until they are established
- Individual guards and tree shelters should be removed once the plants are established.
- Replace all failures in the following planting season.
- Native species, locally sourced where possible, should be used Guidance on details including tree location, density, species choice and appropriate protection will vary by location; specialist advice should be sought to plan this measure. Any additional cost incurred by obtaining advice can be included in the price. Applicants will be asked to show invoices for these costs.
- Woodland/trees should be considered permanent, remaining in place for 20+ years beyond the length of the contract period.

**Where to use**
Any land adjacent to a watercourse

**What to avoid in implementing:**
In implementing this measure consider signs of severe bank erosion. If present consider:

Applying for measure ‘Farmer Innovation: Water quality, Water resource or Natural Flood Management’ to address erosion issues with natural river bank reinforcement techniques.

Planting at a greater distance from the river bank to allow trees to establish without erosion risk

**Verification (mandatory):**
Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services;

**Verification (where relevant):**
Any regulatory consents or permissions required; Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery.

LENs LANDSCAPE ENTERPRISE NETWORKS

## FLD_RUS_001

# Integrate fertiliser and manure nutrient supply

**Measure rationale**
Integrating manure into fertiliser regimes can reduce the need for synthetic fertiliser, reducing the potential for leaching and carbon emissions from fertilisation, as fertiliser is often the top contributor to an arable farm carbon footprint. Manure can also help to increase soil biology. Integrating manure should enable a reduction of synthetic chemical feed to the growing crop.

**Funding type:** Incentive
**Price:** £107
**Payment timing:** End of year 1

**Contract term (years):** 1
**Maintenance required:** No

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Medium
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** Low

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✓ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✗ Land for nature

**Eligibility**
Eligible if this is the first time that this practice has been undertaken on the farm in question.

**Requirements**

- The implementation of this measure must include the first time that the manure in question is used on this farm as part of their current practices and rotations (within the last 5 years)
- Use a recognised fertiliser recommendation system (e.g. RB209, PLANET, MANNER-NPK and other supplementary guidance) to make full allowance of the nutrients applied in organic manures and reduce inorganic fertiliser inputs accordingly.
- Use laboratory analysis to gain a better understanding of manure nutrient contents and supply.
- If advice is required from a FACTs qualified agronomist, any additional cost for this service can be included in the price proposal for this measure. Applicants may be asked to show invoices for these costs.

**Where to use**
Arable and high output grassland systems (including maize).
Wherever inorganic fertilisers are used to ‘top-up’ the nutrients supplied by organic manures.

**What to avoid in implementing:**
In implementing this measure, do not:

- Allow the soil P index to rise during the duration of the agreement.

**Verification (mandatory):**
Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services; Please provide records detailing fertiliser application and method/equipment used plus impact on fertiliser application rates in Kgs N per hectares and £s.

**Verification (where relevant):**
Any regulatory consents or permissions required;

## FLD_RUS_002

# Use controlled release fertiliser

**Measure rationale**
Controlled release fertilisers are forms of nitrogen fertilisers that extend the length of time that nitrogen is available for plant uptake. Slowing the release of nitrogen into the soil limits harmful and wasteful losses to the environment, improves nitrogen use efficiency and improves farm business efficiency.

**Funding type:** Cost of Resource
**Price:** £100
**Payment timing:** End of year 1

**Contract term (years):** 1
**Maintenance required:** No

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Low
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** Low

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✓ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✗ Land for nature

**Requirements**

- Use controlled release fertiliser in arable fields or temporary grassland.
- Specify the reduction in total N applied as a result of using slow-release fertiliser.

**Preferences**
Consider combining this option with Cover Cropping

**Where to use**
In arable fields and temporary grassland

**Verification (mandatory):**
Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services; Please provide records detailing fertiliser application and method/equipment used plus impact on fertiliser application rates in Kgs N per hectares and £s.

**Verification (where relevant):**
Any regulatory consents or permissions required;

## FLD_RUS_005

# Switching from granular to foliar nitrogen applications

**Measure rationale**

Utilisation of short term foliar nitrogen applications ensure rapid absorption and readily available nutrients that can be better targeted and timed to address mid-season deficiencies or supplement soil applied nutrients. Direct foliar application of N can significantly improve operational efficiency over conventional granular application, allowing for targeted spraying of problem areas, an even distribution and the ability to mix with other active ingredients leading to a single pass or 'well rounded' treatment option later in the growing cycle. Rapid uptake and use by the plant significantly reduces the potential for leaching/pollution and associated emissions from slow release ground based fertilisation. Field rate application of N must be the same or a lower rate than previous years.

**Funding type:** Cost of Resource
**Price:** £62.50
**Payment timing:** End of year 1

**Contract term (years):** 1
**Maintenance required:** No

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Low
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Requirements**

- Adhere to any relevant standards, including the Red Tractor Standard (from 1 April 2024) regarding the use of inhibited urea-based fertilisers which will be required outside of the open window for uninhibited products from 15 January – 31 March.
- Use a recognised fertiliser recommendation system where possible (e.g. RB209, PLANET, MANNER-NPK and other supplementary guidance) to make full allowance for the nutrients available from the soil and any prior applications of inorganic fertiliser.
- Conduct where necessary a soil test to determine the cause of any nutrient deficiencies and the appropriate amount of fertiliser needed.
- Determine the appropriate fertiliser application rate based on the soil test results. Over-application or application at an incorrect time (of any form of nitrogen) can lead to leaching, volatilization and denitrification.
- Choose the right application method depending on the conditions and area to be treated, i.e. broadcast, banding etc.
- It is generally recommended to apply urea fertiliser during the early morning or late afternoon to avoid high temperatures that can cause nitrogen loss and/or scorching of foliage.
- If advice is required from a FACTs qualified agronomist, any additional cost for this service can be included in the price proposal for this measure. Applicants may be asked to show invoices for these costs.

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✓ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✗ Land for nature

**Where to use**

Arable and high output grassland systems (including maize).

**Verification (mandatory):**

Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services; Please provide records detailing fertiliser application and method/equipment used plus impact on fertiliser application rates in Kgs N per hectares and £s.

**Verification (where relevant):**

Any regulatory consents or permissions required; Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery.

# FLD_RUS_006

## Mechanical weeding – inter row hoe, finger tines through cereal, in place of pesticides

**Measure rationale**
Utilisation of man-made mechanical (and/or autonomous) weed control tools to physically remove or destroy weeds rather than place greater dependency on herbicides / active ingredients. Particularly advantageous for farmers transitioning to organic farming or looking to reduce herbicide usage and weed resistance. This measure is designed to give farmers the ability to try out this measure for 1 year and subsequently to apply for the equivalent SFI Measure. Capital innovation could support the implementation following a successful trial.

**Funding type:** Incentive
**Price:** £25
**Payment timing:** End of year 1

**Contract term (years):** 1
**Maintenance required:** No

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Medium
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✓ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✗ Land for nature

**Requirements**

- Use a suitable & recognised mechanical weeding implement such as a tine weeder or row crop cultivator.
- Avoid repeated operations for effective weed control that significantly reduce efficiency of weeding over other conventional methods.
- Ensure correct application depending on appropriate weather & soil conditions.
- Use a combined approach of mechanical and reduced herbicide (if absolutely necessary) to help reduce reliance on chemical inputs.

**Eligibility**
Eligible if you are at Entry or Engaged level of LENs
Eligible if you do NOT have an existing SFI agreement for this measure, since 2022

**Where to use**
Arable and horticultural land, vegetable fields and also orchards.

**Verification (mandatory):**
Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services; Evidence of reduction in pesticide / herbicide application in comparison to previous years

**Verification (where relevant):**
Any regulatory consents or permissions required;

## FLD_RUS_007

# Bio-supportive amendments for soil or plant

**Measure rationale**

As we increase our understanding of soil health and the soil food web, we recognise there are products on the market that are enabling farmers to reduce their use of synthetic chemicals while retaining or improving yields and improving soil health and plant resilience to pests and diseases. This measure could support products such as microbes or biostimulants and provide benefits to soil and plant health and resilience naturally.

**Funding type:** Cost of Resource
**Price:** £35
**Payment timing:** End of year 1

**Contract term (years):** 1
**Maintenance required:** No

**Projected Nature Benefit:** n/a
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✓ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✗ Land for nature

**Requirements**

- Provide evidence that in using this product the overall use of synthetic chemicals has been reduced during the growing season.
- Use a control and compare and share results on yield, and field observations of the crop and any in field soil assessment carried out or following lab soil tests.

**Where to use**

Whole or part parcel.
All crops/land use eligible

**What to avoid in implementing:**

When using over 150 kg/N.

**Verification (mandatory):**

Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services; Please provide records detailing fertiliser application and method/equipment used plus impact on fertiliser application rates in Kgs N per hectares and £s.

**Verification (where relevant):**

Any regulatory consents or permissions required; Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery.

## FLD_RUS_016

# Straw chopping

**Measure rationale**

Straw chopping results in the straw from the harvested arable or oilseed crop being chopped and returned directly to the land. It ensures that P and K spread during the previous growing season are not lost to the soil (depending on the crop type). It the longer term it also improves organic matter and carbon in the soils, improving both soil structure and the soils retention of nutrients. Additionally, the decomposition of the straw will take up residual N in the soils. There is also a side benefit of reducing the number of vehicle trips by not baling, loading or hauling bales, although there is also a potential loss of income from not selling the straw.

**Funding type:** Incentive
**Price:** £50
**Payment timing:** End of year 1

**Contract term (years):** 1
**Maintenance required:** No

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Medium
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** Low
**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✓ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✓ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✓ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✗ Land for nature

**Eligibility**

Eligible if this is NOT current practice at present

**Requirements**

- Straw should be chopped and incorporated as soon as possible after harvest for the decomposition to begin.
- Even chopping and spreading across the field in question
- Must be incorporated into the soil after chopping and now allowed to sit on the surface
- The implementation of this measure should also include an ambition to reduce the fertilizer input in the next cropping cycle.

**Where to use**

Wheat, Barley, Oat, Rye straws are chopping following harvest

**Verification (mandatory):**

Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services; Please provide records detailing fertiliser application and method/equipment used plus impact on fertiliser application rates in Kgs N per hectares and £s.

**Verification (where relevant):**

Any regulatory consents or permissions required; Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery.

## FLD_RUS_017

# FEC and no Avermectin grazed livestock (5 days post treatment)

**Measure rationale**
Wormers have a detrimental impact on soil organisms and the food web that is supported by them, eg, birds and bats. By using FEC we can reduce the use of wormers, check their efficiency with follow up FEC and slow the resistance that is prevalent across the main wormer groups. Residues of wormers can damage wetland habitats and avermectin, the most harmful of the wormers causes death to soil fauna groups such as dung beetles.

**Funding type:** Incentive
**Price:** £30 per test, 5 tests max)
**Payment timing:** End of year 1

**Contract term (years):** 1
**Maintenance required:** No

**Projected Nature Benefit:** n/a
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✓ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✗ Land for nature

**Requirements**
Ensure that you have sought evidence of FEC and wormer recommendations before commencing this measures.

**Where to use**
Available for each group of livestock present on the holding.

**What to avoid in implementing:**
No routine worming

**Verification (mandatory):**
Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services;

**Verification (where relevant):**
Any regulatory consents or permissions required;
Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery.

LENs LANDSCAPE ENTERPRISE NETWORKS

## FLD_RUS_018

# Minimising pesticides

**Measure rationale**
Reducing pesticide use has benefits for our soil, water and biodiversity. Lots of research and products are available to support a reduction in pesticide through using biological controls. This measure encourages farmers to trial and implement new ways of reducing synthetic pesticides.

**Funding type:** Incentive
**Price:** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Payment timing:** End of year 1

**Contract term (years):** 1
**Maintenance required:** No

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Medium
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✓ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✗ Land for nature

**Requirements**

- Use less synthetic pesticide on crop/part of crop to receive biological control.
- Apply at the recommended dose.
- Retain part of field or nearby field as a control and share results on yield of the control and test field with LENs.

**Where to use**
Any crop in scope

**What to avoid in implementing:**
No pesticide to be applied at the same growth stage as the biological control application.

**Verification (mandatory):**
Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services; Verification of the capital item's use and/or maintenance, including photographs of the serial number and in use photos, over entire contract term will be required, annually. Share outcomes from the innovation or trail either via written case study OR presentation at LENs forums in the year following the trial / innovation. Evidence of reduction in pesticide / herbicide application in comparison to previous years

**Verification (where relevant):**
Any regulatory consents or permissions required; Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery.

## FLD_WLD_001

# Plant wild bird seed or wild bird/wildlife cover mixes

**Measure rationale**
This option provides important food (small seeds) for farmland birds, especially in autumn and winter. The flowering plants will benefit insects including bumblebees, solitary bees, butterflies and hoverflies.

**Funding type:** Incentive
**Price:** £615.00
**Payment timing:** End of year 1

**Contract term (years):** 1
**Maintenance required:** No

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Low
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✓ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✓ Land for nature

**Eligibility**
Eligible if you do NOT have an existing SFI agreement for this measure, since 2022 AND/OR You can only apply for this measure if you have previously not had it funded by LENs previously

**Requirements**

- Establish wild bird mix margins or strips by sowing a seed mix containing at least 6 seed-bearing crops between early spring and summer.
- Seed mixes should contain a maximum of 3 of the following cereal crops: barley, oats, rye, triticale and wheat.
- Sow plants that will provide an ongoing supply of seeds for farmland birds from autumn into late winter. Annual mixtures can include a range of cereal, brassica or other small-seeded crops such as kale, dwarf sunflower, fodder radish, gold of pleasure, linseed, mustard, quinoa, red millet, white millet.
- Retain plots overwinter until at least 15 February the following year.
- Fertiliser is not usually required, but a low rate can be used on less fertile soils.
- Plots should be grown using best practices to ensure the establishment and retention of a beneficial habitat and food source.

**Preferences**
Cite this option adjacent to existing habitat features such as farm woods and hedges so that the feed value of this option is enhanced by sitting it next to wildlife cover.

**Where to use**
On arable land OR
On temporary grassland OR
Suitable field areas identified for these mixes
Areas can be whole fields or plots within fields. Plots within fields must be at least 6m wide and a minimum of 0.4ha in size.

**What to avoid in implementing:**
In implementing this measure, do not:

- Allow an individual crop group to exceed 90% of the total mix by weight.
- Sow the following crops: artichokes, canary grass, giant and intermediate sorghum, maize, miscanthus, sweet clover, tic beans, reed millet.
- Apply pesticides to the cover.
- If you have used this Measure before and/or used it through SFI since 2022.

**Verification (mandatory):**
Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services; Seed mix and sowing weight/density.
**Verification (where relevant):**
Any regulatory consents or permissions required;

## FLD_WLD_006

# Hedgerow management & restoration for biodiversity (1 of 2)

**Measure rationale**

Hedgerows provide habitat for a number of species including birds, small mammals, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates. If appropriately managed, they can provide a source of pollen for pollinating insects and fruit for overwintering birds. Managing hedgerows for biodiversity means they will survive for longer as landscape features and wildlife habitats. Correct management makes them better wildlife corridors and richer habitats.

**Funding type:** Capital
**Price:** £27.66
**Payment timing:** Upfront with maintenance for following years

**Contract term (years):** 10
**Maintenance required:** Yes

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Medium
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** Medium

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✓ Land for nature

**Requirements**

Gapping Up: Fill any significant gaps as described below:

- If gaps between the woody base stems exceed 4m and/or a gap is clearly evident in the foliage, prepare the ground along a 1.5m wide strip to provide good soil conditions and as little competition from other vegetation as possible; consider mulching for first 3 years to help reduce competition.
- Trim adjacent mature hedge plants to ensure the newly planted whips will receive adequate light to establish successfully.
- If necessary to reduce weed competition, use weed membrane or wool (if available) to suppress weeds. If necessary herbicide applications can be made in August or September prior to planting only.
- New hedge plants must be:
  - 1-or 2-year-old transplants
  - Consider using mycorrhizal fungi at planting on the roots to aid and speed up establishment, especially in wind prone, stony or other challenging environments.
  - At least 450mm to 600mm high
  - Native broadleaf species typical of the area, with no one species making up more than 60% of the total mix. Where possible, please source trees locally.
- Planted in a staggered double row 40 cm apart with a minimum of 6 plants per metre. Kept clear of weeds until they are established
- Remove individual guards and tree shelters once the plants are established.
- Replace all failed plants in the following planting season to avoid gaps.
- Prevent livestock and grazing animals from damaging the hedge by setting fencing at least 1.2m from the centre of the hedge, or, if there is a bank, as close to the base of the bank as possible.
- Only carry out any necessary work following establishment when the hedgerow is dormant (Nov - March) ensuring you avoid the bird nesting season from Feb - Aug.
- Hedgerow should be considered permanent, remaining in place for 20+ years beyond the length of the contract period.

Trimming.

- Cut hedge no more than one year in three. Raise cutting height if ‘knuckle’ is forming at the trim line. If hedge has healthy stems of more than 4m in height, lay or reduce height with circular saw blade or coppice and re-plant gaps if needed.
- Manage towards a dense and tall hedge ideally upwards of 2m tall by 2m wide.
- Cutting in the A shape has good benefits for the hedge and wildlife.

Refresh

- If hedge is over-mature and thinning and/or dominated by tree species such as Oak, Ash or Sycamore, coppice and retain a few selected healthy trees, plant up any gaps as previously described.

## FLD_WLD_006

# Hedgerow management & restoration for biodiversity (2 of 2)

**Requirements (continued)**

Scrub creation:
Allow natural colonisation by reducing mowing beside the hedge to 50% of the area normally managed, rotating this around in the following years to enable scrub formation that is dense enough to form shelter but manageable in the following year and does not suppress the hedge unduly.
Scrub area should be at least 1.5m in depth.

Deadwood:
If a tree falls due to storm damage or by other natural means, consider retaining the bulk of the trunk and position parallel to the hedge to create a valuable habitat to insects and invertebrates.
It also creates an opportunity for nutrient recycling as the wood matter breaks down.
Hedgerow trees. Where appropriate in the landscape, plant and tag to protect hedge trees at a density of up to 1 per 100 metres.

The proposal should include: Estimated number of whips/transplants to be planted

**Eligibility**

Eligible if you are NOT going to use it with hedgerows already within LENs measures from legacy trades

**Preferences**

As the hedge becomes established consider allowing hedgerow trees to emerge at intervals of around, or over 15m.

**Where to use**

On existing hedgerows that are not already within legacy measures, from previous trades
FLD_WLD_002 - Manage hedgerows to benefit wildlife
FLD_PMH_002 - Restore hedgerows
Or current implementation of:
FLD_PMH_001 - Planting new cross-slope hedges

**What to avoid in implementing:**

In implementing this measure, do not:

- Do not flail hedges within this measure
- Obstruct or block access to open access land
- Obstruct or public footpaths or access routes
- Remove all or part of the hedge within 10 years of starting this measure
- Remove any hedgerow trees unless diseased, damaged or dangerous.
- Remove any tree limbs, including lower limbs, or ivy growth from hedgerow trees.
- Remove any standing deadwood, unless it presents a safety risk to a nearby public right of way, roadside, or highway.
- Use herbicides or pesticides on or directly next to hedgerows
- Remove grass and other undergrowth (e.g. brambles) from under and around base of hedgerow.
- Carry out any operations on protected archeological sites, even if the hedge is on said protected site without relevant consent.

**Verification (mandatory):**

Before and After Photos;  Receipts for bought in goods or services;

**Verification (where relevant):**

LENs may monitor this feature beyond the length of the contract to check item remains permanent. This is in line with GHG accounting standards.

## CAP_FLM_004

# Sediment ponds, silt traps

**Measure rationale**
Sediment ponds and silt traps provide areas where muddy runoff from fields or tracks is allowed to pool, enabling sediment to settle and, with appropriate planting, nutrients to be removed. This reduces diffuse pollution in watercourses, whilst also reducing flood risk by increasing water storage

**Funding type:** Capital
**Price:** £11.88 / m2
**Payment timing:** Upfront with maintenance for following years

**Contract term (years):** 10
**Maintenance required:** Yes

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Medium
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✓ Land for nature

**Eligibility**
Eligible only in specific water catchments - please check with your supply aggregator

**Requirements**

- Designs of ponds vary and are specific to the site. Technical advice should be sought. Applicants are asked to submit a supplementary document outlining the proposal. The costs of specialist advice can be included in your application.
- Approvals may be required from the Environment Agency or local authority.
- For sediment ponds or traps (less than 25 square metres):
  - excavate to an appropriate depth, creating gently sloping banks
  - spread any excess soil thinly across the land, away from the excavated pond area
  - maintain the feature for at least 5 years from the start of the agreement and by regularly desilting
  - keep the sediment pond and silt traps in working order and maintain the original capacity by cleaning out vegetation and sediment at least every 2 years and reapplying it back to the field

**Where to use**
Adjacent to fields and tracks

**What to avoid in implementing:**
In implementing this measure, do not carry it out to collect dirty water, effluents and slurries
On historic or archaeological features or areas of existing wildlife interest
Where it will restrict the movement of migratory fish or eels
Without relevant advice or consents from the Environment Agency (EA), Local Planning Authority or flood defence consenting authority
In addition, Do Not:
place spoil on any historic or archaeological feature or wildlife area.
fill in or allow the feature to become full of sediment.

**Verification (mandatory):**
Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services;

**Verification (where relevant):**
Any regulatory consents or permissions required;
Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery.

## CAP_FLM_005

# Swales (channels) next to farm tracks

**Measure rationale**
Swales collect and retain surface water to improve infiltration and reduce runoff, soil erosion, diffuse pollution to watercourses and flood risk.

**Funding type:** Capital
**Price:** 25 / m
**Payment timing:** Upfront with maintenance for following years

**Contract term (years):** 10
**Maintenance required:** Yes

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Medium
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✓ Land for nature

**Eligibility**
Eligible only in specific water catchments - please check with your supply aggregator

**Requirements**

- Construct a channel along a contour or on a slope gradient of no more than 2 degrees in a location that intercepts surface runoff water or lightly contaminated water from farmyards.
- Excavate the swale bed to a depth of 750mm.
- Stockpile the topsoil separately, to use on the bed and side slopes of the swale.
- Construct the side slopes with a gradient of no more than 1 in 3.
- Excavate a further 150 - 250 mm and place the topsoil on the bed.
- Establish a dense grass sward on the bed and sides of the swale.
- Keep the swales in working order for at least 5 years from the start of the agreement and maintain the original capacity by cleaning out vegetation and sediment every 2 years and apply to a suitable field.

**Where to use**
In locations that intercept surface runoff water or lightly contaminated water (e.g. water from farmyards or tracks trafficked by livestock)
To channel run-off to other sediment retention features

**What to avoid in implementing:**
In implementing this measure, do not carry it out
To collect dirty water, effluents, or slurries
On historic or archaeological features or areas of existing wildlife interest
Without relevant advice or consents from the Environment Agency (EA), or Local Planning Authority, or Internal Drainage Board
In addition, do not
place any surplus spoil on any environmental, historic or archaeological feature.

**Verification (mandatory):**
Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services;

**Verification (where relevant):**
Any regulatory consents or permissions required;
Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery.

# CAP_FLM_006
# Silt filtration dams, sediment filter barriers or seepage barriers in field ditches

**Measure rationale**
Dams and barriers in ditches help to retain sediment washed off fields, help to 'slow the flow' and reduce flood risk, and prevent diffuse pollution to water courses.

**Funding type:** Capital
**Price:** 2 / m
**Payment timing:** Upfront with maintenance for following years
**Contract term (years):** 5
**Maintenance required:** Yes
**Projected Nature Benefit:** Medium
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a
**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✓ Land for nature

**Eligibility**
Eligible only in specific water catchments - please check with your supply aggregator
**Verification (mandatory):**
Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services;
**Verification (where relevant):**
Any regulatory consents or permissions required;
Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery.

**Requirements**
Silt filtration dams and seepage barriers

- Construct silt filtration barriers and seepage barriers to slow the movement of water to allow pollutants to settle out.
- The structure can be constructed using either timber piling or horizontal planks (with gaps between the boards to allow water flow), stone filled gabions or dams constructed with large stones or clean concrete blocks.
- Keep the dams in working order for at least 5 years from the start of the agreement and maintain the original capacity by cleaning out vegetation and sediment every 2 years and reapplying it on the field.

Sediment filter barriers

- Install filter fences, coir rolls or filter 'soxx' of a sufficient length to intercept runoff along the flow pathway. Move or extend the barrier(s) if they are not intercepting the flow pathway.
- Shape the barrier so that it either follows the contours of the field or in a U shape (pointing uphill) intercepting the flow pathway.
- Check the amount of accumulated material behind the barriers regularly, particularly during the winter, and remove if the accumulation is restricting the functioning or stability of the filter barrier.
- Spread accumulated material back onto the field when ground conditions allow. The filter barrier can be temporarily removed for this purpose to avoid damage to the structure but must be replaced in reasonable time.

**Where to use**
Silt filtration dams and seepage barriers in field ditches and small streams. Sediment filter barriers on the lowest point at the edge of fields where surface runoff is channelled, and movement of sediment occurs in locations, such as near gateways, where permanent ponds or soil bunds may be unsuitable this item can be used on 'buffer strips' or 'reduced fertiliser input' areas

**What to avoid in implementing:**
In implementing this measure, do not carry it out:
Silt filtration dams and seepage barriers

- on historic or archaeological features or areas of existing wildlife interest
- where it will restrict the movement of migratory fish or eels
- without relevant advice or consents from the Environment Agency (EA)Sediment filter barriers
- in or around farmyards to collect or divert dirty water, effluents, or slurries

In addition, do not for the following:
Silt filtration dams and seepage barriers

- place any surplus spoil on any environmental, historic or archaeological feature.
- remove the silt filtration dams or seepage barriers unless required when cleaning the ditch. Ensure that they are replaced as soon as the ditch has been cleaned.

Sediment filter barriers - do not allow filter barriers to become ineffective through damage or the accumulation of sediment.

## CAP_FLM_007

# Leaky dams and/or woody debris structures

**Measure rationale**
Leaky dams mimic the natural obstruction caused by trees and branches falling into watercourses. This helps to 'slow the flow', reduce flooding and aid infiltration to groundwater. By retaining and slowing water in ditches and watercourses, wildlife habitat is created or improved.

**Funding type:** Capital
**Price:** £460 / item
**Payment timing:** Upfront with maintenance for following years

**Contract term (years):** 10
**Maintenance required:** Yes

**Projected Nature Benefit:** High
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✓ Land for nature

**Eligibility**
Eligible only in specific water catchments - please check with your supply aggregator

**Requirements**

- Use untreated logs, stems or boards; choose hardwood timber types that are not prone to rotting quickly.
- Wood should be 1.5x the length of the water channel and pinned in place across the tops of the bank.
- Structures must be maintained for the duration of their lifetime; unmaintained structures can be a risk to downstream infrastructure
- Designs of leaky dams vary and are specific to the site. Technical advice should be sought. Applicants are asked to submit a supplementary document outlining the proposal. The costs of specialist advice can be included in your application.
- Approvals may be required from the Environment Agency or local authority.

**Where to use**
Disconnected floodplains
Headwater streams
Streams lined with woodland
Drainage ditches
Degraded uniform channels
Areas adjacent to flood storage areas

**What to avoid in implementing:**
In implementing this measure, do not do so alongside:
River restoration works to reconnect watercourses to floodplains

**Verification (mandatory):**
Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services;

**Verification (where relevant):**
Any regulatory consents or permissions required;
Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery.

## CAP_FLM_008

# Create or maintain floodplain meadows

**Measure rationale**
Management of pastureland or hay fields to (re)create or maintain floodplain meadows can provide important habitat for species including wading, wetland and meadow birds as well as a diversity of wetland plant species, amphibians, invertebrates and small mammals. By providing an area to store excess water from over-full waterways, these meadows can also contribute to flood management. Where new connectivity is required between a watercourse and the proposed meadow, works involving changes to banks of water courses may be needed. This will require approvals from the Environment Agency and the Local Authority.

**Funding type:** Capital
**Price:** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Payment timing:** Upfront with maintenance for following years

**Contract term (years):** 10
**Maintenance required:** Yes

**Projected Nature Benefit:** High
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✓ Land for nature

**Requirements**

- Use mowing or grazing to maintain or encourage re-establishment of plant communities typically associated with traditional floodplain meadows.
- If cutting:
  - Take a hay cut ideally between late June and late July
  - Ensure ground nesting birds have fledged before cutting
  - If stock is available, graze the aftermath
- Maintain water levels:
- Soil should be kept damp throughout the year
- Water levels in ditches should be maintained at close to field level throughout the year

**Preferences**
If planning to graze the meadow, please also consider CAP_WQM_001 New watercourse fencing.

**Where to use**
Use this measure on fields that are prone to flooding or on parcels of land that can reconnect the floodplain with its waterways.

**What to avoid in implementing:**
In implementing this measure, do not:
Use pesticides, except for herbicides to spot-treat to control injurious weeds, invasive non-native species, nettles or bracken
Use fertilisers

**Verification (mandatory):**
Before and After Photos;  Receipts for bought in goods or services;

**Verification (where relevant):**
Any regulatory consents or permissions required;
Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery.

## CAP_FLM_009

# Floodplain reconnection

**Measure rationale**

Reconnecting watercourses with their floodplains contribute to flood risk management by supporting the natural capacity of rivers to retain water. Likelihood of high-water levels is reduced, and natural functions of the river are improved. Floodplains act as a storage facility for excess water, improving future water resource availability. Water quality is improved through deposition of sediment and bound pollutants within the floodplain itself which then improves river ecology. Biodiversity is improved within the areas of the floodplain through the creation of new habitat.

**Funding type:** Capital
**Price:** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Payment timing:** Upfront with maintenance for following years

**Contract term (years):** 10
**Maintenance required:** Yes

**Projected Nature Benefit:** High
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✓ Land for nature

**Requirements**

River restoration works to reconnect watercourses to floodplains.
River restoration work will require advice and approval from the Environment Agency. Applicants should seek appropriate advice and support, and should submit supplementary documentation outlining the proposal.

**Where to use**

In areas adjacent to rivers prone to flooding

**Verification (mandatory):**

Before and After Photos;  Receipts for bought in goods or services;

**Verification (where relevant):**

Any regulatory consents or permissions required;
Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery.

# CAP_FLM_010
# Constructed wetlands for the treatment of field run-off and/or land drain water

**Measure rationale**
Wetlands help to act as filters for pollutants and sedimentation. Creating one to intercept runoff from fields will reduce the risk of contamination of watercourses from field run-off. Wetlands provide habitat for a wide range of native wildlife. This measure will require specialist advice and access to land drainage maps to identify the right location(s).

**Funding type:** Capital
**Price:** Up to 60% of costs
**Payment timing:** Upfront with maintenance for following years

**Contract term (years):** 10
**Maintenance required:** Yes

**Projected Nature Benefit:** High
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

✗ Maximise crop diversity
✓ Keep soil covered
✗ Use cover crops
✓ Minimise soil disturbance
✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
✓ Land for nature

**Requirements**

- Please seek advice from a catchment advisor or specialist consultancy service for this measure to create your proposal. The cost of this advice can be included in your application.
- Check for any utilities (e.g. gas pipelines) that may be running through the site.
- Excavate to an appropriate depth, creating gently sloping banks.
- Spread any excess soil thinly across the land, away from the excavated pond area.
- Keep the constructed wetland(s) in working order for at least 5 years from the start of the agreement and maintain the original capacity by cleaning out vegetation and sediment every 2 years and reapplying it back to the field.

**Where to use**
To treat field run-off and/or land drain water

**What to avoid in implementing:**
In implementing this measure, do not use it:

- To treat slurry, silage liquor, heavily fouled water, or concentrated pesticide spills and washings (as defined as such under the Nitrate Action Plan Regulations, Slurry Silage and Agricultural Fuel Oil Regulations or Health and Safety Executive)
- On historic or archaeological features
- Without relevant advice or consents from the Environment Agency (EA) or SEPA

In addition, do not:

- place spoil on any environmental, historic or archaeological feature.
- fill in or allow the feature to become full of sediment.

**Verification (mandatory):**
Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services;

**Verification (where relevant):**
Any regulatory consents or permissions required; Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery.

## CAP_FLM_011

# Wetland scrapes

**Measure rationale**

Wetland scrapes consist of pools or strips of shallow water in fields, which slowly dry during the summer. The resulting drawdown zone (caused by slowly evaporating water) around the edge creates a habitat with varying vegetation types and water levels, providing suitable feeding conditions for a diverse range of invertebrates and wading birds. Wetland scrapes also provide a holding space for floodwater, helping to improve flood management.

**Funding type:** Capital
**Price:** £300 / 5 scrapes
**Payment timing:** Upfront with maintenance for following years

**Contract term (years):** 10
**Maintenance required:** Yes

**Projected Nature Benefit:** High
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✓ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✓ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✓ Land for nature

**Requirements**

- Excavate a minimum area of 20 square metres per scrape, measured from the lip of the excavated area, not the area holding water at any particular time.
- Vary the depth across the scrape with a maximum depth of 45 centimetres.
- The scrape should have gently sloping edges and form a linear or irregular shape rather than a round shape – to maximise the edge effect and subsequent draw down zones.
- Leave scrapes unfenced.

**Where to use**

In existing areas where the water table is likely to be near the surface

**What to avoid in implementing:**

In implementing this measure, do not construct:

- On very free draining soils or areas with a low water table as they are unlikely to retain water
- On sites that are already valuable wildlife habitats, such as species-rich grassland or wetland
- On sites that contain archaeological features
- Close to existing watercourses or drains

**Verification (mandatory):**

Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services;

**Verification (where relevant):**

Any regulatory consents or permissions required; Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery.

# CAP_FLM_012
# Design and develop wetlands for biodiversity and/or Natural Flood Management

**Measure rationale**
Wetland scrapes consist of pools or strips of shallow water in fields, which slowly dry during the summer. The resulting drawdown zone (caused by slowly evaporating water) around the edge creates a habitat with varying vegetation types and water levels, providing suitable feeding conditions for a diverse range of invertebrates and wading birds. Wetland scrapes also provide a holding space for floodwater, helping to improve flood management.

**Funding type:** Capital
**Price:** £300 / 5 scrapes
**Payment timing:** Upfront with maintenance for following years

**Contract term (years):** 10
**Maintenance required:** Yes

**Projected Nature Benefit:** High
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**
- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✓ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✓ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✓ Land for nature

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**
- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✓ Land for nature

**Requirements**
Feasibility and design work should be conducted by a professional water management firm with expertise in hydrology, ecology, and engineering, ideally holding professional certifications like Chartered Engineer/Scientist or relevant environmental accreditations, with key industry bodies. Alongside adhering to national standards (e.g. Environment Agency guidelines) and potentially achieving Building with Nature (BwN) awards for high-quality green infrastructure. Should only be used to develop sites that will provide significant impact, as advised by Supply Aggregator, local CSF or EA officer.

**Where to use**
Should only be used to develop sites that will provide significant impact, as advised by Supply Aggregator, local CSF or EA officer.

**What to avoid in implementing:**
Should not be used on sites deemed unsuitable by SA, CSF or EA officer.

**Verification (mandatory):**
Before and After Photos;  Receipts for bought in goods or services; Copy of documents produced

**Verification (where relevant):**
Any regulatory consents or permissions required; Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery. Other verification as agreed and appropriate to the proposal

LENs LANDSCAPE ENTERPRISE NETWORKS

## CAP_MSD_001

# Procurement: Direct drill

**Measure rationale**
Financial assistance to aid the rapid transition to zero tillage/direct drilling in order to help preserve the natural structure & microbiome of soil, decrease the amount of soil erosion, increase the amount of water retention & infiltration, aid soil retention of organic matter and nutrient cycling. Direct drilling generally reduces fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, making it a more sustainable practice.

**Funding type:** Capital
**Price:** Up to 60% of drill cost
**Payment timing:** Upfront with maintenance for following years

**Contract term (years):** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Maintenance required:** Yes

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Low
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** Low

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✓ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✗ Land for nature

**Requirements**

- As a high cost capital item, applicants must be contracted on a multi-annual basis of 5-10 years and keep the item for the allotted time.
- LENs will fund upto 60% of the capital items purchase cost, this may be covered in the upfront cost (year 1 - implementation cost) or it can be spread across the whole term of the measure, or a year 1 Implementation cost followed by maintenance of the item in the successive years. However, either way, each successive year of the contract following implementation must have a value against it that does not inflate the overall price.
- Applicants must prove that they have sourced at least 3 competitive quotes for the item.
- Applicants must prove that none of the items to be funded by the application are replacements covered by an insurance claim.
- Applicants must not use lease or hire purchase to buy any of the items in the application, as the business must own the items outright. Finance arrangements are permitted.
- Second hand is preferred when viable.
- Applicants must maintain accurate records of all money spent.
- Keep appropriate records of such expenditure in the form of receipts, invoices and bank statements, as appropriate.
- Applicants must clearly state the expected maintenance price per year and ensure that it's divided equally across the years of the contract
- LENs will only support funding this measure up to 60% of the total value of a Direct Drill

**Eligibility**
Eligible if you have been in LENs for more than 1 year
AND/or have requested funding for multiple measures
AND have not previously been funded for this measure before

**Where to use**
In arable fields; At the start of your farms transition to regenerative practices.

**What to avoid in implementing:**
In implementing this measure, do not:

- Use this measure to purchase replacement equipment where you have been direct drilling for sometime.
- We expect this measures have a minimum 5 year to max 10 year term - depending on if the drill is bought new or second hand.
- Continued ownership and operation of the drill will be monitored by occasional spot check visits from LENs

**Verification (mandatory):**
Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services; Verification of the capital item's use and/or maintenance, including photographs of the serial number and in use photos, over entire contract term will be required, annually.

**Verification (where relevant):**
Any regulatory consents or permissions required;

## CAP_MSD_002

# Rewetting organic (non-mineral) soils, e.g. peat, fen, bog

**Measure rationale**
Rewetting is one of the fastest ways to reduce land-use emissions. Drained peat occupies only 0.4% of global land but produces roughly 5% of all human-induced CO2. Healthy organic soils act as a giant sponge, soaking up heavy rain and releasing it slowly, which reduces flash flooding downstream. Rewetting stops dissolved organic carbon from leaking into rivers, which reduces the cost of treating drinking water.

**Funding type:** Capital
**Price:** £892 -£1409
**Payment timing:** Upfront with Maintenance for following years

**Contract term (years):** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Maintenance required:** Flexible (farmer selected)

**Projected Nature Benefit:** High
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** High

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✓ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✓ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✓ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✓ Land for nature

**Requirements**

- Seek advice to identify-current depth of water table and optimal depth for required land use.
- LENs would be happy to consider a mosaic approach to rewetting with a variety of water table depths to achieve a range of outcomes.
- Blocking drains and ditches should be the first approach investigated, bunding can also be a useful tool.

**Where to use**
Any field

**What to avoid in implementing:**
No new cultivation or inputs

**Verification (mandatory):**
Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services;

**Verification (where relevant):**
Any regulatory consents or permissions required;

## CAP_RUS_001

# Procurement: mowers and flails

**Measure rationale**
This measure is for farmers who have cover crops or year-long fallows that require mechanical termination ahead of the follow-on crops being planted. This is a measure suited for those who wish to avoid using herbicides in the cover crop destruction.

**Funding type:** Capital
**Price:** Flexible (farmer selected) Upto 60% of drill cost
**Payment timing:** Upfront with Maintenance for following years

**Contract term (years):** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Maintenance required:** Yes

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Low
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a
**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✓ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✗ Land for nature

**Eligibility**
Eligible if you have been in LENs for more than 1 year AND/or have requested funding for multiple measures AND have not previously been funded for this measure before

**Requirements**

- As a high cost capital item, applicants must be contracted on a multi annual basis of up to 10 years and keep the item for the contracted time.
- LENs will fund upto 60% of the capital items purchase cost, this may be covered in the upfront cost (year 1 - implementation cost) or it can be spread across the whole term of the measure, or a year 1 Implementation cost followed by maintenance of the item in the successive years.
- However, either way, each successive year of the contract following implementation must have a value against it that does not inflate the overall price.
- Applicants must prove that they have sourced at least 3 competitive quotes for the item.
- Applicants must prove that none of the items to be funded by the application are replacements covered by an insurance claim.
- Applicants must not use lease or hire purchase to buy any of the items in the application, as the business must own the items outright. Finance arrangements are permitted.
- Second hand is preferred when viable.
- Applicants must maintain accurate records of all money spent.
- Keep appropriate records of such expenditure in the form of receipts, invoices and bank statements, as appropriate.
- Applicants must clearly link the procurement of this item for specific progression along the Regen Pathway.

**Preferences**
Ideally the cover crops or year long fallows should have been funded through LENs in previous years OR can be funded by SFI going forward.

**Where to use**
Arable fields that have had cover crops or year long fallows on them

**What to avoid in implementing:**
In implementing this measure, do not: use this measure to purchase replacement equipment where you have been using this practice for sometime, or where the primary use of this equipment may fall around an existing hedgerow management enterprise. This will be monitored by occasional spot check visits from LENs. However, if the procurement of these items also ties in with your Hedgerow Management Plans (or their development) then this will be viewed favourably when there is a biodiversity benefit to hedge cutting in a rotation.

**Verification (mandatory):**
Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services; Verification of the capital item's use and/or maintenance, including photographs of the serial number and in use photos, over entire contract term will be required, annually.
**Verification (where relevant):**
Any regulatory consents or permissions required;

## CAP_TTC_001

# Demonstration farm (1 of 2)

**Measure rationale**

An opportunity to test and trial new products, nature-based solutions and equipment to reduce carbon emissions, as well as enhance soil and water quality and increase biodiversity whilst improving or maintaining crop yield and quality. Expand upon, and share, good practice by LENs farmers within a region by providing the opportunity for farmers to learn from each other's experiences.
This sets out to develop the confidence within the LENs network of farmers to try new innovations or practices by having seen them in comparable landscapes, and discuss them with peers as part of a mixture of field days and meetings.

The demonstration farm acts as the base and focal point for a local group of farmers to discuss successes and failures, share knowledge and learn from adopted novel practical farming solutions.

**Funding type:** Capital
**Price:** £500 / item
**Payment timing:** After each farm walk or visit or meeting

**Contract term (years):** 3
**Maintenance required:** Yes

**Requirements**

- Applicants are advised to discuss possible ideas for this measure with their LENs Supply Aggregator before including it in their proposal.
- Applicants are encouraged to seek advice from an environmental consultant, agronomist or regenerative agriculture specialist before submitting a proposal under this option.
- Applicants should provide a name and description of the innovation proposal.
- Applicants must submit a one-or two-page outline of the proposal to their Supply Aggregator in the form of a Supporting Document, covering the points set out below:
- This supporting document will be included as part of the legal contract.
- Clearly identify if it is specific aspects of farming practice or the whole farm that you wish to include in this measure. Ability to choose either allows for farmers who are seeing positive progress in one specific area or innovation to be able to share that information as much as those whose practices cover the whole farm. Ideally, as this measure is used year on year, there would be the majority of Whole Farms as good practice continuing to develop on this farm.
- Outline the areas (where specific aspects or whole farm) that you would wish to share with other farmers as a demonstration farm.
- Host at least three farmer field days per calendar year, identifying key dates within the tender for this measure and showing expected learning outcomes at each session.
- Cover one or more of the following topics
  - Economic impacts of regenerative agriculture systems vs baseline / previous practice
  - New Practices
  - New Equipment
  - New Methodologies

Additional requirements

- Farmer or farm management needs to be a ‘regenerative agriculture’ advocate.
- Farmer needs to be an innovator/disruptor prepared to try new techniques, products, and ideas.
- Applicant farms should have good investment in modern equipment, combined with yield monitors, GPS and electronic farm records.
- Farmer allows access to other farmers to view and learn from trial activity.
- Farmer prepared to present findings to discussion groups or farmer networks.
- Agree an annual trial activity plan – with additions where necessary if opportunities present themselves or weather patterns disrupt farming practices.
- Farmers should be willing to develop the final plan in conversation and collaboration with the relevant project funders.
- Demonstration Farms should have been involved with LENs for at least two trades and be at least a leading farmer in terms of regenerative agriculture.
- Farmers hosting demonstration farms should give due consideration to the safety of any visiting participants and demonstrate this in their bids.
- This should be led by farmers who are advanced in their journey towards regenerative agriculture, and being willing to share their experiences in this area.

## CAP_TTC_001

# Demonstration farm (1 of 2)

**Eligibility**
Applicant to have been in at least two LENs trades previously.
Regen Pathway Advanced or Leading Farmers only

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Low
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✗ Land for nature

**Where to use**
Arable and Mixed Farmers
Specific aspects of farming practice OR;
Whole Farm

**What to avoid in implementing:**
In implementing this measure, do not operate outside the law or best farm practice

**Verification (mandatory):**
Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services; Share outcomes from the innovation or trail either via written case study OR presentation at LENs forums in the year following the trial / innovation. Share list of LENs Farmers attending each of the field days with the LENs regional team within 4 weeks of each field day.

**Verification (where relevant):**
Any regulatory consents or permissions required.

## CAP_TTC_003

# Farm walk and innovation sharing

**Measure rationale**
This measure is for farmers who have previously undertaken infield innovation measures to share the outcomes (no matter what their nature) with peers via a farm walk. This acts to increase peer to peer learning opportunities between farmers, progression along the Regen Pathway and sharing of good practice.

**Funding type:** Capital
**Price:** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Payment timing:** After each farm walk or visit or meeting

**Contract term (years):** 1
**Maintenance required:** No

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Low
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✗ Land for nature

**Eligibility**
Eligible if you have previously received Innovation Measure funding in the previous three years trades

**Requirements**

- Applicants are advised to discuss possible ideas for this measure with their LENs Supply Aggregator before including it in their proposal.
- Farm walk can take up to half a day, depending on the location, circumstances and the innovation measures being shared.
- Farmers should be able to explore potential progression along the Regen pathway as part of this measure.
- Farm walks should be free, but booked by attendees with the organiser by whichever means they prefer, in order to give an indication of numbers and make contact with people should the event be cancelled.
- The organiser must ensure they are properly insured and have met any other legal requirements for carrying out this activity
- Organisers can arrange to contact LENs farmers from within their own networks (there is a cross over to clusters, but that should not clash with CAP_TTC_002, but should also reach out via their Supply Aggregator and/or regional operator.
- The time of year the walk is intended should be clear within the proposal and the timing be clear as to its relationship with previous innovation measures
- Where you have implemented multiple infield innovation measures you may cover them in one walk, but ensure this is clear in the proposal stage.
- Funding for this measure is focused on tangible costs for the delivery of the walk(s), including costs like catering etc, that might be incurred by the farmer delivering it.

**Preferences**
Where appropriate consider inviting funders of the innovation(s) in question to the walk, but ensure that adequate notice is given and LENs Regional Operator is informed.

**Where to use**
Farms that have had LENs funded innovation measures in the last two years

**What to avoid in implementing:**
Do not: Use this measure to share use of new machinery obtained via capital investment

**Verification (mandatory):**
Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services; Share outcomes from the innovation or trail either via written case study OR presentation at LENs forums in the year following the trial / innovation. Share list of LENs Farmers attending each of the three field days with the LENs regional team within 4 weeks of each field day.

**Verification (where relevant):**
Any regulatory consents or permissions required; Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery. Other verification as agreed and appropriate to the proposal.

## CAP_TTC_004

# Innovative biodiversity monitoring

**Measure rationale**

To support farmers to monitor biodiversity and soil and plant health using tools that provide real farm data evidencing changes in beneficial species abundance over time, linked to changes in land management practices funded by LENs . This data can inform decision making and provide evidence of success of management and habitat creation. Data gives LENs powerful proof and adds insight and real farm examples to reports.

**Funding type:** Capital
**Price:** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Payment timing:** End of year 1

**Contract term (years):** 2
**Maintenance required:** No

**Projected Nature Benefit:** n/a
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✗ Land for nature

**Requirements**

- Apply for a tool that will complement your existing farm surveys and records.
- Inform LENs as to why this tool will be useful on your farm and how it will help your regen journey or improving the biodiversity on your farm.
- Use the tool or device for a minimum of three years and share data with LENs annually (minimum) or when there are results of interest.
- Maintenance/repair of the tool is the responsibility of the farmer.

**Where to use**

All farms eligible

**Verification (mandatory):**

Before and After Photos;  Receipts for bought in goods or services; Verification of the capital item's use and/or maintenance, including photographs of the serial number and in use photos, over entire contract term will be required,  annually. Share outcomes from the innovation or trial either via written case study OR presentation at LENs forums in the year following the trial / innovation. The outcomes from the proposal will be assessed and finalised by the LENs team and MRV partner; the proposal will then be subject to the verification requirements for those outcomes.

**Verification (where relevant):**

Any regulatory consents or permissions required; Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery.

## CAP_WQM_001

# New watercourse fencing

**Measure rationale**

Fencing off watercourses prevents access from grazing animals such as cattle and sheep, which can improve water quality through reducing contamination of the watercourse from faecal matter and degradation of banks. Improved aquatic habitat and bankside vegetation will provide benefits to biodiversity.

**Funding type:** Capital
**Price:** £7 / m
**Payment timing:** Upfront with Maintenance for following years

**Contract term (years):** 5
**Maintenance required:** Yes

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Medium
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✓ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✗ Land for nature

**Requirements**

- Applicants must check whether their proposal requires any additional requirements/specs/approvals, for example from Environment Agency, if the watercourse classed as a 'main river'
- Use softwood timber that is fully peeled, coated with wood preservative and pressure treated, or treated with an approved preservative.
- Untreated durable timber (including split chestnut) can be used as set out in the Forestry Commission guide to forest fencing.
- For sheep fencing - ensure that the fencing is properly secured and straining posts are used throughout to ensure it's stock proof. In addition use sheep netting plus a galvanised or barbed top wire where additional height is required.
- For barbed wire/galvanised steel - use sufficient strands to control livestock/prevent access, use straining posts at regular intervals to ensure the fence remains secure and stock proof.
- Make sure that all the materials meet the relevant British Standards - examine copies of the most up-to-date standards for guidance
- Fences should be at least 2m away from the watercourse.

**Where to use**

Grassland fields adjacent to a watercourse. Or arable reversion adjacent to a watercourse.

**What to avoid in implementing:**

In implementing this measure, do not:
Attach the fence to trees or hedgerows.
Block or restrict access to Public Rights of Way or open access land.

**Verification (mandatory):**

Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services;

**Verification (where relevant):**

Any regulatory consents or permissions required;
Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery.

# CAP_WQM_002
# Installation of pipe culverts where field gateways or farm tracks cross water courses

**Measure rationale**
Building new (or repairing existing) watercourse crossings to provide access for farm machinery helps to reduce disturbance to the watercourse, which in turn will help reduce sedimentation and conserve water quality.

**Funding type:** Capital
**Price:** £376 / m
**Payment timing:** Upfront with Maintenance for following years

**Contract term (years):** 1
**Maintenance required:** No

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Low
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✓ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✗ Land for nature

**Eligibility**
Eligible only in specific water catchments - please check with your supply aggregator

**Requirements**

- Install a concrete pipe at least 450mm in diameter (or suitably sized for the typical flow of the watercourse or ditch) following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Ensure that pipes have a positive joint to preserve alignment.
- Make sure that the pipe lengths give a useable width at ground level that is appropriate for the traffic using the crossing:
  - minimum width of 4m for wheeled traffic
  - less than 4m acceptable for livestock, footpaths and bridleways
- Set the pipes on a firm bed and in true alignment.
- Make sure that the pipe gradient approximates to that of the ditch bed.
- Make sure that the pipe invert (the level of the inside bottom of the pipe) at the upstream end is fractionally below the bottom of the true ditch bed.
- Grade the ditch bed downstream if any deepening is needed to accommodate the culvert.
- Maintain the culvert for the duration of the agreement, removing debris that builds up so as to maintain flow.
- Applicants are responsible for ensuring the culvert does not collapse.

**Where to use**
In gateways or along tracks that cross a permanent watercourse (including field ditches)
This item can be used to replace an existing culvert structure if it is not functioning as intended

**What to avoid in implementing:**
In implementing this measure, do not carry it out:

- Where it may damage an environmental, historical or archaeological feature
- Where it will restrict the movement of migratory fish or eels
- Without relevant advice or consents from the Environment Agency (EA) or flood defence consenting authority

In addition, do not:

- place any resulting spoil on environmental, historic or archaeological features.

**Verification (mandatory):**
Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services;

**Verification (where relevant):**
Any regulatory consents or permissions required;

## CAP_WQM_003

# Resurfacing of gateways

**Measure rationale**
Repairing and resurfacing gateways improves field access, which helps to reduce water accumulation, surface runoff, soil erosion, reduce sedimentation and protects water quality.

**Funding type:** Capital
**Price:** £137 / item
**Payment timing:** Upfront with Maintenance for following years

**Contract term (years):** 1
**Maintenance required:** No

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Low
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✓ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✗ Land for nature

**Eligibility**
Eligible only in specific water catchments - please check with your supply aggregator

**Requirements**

- Excavate the full width of the gateway by the full length at which the gate opens into the field when it is at 90 degrees.
- Excavate to a minimum depth of 150mm or until there is a naturally occurring hard surface.
- Remove the excavated soil from the gateway area and spread it on the verges of the field track, allowing for drainage.
- Overlay the excavated area with a geotextile membrane, then fill with aggregate (hard core) to a minimum consolidated depth of 150mm.
- All capital works carried out must meet the relevant British Standards - examine copies of the most up-to-date standards for guidance.

**Where to use**
Gateways near to a permanent watercourse, including ditches draining down to main watercourses.Only where gateways are in flow pathways and ponding and/or erosion is evident in the gateway.

**What to avoid in implementing:**
In implementing this measure, do not carry it out:

- Where there are archaeological or historic features.
- Where a public right of way passes through the gateway without relevant advice or consent from the Highways Authority.

In addition do not:

- spread the excavated soil on any environmental or historic features.

**Verification (mandatory):**
Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services;

**Verification (where relevant):**
Any regulatory consents or permissions required;

## CAP_WQM_004

# Install surface cross drains on farm tracks

**Measure rationale**
Surface cross drains intercept and conduct surface runoff away from farm tracks and yards, reducing the channelling of surface runoff and the risk of sediment and other pollution entering a watercourse.

**Funding type:** Capital
**Price:** £750 / item
**Payment timing:** Upfront with Maintenance for following years

**Contract term (years):** 1
**Maintenance required:** No

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Medium
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✗ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✓ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✗ Land for nature

**Eligibility**
Eligible only in specific water catchments - please check with your supply aggregator

**Requirements**

- Position the cross drain so it catches the water on the uphill side of the track or yard and transfers it to an outfall where it will not cause new erosion or runoff issues.
- Redirect water from the cross drain to a stable drainage outlet such as a ditch, culvert or other outfall - low flows can be directed to a field or field margin.
- Construct the drain either by digging a partially covered channel to collect sediment and redirect surface water, or by constructing a low hump to direct surface flows.
- Maintain drains and drainage outfalls or the areas around humps by removing built-up sediment or other clogging materials.
- Either construct an open channel:
  - excavate a channel across the width of the track or in a yard to a depth of at least 100 mm and 100-250mm wide
  - line the channel with concrete and install a gridded top that must be at least 150mm wide.
- Or construct a raised hump:
  - excavate a foundation trench across the track or yard to a depth of at least 300mm
  - fill it with concrete
- key in kerbstones across the trench so they protrude 60 - 100mm above the surrounding surface.

**Where to use**
On new or existing farm tracks
Where a farm track is acting as a conduit for water runoff or pollution

**What to avoid in implementing:**
To manage or redirect heavily polluted effluents and slurries
On farm access roads/lanes
In implementing this measure, do not

- direct any runoff towards any biodiversity, historic or archaeological features or damage them in any other way.
- allow polluted water from drains to reach a watercourse or pond.

Redirect any heavily polluted effluents and slurries
Impede farm access roads/lanes

**Verification (mandatory):**
Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services;

**Verification (where relevant):**
Any regulatory consents or permissions required;

## INV

# Farmer Innovation: In-field open proposals

**Measure rationale**

To support farmer-led innovation & ideas for sustainable in-field measures that help to address significant on-farm or pre farmgate challenges and opportunities. Proposals should ideally focus on improving sustainability, resilience, productivity and net zero ambitions, as well as progressing along the Regen Pathway.

This item has been designed for maximum flexibility and invites applicants to suggest other in-field options not already listed in this guide. Innovative proposals, for example enhanced land practices, machine learning, drones, precision tools and IoT devices, are all welcome, as are proposals which demonstrate best practice and the sharing of learning about regenerative / sustainable land management. Trials which involve multiple measures can be included in this option.

**Funding type:** Innovation
**Price:** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Payment timing:** End of year 1 with Maintenance if required
**Contract term (years):** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Maintenance required:** Flexible (farmer selected)

**Projected Nature Benefit:** n/a
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Requirements**

- Applicants are advised to discuss possible ideas for this measure with their LENs Supply Aggregator before including it in their proposal.
- Applicants are encouraged to seek advice from an environmental consultant, agronomist or regenerative agriculture specialist before submitting a proposal under this option.
- Applicants may wish to consider involving or engaging a suitable representative from a technology provider before submitting a proposal under this option.
- Applicants should consider practicality, safety and security before proposing to trial any form of new technology in a practical in-field setting.
- Applicants should enter a name and description of the proposal into NatureBid.
- Applicants must submit a one or two page outline of the proposal through NatureBid using the Supporting Document Upload function, stating what the proposal is, how it works, which outcomes are addressed, where and how, and timing of delivery. A cost breakdown, percent of costs requested, and any maintenance plans (if relevant) should be included. Choice of any particular make or model of equipment should be explained.
- This supporting document will be included as part of the legal contract.

**Eligibility**

Proposals must not repeat or be too similar to existing measures offered elsewhere in this guideline. Or be measures that you are otherwise ineligible for.

**Where to use**

As appropriate. Please define in your Supporting Document.

**What to avoid in implementing:**

This measure should not replicate measures that already exist in your region, whether you are eligible or not.

**Verification (mandatory):**

Before and After Photos;  Receipts for bought in goods or services; Share Intended outcomes from the innovation or trail either via written case study OR presentation at LENs forums in the year following the trial / innovation. The outcomes from the proposal will be assessed and finalised by the LENs team and MRV partner; the proposal will then be subject to the verification requirements for those outcomes.

**Verification (where relevant):**

Any regulatory consents or permissions required; Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery. Other verification as agreed and appropriate to the proposal.

## INV

# Farmer Innovation: Capital open proposals

**Measure rationale**

To support farmer-led innovation & ideas for capital and/or infrastructure items that help to address significant on-farm or pre farmgate challenges and opportunities. Proposals should ideally focus on improving sustainability, resilience, productivity and net zero ambitions, as well as progressing along the Regen Pathway. This item has been designed for maximum flexibility and invites applicants to suggest other capital and/or infrastructure items not already listed in this guide, in the knowledge that the Demand Partners are likely to focus on funding innovations and technologies that lead to reducing carbon emissions, evidencing biodiversity improvements, improving farm sustainability, crop and farm resilience and productivity. Trials which involve multiple measures can be included in this option with the outcomes clearly shown in the supporting information.

**Funding type:** Innovation
**Price:** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Payment timing:** Upfront with Maintenance for following years
**Contract term (years):** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Maintenance required:** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Projected Nature Benefit:** n/a
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Requirements**

- Applicants are advised to discuss possible ideas for this measure with their LENs Supply Aggregator before including it in their proposal.
- Applicants are encouraged to seek advice from an environmental consultant, agronomist or regenerative agriculture specialist before submitting a proposal under this option.
- Applicants should enter a name and description of the proposal into NatureBid.
- Applicants must submit a one or two page outline of the proposal through NatureBid using the Supporting Document Upload function, stating what the proposal is, how it works, which outcomes are addressed, where and how, and timing of delivery. A cost breakdown, percent of costs requested and any maintenance plans (if relevant) should be included. Choice of any particular make or model of equipment should be explained.
- This supporting document will be included as part of the legal contract.
- If the proposal is accepted, applicants will generally need to provide 3 quotes for the capital item, and justification for the particular make/model of capital item and supplier.
- Depending on the value of the proposal, the applicant may procure the item on a finance basis.
- Applicants must clearly demonstrate in their proposal how the measure assists in their progress along the Regen Pathway.

**Eligibility**

Proposals must not repeat or be too similar to existing measures offered elsewhere in this guideline. Or be measures that you are otherwise ineligible for.

**Where to use**

As appropriate. Please define in your Supporting Document.

**What to avoid in implementing:**

This measure should not replicate measures that already exist in your region, whether you are eligible or not.

**Verification (mandatory):**

Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services; Verification of the capital item's use and/or maintenance, including photographs of the serial number and in use photos, over entire contract term will be required, annually. Share Intended outcomes from the innovation or trail either via written case study OR presentation at LENs forums in the year following the trial / innovation. The outcomes from the proposal will be assessed and finalised by the LENs team and MRV partner; the proposal will then be subject to the verification requirements for those outcomes.

**Verification (where relevant):**

Any regulatory consents or permissions required; Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery. Other verification as agreed and appropriate to the proposal.

## INV

# Farmer Innovation: In-field measures for wheat crops

**Measure rationale**

To support farmer-led innovation and ideas for sustainable in-field measures that help to address significant on-farm or pre farmgate challenges and opportunities. Proposals should ideally focus on improving sustainability, resilience, productivity and net zero ambitions, as well as progressing along the Resilience Pathway.

This item has been designed for maximum flexibility and invites applicants to suggest other in-field options not already listed in this guide that are specifically targeted at wheat crops.

The proposed innovations should not be similar to any other measure already listed in this guideline.

**Funding type:** Innovation
**Price:** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Payment timing:** End of year 1 with Maintenance if required
**Contract term (years):** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Maintenance required:** Flexible (farmer selected)

**Projected Nature Benefit:** n/a
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Requirements**

- Applicants are advised to discuss possible ideas for this measure with their LENs Supply Aggregator before including it in their proposal.
- Applicants are encouraged to seek advice from an environmental consultant, agronomist or regenerative agriculture specialist before submitting a proposal under this option.
- Applicants may wish to consider involving or engaging a suitable representative from a technology provider before submitting a proposal under this option.
- Applicants should consider practicality, safety and security before proposing to trial any form of new technology in a practical in-field setting.
- Applicants should enter a name and description of the proposal into NatureBid.
- Applicants must submit a one or two page outline of the proposal through NatureBid using the Supporting Document Upload function, stating what the proposal is, how it works, which outcomes are addressed, where and how, and timing of delivery. A cost breakdown, percent of costs requested, and any maintenance plans (if relevant) should be included. Choice of any particular make or model of equipment should be explained.
- This supporting document will be included as part of the legal contract.

**Where to use**

As appropriate. Please define in your Supporting Document.

**What to avoid in implementing:**

This measure should not replicate measures that already exist in your region, whether you are eligible or not.

**Verification (mandatory):**

Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services; Share outcomes from the innovation or trail either via written case study OR presentation at LENs forums in the year following the trial / innovation. The outcomes from the proposal will be assessed and finalised by the LENs team and MRV partner; the proposal will then be subject to the verification requirements for those outcomes.

**Verification (where relevant):**

Any regulatory consents or permissions required; Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery. Other verification as agreed and appropriate to the proposal.

LENs LANDSCAPE ENTERPRISE NETWORKS

## INV

# Farmer Innovation: Capital measures for wheat crops

**Measure rationale**

The measure is to support farmer-lead innovation & ideas that specifically relate to:
Reduced use of synthetic nitrogen that are sustainable and requiring the acquisition of capital items;
and/or any activity in other aspects of growing Wheat that will reduce GHG gas emissions requiring the acquisition of capital items;
Willingness to share any learnings from this process with other growers, ideally from within LENs
The proposed innovations should not be similar to any other measure already listed in this guideline.

**Funding type:** Innovation
**Price:** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Payment timing:** Upfront with Maintenance for following years

**Contract term (years):** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Maintenance required:** Flexible (farmer selected)

**Projected Nature Benefit:** n/a
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Requirements**

- Applicants are advised to discuss possible ideas for this measure with their LENs Supply Aggregator before including it in their proposal.
- Applicants are encouraged to seek advice from an environmental consultant, agronomist or regenerative agriculture specialist before submitting a proposal under this option.
- Applicants should enter a name and description of the proposal into NatureBid.
- Applicants must submit a one or two page outline of the proposal through NatureBid using the Supporting Document Upload function, stating what the proposal is, how it works, which outcomes are addressed, where and how, and timing of delivery. A cost breakdown, percent of costs requested and any maintenance plans (if relevant) should be included. Choice of any particular make or model of equipment should be explained.
- This supporting document will be included as part of the legal contract.
- If the proposal is accepted, applicants will generally need to provide 3 quotes for the capital item, and justification for the particular make/model of capital item and supplier.
- Depending on the value of the proposal, the applicant may procure the item on a finance basis.
- Applicants must clearly demonstrate in their proposal how the measure assists in their progress along the Regen Pathway.

**Where to use**

As appropriate. Please define in your Supporting Document.

**What to avoid in implementing:**

This measure should not replicate measures that already exist in your region, whether you are eligible or not.

**Verification (mandatory):**

Before and After Photos;  Receipts for bought in goods or services; Verification of the capital item's use and/or maintenance, including photographs of the serial number and in use photos, over entire contract term will be required, annually. Share outcomes from the innovation or trail either via written case study OR presentation at LENs forums in the year following the trial / innovation. The outcomes from the proposal will be assessed and finalised by the LENs team and MRV partner; the proposal will then be subject to the verification requirements for those outcomes.

**Verification (where relevant):**

Any regulatory consents or permissions required; Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery. Other verification as agreed and appropriate to the proposal.

## INV

# Farmer Innovation: In-field measures for sugar beet

**Measure rationale**

The measure is to support farmer-lead innovation and ideas that specifically relate to:
Reduced use of synthetic nitrogen that are sustainable;
Activity in other aspects of growing Sugar Beet that will reduce GHG gas emissions;
Willingness to share any learnings from this process with other growers, ideally from within LENs

The proposed innovations should not be similar to any other measure already listed in this guideline.

**Funding type:** Innovation
**Price:** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Payment timing:** End of year 1 with Maintenance if required

**Contract term (years):** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Maintenance required:** Flexible (farmer selected)

**Projected Nature Benefit:** n/a
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Requirements**

- Applicants are advised to discuss possible ideas for this measure with their LENs Supply Aggregator before including it in their proposal.
- Applicants are encouraged to seek advice from an environmental consultant, agronomist or regenerative agriculture specialist before submitting a proposal under this option.
- Applicants may wish to consider involving or engaging a suitable representative from a technology provider before submitting a proposal under this option.
- Applicants should consider practicality, safety and security before proposing to trial any form of new technology in a practical in-field setting.
- Applicants should enter a name and description of the proposal into NatureBid.
- Applicants must submit a one or two page outline of the proposal through NatureBid using the Supporting Document Upload function, stating what the proposal is, how it works, which outcomes are addressed, where and how, and timing of delivery. A cost breakdown, percent of costs requested, and any maintenance plans (if relevant) should be included. Choice of any particular make or model of equipment should be explained.
- This supporting document will be included as part of the legal contract.

**Where to use**

As appropriate. Please define in your Supporting Document.

**What to avoid in implementing:**

This measure should not replicate measures that already exist in your region, whether you are eligible or not.

**Verification (mandatory):**

Before and After Photos;  Receipts for bought in goods or services; Share outcomes from the innovation or trail either via written case study OR presentation at LENs forums in the year following the trial / innovation. The outcomes from the proposal will be assessed and finalised by the LENs team and MRV partner; the proposal will then be subject to the verification requirements for those outcomes.

**Verification (where relevant):**

Any regulatory consents or permissions required; Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery. Other verification as agreed and appropriate to the proposal.

## INV

# Farmer Innovation: Capital measures for sugar beet

**Measure rationale**

To support farmer-led innovation and ideas for capital and/or infrastructure items that help to address significant on-farm or pre farmgate challenges and opportunities. Proposals should ideally (but not exclusively) focus on improving sustainability, resilience, productivity and net zero ambitions, or progression along the Regen Pathway. This item has been designed for maximum flexibility and invites applicants to suggest other capital and/or infrastructure items not already listed in this guide that are specifically targeted at wheat crops.

Innovative proposals are welcomed and encouraged, as are proposals which demonstrate the sharing of learning about regenerative land management practices. Trials which involve multiple measures can be included in this option. See information about trials in the introduction section.

The proposed innovations should not be similar to any other measure already listed in this guideline.

**Funding type:** Innovation
**Price:** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Payment timing:** Upfront with Maintenance for following years
**Contract term (years):** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Maintenance required:** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Projected Nature Benefit:** n/a
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Requirements**

- Applicants are advised to discuss possible ideas for this measure with their LENs Supply Aggregator before including it in their proposal.
- Applicants are encouraged to seek advice from an environmental consultant, agronomist or regenerative agriculture specialist before submitting a proposal under this option.
- Applicants should enter a name and description of the proposal into NatureBid.
- Applicants must submit a one or two page outline of the proposal through NatureBid using the Supporting Document Upload function, stating what the proposal is, how it works, which outcomes are addressed, where and how, and timing of delivery. A cost breakdown, percent of costs requested and any maintenance plans (if relevant) should be included. Choice of any particular make or model of equipment should be explained.
- This supporting document will be included as part of the legal contract.
- If the proposal is accepted, applicants will generally need to provide 3 quotes for the capital item, and justification for the particular make/model of capital item and supplier.
- Depending on the value of the proposal, the applicant may procure the item on a finance basis.
- Applicants must clearly demonstrate in their proposal how the measure assists in their progress along the Resilience Pathway.

**Where to use**

As appropriate. Please define in your Supporting Document.

**What to avoid in implementing:**

This measure should not replicate measures that already exist in your region, whether you are eligible or not.

**Verification (mandatory):**

Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services; Verification of the capital item's use and/or maintenance, including photographs of the serial number and in use photos, over entire contract term will be required, annually. Share outcomes from the innovation or trail either via written case study OR presentation at LENs forums in the year following the trial / innovation. The outcomes from the proposal will be assessed and finalised by the LENs team and MRV partner; the proposal will then be subject to the verification requirements for those outcomes.

**Verification (where relevant):**

Any regulatory consents or permissions required; Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery. Other verification as agreed and appropriate to the proposal.

## INV_AGR_001

# Farmer Innovation: Agroforestry

**Measure rationale**

To support farmer-led innovation & ideas for capital and/or infrastructure items that help to address significant on-farm or pre farmgate challenges and opportunities. Proposals should ideally (but not exclusively) focus on improving sustainability, resilience, productivity and net zero ambitions, or progression along the Resilience Pathway.

This item has been designed for maximum flexibility and invites applicants to suggest other capital and/or infrastructure items not already listed in this guide. Innovative proposals are welcomed and encouraged, as are proposals which demonstrate the sharing of learning about regenerative land management practices. Trials which involve multiple measures can be included in this option. See information about trials in the introduction section.

In this particular case, agroforestry is a land management system combining trees or shrubs with crops or livestock. It can enhance farm productivity, increase wildlife, improve soil health and reduce flood risks, whilst also contributing to climate mitigation.

There are multiple types of agroforestry (silvopastoral, silvoarable, home gardens). Note that hedgerows and buffer strips are also forms of agroforestry - and have their dedicated measures page elsewhere in this guideline. LENs encourages applicants to submit proposals for agroforestry - as it provides multiple beneficial outcomes.

**Funding type:** Innovation
**Price:** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Payment timing:** Upfront with Maintenance for following years

**Requirements**

- Applicants are advised to discuss possible ideas for this measure with their LENs Supply Aggregator before including it in their proposal.
- Applicants are encouraged to seek advice from an environmental consultant, agronomist or regenerative agriculture specialist before submitting a proposal under this option.
- Applicants should enter a name and description of the proposal into NatureBid.
- Applicants must submit a one or two page outline of the proposal through NatureBid using the Supporting Document Upload function, stating what the proposal is, how it works, which outcomes are addressed, where and how, and timing of delivery. A cost breakdown, percent of costs requested and any maintenance plans (if relevant) should be included. Choice of any particular make or model of equipment should be explained.
- This supporting document will be included as part of the legal contract.
- If the proposal is accepted, applicants will generally need to provide 3 quotes for the capital item, and justification for the particular make/model of capital item and supplier.
- Depending on the value of the proposal, the applicant may procure the item on a finance basis.

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Medium
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** Medium
**Contract term (years):** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Maintenance required:** Flexible (farmer selected)

**Supports Resilience Pathway Criteria:**

- ✓ Maximise crop diversity
- ✗ Keep soil covered
- ✗ Use cover crops
- ✗ Minimise soil disturbance
- ✗ Reduce use of synthetic inputs
- ✓ Land for nature

**Verification (mandatory):**

Before and After Photos; Receipts for bought in goods or services; Verification of the capital item's use and/or maintenance, including photographs of the serial number and in use photos, over entire contract term will be required, annually. Share Intended outcomes from the innovation or trail either via written case study OR presentation at LENs forums in the year following the trial / innovation. The outcomes from the proposal will be assessed and finalised by the LENs team and MRV partner; the proposal will then be subject to the verification requirements for those outcomes.

**Verification (where relevant):**

Any regulatory consents or permissions required; Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery. Other verification as agreed and appropriate to the proposal. LENs may monitor this feature beyond the length of the contract to check item remains permanent. This is in line with GHG accounting standards.

# INV
# Farmer Innovation: Capital investment in innovative nutrient management

**Measure rationale**
This measure is to support the transition to Variable Rate Application of Fertiliser, in a way maybe either complient or extent existing farm technologies where possible, or as part of overall transition along the Regen Pathway, which may require entirely new kit.
Use a recognised precision farming technology (e.g. Variable Rate Application) to ensure fertiliser is placed close to plant seeds and roots.
Applicants are required to submit supporting documentation outlining the placement/precision technology and technique proposed for approval by the demand parties.
**Funding type:** Innovation
**Price:** Up to 60% of costs
**Payment timing:** Upfront with Maintenance for following years
**Contract term (years):** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Maintenance required:** Flexible (farmer selected)

**Projected Nature Benefit:** n/a
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**Requirements**
With regard to Capital item acquisition:

- LENs will fund upto 60% of the capital items purchase cost, this may be covered in the upfront cost (year 1 - implementation cost) or it can be spread across the whole term of the measure, or a year 1 Implementation cost followed by maintenance of the item in the successive years. However, either way, each successive year of the contract following implementation must have a value against it that does not inflate the overall price.
- Applicants must prove that they have sourced at least 3 competitive quotes for the item.
- Applicants must prove that none of the items to be funded by the application are replacements covered by an insurance claim.
- Applicants must not use lease or hire purchase to buy any of the items in the application, as the business must own the items outright. Finance arrangements are permitted.
- Second hand is preferred when viable.
- Applicants must maintain accurate records of all money spent.
- Keep appropriate records of such expenditure in the form of receipts, invoices and bank statements, as appropriate.
- Applicants must clearly state the expected maintenance price per year and ensure that it's divided equally across the years of the contract

**Where to use**
Arable and horticultural land, vegetable fields and also orchards.

**What to avoid in implementing:**
Where you already own technology to do this and are looking to upgrade

**Verification (mandatory):**
Before and After Photos;  Receipts for bought in goods or services; Verification of the capital item's use and/or maintenance, including photographs of the serial number and in use photos, over entire contract term will be required,  annually. Share outcomes from the innovation or trail either via written case study OR presentation at LENs forums in the year following the trial / innovation. The outcomes from the proposal will be assessed and finalised by the LENs team and MRV partner; the proposal will then be subject to the verification requirements for those outcomes.

**Verification (where relevant):**
Any regulatory consents or permissions required; Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery. Other verification as agreed and appropriate to the proposal.

# INV_RUS_001
# Farmer Innovation: Pesticide (herbicide, insecticide, fungicide) reduction approaches (1 of 2)

**Measure rationale**

The adoption of 'Integrated Weed Management' (IWM) in order to ensure a more sustainable weed management approach. This process involves integrating different methods (preventive, mechanical, biological and monitoring) to manage as many weeds as possible. Each method adapted to the type of weed and type of crop and applied usually in combination, at specific times during the life cycle of the crop. The compilation or 'stacking' of all the available techniques can be seen as a pyramid where each layer provides a list of methods that can be applied for weed management, where chemical control is used only as a last resort if all other methods have failed.

The practices of IWM can be divided into four parts:
- Preventive and cultural agronomic practices (measures taken to reduce overall weed germination)
- Monitoring (observation and identification of weeds throughout the process)
- Physical control of weeds (mechanical, thermal), if necessary
- Biological control

**Measure rationale (continued)**

The importance and effectiveness of the different methods depends to a large extent on the weed species and environmental or climatic conditions. The term "cultural control" refers to any method used to maintain field conditions so that weeds are less likely to become established and/or increase in number, or to strengthen the crops and facilitate them in competing with the weeds.

This measure seeks to encourage any innovative approaches towards this that result in a reduction of pesticide across the whole suite of methods available or development of new ones.

**Funding type:** Innovation
**Price:** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Payment timing:** End of year 1 with Maintenance if required

**Contract term (years):** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Maintenance required:** Flexible (farmer selected)

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Low
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** Variable

**Requirements**

- Applicants are advised to discuss ideas for this measure with their LENs Supply Aggregator before including it in their proposal.
- Applicants are encouraged to seek advice from an environmental consultant, agronomist or regenerative agriculture specialist.
- Applicants may wish to consider involving or engaging a suitable representative for any innovations that require new technology provider before submitting a proposal under this option (use of new technology is not specifically required, but is flagged here as part of the guidance)
- Applicants should consider practicality, safety and security before proposing to trial any form of new technology in a practical in-field setting.
- Applicants should enter a name and description of the proposal into NatureBid.
- Applicants must submit a one or two page outline of the proposal through NatureBid using the Supporting Document Upload function, stating what the proposal is, how it works, which outcomes are addressed, where and how, and timing of delivery. A cost breakdown, percentage of costs requested, and any maintenance plans (if relevant) should be included. Choice of any particular make or model of equipment should be explained.
- This supporting document will be included as part of the legal contract.

# INV_RUS_001
## Farmer Innovation: Pesticide (herbicide, insecticide, fungicide) reduction approaches (2 of 2)

**Where to use**
Arable and horticultural land, vegetable fields and also orchards.

**Verification (mandatory):**
Before and After Photos;  Receipts for bought in goods or services; Share outcomes from the innovation or trail either via written case study OR presentation at LENs forums in the year following the trial / innovation. The outcomes from the proposal will be assessed and finalised by the LENs team and MRV partner; the proposal will then be subject to the verification requirements for those outcomes. Evidence of reduction in pesticide / herbicide application in comparison to previous years

**Verification (where relevant):**
Any regulatory consents or permissions required; Other verification as agreed and appropriate to the proposal.

# INV_WQM_001
# Farmer Innovation: Water quality, water resource or Natural Flood Management (1 of 2)

**Measure rationale**

To support farmer-led innovation and ideas for capital and/or infrastructure items that help to address significant on-farm or pre farmgate challenges and opportunities within this area of interest.

Proposals should ideally focus on improving water quality, natural flood management within the target catchments (see Where), and should consider innovating around:

- nutrient use efficiency,
- reduction in sediment loss to water course ,
- improved water retention across the landscape
- continued development along the Regen Pathway with a specific water focus,
- reconnecting floodplains,
- creation of flood meadows
- Other channel improvements similar to the above

**Funding type:** Innovation
**Price:** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Payment timing:** Upfront with Maintenance for following years

**Contract term (years):** Flexible (farmer selected)
**Maintenance required:** Flexible (farmer selected)

**Requirements**

- Applicants are advised to discuss ideas for this measure with their LENs Supply Aggregator before including it in their proposal, as well as engaging with their local Rivers Trust or similar interest group.
- Applicants should include this in their planning and costing for this measure, feasibility studies if they have not already been carried out ahead of this proposal going into LENs.
- Applicants are encouraged to seek advice from an environmental consultant, hydrologist, agronomist or regenerative agriculture specialist (as appropriate to the nature of the proposal)
- Applicants should enter a name and description of the proposal into NatureBid.
- Applicants must submit a one or two page outline of the proposal through NatureBid using the Supporting Document Upload function, stating what the proposal is, how it works, which outcomes are addressed, where and how, and timing of delivery. A cost breakdown, percentage of costs requested, and any maintenance plans (if relevant) should be included. Choice of any particular make or model of equipment should be explained.
- This supporting document will be included as part of the legal contract.

**Where to use**

Usually catchment based, this innovation is keen to hear from farmers within the following geographies: Any measures within 5km of the chalk stream within the surface water body shapefiles, which improve water retention, soil infiltration, prevent sediment/ nutrient/soil losses, improve the ecology and flows of water courses and implement natural flood management.

For all of these catchments, please use NatureBid to help confirm your geography.

# INV_WQM_001

## Farmer Innovation: Water quality, water resource or Natural Flood Management

(2 of 2)

**Projected Nature Benefit:** Low
**Projected Carbon Outcomes:** n/a

**What to avoid in implementing:**

In implementing this measure, do not carry it out:

- Where it may damage an environmental, historical or archaeological feature
- Where it will restrict the movement of migratory fish or eels
- Without relevant advice or consents from the Environment Agency (EA) or flood defence consenting authority or Internal Drainage Board.

**In addition, do not:**

place any resulting spoil on environmental, historic or archaeological features.

**Verification (mandatory):**

Before and After Photos;  Receipts for bought in goods or services; Share outcomes from the innovation or trial either via written case study OR presentation at LENs forums in the year following the trial / innovation. The outcomes from the proposal will be assessed and finalised by the LENs team and MRV partner; the proposal will then be subject to the verification requirements for those outcomes.

**Verification (where relevant):**

Any regulatory consents or permissions required; Evidence of additional advice being sought for measure delivery. Other verification as agreed and appropriate to the proposal.

# Annex

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# Resilience Pathway clarifications (1 of 2)

## Maximising crop diversity

Treat these as the **main arable crop groups**. Over 3 years, a field must include at least three different groups: winter cereals (by species), spring cereals (by species), oilseeds, pulses/legumes for harvest, roots/tubers, harvested maize/forage, temporary grass/clover leys (one group).
Cover crops are excluded from this count.

**Whole-farm %** = area of fields meeting criteria ÷ total arable area.

**Re-drills/failures:** If replaced in the same season, count the final established harvested crop; if left fallow, count as fallow.

**Intercropping/mixed crops:** If two or more crops are grown together and harvested/used as a mixture, count as 1 crop type.

## Keep soil covered

**Covered** = soil protected by living vegetation or maintained surface cover that materially reduces erosion.
**Not covered** = bare cultivated soil (ploughed, cultivated, or drilled with no established crop).

**Timing**
A field meets the requirement if it is “covered” for ≥304 days (10 months) between 1st September 2026 – 31st August 2027
Practical proxy accepted: record establishment date and termination/harvest date, plus any bare-soil cultivation windows.

## Use cover crops

**Cover crop** = All the plants with living roots on the ground that are not the main cash crop during this year of production - including cover crops, grain legumes, undersown crops, catch crops, herbal leys (in rotation), companion cropping and intercropping.

Multi-species is encouraged but not mandatory.

Cover crops may be grazed and still count, provided: soil is not damaged (no significant poaching), and some protective cover remains until the next crop establishes.

## Minimise soil disturbance (1/2)

**Minimum tillage =** Establishment and primary soil movement operations on that field in that scheme year must not exceed 15 cm working depth across the majority of the field.
Qualifying systems can include direct drill, shallow disc/tine cultivation, shallow strip-till where disturbed depth is <15 cm.
**Non-qualifying operations**
Ploughing, inversion tillage, or routine deep cultivation/loosening >15 cm as part of the normal establishment system for that year, or any system where >70% of crop residue is incorporated

# Resilience Pathway clarifications (2 of 2)

## Minimise soil disturbance (2/2)

**Pragmatic allowance**

- Allow one strategic remediation pass to address severe compaction at depth, or where black grass population is severely affecting yields. This is permitted once per field in a 5 year period where justified by compaction evidence (e.g., spade test/penetrometer notes, poor drainage symptoms) or evidence of 100-500 plants per m2 of black grass and where the weed is outcompeting crops.
- If used, a record of intervention is required to include: agronomic justification, date, implement and working depth, photos before and after, rationale, and steps taken and planned to prevent recurrence ( controlled traffic farming, cover crops, drainage, fallow). This report should be submitted to LENs as part of the MRV process.
- Where possible use deep rooting cover crops/herbal leys to break compaction. Where deeper tillage or inversion tillage is actioned it should be followed with a diverse cover crop and soil amendment to fast track recovery of the soil biome.
- Mole drainage is permitted.

## Reduce use of synthetic inputs

Legal compliance is a condition of participation. By selecting “compliant” you confirm you meet the legal baseline; any incidents are handled by the regulator. If you can't confirm compliance from harvest 26 to harvest 27, you’re not eligible for LENs funding.

### Integrated Nutrient Management

A core requirement is adherence to **The Farming Rules for Water**, also known as ‘The Reduction and Prevention of Agricultural Diffuse Pollution (England) Regulations 2018’ which serve as the regulatory baseline for safeguarding soil health and aquatic biodiversity.
To complement this, we require the implementation of **robust nutrient management plans** designed to systematically phase down synthetic reliance, alongside regular soil testing on land receiving inputs. You can view DEFRA’s guidance on Nutrient Management Plans here.

### Integrated Pest Management

Adherence to **The Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012** is mandatory to mitigate the impacts of pesticides on human health and the environment. You can view the IPM Management Tool here.
In addition, we expect participants to be well-versed in the UK Pesticides National Action Plan (NAP) 2025. While the NAP targets a 10% reduction in pesticide load by 2030, LENs is committed to surpassing this benchmark through more ambitious actions and support.

## Land for nature

Biodiversity is a core target within the pathway because healthy farm habitats support pollinators, natural pest predators, soil function and water quality, and can reduce reliance on synthetic inputs over time. The targets below are designed to be achievable within UK farm systems while providing a clear progression ladder.

UK schemes such as SFI support biodiversity through a suite of habitat and management actions (e.g., flower-rich margins, pollen and nectar mixes, buffer strips, bird food, legume fallow, grass corners/blocks and watercourse measures). National SFI statistics show these “land out of production” style actions collectively cover around 3-4% of utilised agricultural area, so a pathway that starts at 1–2% and sets 6% as a leading level is proportionate and ambitious.

Natural assets may include: hedges, woodland, trees, dry stone walls, ponds, herbal leys, permanent pasture, fallow land, pollinator strips.

# Contracts & Obligations

## Applicant Responsibilities

Responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:

- Compliance with all relevant legislation in relation to implementation or maintenance of measures. This includes, but not limited to, health and safety at work, environmental permitting and disposal of contaminated waste legislation.
- Avoiding damage to existing features of wildlife value, such as priority habitat.
- Obtaining necessary licences, consents or planning permission as required.
- Maintaining measures in a functional state for the term of the measure, ensuring that it continues to meet the specification given.
- Allowing access to the representatives from the Supply Aggregator, LENs or MRV provider, for monitoring and verification purposes upon reasonable notice and provide data as required for these purposes.
- Ensuring that contracts are legally transferred to the new occupier if the land is sold or tenanted - you should seek support from your designated contact in doing this.
- Review and consent to the LENs data privacy policy, provided in the annex to this document
- Agree within reason to feature in case studies and provide photos

## Permits & Consents

Applicants are responsible for securing any consents or permissions required prior to undertaking capital and/or infrastructure works, and before doing so, applicants should also refer to any listed Permits and Consents in the measures chapter.

## How long do agreements last

Contracts last for as long as the longest measure implementation timeframe and final MRV visit . Each measure may have a different ‘term’ or duration. The Technical measures Guidance section details the term length for each measure. In general, measures will be agreed for 1, 2, 3, 5 or 10 years. Where capital or infrastructure items are agreed as part of a measure, works must complete within 12 months of the date of the agreement.

## Changes to agreements

We understand that circumstances can change - best laid plans are often subject to weather, climate extremes and market price fluctuations. Therefore, we encourage you to adapt your plans and LENs measures (location, hectarage etc) where it makes sense to your farm business. If you wish to amend your LENs measures contained in your signed agreement, please check with your regional operators who will advise on what we can accept, to not invalidate your contract and ensure you still qualify for payment.

# Payment Terms and Process

## Implementation and Maintenance costs

For all measures, the first year 'implementation cost' covers the cost of initial implementation of the measure and any upkeep in that first year.

Applicants selecting measures which include follow-on maintenance or annual repeat will be committing to maintaining the measure in an operational, effective and beneficial state, or repeating the measures each year, for the course of the contract term. Those multi year measures may split the cost across the total years of the contract equally or be a lesser amount after the Implementation year.

## Payment terms

Payment windows will be open Quarterly, and your ability to claim in that Quarter will be based on the Quarter and Year stated in Schedule 2 of your agreement, which in turn is set at application. The payment guidance in the measures indicate when this might be, and for example: 1 year measures are claimed at the end of that year, after the crop of interest has been harvested.

## Resilience Payments

Resilience payment claims are managed directly after the MRV visit, so you do not need to submit a separate claim. Further detail will be set out in the Resilience Payment Guidance, due May 2026.

Verification will be based on evidence that the land management practices have been carried out and meet the criteria for the relevant Resilience Pathway level. This evidence will be checked and verified by third parties during the MRV visit.

The agreement will specify the crop type, projected hectares, and the farm property name. These details will be confirmed by the MRV auditor during the visit. The farmer will also need to provide data as part of the standard MRV process.

**How long after the MRV visit will payment be issued?**

Our aim is to issue payment within 90 days of the visit. We recognise that prompt payment matters, and we aim to be clear about timelines and to pay on time.

**What happens if the farmer doesn't reach the Resilience Pathway level applied for?**

If you apply for Leading and reach Advanced, you will be paid at the Advanced level, consistent with Trade 2025. Other variations will be confirmed in the updated Verification Guidance, due May 2026.

## Submitting payment claims

Your payment claim should include before and after photos and receipts for goods and services bought as a minimum, but may include more, depending on the measure.

Details of required evidence for each measure is specified in the measures section of this handbook.

You should submit your payment claim and evidence to mary.lodwig@the-lens.co by email unless an alternative platform is in place for digital submissions.

**At the time of contracting we will provide an update to this guidance should there be any changes.**

# Data Protection & Privacy

To uphold the highest standards in farm data governance, we have signed up to the **Farm Data Principles** certification scheme, whereby data is not accessed or stored without explicit opt-in permission, we share data where appropriate,  we keep data safe and we are clear about the value and benefit of data sharing (as in our data privacy and agreements with farmers and funders)

Upon application, you will be asked to provide consent to the LENs privacy policy and data policies from third parties we work with.

For details of the LENs privacy policy please visit our website:

https://landscapeenterprisenetworks.com/data-policy-for-farmers/

FARM DATA PRINCIPLES