

Soil Protection Review 2010



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**Please note that you do not have to return your completed SPR to RPA or Defra.
You must keep your completed SPR on farm. You will be asked to show this to an Inspector on an inspection.**

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Introduction

What is the Cross Compliance Soil Protection Review?

The purpose of the Soil Protection Review (SPR) is to tackle degradation threats to soil. When soil is lost or damaged through compaction, erosion or loss of organic matter it becomes less productive. It can also have a significant impact on water quality and aquatic ecosystems, contribute to localised flooding from increased runoff, and cause problems such as soil on roads. In addition, the majority of carbon lost from soils by erosion will eventually be released to the atmosphere and contribute to climate change.

Selecting and carrying out all appropriate measures to tackle soil degradation threats will help prevent these problems.

Anyone who receives support under the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) or certain schemes under the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) must meet the Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAEC) standards for soil management and protection, as well as all the other relevant standards that are set out in *The Guide to Cross Compliance in England*. This includes new entrants to the SPS and/or RDPE Schemes such as Entry Level Stewardship (ELS).

This revised SPR incorporates all four soil Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAEC) which were previously applicable to soil:

- Soil Protection Review (GAEC 1)
- Post-harvest management of land (GAEC 2)
- Waterlogged Soil (GAEC 3)
- Crop residue burning restrictions (GAEC 4).

The Soil Protection Review (GAEC 1) now includes sections on post-harvest management of land and waterlogged soil. The crop residue burning restrictions (The Crop Residues (Burning) Regulations 1993, Statutory Instrument 1993 No. 1366) still apply. You may burn broken straw bales and the residues of other minor crops.

Further information on these can be found in *The Guide to Cross Compliance in England, Cross Compliance Guidance for Soil Management 2010 edition* (referred to throughout as the Guidance) and *Single Payment Scheme Management of Habitats and Landscape Features: Guidance for Cross Compliance in England*.

The SPR 2010 asks you to:

- identify and record current and potential problems with your soil;
- assess and record soil types and degradation risks on your land;
- select and take appropriate measures to prevent and/or remediate any problems and risks;
- review these risks and measures each year and reconsider as appropriate.

You are also asked to:

- record access to waterlogged land and actions taken to remediate the damage when required (Part 4);
- select and take appropriate post harvest measures (Part 5);
- adhere to the Crop Residues (Burning) Regulations 1993.

Finally, you are encouraged to complete an optional section (Part 6) on buffer strips for water resource protection.

Soil Protection Review (SPR) Instructions

Soil Protection Review (SPR) Instructions

All SPS and certain RDPE scheme agreement holders must complete an SPR as part of their Cross Compliance requirements.

This SPR must be completed by 31 December 2010, or by 31 December of the first year you have claimed, to cover all of the agricultural land on your holding. A SPR is not necessary if your holding is less than one hectare. This will include GAEC 12 land (agricultural land which is not in agricultural production) and any land not used for agricultural activities. Commons (unless no one else exercises a right of common on the land) are exempt from this review.

You must start completing Part 4 – Access to Waterlogged Land – from 1 January 2010 or from 1 January of the first year you claim.

You are required to carry out an annual review by 31 December each year.

You must also update your SPR during the year, as soon as it is practicable, if it becomes clear that the measures you chose are not working, if you add additional land to your holding or if management systems or cropping practices change.

- You must take all reasonable steps to implement the measures identified in your SPR.
- You must retain both your pre-2010 SPR (including all annual review sheets) and this SPR and have them available for inspection. If you are inspected during 2010, the inspector will also check that you have implemented any measures in your pre-2010 SPR if you were required to complete an SPR prior to 2010. You do not have to return your SPR to the RPA or Defra.

- If you prefer to complete your SPR online, you may use the Whole Farm Approach (WFA) interactive version at www.wholefarm.defra.gov.uk. If you complete the SPR via WFA you do not have to complete a paper copy as well. You will also find an Excel version of the SPR on the RPA website at www.rpa.gov.uk/crosscompliance. Alternatively you may complete the SPR in a similar format, such as a spreadsheet. If you choose to do this you must provide the same information as required in the SPR.
- Claimants, particularly those with multiple holdings, may wish to produce separate SPRs for individual farms. If you choose to produce a single SPR you will need to show that it covers all the agricultural land on each holding.
- You must complete your SPR in accordance with the instructions it contains and the *Cross Compliance Guidance for Soil Management 2010 edition* (referred to as the Guidance). For more details on SPR requirements, please see *The Guide to Cross Compliance in England*. For more information on the Verifiable Standards for assessing by RPA inspectors, please see the RPA website at www.rpa.gov.uk/crosscompliance.
- If any bodies such as Network Rail, utility companies or the Ministry of Defence, have statutory right of access to your land, you should note any soil issues resulting from this in the comments box at the end of the SPR (Page 49).

Instructions on completing your SPR

More detailed instructions are provided throughout this document to help you as you complete your SPR template, but you should also refer to the Guidance for further advice. You need to complete a number of sections:

Part 1 – Farm Details

Please enter your farm details as indicated and sign.

Part 2 – Soil Risk Record

STEP ONE

You first need to identify the soil issues that you find on your land (ticking the ones that apply from Table A) and take them into consideration when selecting soil protection measures for your Farm Soil Plan (Table C).

STEP TWO

You then need to complete your Soil Risk Record (on a map, Table B or other appropriate format) to show the soil issues, soil types and high, medium and low risks on your farm.

Part 3 – Farm Soil Plan

Once you have your soil issues and risks recorded in your Soil Risk Record you should take these into consideration when completing your Farm Soil Plan. Please use the Farm Soil Plan (Table C) to record the varying land uses on your holding and what soil protection measures you will be carrying out.

Part 4 – Access to Waterlogged Land

You no longer need permission from Defra before you can access waterlogged soil. However, you must now record any activity on waterlogged land to carry out mechanical field operations such as harvesting crops or using a motorised vehicle, except where:

- the area of waterlogged soil is within 20 metres of a gateway or another access point; or
- access is required to an area of land that is not waterlogged, or
- the area is an established track to land that is not waterlogged.

You must record this access as soon as possible after the event (using Table D).

Part 5 – Post-Harvest Management

To complete this section, you must select and implement at least one post-harvest option following the harvesting of certain combinable crops, in order to protect the soil from runoff after harvest.

Part 6 – Optional Section on buffer strips next to watercourses

There are now optional questions on your use of buffer strips next to watercourses. These are intended to provide Defra with information on the take-up and use of buffer strips for water protection and you are strongly encouraged to complete the questions.

Soil Protection Review (SPR) Instructions

Reviewing and updating your SPR

You need to carry out an annual review by 31 December each year. The sorts of things you should look out for when deciding whether your SPR has been effective, and which may require new measures to be adopted, include.

- problems you may have had with soil erosion, compaction and retaining soil organic matter;
- ruts and compaction caused by machinery when the soil was wet but not waterlogged;
- loss of crop due to compacted soil;
- areas that have standing water;

- water erosion, especially down tramlines;
- soil that has been deposited onto roads or water courses;
- wind blown soil that has damaged crops.

Please note, this is a list of examples to consider and is not a comprehensive checklist. For further advice please refer to the Guidance.

You must also update your SPR during the year, as soon as it is practicable, if it becomes clear that the measures you chose are not working, if you add additional land to your holding or if management systems or cropping practices change. You must take all reasonable steps to implement the measures which you have identified in your SPR.



compacted stubbles



poor seedbeds where the soil is compacted or capped



wheelings (following harvest or on tramlines, or created when feeding stock)



compacted grassland (e.g. where the soil is poached by out-wintering stock)

Soil Protection Review (SPR)

PART 1 – Farm Details – please enter your farm details as indicated below and sign.

Farm Name and Address:

CPH Number:

Single Business Identifier (SBI):

Farm size (ha):

Person preparing this review:

Position:

Person(s) responsible for implementing actions resulting from this review, if different from the above person:

Signature:

- **The Soil Protection Review must be completed and updated by 31 December 2010 or by 31 December of the first year you have claimed, if that is a subsequent year. You must start completing Part 4 – Access to Waterlogged Land – from 1 January 2010 or from 1 January of the first year you have claimed, if that is a subsequent year.**
- **It is for you to keep this document on farm and review. You will be asked to show this to an Inspector on an inspection.**

Soil Protection Review (SPR)

PART 2 – Soil Risk Record

This section is for recording soil issues and types on your farm.
It is in two stages:

- Step 1. Think about all of the land in your holding(s) and consider the soil issues you may have. Then fill in Table A by ticking the issues that apply.
- Step 2. Having identified your soil issues in table A, the next step is to complete a Soil Risk Record.

STEP ONE: Please complete the Soil Risk Table (Table A) for your land

	Tick (✓) as appropriate	
	Yes	No
If the problem exists you should answer yes, even if your current management is dealing with it satisfactorily.		
Compaction due to cultivations and mechanical damage		
Runoff or water erosion from arable land		
Runoff or water erosion from grassland		
Poaching of soil by livestock		
Low soil organic matter – as indicated by soils that cap and slump easily or are difficult to cultivate		
Waterlogging		
Wind Erosion		
Please add here any other soil issues you wish specifically to include:		

STEP TWO: Completing the Soil Risk Record

You need to complete a Soil Risk Record to identify and record the soil types and risks on all of your land. You will need to ensure that every field on your holding(s) is covered.

There are two suggested options for completing your Soil Risk Record, either:

- creating a *Soil Risk Map* to reflect dominant soil types for each field on your holding(s) by marking the map using the Soil Risk Classification Key (see example overleaf). You must use a printed or published map, not a hand drawn one. A map of your land is available on the Whole Farm Approach (WFA) website (under your CPH) for you to print.

OR:

- completing the *Soil Risk Table* (Table B, see example on page 13) to list the risk ratings for each field on your farm.

You may wish to use another appropriate format, but this must capture all of the relevant information about your soil types and risks. *You only need to use ONE method of recording your soil risk.*

Based on the risk of potential problems for different soil types, a *baseline risk rating* has been set for each. However, reflecting your review of soil issues on your farm (Table A) and your knowledge of the site conditions and locations of your fields, you may wish to classify your field(s) as a higher risk rating.

To note that this risk is drawn up on the basis of soil type, but if soil is washed or blown from the field, it is important to be aware of the direction of soil flow and the risk to sensitive sites such as habitats, watercourses, roads and property.

To help you with this part of the Soil Risk Record, you should refer to the Soil Risk Matrix in the Guidance, and may also like to consider the Environment Agency's ThinkSoils manual (see Useful Contacts, page 50).

SOIL RISK CLASSIFICATION KEY:

HIGH – High risk

MOD – Moderate risk

LOW – Low risk

S – Sandy and light silty

H – Heavy

P – Peaty

M – Medium

C – Chalk and limestone

SANDY AND LIGHT SILTY = High risk (HIGH)

HEAVY = High risk (HIGH)

PEATY = High Risk (HIGH)

MEDIUM = Moderate risk (MOD)

(unless you choose to classify your field(s) as High risk)

CHALK AND LIMESTONE = Low risk (LOW)

(unless you choose to classify your field(s) as Moderate or High risk)

REMEMBER – you must ensure that every field on your holding(s) is covered in the Soil Risk Record.

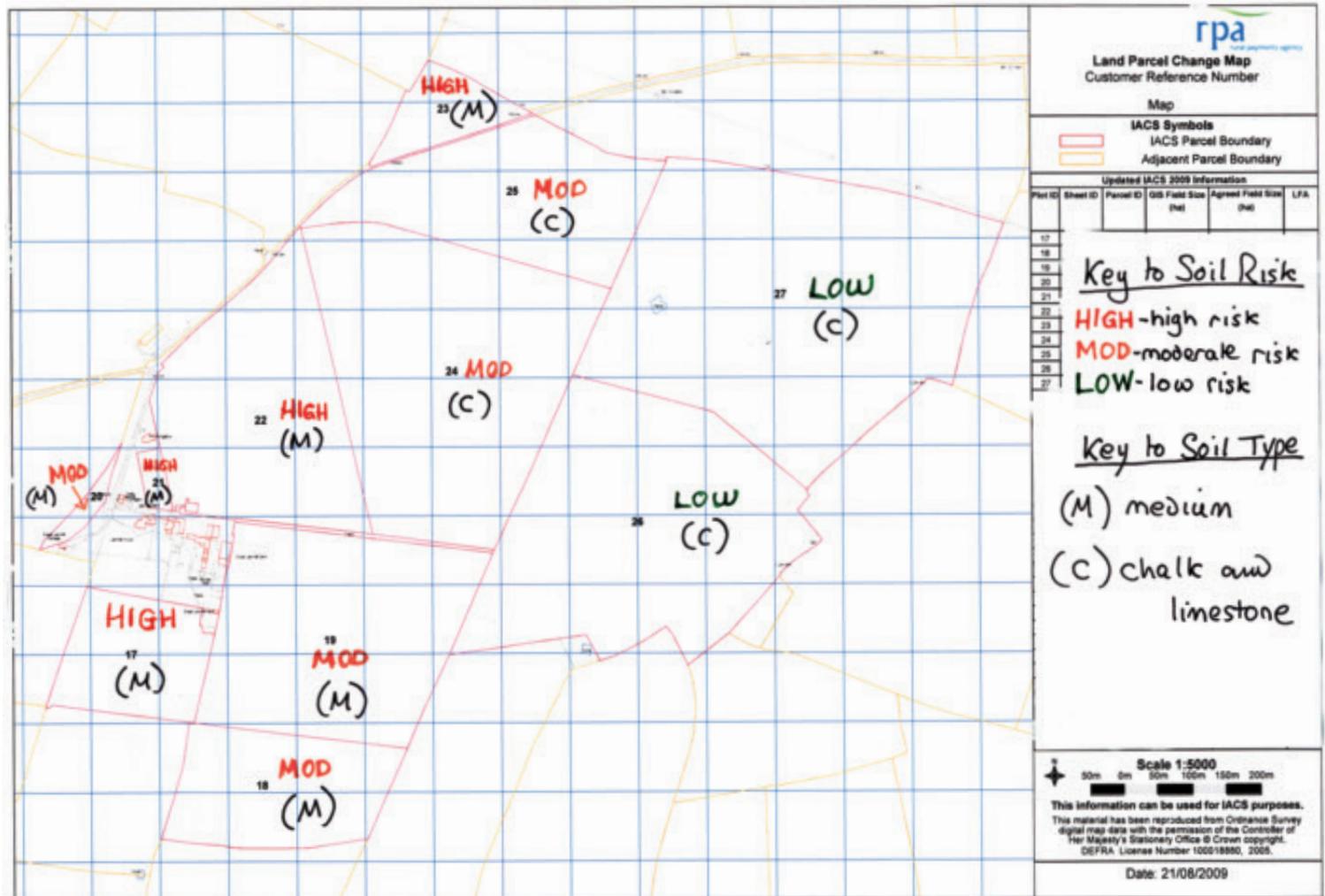
REMEMBER – you must update your Soil Risk Record if you transfer land, or if the level of risk in any field changes.

Soil Protection Review (SPR)

- If you are using a map and are classifying any chalk and limestone soil fields as High or Moderate risk and/or any medium soil fields as High risk, please explain the reasons why on the map.

Example of a Soil Risk Map

REMEMBER – if you choose to use a Soil Risk Map like this you do not need to complete a Soil Risk Table (Table B).



Example of the Soil Risk Table (Table B)

Rather than using a map, you may prefer to use a table like this.

Soil Type	Risk Rating	List field numbers under relevant soil types and risk ratings. The baseline risk rating should be used unless a higher rating is justified. In this case, please explain in the relevant box the reasons for the higher rating.	Examples of degradation threats likely to be relevant for your soil type(s). Please refer to Table A and the Soil Risk Matrix in the Guidance.
Sandy and light silty	HIGH	TR 1234 3390/3391/3392	Compaction, runoff or water erosion, soil organic matter loss, wind erosion.
Heavy	HIGH		Compaction, poaching, runoff, waterlogging.
Peaty	HIGH	TR 1234 6767	Compaction, runoff or water erosion, poaching, soil organic matter loss, waterlogging, wind erosion.
Medium	HIGH	<p><i>If classifying any medium soil fields as high risk, please explain reasons why (e.g. field's position in relation to watercourse, SSSI, road or property, or other factors):</i></p> <p>TR 1234 1212 field steeply slopes toward the road, history of soil on the road</p> <p>TR 1234 2235 field adjacent to SSSI</p> <p>TR 1234 4526 field used as car park for farm shop in summer months leading to widespread compaction</p>	Compaction, runoff or water erosion, poaching, waterlogging.
	MODERATE	<p>TR1234 8879</p> <p>TR1334 5656</p>	
Chalk and limestone	HIGH	<p><i>If classifying any chalk and limestone soil fields as high risk, please explain reasons why (e.g. field's position in relation to watercourse, SSSI, road or property, or other factors):</i></p> <p>TR 1234 1400 field slopes steeply towards the river, runoff regular problem</p>	Compaction (surface), runoff or water erosion, wind erosion.
	MODERATE	<p><i>If classifying any chalk and limestone soil fields as moderate risk, please explain reasons why (e.g. field's position in relation to watercourse, SSSI, road or property, or other factors):</i></p> <p>TR 1234 4321 field slopes steeply towards village, problems with soil in neighbouring properties experienced regularly</p> <p>TR 1234 5678 field at top of exposed hill, particular problems with wind erosion</p>	
	LOW	TR 1234 6126/6986/6586	

Soil Protection Review (SPR)

Please complete the Soil Risk Table (Table B) for your land

- If you are classifying any chalk and limestone soil fields as High or Moderate risk and/or any medium soil fields as High risk, please explain the reasons why on the table.

Soil Type	Risk rating	List field numbers under relevant soil types and risk ratings. The baseline risk rating should be used unless a higher risk rating is justified. In this case, please explain in the relevant box the reasons for the higher rating.	Examples of degradation threats likely to be relevant for your soil type(s). Please refer to Table A and the Soil Risk Matrix in the Guidance.
Sandy and light silty	HIGH		Compaction, runoff or water erosion, soil organic matter loss, wind erosion.
Heavy	HIGH		Compaction, poaching, runoff, waterlogging.
Peaty	HIGH		Compaction, runoff or water erosion, poaching, soil organic matter loss, waterlogging, wind erosion.
Medium	HIGH		Compaction, runoff or water erosion, poaching, soil organic matter loss, waterlogging.
	MODERATE		

Soil Protection Review (SPR)

Table B – Soil Risk Table (cont.)

Chalk and limestone	HIGH		Compaction (surface), runoff or water erosion, wind erosion.
	MODERATE		
	LOW		

Soil Protection Review (SPR)

PART 3 – Farm Soil Plan

Once you have your soil risks and issues recorded, please use the Farm Soil Plan (Table C) to choose relevant measures that are best suited to you and help you tackle the issues that you identified in Table A. The tick list next to the measures offers guidance on how they can help to reduce the potential soil problem. **High risk soils and activities will require more measures than Moderate and Low risk soils and activities.**

To complete your Farm Soil Plan:

- 1 Select the page for your farm activity – in the example provided it is Improved Grassland (including equine);
- 2 Select the risk levels for your land (High, Moderate or Low) in accordance with the soil risk ratings that you have identified in your Soil Risk Record;
- 3 Consult the first column to see how many measures you must select for this type of land;

Normally you are required to take one measure on Moderate risk land and two measures on High risk land.

- If you are carrying out a Low risk activity (e.g. Improved Grassland) on Low risk land you are not required to carry out any measures.
- However, if you are carrying out a High risk activity, you must take one measure on Low risk land and one extra measure on High and Moderate land. High risk activities are: Potatoes, Sugar Beet, Salad Crops, Vegetables and Bulbs, Maize, Polytunnels, Outdoor pigs, Short Rotational Coppice, Miscanthus and Rhizome Production or Other Land Use Types.

- 4 Select the appropriate number of land use measures from the relevant farm activity page taking account of the soil issues and risks that you have identified in your Soil Risk Record.

You may choose one soil protection measure that is not listed (Other), but must explain this clearly on your Farm Soil Plan and say what this measure is intended to achieve.

You may wish to carry out additional and optional measures, over and above the requirements of the SPR, and may therefore record this in your Farm Soil Plan for completeness and to monitor their effectiveness.

- 5 Write the code for each measure into Table C with a note of the issues they are intended to address.

Reviewing and updating your SPR – from 1 January 2011, and for each year thereafter, your SPR must be updated as appropriate throughout the year, and completed by 31 December.

Throughout the year you must:

- record any new land bought or rented into the holding, or land given up;
- any measures that you are changing because existing ones are not working;
- what measures you will take if and when you change your present farm system (for example by growing different crops), adopting a different cultivation regime or changing your stock management practices or any other soil protection matter that needs immediate action.

By the end of the year you should record:

- any sign of new soil degradation risk or existing issues getting worse;
- any additional measures and actions you may need to adopt; and
- any blocks of land that may need different management in future.

Soil Protection Review (SPR)

REMEMBER – where measures are taken to address compaction (as indicated by an asterisk* in the Farm Soil Plan, Table C), care must be taken to minimise damage to archaeological remains, particularly where there is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (GAEC 7). This can be done by altering the depth of cultivation around the remains and/or considering reverting the land back to grassland – financial assistance through Environmental Stewardship could help with this.

REMEMBER – at all times, you must adhere to the Crop Residues (Burning) Regulations 1993.

Example of Farm Soil Plan: for Improved Grassland (including equine)

Farm Operation	2011 Annual Review	2012 Annual Review	2013 Annual Review
<p>Choose appropriate measures from the Land Use Measures list. Record using the code and brief statement.</p> <p>High Risk Land</p> <p>1) I7 Remove livestock when fields are wet to prevent poaching</p> <p>2) I1 Maintain drainage</p> <p>Additional measure(s) (optional)</p> <p>I3 Fence off streams/add drinking bay in fields 5546 and 5578 using Higher Level Stewardship</p>	<p>Did the management options help address the issues – were they effective? If not, what will you change?</p> <p>1) This has worked well and is worth continuing.</p> <p>2) Mole drain fields to reinstate field drainage.</p> <p>Has helped – need more stone on drinking bay</p>		
<p>Moderate Risk Land</p> <p>1) I5 Regularly move ring feeders</p> <p>Additional measure(s) (optional)</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>1) This has worked well and is worth continuing.</p>		
<p>Low Risk Land</p> <p>Measure(s) (optional)</p> <p>Have planted native shelterbelts for livestock and to reduce wind erosion.</p>	<p>Beginning to work well.</p>		

Soil Protection Review (SPR) – Cereals, Combinable Crops, Grass Seed

Farm Operation Choose appropriate measures from the Land Use Measures. Record using the relevant code and brief statement.	2011 Annual Review Did the management options help address the issues – were they effective? If not, what will you change?	2012 Annual Review	2013 Annual Review
High Risk Land 1) 2) Additional measure(s) (optional)			
Moderate Risk Land 1) Additional measure(s) (optional)			
Low Risk Land Measure(s) (optional)			

Soil Protection Review (SPR)

Soil Guidance Code	Land Use Measures	Benefits of this Measure					
	Cereals, Combinable Crops, Grass Seed	Relieves compaction*	Relieves runoff and erosion	Prevents poaching	Improves soil organic matter levels	Reduces waterlogging	Reduces wind erosion
A1	Maintain land drainage. Heavy and medium soils that are regularly cultivated often require land drainage to increase opportunities for working the land without damage.		✓			✓	
A2	Where organic matter is low, apply bulky organic manures, compost or digestates.		✓		✓		✓
A3	Where organic matter is low, introduce grass leys into the rotation.		✓		✓		✓
A4	Where organic matter is low, introduce cover crops into the rotation.		✓		✓		✓
A5	Drill autumn sown crops early on soils vulnerable to capping and slumping, drill autumn-sown cereals early to ensure a good cover and leave a coarse seedbed.		✓				✓
A6	For winter cereals in particular, avoid a very fine, smooth seedbed. A coarse seedbed is less likely to form a cap that will lead to runoff.		✓				✓
A7	Where it is safe and practical, sow crops and establish tramlines across the slope. If possible, do not use tramlines until the spring.		✓				
A8	Minimum tillage and direct drilling techniques used.	✓	✓		✓		✓
A9	Where shallow cultivation is carried out, care is needed to prevent soil compaction* near the soil surface. Sandy and silty soils benefit from regular loosening.	✓	✓			✓	
A10	Before establishing the following crop, remove compaction* by loosening the topsoil or subsoiling where necessary, particularly along old tramlines and on headlands.	✓	✓			✓	
A11	Other – please state:						

Soil Protection Review (SPR) – Potatoes, Sugar Beet, Salad Crops, Vegetables and Bulbs

Farm Operation Choose appropriate measures from the Land Use Measures. Record using the relevant code and brief statement.	2011 Annual Review Did the management options help address the issues – were they effective? If not, what will you change?	2012 Annual Review	2013 Annual Review
High Risk Land 1) 2) 3) Additional measure(s) (optional)			
Moderate Risk Land 1) 2) Additional measure(s) (optional)			
Low Risk Land 1) Additional measure(s) (optional)			

Soil Protection Review (SPR)

Soil Guidance Code	Land Use Measures	Benefits of this Measure				
	Potatoes, Sugar beet, Salad crops, Vegetables and Bulbs	Relieves compaction*	Relieves runoff and erosion	Improves soil organic matter levels	Reduces waterlogging	Reduces wind erosion
B1	Maintain land drainage. Heavy and medium soils that are regularly cultivated often require land drainage to increase opportunities for working the land without damage.		✓		✓	
B2	Avoid planting on slopes in a way that channels runoff and erosion and/or divide long slopes into smaller units by planting some ridges (beetlebanks) and grass strips across the slope (where safe or practical to do so).		✓			✓
B3	On light soils leave the seedbed as coarse as possible (for example, by drilling directly into furrow pressed land or into loosened cereal stubble).		✓			✓
B4	On intensively cropped soils where organic matter is low, apply bulky organic manures, composts or digestates.		✓	✓		✓
B5	On intensively cropped soils where organic matter is low, introduce grass leys into the rotation.		✓	✓		✓
B6	On intensively cropped soils where organic matter is low, introduce green manures into the rotation.		✓	✓		✓
B7	Cultivate headlands and gateways to remove compaction* following planting*.	✓	✓			
B8	Cultivate and plant across the slope where safe to do so.		✓			
B9	Use tied ridges and dykes in furrow bottoms to improve infiltration and improve runoff.		✓			✓
B10	Use nurse crops or planted straw to prevent windblow on sandy and peaty soils.		✓	✓		✓

Soil Protection Review (SPR)

Soil Guidance Code	Land Use Measures	Benefits of this Measure				
	Potatoes, Sugar beet, Salad crops, Vegetables and Bulbs	Relieves compaction*	Relieves runoff and erosion	Improves soil organic matter levels	Reduces waterlogging	Reduces wind erosion
B11	On fields that are vulnerable to compaction*, runoff and soil erosion, choose early maturing varieties to allow an early harvest.		✓			
B12	Use modular transplants to stabilise the soil.		✓			✓
B13	Site plastic mulch carefully so as to avoid direct runoff into watercourses and roads.		✓			
B14	To prevent capping/sealing of the soil and runoff, ensure irrigation is uniform, rates are not too high and droplet sizes too big.	✓	✓		✓	
B15	Cultivate the soil as soon as conditions are suitable after harvest, to remove wheelings and compaction*.	✓	✓		✓	
B16	Following harvest, sow the next crop within 10 days of having been prepared as a seedbed where weather conditions allow.		✓	✓		✓
B17	Rough plough sandy and silty soils following harvest to produce a cloddy coarse surface that is less likely to cap and slump.	✓	✓		✓	✓
B18	Other – please state:					

Soil Protection Review (SPR)

To note that this page has intentionally been left blank.

Soil Protection Review (SPR) – Maize and Forage Crops

Farm Operation Choose appropriate measures from the Land Use Measures. Record using the relevant code and brief statement.	2011 Annual Review Did the management options help address the issues – were they effective? If not, what will you change?	2012 Annual Review	2013 Annual Review
High Risk Land 1) 2) (3 – for maize) Additional measure(s) (optional)			
Moderate Risk Land 1) (2 – for maize) Additional measure(s) (optional)			
Low Risk Land (1 – for maize) Additional measure(s) (optional)			

Soil Protection Review (SPR)

Soil Guidance Code	Land Use Measures	Benefits of this measure					
	Maize and Forage Crops	Relieves compaction*	Relieves runoff and erosion	Prevents poaching	Improves soil organic matter levels	Reduces waterlogging	Reduces wind erosion
C1	Maintain land drainage. Heavy and medium soils that are regularly cultivated often require land drainage to increase opportunities for working the land without damage.		✓			✓	
C2	On fields that are vulnerable to compaction*, runoff and soil erosion, choose early maturing varieties to allow an early harvest.	✓	✓			✓	✓
C3	Undersow maize.		✓		✓		✓
C4	Manage the grazing of forage crops and crop residues to minimise poaching and runoff. This can be done by limiting periods of access, providing run-back areas, strip grazing, cultivating strips across the slope to reduce runoff and by avoiding slopes vulnerable to erosion and runoff.	✓	✓	✓			
C5	Where necessary, cultivate as soon as conditions are suitable after harvest or grazing to remove wheelings and compaction*.	✓	✓			✓	✓
C6	Rough plough sandy and silty soils following harvest to produce a cloddy coarse surface that is less likely to cap and slump.	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
C7	Following harvest, sow the next crop within 10 days of having been prepared as a seedbed where weather conditions allow.		✓	✓		✓	✓
C8	The field is sown with a temporary cover crop throughout winter.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
C9	Other – please state:						

Soil Protection Review (SPR) – Fruit Crops (not under polytunnels); Hops; Vines

Farm Operation Choose appropriate measures from the Land Use Measures. Record using the relevant code and brief statement.	2011 Annual Review Did the management options help address the issues – were they effective? If not, what will you change?	2012 Annual Review	2013 Annual Review
High Risk Land 1) 2) Additional measure(s) (optional)			
Moderate Risk Land 1) Additional measure(s) (optional)			
Low Risk Land Measure(s) (optional)			

Soil Protection Review (SPR)

Soil Guidance Code	Land Use Measures	Benefits of this measure					
	Fruit Crops (not under polytunnels)/Hops/Vines	Relieves compaction*	Relieves runoff and erosion	Prevents poaching	Improves soil organic matter levels	Reduces waterlogging	Reduces wind erosion
D1	Avoid planting in wet conditions.	✓	✓		✓		
D2	Plant across a slope where it is safe and practical to do so.		✓				
D3	Use a mulch or straw to protect the soil between rows.		✓		✓		
D4	Reduce row length by introducing half headlands or trackways so as to minimise excessive travelling during harvesting.		✓		✓		
D5	Allow natural regeneration of vegetation, or establish grass between rows of perennial crops to prevent erosion – reseed if damaged during harvesting once conditions allow.		✓				✓
D6	To prevent capping of the soil and runoff, ensure irrigation is uniform, rates are not too high and droplet size is not too big.	✓	✓			✓	
D7	Remove compaction* between rows using a subsoiler etc.	✓	✓			✓	
D8	Other – please state (e.g. picking trains):						

Soil Protection Review (SPR) – Polytunnels (Field)

Farm Operation Choose appropriate measures from the Land Use Measures. Record using the relevant code and brief statement.	2011 Annual Review Did the management options help address the issues – were they effective? If not, what will you change?	2012 Annual Review	2013 Annual Review
High Risk Land 1) 2) 3) Additional measure(s) (optional)			
Moderate Risk Land 1) 2) Additional measure(s) (optional)			
Low Risk Land 1) Additional measure(s) (optional)			

Soil Protection Review (SPR)

Soil Guidance Code	Land Use Measures	Benefits of this measure					
	Polytunnels (field)	Relieves compaction*	Relieves runoff and erosion	Prevents poaching	Improves soil organic matter levels	Reduces waterlogging	Reduces wind erosion
E1	Construct temporary trackways.	✓	✓			✓	✓
E2	Use of field scale gutter systems to capture runoff.	✓	✓			✓	
E3	Capture runoff from polytunnels and divert away from headlands and travelled areas.	✓	✓			✓	
E4	Minimise runoff from tunnels by collecting into sediment ponds.		✓				
E5	Ensure irrigation is uniform.		✓			✓	
E6	Cover leg row soil with geotextile material or sow with grass or cereals in wider rows after bed making and prior to tunnel skinning.	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
E7	Use mulch or straw to protect between polytunnels.		✓		✓	✓	✓
E8	Shorten row lengths with intermediate ditching to reduce runoff velocity.		✓			✓	
E9	Plant grass buffers of at least 10 metre width to buffer headlands that are not travelled on.		✓				✓
E10	Remove compaction* after polytunnel plastic is removed.	✓	✓			✓	
E11	Other – please state:						

Soil Protection Review (SPR) – Turf Production

Farm Operation Choose appropriate measures from the Land Use Measures. Record using the relevant code and brief statement.	2011 Annual Review Did the management options help address the issues – were they effective? If not, what will you change?	2012 Annual Review	2013 Annual Review
High Risk Land 1) 2) Additional measure(s) (optional)			
Moderate Risk Land 1) Additional measure(s) (optional)			
Low Risk Land Measure(s) (optional)			

Soil Protection Review (SPR)

Soil Guidance Code	Land Use Measures	Benefits of this measure					
	Turf production	Relieves compaction*	Relieves runoff and erosion	Prevents poaching	Improves soil organic matter levels	Reduces waterlogging	Reduces wind erosion
F1	Maintain land drainage to increase opportunities for working the land without damage.		✓			✓	
F2	Avoid planting in wet conditions.	✓	✓			✓	
F3	Drill autumn sown crops early on soils vulnerable to capping and slumping, and to ensure good cover before winter.	✓			✓		✓
F4	Use slurry or irrigation water on seedbeds to prevent windblow on sandy and peaty soils.						✓
F5	Ensure irrigation is uniform, rates are not too high and droplet sizes too big.	✓	✓				
F6	Remove compaction* after turf lifting through subsoiling, ploughing etc.	✓	✓			✓	
F7	Other – please state:						

Soil Protection Review (SPR) – Outdoor Pigs and Poultry

Farm Operation Choose appropriate measures from the Land Use Measures. Record using the relevant code and brief statement.	2011 Annual Review Did the management options help address the issues – were they effective? If not, what will you change?	2012 Annual Review	2013 Annual Review
High Risk Land 1) 2) 3) (Pigs) Additional measure(s) (optional)			
Moderate Risk Land 1) 2) (Pigs) Additional measure(s) (optional)			
Low Risk Land 1) (Pigs) Additional measure(s) (optional)			

Soil Protection Review (SPR)

Soil Guidance Code	Land Use Measures	Benefits of this measure					
	Outdoor Pigs and Poultry	Relieves compaction*	Relieves runoff and erosion	Prevents poaching	Improves soil organic matter levels	Reduces waterlogging	Reduces wind erosion
G1	Employ a BPEX Soil Management Plan.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
G2	Plan and manage paddocks and tracks to avoid channelling of water.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
G3	Ensure field grass cover is well established at least 12 months before the pigs are introduced to the land (i.e. so root structure is well developed and have a good established grass sward before the pigs arrive). Choose deep rooted varieties of grass that are drought resistant.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
G4	Develop a rotation so that pigs and poultry can be moved on to grass and the sward can be maintained.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
G5	Locate grass strips to restrict runoff – it is good practice to establish grass buffers to intercept runoff, but these should be in addition to the points above and must not be relied on to prevent off-site impacts.		✓				
G6	If problems of runoff and erosion occur, move pigs from the area and cultivate as soon as possible.	✓	✓			✓	✓
G7	When the pigs have been moved onto another paddock, loosen the compacted soil or cultivate and reseed as soon as possible.	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
G8	Reduce stocking densities on individual fields.	✓	✓	✓		✓	
G9	Other – please state:						

Soil Protection Review (SPR) – Short Rotational Coppice, Miscanthus and Rhizome Production

Farm Operation Choose appropriate measures from the Land Use Measures. Record using the relevant code and brief statement.	2011 Annual Review Did the management options help address the issues – were they effective? If not, what will you change?	2012 Annual Review	2013 Annual Review
High Risk Land 1) 2) 3) Additional measure(s) (optional)			
Moderate Risk Land 1) 2) Additional measure(s) (optional)			
Low Risk Land 1) Additional measure(s) (optional)			

Soil Protection Review (SPR)

Soil Guidance Code	Land Use Measures	Benefits of this measure					
	Short Rotational Coppice, Miscanthus and Rhizome Production	Relieves compaction*	Relieves runoff and erosion	Prevents poaching	Improves soil organic matter levels	Reduces waterlogging	Reduces wind erosion
H1	When growing particularly for rhizome production, cultivate and plant across the slope where safe to do so.		✓				
H2	Harvest during dry conditions to avoid soil compaction*.	✓	✓		✓	✓	
H3	Avoid harvesting miscanthus before it is mature (early in the season) if this would damage wet soil.	✓	✓		✓	✓	
H4	Use miscanthus as a mulch in gateways if required during harvest.	✓	✓				✓
H5	Use well established tracks when travelling across adjacent fields during harvest.	✓	✓			✓	✓
H6	Following harvest, cultivate or loosen the soil to remove compaction*, paying particular attention to tracks, headlands and gateways.	✓	✓			✓	
H7	When harvesting for rhizome production, cultivate the soil as soon as conditions are suitable after harvest to remove wheelings and compaction*.	✓	✓			✓	
H8	When growing particularly for rhizome production, cultivate and plant across the slope where safe to do so.		✓				
H9	After harvesting rhizomes, sow with the next crop or temporary cover crop.		✓		✓		✓
H10	Other – please state:						

Soil Protection Review (SPR) – Improved Grassland (including equine)

Farm Operation Choose appropriate measures from the Land Use Measures. Record using the relevant code and brief statement.	2011 Annual Review Did the management options help address the issues – were they effective? If not, what will you change?	2012 Annual Review	2013 Annual Review
High Risk Land 1) 2) Additional measure(s) (optional)			
Moderate Risk Land 1) Additional measure(s) (optional)			
Low Risk Land Measure(s) (optional)			

Soil Protection Review (SPR)

Soil Guidance Code	Land Use Measures	Benefits of this measure					
	Improved Grassland (including equine)	Relieves compaction*	Relieves runoff and erosion	Prevents poaching	Improves soil organic matter levels	Reduces waterlogging	Reduces wind erosion
11	Maintain land drainage systems to reduce the risk of damaging soil structure under wet conditions (for example when cutting silage).		✓	✓		✓	
12	Use well drained tracks for vehicles and livestock.	✓	✓	✓		✓	
13	Minimise damage to riverbanks by providing managed access to water for livestock.		✓	✓			
14	Remove sward compaction* through subsoiling with a grass subsoiler, tines or spikes*.	✓	✓			✓	
15	Regularly move ring feeders or place feeders and troughs onto a stone base.	✓	✓	✓		✓	
16	When re-seeding grass, sow early enough to achieve a good cover before winter. Aim to create a coarse seedbed that is less likely to form a cap that will lead to runoff.		✓				✓
17	Remove grazing livestock from the grassland when the soil is too wet and poaching occurs. Ensure there is enough shelter for livestock in areas where the soil is wet for long periods.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
18	If it is necessary to out winter stock, locate any sacrificial fields on freely drained soils and not on fields that will lead to erosion. Cultivate and reseed in the spring to remove any compaction*.	✓	✓	✓		✓	
19	Other – please state:						

Soil Protection Review (SPR) – Natural and Semi-natural Grassland and Vegetation (including equine)

Farm Operation Choose appropriate measures from the Land Use Measures. Record using the relevant code and brief statement.	2011 Annual Review Did the management options help address the issues – were they effective? If not, what will you change?	2012 Annual Review	2013 Annual Review
High Risk Land 1) 2) Additional measure(s) (optional)			
Moderate Risk Land 1) Additional measure(s) (optional)			
Low Risk Land Measure(s) (optional)			

Soil Protection Review (SPR)

Soil Guidance Code	Land Use Measures	Benefits of this measure					
	Natural and Semi-natural Grassland and Vegetation (including equine)	Relieves compaction*	Relieves runoff and erosion	Prevents poaching	Improves soil organic matter levels	Reduces waterlogging	Reduces wind erosion
J1	Adjust stocking rates to ensure that overgrazing does not result in loss of vegetation cover (GAEC 9).	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
J2	Shepherd the stock to prevent overgrazing in localised areas.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
J3	Install and maintain tracks to minimise runoff.		✓	✓		✓	
J4	Minimise the need for vehicle use and use low ground pressure machinery when conditions require, keeping to established tracks and paths as far as possible.	✓	✓		✓	✓	
J5	Undertake all supplementary feeding on ground away from sensitive vegetation and move the feeding sites as necessary to avoid breaking the soil cover, keep supplementary feeding away from watercourses. See also GAEC 9.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
J6	Avoid burning on blanket bog and deep peat where erosion can be serious. You must also meet the requirements relating to heather and grass burning (GAEC 10), and if your land lies within a Site of Special Scientific Interest you must also take account of GAEC 6.		✓	✓	✓		✓
J7	Avoid leaving bare soil during bracken management on sites with a risk of erosion.		✓		✓		✓
J8	Minimise damage to riverbanks by providing managed access to water for livestock.		✓	✓			
J9	Other – please state:						

Soil Protection Review (SPR) – Other Land Use Types e.g. Flowers (not bulbs), Herbs, Nurseries, Pharmaceutical Crops, etc.

Farm Operation Choose appropriate measures from any of the Land Use Measures. Record using the relevant code and brief statement.	2011 Annual Review Did the management options help address the issues – were they effective? If not, what will you change?	2012 Annual Review	2013 Annual Review
High Risk Land 1) 2) 3) Additional measure(s) (optional)			
Moderate Risk Land 1) 2) Additional measure(s) (optional)			
Low Risk Land 1) Additional measure(s) (optional)			

Soil Protection Review (SPR)

Soil Guidance Code	Land Use Measures	Benefits of this measure					
	Other Land Use Types e.g. Flowers (not bulbs), Herbs, Nurseries, Pharmaceutical Crops, etc.	Relieves compaction*	Relieves runoff and erosion	Prevents poaching	Improves soil organic matter levels	Reduces waterlogging	Reduces wind erosion
K1	Maintain land drainage systems to reduce the risk of damaging soil structure under wet conditions.		✓	✓		✓	
K2	Avoid planting in wet conditions.	✓	✓		✓	✓	
K3	Avoid planting on slopes in a way that channels runoff and erosion and/or divide long slopes into smaller units by planting some ridges (beetlebanks) and grass strips across the slope (where safe or practical to do so).		✓				
K4	Increase organic matter.		✓		✓		✓
K5	On intensively cropped soils where organic matter is low, introduce green manures into the rotation.		✓		✓		✓
K6	Use bed systems to reduce wheeled area.				✓		
K7	Site plastic mulch carefully so as to avoid direct runoff into watercourses and roads.		✓				
K8	Ensure irrigation is uniform, rates are not too high and droplet sizes too big.		✓			✓	
K9	Harvest during dry conditions to avoid soil compaction*.	✓	✓				
K10	Sow the field with a temporary crop cover throughout winter.	✓	✓		✓		✓
K11	Other – please state: (You may wish to look at required measures for other activities to apply to your individual circumstances).						

Soil Protection Review (SPR) – Agricultural land not in agricultural production or used for non-agricultural activities

Farm Operation Choose appropriate measures from any of the Land Use Measures. Record using the relevant code and brief statement.	2011 Annual Review Did the management options help address the issues – were they effective? If not, what will you change?	2012 Annual Review	2013 Annual Review
High Risk Land 1) 2) Additional measure(s) (optional)			
Moderate Risk Land 1) Additional measure(s) (optional)			
Low Risk Land Measure(s) (optional)			

Soil Protection Review (SPR)

Soil Guidance Code	Land Use Measures	Benefits of this measure					
	Agricultural land not in agricultural production or used for non-agricultural activities	Relieves compaction*	Relieves runoff and erosion	Prevents poaching	Improves soil organic matter levels	Reduces waterlogging	Reduces wind erosion
L1	Maintain land drainage systems to reduce the risk of damaging soil structure under wet conditions.		✓	✓		✓	
L2	Maintain vegetative cover.		✓	✓	✓		✓
L3	On land at high risk, establish a green cover by re-seeding.		✓		✓		✓
L4	Where soil organic matter is low, establish a green cover by re-seeding.		✓		✓		✓
L5	Avoid travelling on land using heavy machinery.	✓	✓			✓	
L6	If any activity causes ruts or compaction*, cultivate and reinstate green cover.	✓	✓		✓		✓
L7	Restrict reshaping of the land surface or the repeated passage of vehicles.	✓	✓			✓	✓
L8	Other – please state: (You may wish to look at required measures for other activities to apply to your individual circumstances).						

Soil Protection Review (SPR)

Part 4 – Access to Waterlogged Land

The aim of this requirement is to maintain soil structure and prevent compaction when soils are waterlogged and applies to you if your land becomes waterlogged. Soil is considered to be waterlogged where the whole of the plough layer is saturated or filled with water, by virtue of a high water table or water collected (perched) above a compacted soil.

You no longer need permission from Defra before you can access waterlogged soil.

In order to maintain your land in good condition and to minimise environmental damage, it is common sense to keep off the land when it is waterlogged. It is, however, recognised that access is needed sometimes during waterlogged conditions and in order to comply with Cross Compliance, it is important that it is recorded.

You must record (in Table D) any activity on waterlogged soils to carry out mechanical field operations such as harvesting crops or using a motorised vehicle; except where the area of waterlogged soil is within 20 metres of a gateway or other access point and access is required to an area of land that is not waterlogged, or the area is an established track to land that is not waterlogged.

Record the field number; the month and year for activities (if several months of access, record all months of access); the reason for access; and the action done to remediate once conditions allow. Actions taken to remediate damage caused by accessing waterlogged soil must be done as soon as possible within 12 months of the first month of access to the waterlogged field. Remediation action here is in addition to any actions selected in your Farm Soil Plan (Table C).

Where fields are often wet and waterlogged, Environmental Stewardship may be able to help with their management: it has options for rush pastures, wet grassland and arable reversion.



Waterlogged Pasture

Soil Protection Review (SPR)

Access to Waterlogged Land Record (Table D)

Use the table below to record all activity on waterlogged soils to carry out mechanical field operations or using a motorised vehicle e.g. a quad or off road bike.

Field Number	Date of access (mm/yr)	Reason for access	Action taken to remediate damage from activity
<i>Example:</i> TR1234 8879 TR1334 5656	Jan 2010	Access to feed livestock	Wheel ruts were harrowed out when ground conditions had improved.
<i>Example:</i> TR 1234 2235	Jan 2010 Feb 2010	Fenced off hedge after hedge-laying	Wheel ruts were harrowed out when ground conditions had improved.

Part 5 – Post-Harvest Management

The aim of the post-harvest management requirements is to ensure that land harvested by combine harvester or mower is left in a state where erosion is unlikely.

You must select and implement at least one of the relevant post-harvest option, as shown in the box on the right, following the harvesting of a crop of oilseeds, grain legumes or cereals (other than maize) by combine harvester or mower. The chosen condition(s) must be met on the relevant land from the first day after harvest until the last day of February in the following year (both dates inclusive). **The option(s) selected are in addition to any other measures you must implement as part of the SPR, but they do not have to be recorded in the Farm Soil Plan (Table C).**

You will not be in breach of this requirement if you have prepared the land as seedbed but are unable to sow the crop within 10 days because the soil is waterlogged, or because other severe weather conditions make this impracticable. In either case, the land must be sown as soon possible.

You are also strongly advised to consider similar post-harvest operations for potatoes, sugar beet, maize, field vegetables, salad crops, bulbs and for rhizome production.

Post-Harvest Options

Stubble – stubble from the harvested crop remains on the land. Remove compaction* where present. Environmental Stewardship has options for over-wintered stubbles.

Cover crop – the field is sown with a temporary cover crop throughout the winter. If this is grazed out or cultivated during the autumn or winter (post-harvest period), a rough surface must be left as soon as conditions permit. Environmental Stewardship has a cover crop option.

Next Crop – the land is sown with a crop within 10 days of having been prepared as a seedbed where weather conditions allow. You will not be in breach of this requirement if you have prepared the land as a seedbed but are unable to sow the crop because of weather conditions that would make this impracticable.

Stale seedbeds – the land is under cultivation sequences to create stale seedbeds.

Rough surface – The land is left rough after harvest with a rough surface to encourage the infiltration of rain. This would normally be achieved by operations such as ploughing, discing or tine cultivation*. (This standard also requires leaving a rough surface after fumigant use in the autumn).

REMEMBER – where steps are taken to address compaction (as indicated by an asterisk*), care must be taken to minimise damage to archaeological remains, particularly where there is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (GAEC 7). This can be done by altering the depth of cultivation around the remains and/or considering reverting the land back to grassland – financial assistance through Environmental Stewardship could help with this.

Soil Protection Review (SPR)

Buffer Strips next to Watercourses

This section is optional but you are strongly encouraged to complete the questions.

The use of six metre grassy buffer strips to protect vulnerable watercourses is not a requirement of Cross Compliance. However, in order to protect water quality it may be advisable to place six metre grassy buffer strips next to watercourses adjacent to arable land. Buffer strips can contribute to the reduction of pollution from farming activities and Defra has produced guidance that sets out where buffers can be effective and how they can best be managed. This can be found at Section N of the *Cross Compliance Guidance for Soil Management*. You are encouraged to read this new guidance on buffer strips and make use of buffer strips where appropriate.

The following optional questions are intended to provide Defra with information on the take-up and use of buffer strips for water protection.

- Is any of your arable land next to a watercourse? Yes No
- If you answered yes to the above, have you put in place any grassy buffer strips to protect watercourses (additional to those under GAEC14)? [tick one or more]
 - Yes I already have them in place under Environmental Stewardship/CSS/ESAs
 - Yes I have put some in place independently
 - No, but I am considering putting them in place following this advice

No, and I will not be putting them in place

- If you have not, or will not be putting buffer strips in place and do not intend to, please select a reason why not [tick one only]

My land does not fit the advice for buffer strips (slope too steep or too shallow, wrong soil type etc)

I cannot afford to take land out of production

I need further guidance/advice

Other – please explain

- If you already have buffer strips in place to protect watercourses, are they: [tick one or more]

Adjacent to small watercourses, such as ditches and streams?

Adjacent to large watercourses, such as rivers?

Adjacent to temporary watercourses?

Soil Protection Review (SPR)

Comments box

Please use this space for any additional information that you may wish to make available in the event of inspection; for example, if you are farming land used by the Ministry of Defence, you may wish to note when a soil protection issue arises due to military activity.

Soil Protection Review (SPR)

Single Payment Scheme Publications

Defra

Cross Compliance Soil Protection Review PB 13311
Cross Compliance Guidance for Soil Management 2010 PB13315
Management of Habitats and Landscape features: Guidance for Cross Compliance in England PB 12903

Defra Publications are available from:

Defra Publications
Admail 6000
London SW1A 2XX
Tel: 0845 955 6000
Fax: 0208957 5012
E-mail: defra@iforcegroup.com

RPA Publication on the SPS

Guide to Cross Compliance in England PB 12904 and PB12904a

To order this please telephone the RPA Customer Service Centre on 0845 603 7777

Useful contacts and sources of advice

Dedicated advice service on land management aspects of cross compliance

Helpline: 0845 345 1302

E-mail: info@crosscompliance.org.uk

Website: www.crosscompliance.org.uk

Information about Environmental Stewardship can be found at: www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/default.aspx

Contact

- 1) Natural England. <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/funding/es/default.aspx> or your local Natural England office – details from NE Helpline at **0845 600 3078 (local rate)**, opening times: 8.30am – 4.30pm (Monday – Friday).
- 2) Think**soils** – Soil assessment to avoid erosion and runoff – Environment Agency enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk 08708 506 506.
Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
- 3) Campaign for the Farmed Environment at www.cfeonline.org.uk/

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