

ISS2 Facilitate Change in Tillage Practice

Why is this good for water quality?

The aim

Changing practices from conventional to low or minimal tillage helps improve soil structure, leading to better water infiltration and retention. By limiting soil disturbance, this reduces the amount of erosion and surface runoff of sediment, nutrients, and plant protection products to water sources.

Why is this good for my farm?

Moving away from conventional tillage practices helps build long term improvements to soil structure and water retention, supporting stronger crop growth and reducing the need for irrigation. It can lower input costs by preserving nutrients, increasing the availability of nutrients and reducing reliance on plant protection products.

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Payment Rate: £70/ha up to 30ha

Specification

- Removal or the prevention of compaction through the use of contractor support.
- The farm must discuss current practices and the prospective contractor alongside the changes to be made with their agricultural advisor to determine whether they are eligible for this support
- The method must be used to replace current higher disturbance tillage and cultivation practices or alleviate identified issues on the parcel that a farm cannot complete themselves
- Intervention made must result in compaction removal or compaction prevention, evidence of how the change will prevent compaction must be considered.
- In surface water catchments farmers must prove they have an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM Plan).
- Visual Evaluation of Soil Structure (VESS) scoring must be completed to evidence chosen areas
- In groundwater farmers must prove they have a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP).
- 1 year agreement, funded once per 5-year period (2025-2030).
- Applicants are expected to complete the action in a way that could be reasonably expected to achieve the actions aim.

Evidence to apply

- Mapping to show areas of compaction removal or reduction
- VESS images
- Evidence of current cropping and equipment available on the farm
- Quotes from recognised contractors
- Evidence of how the selected piece of equipment removes or prevents compaction

Evidence to claim

- IMP or NMP based on catchment priority
- Contractor invoices
- Images of operation taking place