Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems – Swales

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Date published: 5 January, 2016

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To see recent changes to this guidance, check the bottom of this page.

Aim

The aim of this item is to improve water quality by creating a strategically placed swale to slow, treat and control run-off that currently discharges direct to a watercourse or freshwater drain and to direct flow to a point (e.g. a pond) where it can be safely discharged.

Eligibility

Any land is eligible, provided that it meets all of the requirements set out below.

Spatial targeting

Map of target area – Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems – Swales (PDF, Size: 900.5 kB) doc_external_url: https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/Updated-targeting-map---Rural-Sustainable-Drainage-Systems-_--Swales-16-12-2015.pdf This item is available within the target area shown on this map.

You can check if this item is available on your holding here.

Application requirements

You must prepare a plan which must include a map of the relevant fields / steading identifying the location of the rural sustainable drainage system feature.

Requirements

- only run-off which does not fall within the definition of slurry may be conveyed to a swale *
- run-off from pesticide handling or washdown areas must not be conveyed to a swale

* Unless the run-off is being conveyed to a constructed farm wetland designed in accordance with the Constructed Farm Wetland Design Manual – Scottish Environment Protection Agency / Northern Ireland Environment Agency – 2008.

Payment

You can claim £21.75 per square metre (excluding fencing).

Inspections

The inspectors will check:

- the location and extent of the swale
- that only run-off which does not fall within the definition of slurry is conveyed to a swale *
- that run-off from pesticide handling or wash-down areas is not conveyed to a swale

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* Unless the run-off is being conveyed to a constructed farm wetland designed in accordance with the Constructed Farm Wetland Design Manual – Scottish Environment Protection Agency / Northern Ireland Environment Agency – 2008.

Additional guidance

Supporting guidance is available for this item.

Recent changes

Section	Change	Previous text	New text
Eligibility	Amendment to eligibility criteria.	The land must be within a diffuse pollution priority catchment or focus area (unless an endorsement has been obtained from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency) or a flooding target area.	Any land is eligible, provided that it meets all of the requirements set out below.
Spatial targeting	Updated target area map.	-	-
	Sentence removed from caption below the PDF.	It may be possible to apply for this option outside this area where there is strong justification as endorsed by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.	-
Requirement	Clarification on run-off that isn't defined as slurry.	-	* Unless the run-off is being conveyed to a constructed farm wetland designed in accordance with the Constructed Farm Wetland Design Manual – Scottish Environment Protection Agency / Northern Ireland Environment Agency – 2008.
Inspections	Clarification on run-off that isn't defined as slurry.	-	* Unless the run-off is being conveyed to a constructed farm wetland designed in accordance with the Constructed Farm Wetland Design Manual – Scottish Environment Protection Agency / Northern Ireland Environment Agency – 2008.

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