

**DEFRA Sustainable Farming Incentive *Arable and Horticultural Soils Standard (England)***

**Eligible:** Arable, field vegetables, horticultural. If your application includes SSSI land, you will need consent from Natural England.

**Ineligible:** Areas of peat soils greater than 20% soil organic matter to a depth of 40cm or more.

Introductory	Intermediate	Advanced
£26/ha pa.	£41/ha pa.	£60/ha pa.
<p><b>Carry out a soil assessment.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In the first year, across all land, assess: soil texture, drainage, slope, connectivity to a waterbody or sensitive habitat.</li> <li>● Record, keep observations, review every 2 years.</li> <li>● Every year, on at least 20% of the land: Assess soil structure, biological indicators (e.g. earthworm count), analyse soil organic matter.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Carry out a soil assessment.</b></p>	<p><b>Carry out a soil assessment.</b></p>
<p><b>Alleviate soil compaction.</b> Measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● sub-soiling,</li> <li>● additions of organic matter,</li> <li>● natural soil recovery through resting the field.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Alleviate soil compaction.</b></p>	<p><b>Alleviate soil compaction.</b></p>
<p><b>Establish green cover over winter (5% area) by mid-October.</b> Establish green cover to provide dense over-winter ground cover across the whole field before the onset of winter rainfall. Retain the cover crop until late winter. Ways you can achieve green cover include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sowing an autumn-sown crop,</li> <li>● Establishing a quick-growing cover crop.</li> </ul> <p>Targeted at land at the highest risk of erosion or surface runoff identified in the soil assessment.</p>	<p><b>Establish green cover over winter (10% area) by the end of September.</b></p> <p>Targeted at land at risk of erosion or surface runoff and light sandy soil identified in the soil assessment.</p>	<p><b>Establish green cover over winter (15% area) by the end of September.</b></p> <p>Targeted at land at risk of erosion and surface runoff, light sandy or on shallow soils identified in the soil assessment.</p>
<p><b>Increase soil organic matter (on 10% of land every year).</b> Organic matter can be from organic manures, certified compost, incorporation of straw or by growing green manures and cover crops or the introduction of grass or herbal leys into the arable rotation.</p>	<p><b>Increase soil organic matter (on 15% of land every year).</b></p>	<p><b>Increase soil organic matter (20% of land every year).</b></p>
	<p><b>Use minimum tillage or no-tillage farming techniques (25% area).</b> This should be done on at least a quarter of arable land - this includes temporary grassland.</p>	<p><b>Use minimum tillage or no-tillage farming techniques (25% area).</b></p>
		<p><b>Create a soil management plan.</b> Produce this in the first year of your agreement to identify and action priorities to improve soil structure, soil carbon storage and soil biology and avoid and alleviate soil compaction. This should build on the soil assessments and include soil respiration or microorganism assessments You must review the plan every 2 years.</p>

(latest update [6th August 2021](#))