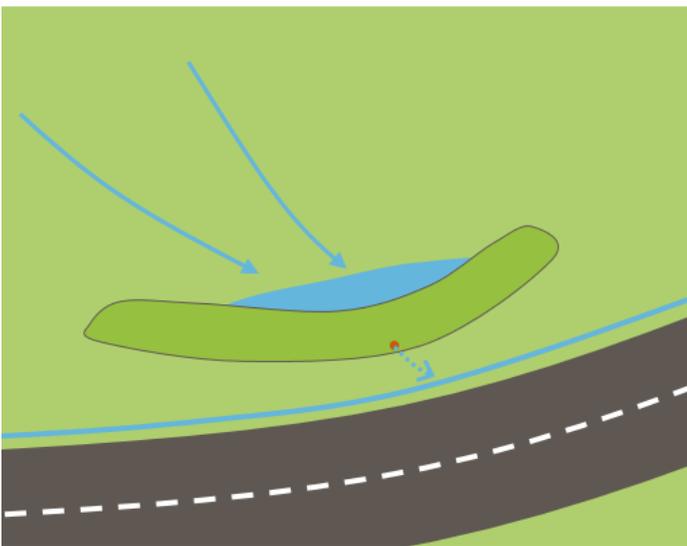


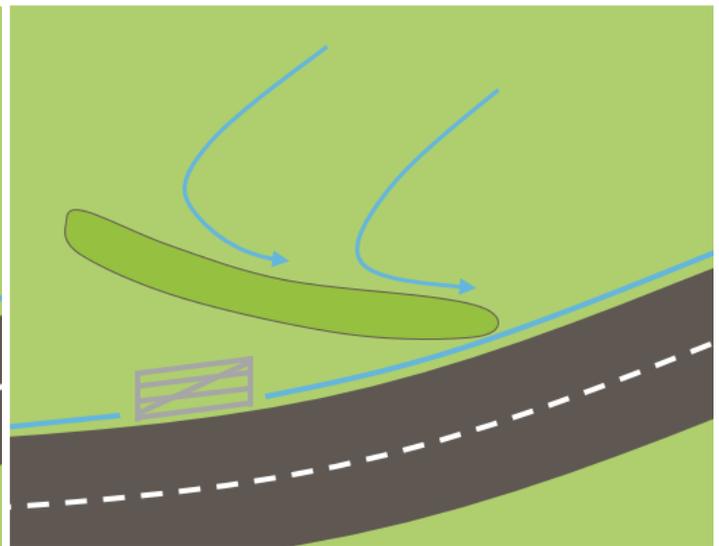
What are bunds and how do they work?

A bund is a bank created from earth, generally used in one of two ways:

- 1) **Run-off interception and storage:** constructed along the contour to slow and hold back field run-off and sediment, as part of a leaky pond
- 2) **Run-off diversion:** constructed at an angle to the contour to slow and divert run-off away from high risk areas



Run-off interception and storage. Run-off that overtopped the ditch and floods the road is held back and slowly released into the ditch.



Run-off diversion. Run-off that used to flow through the gate onto the road is now diverted into the ditch.

The best sites for bunds are:

- Where run-off can be intercepted and / or diverted (FWAG SW has maps for this)
- Close to tracks to divert run-off away from hard surfaces which act as preferential pathways
- If possible, in field corners and margins to minimise loss of productive land

Design and construction of bunds

- It is best to construct a bund when soil conditions are dry. This will a) reduce structural damage to the soil caused by heavy machinery, and b) allow the bund to stabilise
- The base of the bund should be at least three to four times its height
- Key in the base to the existing ground to prevent slumping or movement
- Build up the soil in 15 cm layers, compacting each layer as you go
- The shape is determined by where the water is coming from and whether it is to divert or hold water

- Create a low point (spillway) in the bund to allow water to overtop in a controlled manner
- Seed the bund with grass to improve stability and to limit erosion. Species should be tolerant of both wet and dry conditions (e.g. creeping red fescue with creeping bent and smooth meadow-grass)
- If erosion of the bund is a concern, consider protecting the vulnerable area with biodegradable geotextiles (e.g. coir matting).
- Regularly remove excess sediment from the base of the bund, spreading it on the field.

FWAG SW can provide further advice on a suitable height for the bund and design if required.



Bund sited in field corner acting as a sediment trap which was designed to intercept run-off, holding back water and letting sediment settle before reaching the watercourse



A sediment trap using a bund funded by the last round of the auction in Somerset

Bunds can be used as standalone NFM measures but can also be used in combination with the 'Hedge Planting' measure to construct a hedge on a hedge bank. If you wish to install one of these on your farm, please bid for the hedge planting and bund separately, but mark them on the same location on the online map.

Please note: soil bunds constructed as part of this auction will need to be constructed in Summer 2019.

