

Restoring (Protecting) River Banks

This is an old version of the page

Date published: 7 December, 2021

Date superseded: 14 November, 2025

For recent changes to this guidance, please see the [bottom of the page](#) .

Aim

The aim of this item is to restore natural bank profiles, vegetation and habitats on banks which are vulnerable to erosion due to historic land use which has depleted the river bank of its natural riparian vegetation. Such areas may have been damaged by historic livestock poaching, historic livestock grazing and / or loss of large shrubs / trees or other deep rooted riparian vegetation which would otherwise naturally be present.

This item will reduce the input of fine sediments to the river, increase bank stability during flooding and have biodiversity benefits from natural habitat creation.

Eligibility

River banks which have been damaged by historic livestock poaching, historic grazing and / or loss of deep rooted vegetation are eligible. The land management activity that has made the bankside vulnerable to erosion must have been addressed (e.g. through fencing to protect from livestock) to be eligible for payment.

Spatial targeting



[Map of target area – Restoring \(Protecting\) River Banks \(PDF, Size: 837.5 kB\)](#)

doc_external_url: <https://www.ruralpaymentsandservices.org/media/resources/95559---AECS---Target-Map-Review-for-2021---SRDP-Targeting---Stand-Alone-Capital-Item.pdf> This option is available within the target area shown on this map.

You can check if this item is available on your holding using the search targeting tool which can be found on any of the following AECS guidance pages:

[AECS Home](#)

[Eligibility](#)

[How to Apply](#)

[Management Options and Capital Items](#)

[Capital Items](#)

Application requirements

You must prepare a plan showing the locations of the bank(s) you propose to restore on a 1:2500 map.

The plan must also detail the length of bank you propose to restore and the materials you propose to use.

Requirements

You must protect the river bank(s) using at least one of the following:

- willow spilling
- plant roll revetment
- hurdle and coir matting
- engineered log jams

Fencing or other means of protection against damage from grazing animals must be put in place wherever live trees have been used.

Claim requirements

You must have completed all the necessary pre-works assessments and designs, and obtained all relevant permissions / approvals, prior to commencing the works and submitted these with the claim.

Payment

You can claim:

- willow spilling – £185 per metre
- plant roll revetment – £210 per metre
- hurdle and coir matting – £65 per metre
- engineered log jams payment will be made on actual costs, up to a maximum of £210 per metre

There are separate management options to support the restoration of river banks:

- [Water Margins in Grassland Fields](#)
- [Grass Strips in Arable Fields](#)

Inspections

The inspectors will check:

- the location and extent of the work
- you have protected the river bank(s) using at least one of the following:
 - willow spilling
 - plant roll revetment
 - hurdle and coir matting
 - engineered log jams

Additional guidance

[Supporting guidance is available for this item.](#)

Recent changes

Section	Change
Spatial targeting	Target map updated

Previous versions

[Previous versions of this page](#)

Download guidance

Click 'Download this page' to create a printer-friendly version of this guidance that you can save or print out.