

thinksoils

Appendix I

General principles to avoid
erosion and runoff

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Soil

Know the soil types on the farm, their inherent risks and capability, particularly in relation to wetness and stability.

Regularly dig to assess soil structure to aid decisions on any necessary remediation.



Weather

Use crop cover to protect unstable soils against the battering action of rain and erosive power of wind.

For example:

- drill winter cereal crops early in September to ensure good crop cover before the onset of winter rain.
- plant nurse crops to prevent wind blow.



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Landscape

Avoid steep slopes and channelling water onto roads and into watercourses when growing high-risk row crops.

Plant grass strips in natural drainage pathways (prone to gully erosion) to help stabilise the soil and to act as a soakaway.

Plant shelterbelts of hedgerows and rows of trees to prevent wind erosion.



Land use

Timeliness of landwork is essential to avoid unnecessary damage to soil structure.

Remove compaction by cultivating and subsoiling at the correct depth when the soil is suitably dry.

Aim for a high level of organic matter.