



## Catchment Sensitive Farming

Working together for  
a healthy environment

# Natural Flood Management and Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF)

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Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) is led by Natural England, in partnership with Defra, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission.



# Introduction to CSF

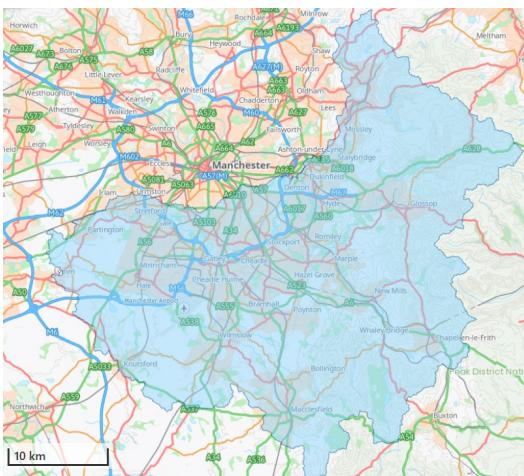


Kathryn Kelsall: Catchment Sensitive Farming Adviser - Upper Mersey

Led by Natural England in partnership with Defra, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission.

CSF works together with farmers and organisations in priority areas across England to improve the quality of air, water and natural flood management.

Visit GOV.UK/CSF to find the email address of your local team



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# Introduction to CSF cont.

## Our advice

- We offer confidential advice so you can take positive actions
- Seek 'win-wins' for the environment and your business
- We give free, government-funded advice and training across England

## How we work

- One-to-one visits from your local CSF Adviser
- Tailored on-farm advice from specialists
- On-farm events, shows and demonstrations
- Newsletters, on-line events
- Advice on relevant grants

## We can help...

- Save you money
- Future-proof your farm
- Improve your local environment
- You meet current regulations

# Advice

- Soil management
- Nutrient, slurry, and manure management
- Ammonia emission reduction
- Farm infrastructure and machinery set-up
- Pesticide handling
- Water resources and natural flood management
- Local environmental priorities
- Land management
- Agricultural transition, including grants



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# CSF referral for specialist advice

**CSFM1-M7:** A range of soil, slurry, manure and livestock feed sampling and analysis to recommend actions for healthy soils

**CSF1:** Catchment Sensitive Farm Review

**CSF2:** Nutrient Management Planning

**CSF3:** Farm Infrastructure Audit

**CSF5:** Water Flow Management

**CSF8:** Improving Soil Management

**CSF12:** Water-Holding Structures

**CSF16:** Soil and Nutrient Management Planning

**CSF17:** Farm Machinery Management

**CSF18:** Managing Land Drainage to Reduce Diffuse Pollution

**CSF19:** Natural Flood Management

**CSF20:** Soil Health

**CSF21:** Sustainable Water Usage

**CSF22:** Woodland for Water and Air

**CSF30:** Reducing Farm Cultivations



# How to contact your local CSF adviser

- [Catchment Sensitive Farming: advice for farmers and land managers - GOV.UK](#)
- Catchment Sensitive Farming Advice Request Form:
  - Farm contact details
  - Tell us about your farm
  - What advice would you like from CSF?
- Send to: [csf.northwest@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:csf.northwest@naturalengland.org.uk)
- CSF will reply based on the environmental priorities in your area and will either:
  - arrange a one to one consultation with your local CSFA
  - link to other sources of advice and information
- We focus our support on farms that can make the greatest improvement to water and air quality, and natural flood management.

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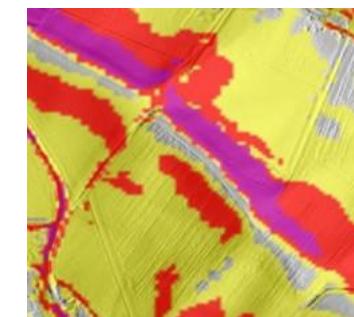
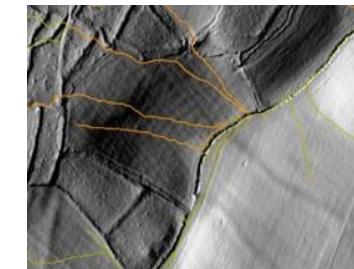
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# ALERT

## ALERT (Agricultural Land Environmental Risk and Opportunity Tool)

- **Soil Classification** is important for determining how an Overland Flow Pathway might behave.
- **Overland Flow Pathways** are a useful indicator of transport routes of water and pollutants across the landscape.
- **Slope Threshold** can determine both the power with which water can erode soils and the distance it can carry pollutants across the land.



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# Managing water from yards

Look for opportunities to improve management of water within the yard.

- **Clean and dirty water separation**

-  amount of rainwater from entering slurry store,  volume of slurry that needs to be stored and spread.
- Enable it to be spread when soil is in optimal condition – reduce potential for soil compaction

- **Rainwater harvesting**

- Rainwater goods: gutters, storage tanks etc.
- Can provide clean water that may be suitable to use around the farm for tasks such as yard washing.

- **Intercept and direct surface runoff away from yards**

- Helps reduce channelling of surface runoff and the risk of sediment and other pollution entering a watercourse

# Managing water from yards

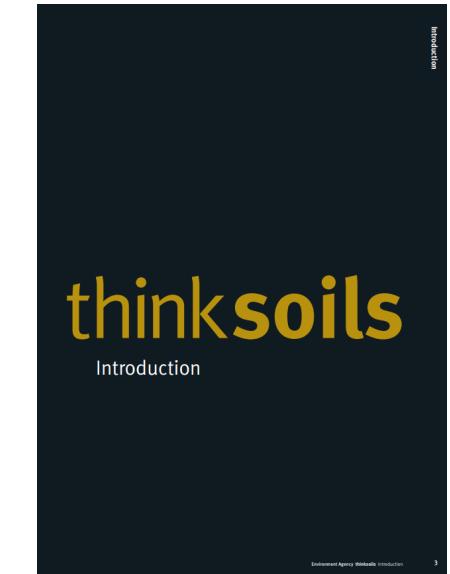


## Slurry Wizard

- By entering basic farm information such as animal numbers, yard/roof areas that capture rainfall and housing periods, the wizard calculates the volume of slurry that the farm will produce on a monthly basis
- Helps you explore the potential impact and cost from changes to infrastructure such as redirecting rainwater and roofing dirty yards.
- Provides a cost/benefit analysis for fitting rainwater goods to redirect clean water and covering dirty yards

# Improving Soil Management

- Identify areas of waterlogging, yellowing of crops etc.
- Dig basic soil profile pits to assess soil structure and identify soil compaction. Also to identify signs associated with low or poor soil organic matter and low biological activity.
- Discuss measures, examples:
  - Reduce disturbance to soil
  - Winter cover crops
  - Use deep rooting plant species e.g clover
  - Avoid using heavy machinery on wet soils
  - Manage crop and livestock rotation
  - Mechanically aerate soils



## CSF 5 Water Flow Management and CSF 19 Natural Flood Management

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# Slowing the Flow

- Identify evidence of surface runoff.
- Discuss slowing runoff:

Ponds and scrapes

Tree planting / management

Hedgerow planting / management

Leaky woody dams

Winter cover crops

Buffer strips

Swales

Arable reversion



## CSF 5 Water Flow Management and CSF 19 Natural Flood Management

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# Grants

- **Capital Grant Scheme (CGS)**
- Currently closed
- Expect to open a new round during 2026

2025 scheme:

- 78 capital items (some items require approval from a CSF adviser)
- Funding limits
- 2025 round was closed within 5 weeks of opening

- **Now is the time to get in touch!**

[Farming – Updates from Defra's Farming and Countryside Programme](#)

Group	Funding limit
Air quality	£25,000 maximum
Boundaries, trees and orchards	£35,000 maximum
Natural flood management	£25,000 maximum
Water quality	£25,000 maximum

# Grants cont.

- **Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI)**
- New SFI launching this year with reduced number of actions

We know you need certainty to plan ahead, so we can confirm there will be two SFI application windows this year.

	Opens	Who can apply
<b>First window</b>	June	Those with small farms Those without existing environmental land management agreements
<b>Second window</b>	September	All farmers. This includes those with small farms and those without an existing ELM agreement who did not apply in the first window

[Farming – Updates from Defra's Farming and Countryside Programme](#)

# Grants cont.

- **Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier (CSHT)**
- CSHT is opening through an initial controlled rollout in 2025/26. This means access to the scheme will be by invite only and gradually build up so we can ensure everyone receives the necessary support and we can make any adjustments necessary.
- **Current advice from DEFRA is to look at SFI actions before considering CSHT. CSHT is essentially for being able to enact tailored actions.**

[Farming – Updates from  
Defra's Farming and  
Countryside Programme](#)

# Useful links

- CSF contacts [Catchment Sensitive Farming: advice for farmers and land managers - GOV.UK](#)
- ALERT [Tools | Farming Advice Service](#)
- Slurry Wizard [Slurry wizard | AHDB](#)
- Think soils [thinksoils | AHDB](#)
- Grant finder (CH items) [Capital grant finder - GOV.UK](#)
- Defra farming blog [Farming – Updates from Defra's Farming and Countryside Programme](#)



## Catchment Sensitive Farming

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# Contact your local CSFO

[gov.uk/catchment-sensitive-farming](http://gov.uk/catchment-sensitive-farming)

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