

RECEPTOR MEASURES

38. VEGETATED BUNDED DRAIN

Ditches and drains serve as significant pathways for the transport of water and associated nutrients and sediments from fields to receiving watercourses. There are opportunities to attenuate nutrients and sediment along this pathway by slowing the flow, enhancing sediment deposition and promoting plant uptake of nutrients within the ditch or drain. Vegetated Bunded Drains help maximise the retention of sediments and nutrients, while also creating opportunities for water infiltration into the soil.

REQUIREMENTS

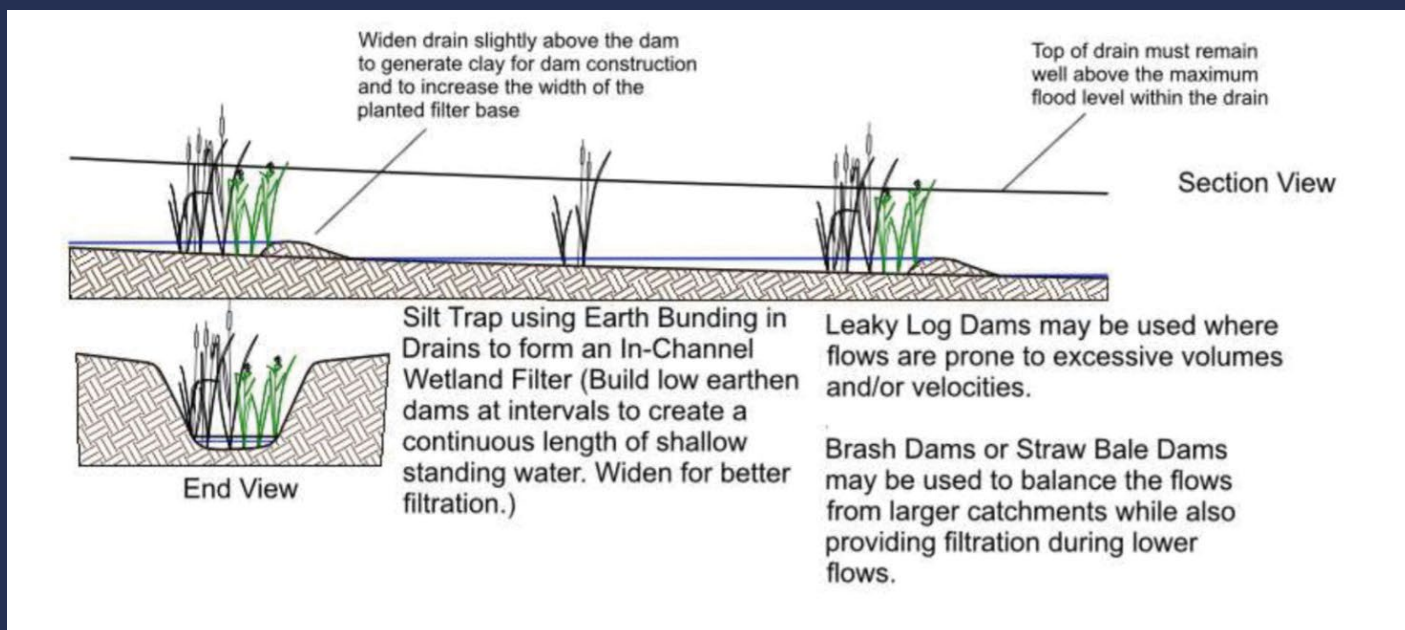
1. Vegetated bunded drains are not suitable for streams, permanent watercourses, or drains with a gravel bed, as these are considered by to have potential for supporting macroinvertebrates and fish life.
2. IFI should be contacted regarding design & works methodology would need to be agreed between the relevant contractor and the relevant Fisheries Environmental Officer. <https://www.fisheriesireland.ie/sites/default/files/migrated/docman/2016/Guidelines%20Report%202016.pdf>
3. This measure is not suitable in hilly areas where there is a high risk of flash flooding or for drains with high flow volumes.
4. A suitable ditch or drain, dry or wet must have a slope of less than 5%.
5. This measure is not suitable in free-draining areas unless the floor is sealed with impermeable clay.
6. The ideal time to carry out work on farm drains is between July and September. This timing helps minimise soil damage, sediment loss, and disturbance to wildlife. Additionally, it is important to consider bird nesting season restrictions during this period to ensure compliance with environmental guidelines.
7. A sediment plug, such as a bale of straw or rushes, should be placed downstream of the works during the construction phase. This helps capture any sediment that becomes mobilised during the work, preventing it from entering nearby water sources and minimising sediment pollution.
8. Where suitable excavate material from the base of the drain to create a sump within the drain approx. 60cm (2ft) deep. Use this material to create a bund downslope from the sump. Where no sump is created the earth used to create the bund must be sourced from within the farm gate. If possible, the bund should be at least 90cm (3ft) wide. Ideally, widen the channel just up-slope from the bund to at least twice the original width. The slope of the bank should be re-profiled if the bank is steep.
9. The bunds cannot be used as a crossing point for livestock or machinery.
10. The number of bunds required will be site specific. The distance between bunds is dependent on the slope of the drain.
11. Introduce native wetland plants from elsewhere on the farm or from a specialist supplier. Plant these at the waterline.
12. Removal of sediment & associated P should take place as necessary. Ongoing management is required to avoid these areas becoming sources of nutrients rather than sinks.
13. Permissions may be required prior to any work if within or close to any protected area, Natura 2000 site or archaeological site.

PAYMENT

- €1000 per vegetated bunded drain.
- Min 1. Max of 3 per farm.
- Min length: 20m. Max length: 50m.

VALIDATION

Relevant geotagged photo showing clearly the measure that has been applied for & proof of costs.



In-channel filter buffers for silt settlement in farm drains.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Speak to your advisor today or check out the Farming for Water website www.farmingforwater.ie for further information.
Phone our office on **062 33063** - Office hours 9:00am - 4:30pm.



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