

Erosion Control

Silt Laden Runoff Control, Erosamat Type 1 and 2,
Cobrey Farm, Coughton, Ross-on-Wye, UK



Project Description

Cobrey Farm is a family run business in the picturesque Wye Valley. The farm grows a range of crops over its 1,500 acres of land, and is known for being one of the UK's largest and most innovative growers of asparagus, fine beans, and blueberries in this hilly area. The Wye Valley is home to a number of rare and highly sensitive species of crustaceans. The eco-system is very sensitive, so the area has been designated a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) to protect it. Environment Agency monitoring revealed that during heavy rainfall significant volumes of runoff were picking up soil particles and discharging into protected waterways.

The Challenge

Many years of farming in the area had caused a reduced level of organic content in the soil, which meant low capacity for water retention. This caused high surface runoff volumes during heavy rainfall, washing expensive fertiliser treatments away, and causing further erosion of soil particles as they are lifted and carried from the fields. Drainage ditches had been installed to combat this, but they proved unable to cope with the volume of water and required frequent maintenance. Previous attempts to establish grass had also proven difficult due to residual levels of herbicide in the ground.

The Solution

Cranfield University designed planting layouts incorporating grassed waterways to control runoff and

Project Information

Client	Cobrey Farm
Contractor	Cobrey Farm
Consultant	Cranfield University
Products	Erosamat Type 1 and 2
Quantity	35,000m ²
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved for use on SSSI• Protects silt from erosion• Protects grass during initial growth• Fully biodegradable• Easy to install



ABG biodegradable Erosamat in coir and jute

Erosion Control

Silt Laden Runoff Control, Erosamat Type 1 and 2, Cobrey Farm, Coughton, Ross-on-Wye, UK



reduce the damaging effects of erosion. Establishing grass is the key to the long term success of this approach, but the residual levels of herbicide meant the grass took a long time to take hold. After consultation with **ABG, Erosamat Type 1 and 2** were specified for different areas to provide immediate erosion control for the new waterways, as well as protection for the grass seed during the extended growth period. This protection allowed the waterway to be 50% smaller than without **Erosamat**, so the land loss to the waterway was reduced. Further soil erosion was prevented, and the degradation of **Erosamat** added organic content to the soil. This solution was deemed so successful that Cranfield University and the Environment Agency invited **ABG** to present at a “Better Soil and Waste Management” event to educate other farms in SSSI areas on how to manage their sites as successfully.



Before grass is established water has a clear and fast path to leave the field. Grass slows the runoff, and allows it to infiltrate back into the ground rather than carrying pollutants into watercourses.

The ABG Service

ABG expertise helped to select the correct **Erosamat** for each area, and confirmed appropriate installation methods.



Planting layouts designed to work with undulating fields



Partially established grassed waterway

Contact **ABG** today to discuss your project specific requirements and discover how **ABG** past experience and innovative products can help on your project.