



# On-farm infrastructure

## Relocating gateways

Moving gateways away from high-risk areas (e.g., slopes or near watercourses) reduces poaching and machinery damage. This lowers the risk of soil compaction and disturbance, which can reduce nutrient runoff and water pooling.

**Benefits:** Can improve farm access and help farmers remain compliant with water pollution regulations.

**Barriers:** Requires labour, cost for new gates/posts, and careful site selection.

**Landlord involvement needed:** Yes

**Pig welfare:** Reduces muddy conditions, lowering disease risk and improving overall health and hygiene.

### Benefit areas

-  Water quality
-  Air quality
-  Soil quality
-  Climate

### Practical Tips

- Relocate gateways before pigs arrive, using a risk assessment to select sites.
- Consider the need for a new track and check permissions from landlords or authorities.

## Sediment traps

Sediment traps are dug-out areas that slow and capture runoff from paddocks, preventing sediment and nutrients from leaving the farm and polluting watercourses.

**Benefits:** Helps to retain and potentially recycle sediment and valuable nutrients that would otherwise be lost.

**Barriers:** Labour-intensive, requires ongoing maintenance, and potential additional costs if installed with an outlet pipe.

**Landlord involvement needed:** Yes

**Pig welfare:** No direct welfare impact, but proper sizing prevents overflow and biosecurity risks.

### Benefit areas

-  Water quality
-  Soil quality
-  Climate

### Practical Tips

- Traps should be positioned in locations at most risk from runoff.
- Install sediment traps only after other runoff prevention measures fail.
- Choose low-productivity areas for easy maintenance.
- Ensure correct sizing to prevent overflowing.

# Track maintenance and restoration

Trackways are often identified as a main source of runoff. Keeping tracks in good condition prevents ruts and potholes that channel runoff carrying soil, sediment and nutrients into nearby watercourses. Maintenance and restoration will allow water to infiltrate the soil rather than flow along the surface.

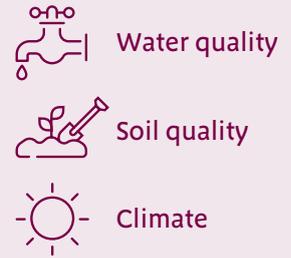
**Benefits:** Improves safety and efficiency for vehicles and livestock, reduces repair costs, and minimises runoff.

**Barriers:** High material and equipment costs, labour-intensive, and subject to weather conditions, which may delay restoration efforts.

**Landlord involvement needed:** Yes

**Pig welfare:** Smooth tracks prevent injuries for pigs and improve comfort during movement.

## Benefit areas



© Natural England / Scarlet Smith

## Practical Tips

- Budget for track restoration material and labour costs.
- Consider renting machinery and combine with other runoff diversion measures.
- Plan around poor weather conditions.

# Moving feeders and water troughs

Trough feeding and regularly moving feeders and monitoring troughs reduces poaching, compaction, nutrient hotspots, and waterlogging, helping cut emissions and prevent runoff.

**Benefits:** Improves working conditions by reducing muddy areas, helps identify leaks and damage and introducing feeders (instead of broadcasting) reduces feed waste and contamination.

**Barriers:** Challenging to implement with semi-permanent feeders; frequent relocation in smaller paddocks may increase the area of poached soils if the land cannot recover.

**Landlord involvement needed:** No

**Pig welfare:** Reducing muddy conditions lowers the risk of disease and injuries, improving health and comfort for pigs.

## Benefit areas



## Practical Tips

- Carefully plan when to relocate structures to avoid severe poaching.
- Consider smaller portable feeders.
- Consider the soil type to minimise damage.
- Keep feeders and water points well away from watercourses.
- Design paddock layout to allow for maximum 'feed space' (access around the pen for feeder placement).

Use our simple Excel tool and guidance manual to assess the economic impact of introducing some of these options on your outdoor pig unit.

[www.farmingadvice.service.org.uk/csf/outdoorpigs](http://www.farmingadvice.service.org.uk/csf/outdoorpigs)