



Soil health and structure

Soil loosening

Breaking up and levelling compacted soil with machinery improves water infiltration, aeration, and nitrogen retention. This reduces runoff into watercourses and helps to reduce nitrous oxide emissions and ammonia volatilisation.

Benefits: Restores soil condition and supports future crop growth and helps to return land to the landowner in good condition.

Barriers: Requires specialist machinery, which can be costly.

Landlord involvement needed: Yes (Landowners often undertake deeper remediation post-occupation e.g., 5-tine/subsoiling).

Pig welfare: No direct impact.

Benefit areas

-  Water quality
-  Air quality
-  Soil quality
-  Climate

Practical Tips

- Only loosen soil in dry conditions.
- Consider machinery or contracting costs.
- Minimise the traffic of pigs and machinery over treated areas.
- Include costs and responsibilities as part of rental agreements.

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

