

Environmental Standard Operating Procedure 6

River Bank Maintenance – Erosion Protection

Installation of new bank erosion protection, which may include soft erosion protection or piling, is required to protect river banks from the effect of waves and scour.

Aim

To minimise accelerated rates of sediment loss and promote natural vegetation growth.

Environmental Risk

Impact	Likelihood	Mitigation
Loss of natural bank vegetation	High	Choose appropriate method
Harm to Protected Species and/or habitat	High	Pre-works survey (refer to ESOPS 4, 10-14 and mitigate as necessary)
Inappropriate backfill material used	Low	Use geotextile or similar membrane to prevent erosion; ensure non-toxic backfill used; aim to use locally sourced sediment if suitable



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Standard Procedure

- The most appropriate method will be chosen for the location of the works, depending on the level of erosion protection required. Soft erosion protection should be used where possible;
- Works will aim to provide as natural a bankside environment as possible;
- Backfill material to fill the void behind the piling, if required, will be of an inert material, preferably locally sourced sediment. In heavily boated or industrial areas, a sediment chemical quality report is required prior to use.

Consultations Required

- **Broads Authority internal** – Rivers Engineer, Environment Officers, Planning, Rangers.
- **External** – Natural England, Environment Agency, BESL as necessary.

Delivery Method

- This varies according to the method adopted.
- Carry out protected species survey and any mitigation in line with ESOP 10 – 14. If tree/scrub clearance is required, consult ESOP 4
- Hard engineering options include sheet metal piling, wooden piling, gabion baskets – floating and land based plant, backfill required
- Soft engineering options include alder pole piling, hazel faggoting, bituminous matting, nicospan geotextile, coir rolls – floating and land based plant, backfill required
- For faggoting and coir roll option – gravel or similar size backfill material required
- Plant with appropriate vegetation

Further Information

Sediment Management Strategy:

www.broads-authority.gov.uk/looking-after/managing-land-and-water/Dredging/sediment-management-strategy