

## CONSERVATION HEADLAND

### 6m wide

The area between the crop edge and the first tramline (usually 6m wide according to boom width). This is an area of crop treated with selective pesticides (see guidelines table) to control grass weeds, cleavers, virus vectors and diseases whilst allowing most broad leaved weeds and beneficial insects to survive. Ploughing of

headlands is recommended especially on heavy soils or where grass weeds are a problem. Avoid turning the furrow onto the grassy strip as this area can create ideal conditions for annual weeds. Choose headlands not infested with difficult weeds, especially barren brome and cleavers.

## SPRAYED CROP

Treat as normal, but avoid pesticide drift into the Conservation Headland. Try to avoid the damaging affects of broad-spectrum insecticides in mid summer when controlling pests such as cereal aphids and orange wheat blossom midge. Make use of thresholds to take spraying decisions, then using only narrow-spectrum compounds. Seek advice from the Field Officer.

## TRAMLINES

## BOUNDARY OR STERILE STRIP

### 1m wide

Its purpose is to prevent invasion of the crop by cleavers and barren brome spreading from the hedge bank where they have become abundant. It should be at least 1m wide and maintained by rotation or herbicides (e.g. Kerb) between October and January. Do not create this strip out of the grassy bank. Instead drill

crop further out into the field to leave an area of bare cultivated ground for the sterile strip. Avoid spray drift by shielding the nozzle down to ground level. This strip is not essential for conservation purposes, it is purely intended for weed management.

## HEDGE

### 2m high

Trim hedges every other year and keep to a maximum height of 2m. Do not allow the hedge to overgrow adjacent grassy strip which is the vital area for nesting.

## GRASSY BANK / NESTING STRIP

### 1m wide 0.5m high

The area used for nest sites by gamebirds and other ground nesting birds (e.g. yellowhammer) and for overwintering by beneficial insects and spiders. At least 1m wide and preferably sited on a bank. Ground cover should be composed of perennial grasses and other non-weedy herbaceous species. Avoid spray and fertiliser drift into this area. Allow the build up of dead grass material essential for successful nesting, but top the vegetation every 2-3 years to avoid scrub encroachment. Do not plough too close to the bank each spring.