

**Option Name:** Retention of winter stubble

**Option Code:** RWS

**Option payment:#**  
Year 1: £85.00 per ha  
(Where Greening reductions apply: £80.00 per ha)  
Year 2 – 5: £85.00 per ha each year  
(Where Greening reductions apply: £80.00 per ha each year)

**Option Aim(s):** To increase the diversity of habitats and species within farming systems. The Option will benefit farmland birds that feed on grain left after harvest.

**Scheme applicability:** Wider – EFS(W)  Higher – EFS(H)  Group – EFS(G)

**This option is made up of:** Annual Management requirements  NPI (capital items)

**This option is:** Permanent  Rotational

**Option Description and Outcome:** This Option is an annual management Option and does not contain essential non-productive investments (referred to as capital works). For EFS(H) sites 'Retention of winter stubble' Option is eligible where it will maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of these sites and is included in the site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP). Stubbles from cereals and oilseed rape are grown using reduced pesticides and retained to 15<sup>th</sup> February after harvest.

**Choice of site:** This Option may be established on arable fields and fields of improved grassland that are ploughed and a cereal crop grown. The Option should not be established on Permanent Grassland Sensitive (PGS) fields.

**Essential capital works:** This Option does not contain an essential capital works element.

**Additional optional capital works available for this Option:** None.

# Refer to the 'EFS(W) agreements started 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 - 12 month and 18 month payment requirements' section below.

**Area Permitted:**      **Minimum**    0.10 ha      **Maximum**    As per max agreement value\*

\* DAERA reserves the right to limit a Higher Level agreement value where it considers appropriate to ensure value for money.

**Requirements and Controls:**

Code	Annual management requirements	Control type <sup>(1)</sup>		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
<b>RWS1M</b>	Complete the claimed area of 'Retention of winter stubble' for cereals or oilseed rape crop each year <sup>(2)</sup> of the EFS.			✓
<b>RWS2M</b>	Establish, retain and manage the claimed area of 'Retention of winter stubble' each year period for the duration of the EFS agreement.		✓	✓
<b>RWS3M</b>	Do not apply any pre - or post - harvest non - selective herbicides.			✓
<b>RWS4M</b>	Noxious weeds must be controlled by non - chemical means, taking account of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Health and Safety requirements.			✓
<b>RWS5M</b>	Retain the uncultivated stubble post-harvest until 15 <sup>th</sup> February.		✓	✓
<b>RWS6M</b>	Harvest the crop and remove the straw.		✓	✓
<b>RWS7M</b>	Do not undersow the crop with grasses or legumes.	✓		✓
<b>RWS8M</b>	'Retention of winter stubble' must be established, retained and managed as detailed in the ssRMP for EFS(H) sites.	✓		✓
<b>RWS9M</b>	Field records must be kept detailing area established, location, date(s) completed and all Management Requirements.	✓		✓

(1) The possible control types for each requirement may be:

'Admin' – administrative checks, 'CwRS' – Control with Remote Sensing, 'OTSC' – On-the-Spot Check

(2) Refer to the 'EFS(W) agreements started 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 - 12 month and 18 month payment requirements' section below.

**EFS(W) agreements started 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 - 12 month and 18 month payment requirements**

As the 'Retention of winter stubble' Option must be in place post-harvesting after 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017, an 18 month payment shall apply where the Option requirements are complied with. The 18 month payment is £127.50 per hectare (where Greening reductions apply: £120.00 per hectare).

**Further Advice:**

Delaying the cultivation of cereal stubbles for as long as possible after 15<sup>th</sup> February will increase their value for seed - eating farmland birds. 'Retention of winter stubble' Option can be moved annually from field to field on eligible land. Cereal harvested as whole crop silage is eligible for this Option provided the Option requirements are met. Take care if applying pesticides to adjacent crops to avoid 'drift' into the area of winter stubble to be retained.