

# SuDS Guide

**Sustainable Drainage  
System Guidance for  
Cheshire East Borough**

**Cover Photo:**

Caroline Benzies Photography

# Foreword

Water is essential to life and has always influenced the location and growth of human settlement - our villages, towns, and cities.

Climate change is creating more extreme and unpredictable weather, leading to flooding incidents becoming more frequent and more serious. We must act now to manage water more effectively and reduce the risk to people and property both now and in the future. There is a social and commercial imperative to address this.

This challenge is also an opportunity. Waterscapes are an important and positive aspect of our local landscapes, both urban and rural. Well-managed water significantly improves the quality of our environment and our sense of well-being.

In the face of the limitations of traditional drainage systems and continued climate change, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) provide a solution to the issue of water management as a key element of sustainable growth.

The national and local agendas promoting beautiful and healthy places provide further impetus to enable creative, well-designed SuDS to play a significant part in shaping places. SuDS can enhance the opportunities for leisure, play and education, improve health and wellbeing and promote high quality environments for home, work and leisure, and, through increased use of softer, more natural materials and components, SuDS can also increase and enhance biodiversity and increase our capacity for carbon storage.

Water can be a positive force in shaping places, but it can become a destructive one if not given sufficient space and consideration on developed land. We should manage water creatively to make our places better to enrich people's lives.

This guide will help built development to be more sustainable by managing water more naturalistically to maximise the benefits of more natural drainage components and to improve quality of life for our communities and for future generations.

Further information on the Council's Environment Strategy can be found at:

<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/environment/carbon-neutral-council/environment-strategy.aspx>



Negative effects of unsustainable drainage include increased risk of flooding



Positive effects of sustainable drainage include increased amenity and biodiversity

# Primary Purpose

This document has been produced by Cheshire East Council in its role as Lead Local Flood Authority and Local Planning Authority for Cheshire East Borough. The primary purpose of this Sustainable Drainage Systems Supplementary Planning Document (SuDS SPD) is to provide guidance on how planning approval applicants can achieve compliance with policy requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and the Cheshire East Local Plan.

A **Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS)** works with the landscape of its site, using a system of components to deliver more naturalistic water-management which provides reduced surface water run-off **quantity** and increased surface water run-off **quality**. Alongside these primary water-management benefits, a sustainable drainage system can provide multiple secondary environmental and social benefits which lead to a higher quality of development. This SPD is a tool to help planning approval applicants achieve SuDS by advising on the levels of best practice expected.

The objective of the policies in the Local Plan is to realise the multiple benefits of positive on-site water-management that can improve biodiversity, enhance landscape character and help achieve a better quality of place. Planning proposals that demonstrate appropriate SuDS design for their sites and situation will demonstrate policy compliance. Where schemes ignore opportunities to positively work with water on site, planning permission may be refused.

**Opting for hard engineering solutions is not an acceptable approach.** Instead, the Local Plan requires applicants to **incorporate surface level SuDS with multifunctional benefits**. Hard engineering solutions are unacceptable as part of a surface-water management strategy unless more sustainable solutions are evidenced as impossible.

Cheshire East, like numerous Councils across the country, has declared a state of climate emergency. In essence, this means that in everything we do, we have to consider the impacts upon the environment. The Council's Corporate strategy focuses heavily upon the protection and enhancement of the environment and achieving sustainable development. One of the major impacts of climate change is more extreme and altered weather patterns and, consequently, the increased risk of flooding.

This Guide aims to provide continuity of approach within Cheshire East (with the exception of the Peak District National Park which is specifically covered by its own planning policy and legal framework) and to establish best practice for the design and implementation of SuDS.

The Council is encouraging SuDS design for developments of all sizes and settings, including new development and redevelopment, incorporating SuDS at stages from masterplanning to pre-application and application submission. The council also advocates a range of SuDS components suited to urban, urban fringe and rural settings.

This guidance will help developers to design SuDS schemes as part of the wider place design and to meet the necessary standards.

When undertaking a SuDS design using this guidance, developers should be mindful of the following:

- Pumping stations are not covered in this document
- If your surface-water drainage strategy requires a pumping station, you will need to gain approval from Cheshire East's Lead Local Flood Authority

## Figure 1-1 This guidance will:

Provide a clear and consistent approach to implementing SuDS within the administrative area of the Local Authority

Enable developers to complete efficient site assessment, SuDS selection and detailed design

Provide an organised structure for developer applications to the LPA

Enable planning/engineering officers to identify the key design specification requirements and legislation issues

Allow efficient assessment of submitted SuDS proposals through the planning process

Facilitate successful operation and maintenance

# Who is This Guide For?

This guidance is primarily aimed at developers to assist in designing SuDS as part of new developments in Cheshire East Borough and to explain the information needed to enable the assessment of SuDS proposals by the Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and by other Statutory Consultees. This guidance is intended to provide an informed approach to SuDS design. To achieve this, it is intended that this guidance be used by:

- Developers
- Architects and Urban Planners,
- Drainage Engineers,
- Landscape Architects,
- Local Authority Departments and internal stakeholders such as Planners, Building Control, Highways Maintenance and Design Engineers
- The Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) as a Statutory Consultee in their assessment of SuDS proposals.
- Local communities and householders
- Maintenance and management professionals
- Other Statutory Consultees involved in the assessment of SuDS proposals.

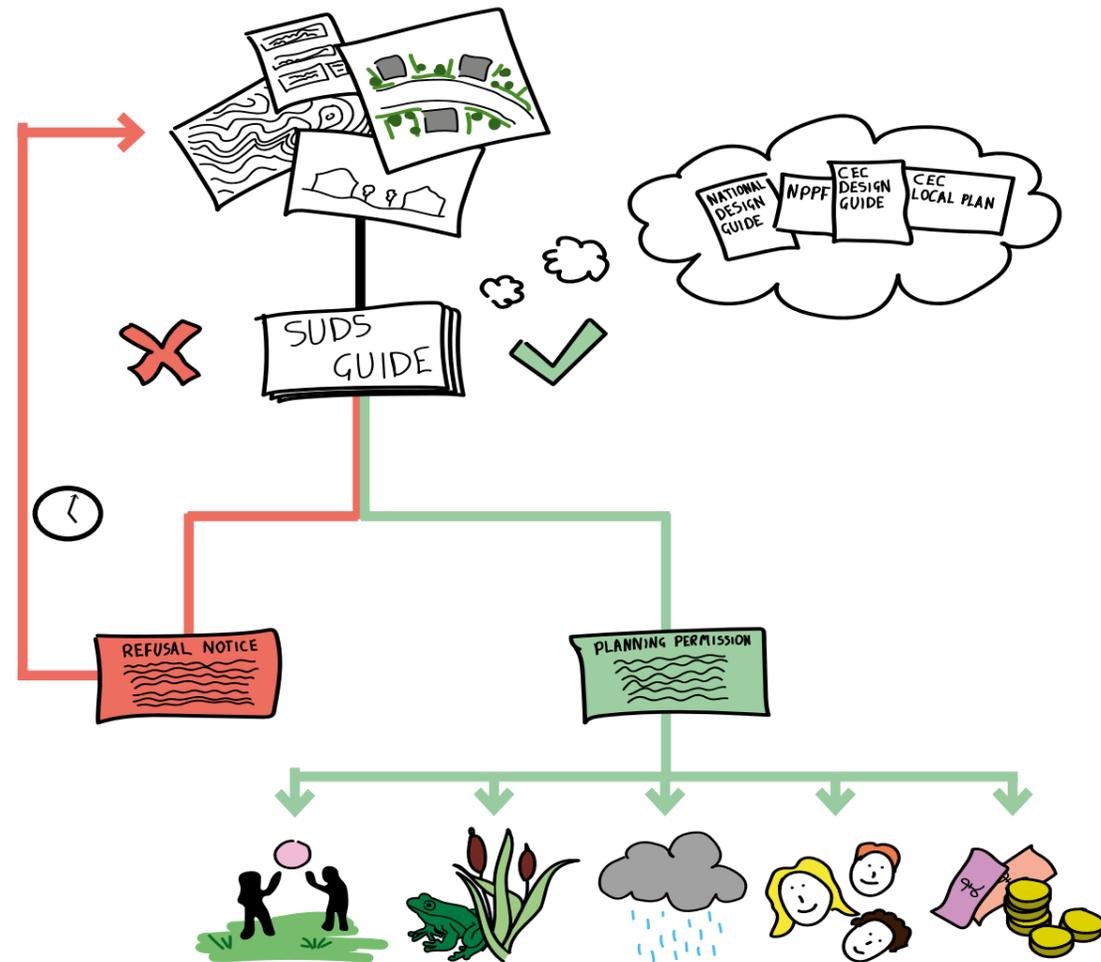
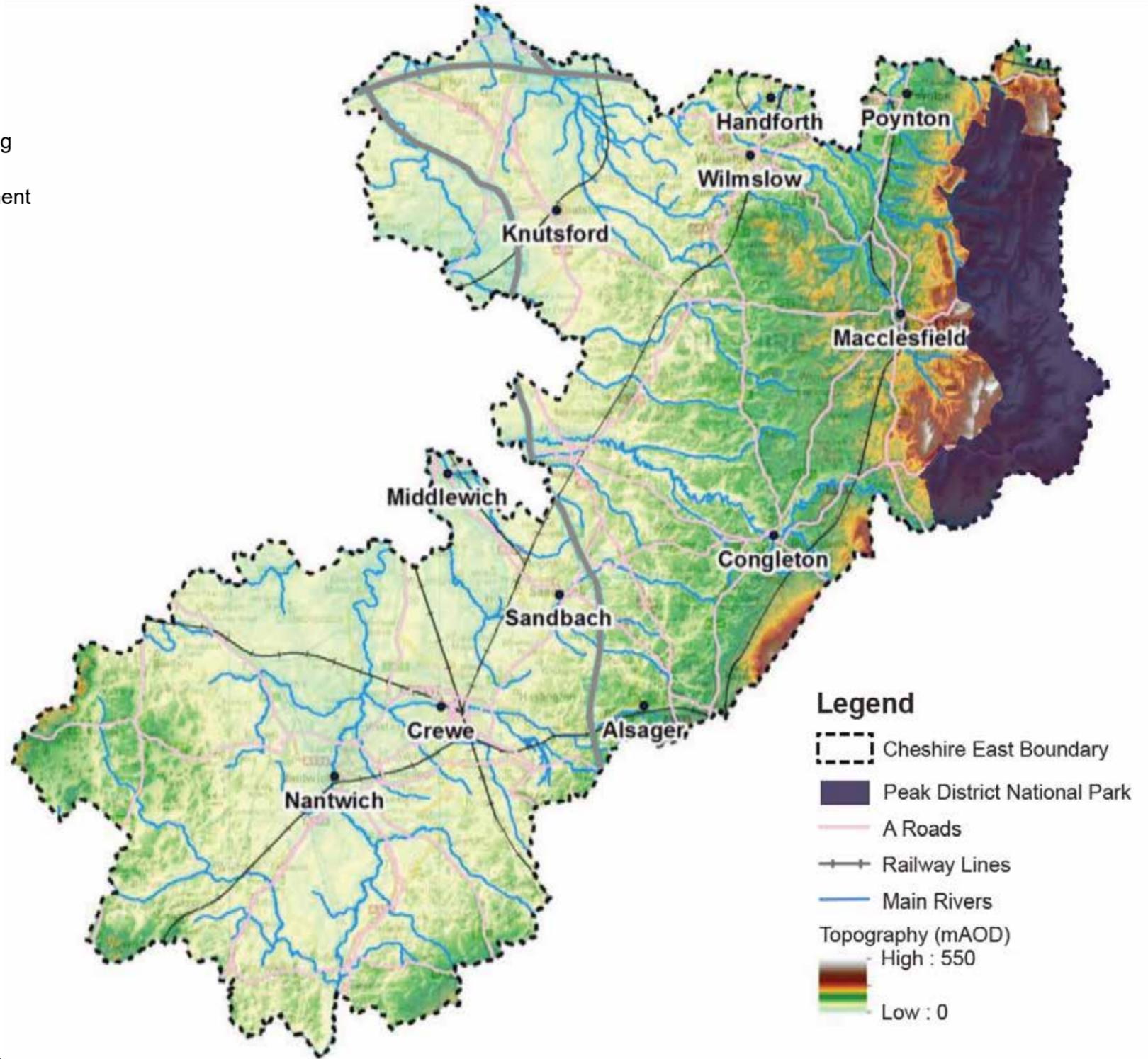


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## EXAMPLE WAY MARKER

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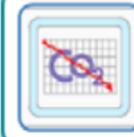
Throughout the document there will be Way Markers similar to the one shown here. These Way Markers will provide additional information on specific topics, often providing links to external websites/information.

There are also hyperlinks not contained within waymarkers which link to external websites and specific sections of this document.

## Icons

Throughout this document, the following icons have been used to highlight the economic, environmental and social benefits and opportunities of each SuDS method. These can be used to identify and realise the maximum potential of incorporating SuDS within development.

-  Providing storage during a storm event
-  Removing suspended sediments
-  Removal of pollutants
-  Providing habitats for wildlife
-  Less expensive than traditional piping
-  Recreational spaces and additional access routes

-  Improved water quality and reduced treatment
-  Aesthetic enhancement
-  CO<sub>2</sub> reduction
-  Investment and market value
-  Promoting water management
-  Increasing permeable surfaces

**1**

# **The requirement for sustainable drainage systems**

## 1.1 What are SuDS?

01 A **Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS)** reduces, slows and controls run-off rates and volumes by emulating natural drainage systems in the landscape.

02 Water is a defining feature of the landscape, including large rivers and estuaries, man-made canals, smaller watercourses lakes, ponds, ditches and temporary pools or seasonally wet hollows.

03 As urban areas grow, and impermeable areas increase, we face challenges in making space for water and ensuring effective management of surface-water run-off and drainage. These challenges include:

- reduction in green spaces,
- increased pressure on existing infrastructure,
- increased risk of flooding and erosion,
- effective management of soils.

04 Development, and redevelopment of land, can lead to increased flood risk. The cumulative impacts of development, if left unmanaged, could lead to harmful impacts on the local environment.

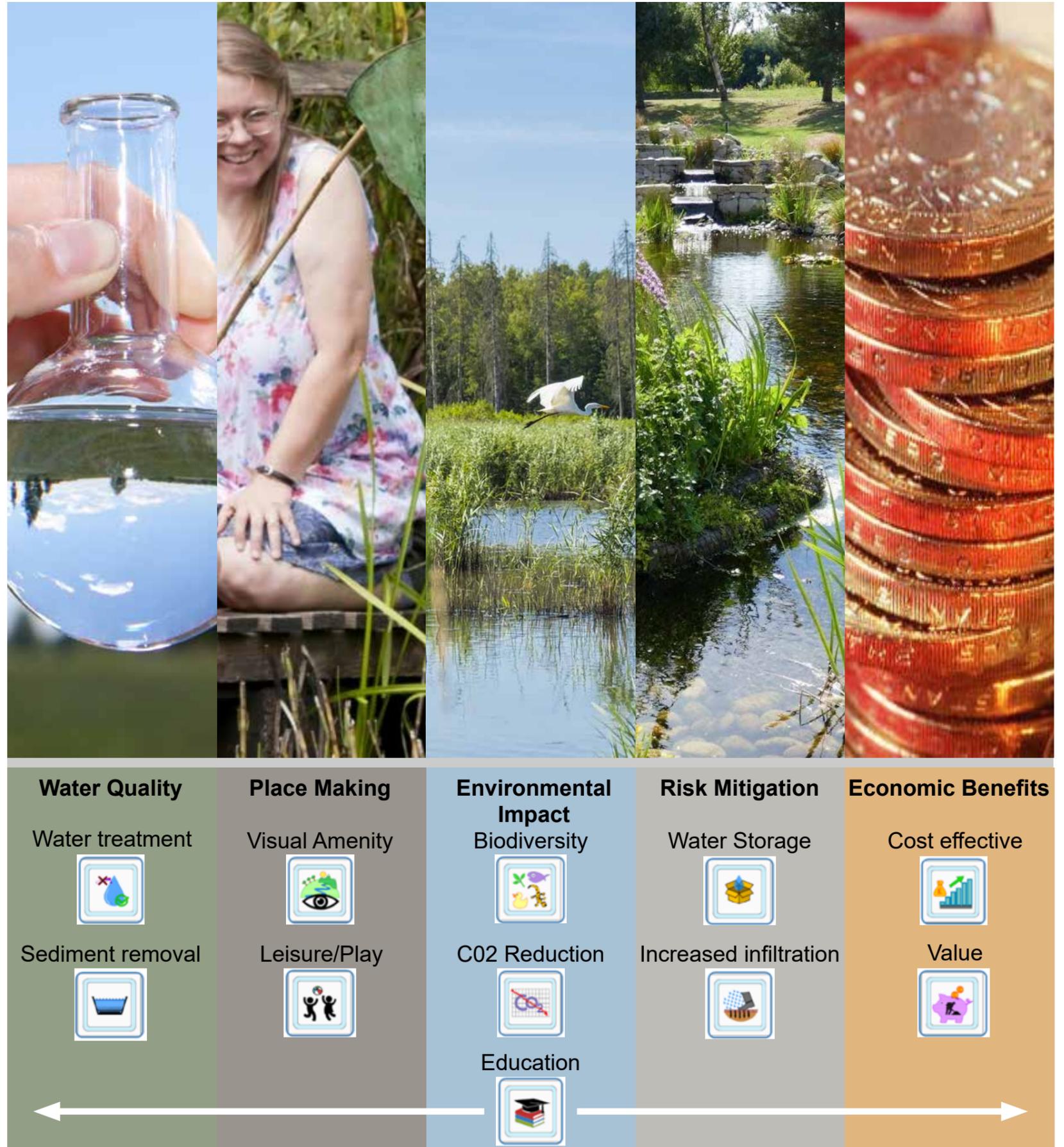
05 Most twentieth-century development employed artificial drainage systems which do not mimic the drainage patterns of undeveloped land, leading to faster rates and volumes of run-off. This is unsustainable as increased volumes and flow-rates stress our water services infrastructure and increases the risk of flooding.

06 This is further exacerbated by the cumulative loss of natural habitat which contributes to the acceleration of climate change, leading to more extreme rainfall events.

07 The extent of built development and the effects of climate change demand a new, sustainable approach to drainage.

08 SuDS increase our resilience to climate change by reducing the risk of flash-flooding which can occur when rainwater rapidly flows into the public sewerage and drainage systems. The effective use of SuDS is an essential aspect of all new development proposals to manage and reduce surface-water run-off.

09 Cheshire East Council requires new development to include well-designed SuDS to provide surface-water management that controls surface-water run-off close to where it falls, slows the rate and reduces the quantity whilst improving the quality of run-off from development sites.

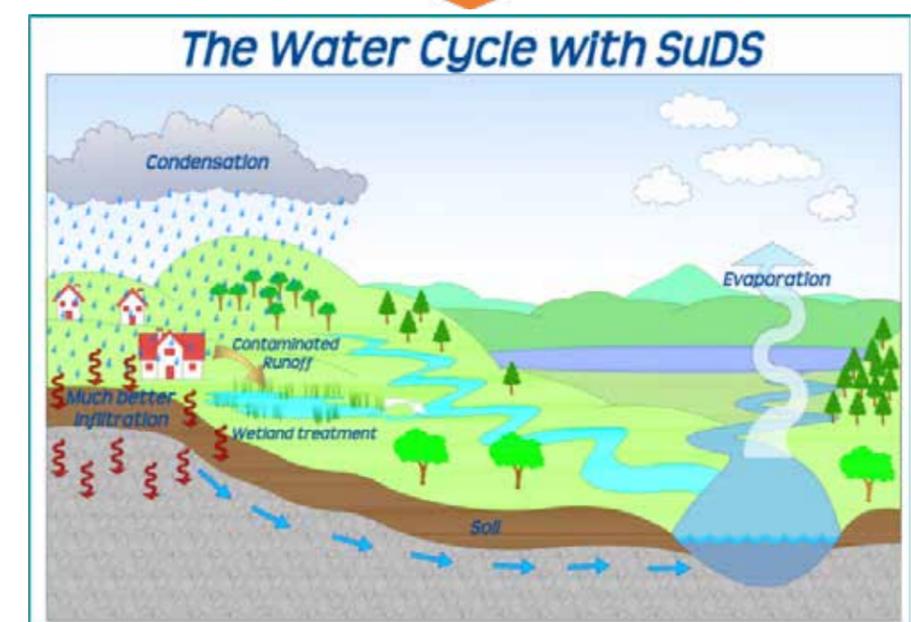
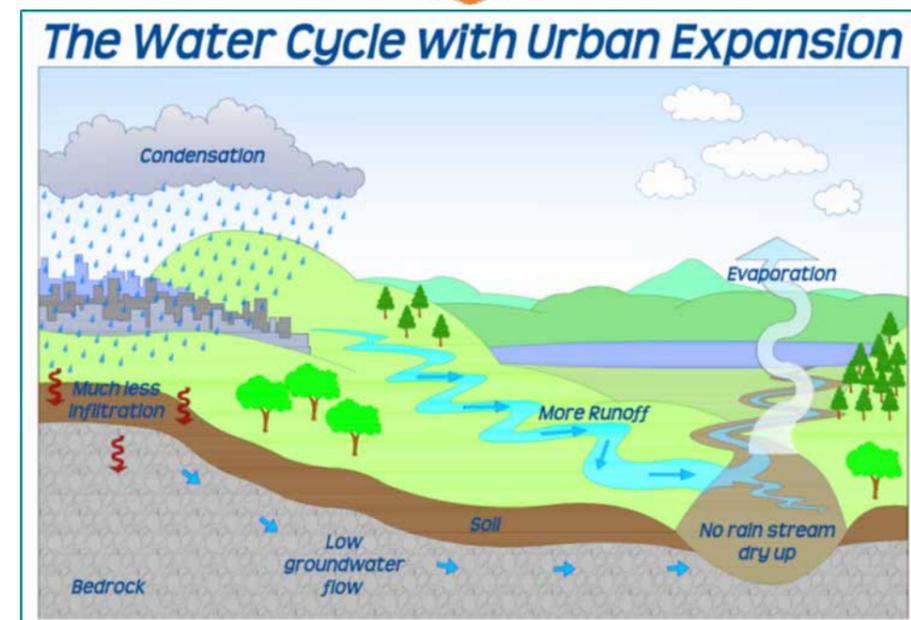
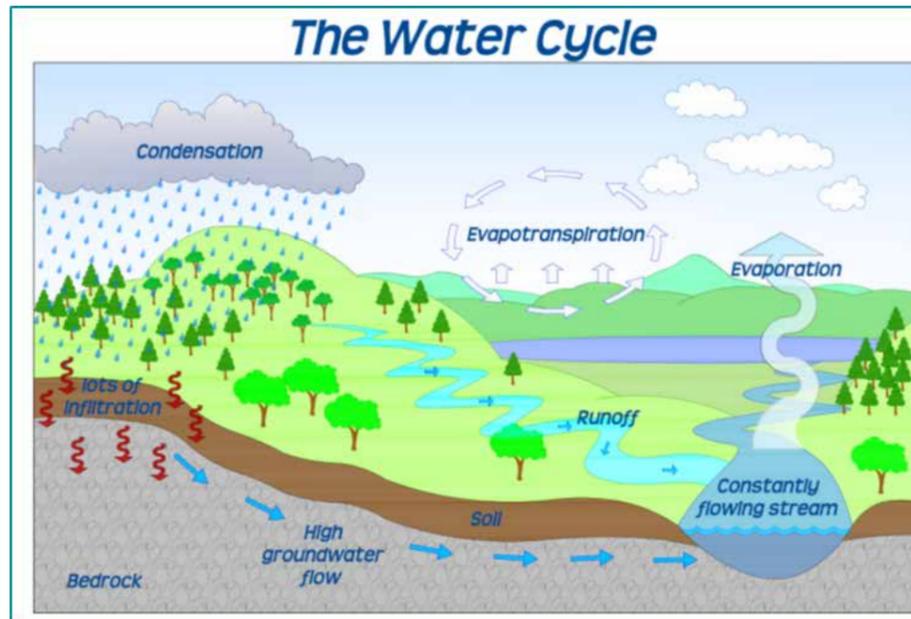


## 1.2 Why use SuDS?

10 Impervious areas such as roads, footpaths, roofs, and car parks are traditionally connected to sewer systems that transport run-off away from urban areas quicker than natural, vegetated conveyances.

11 This can cause disruption to the natural water cycle as flows in downstream waterways can peak faster and in greater quantities than pre-developed conditions. This can exacerbate, or create new, surface water flood risks and can also increase pollution in our waterways.

12 SuDS aim to manage rainfall and surface runoff by allowing rainfall to be intercepted or absorbed into the ground through vegetation and specially designed landscape features. SuDS also convey any additional flows to the nearest surface waterbody (for example, groundwater, stream, river or drain) where it is discharged at the same rate and, where feasible, the same volume as would occur if the site was undeveloped. SuDS can also be used to provide biodiversity improvements to developed areas.



13 There are several proven benefits which can be derived from employing SuDS components, for both new and existing built environments. These include water-management benefits, such as temporary storage during a storm event to reduce flooding, improved run-off water quality and removal of sediments (an accumulation of sediments can reduce storage capacity and contribute to flooding).

14 SuDS can also have indirect social benefits for an area and community. SuDS components can be designed to create green areas used for recreation which also enhance the aesthetic qualities of the locality. In turn, these measures can improve the appeal of the area, and may also encourage investment in an area leading to economic benefits such as increased prices in the property market.

The implementation of SuDS within new developments may have the following benefits:

### Better resilience to increased water quantity

- Increased precipitation, as climate change occurs, is likely to lead to wetter winters and therefore more water within the drainage system

### Greater resilience to more frequent extreme rainfall events

- SuDS can help reduce surface water discharge rates and therefore prevent drainage systems being overwhelmed

### Improved management of brownfield sites

- SuDS can provide betterment to drainage of brownfield sites and improve a particular problem or enable re-development (e.g. reduced extents of hardened surfaces)

### Assistance with the protection of all water bodies from the effects of pollution and enabling the implementation of law, policy and management

- The Water Framework Directive (WFD) (Directive 2000/60/EC)
- North West River Basin Management Plan 2022
- Environment Agency 2013: North West River Basin District: Challenges and Choices

### Improvement of landscapes

- SuDS can provide an array of biodiversity benefits and help to reduce the urban heat-island effect, and provide key links in Green Infrastructure networks
- SuDS can link public open spaces with green infrastructure and provide habitat corridors, helping to make areas more accessible and walkable
- SuDS can enhance landscape character by responding to local landscape character, softening hardscape and creating more naturalistic landscape features

### Increase in recreational areas and improved social wellbeing

- Planning policy encourages the provision of opportunities for access, outdoor sport, and recreation and SuDS can contribute to the quality of that outdoor leisure opportunity
- SuDS can be designed as community assets to support social cohesion and enhance communities' quality of life e.g. wetlands can be wildlife parks with stepping stones and islands.

### Better understanding about sustainability and functionality of SuDS

- Education of the public about the environmental importance of SuDS and the positive impact they have on the environment and people's wellbeing

### Improved perceptions of places

- The visual attractiveness of a development can help to increase developer confidence and the value people place on the area in terms of quality of life and sense of community

### 1.3 How are SuDS linked to place design?

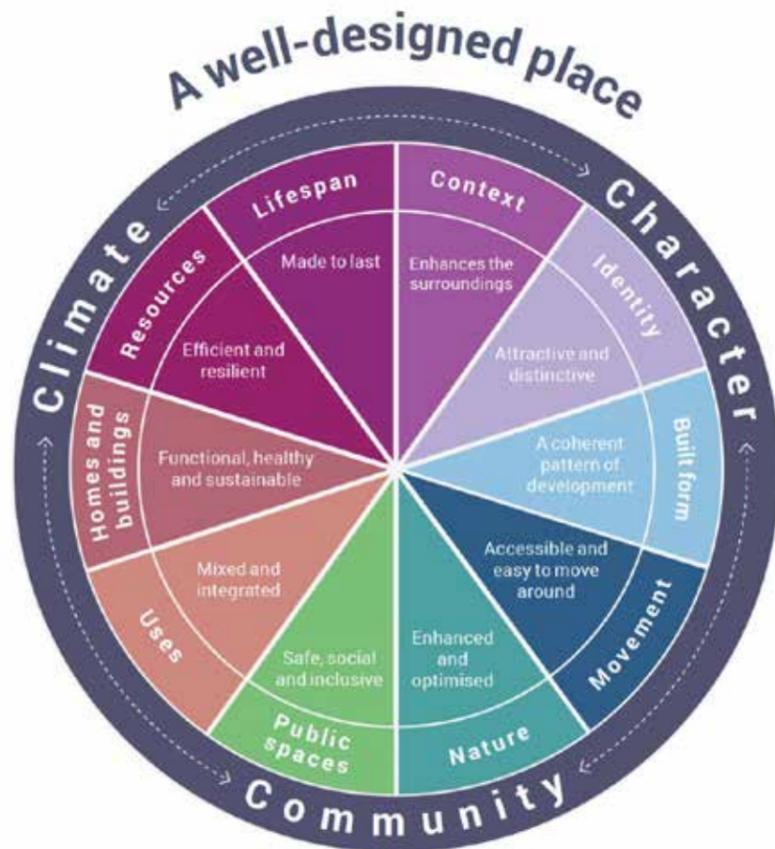
15 There is a much stronger focus on the quality of new development. The 2017 Housing White Paper “Fixing our broken housing market” formalised the debate. It identified areas of weakness across many aspects of housing delivery, including the quality of design in new development. As a consequence, it advocated stronger neighbourhood planning and design including use of a recognised design standard such as Building for Life, as well as use of local design tools.

16 Subsequently, the Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission (BBBCC) developed practical measures to ensure better quality in new development. The commission’s final report “Living with Beauty” provides a blueprint for creating well-designed places and the concept of ensuring all aspects of place-making are considered in an integrated and co-ordinated way.

BBBCC (website): <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/building-better-building-beautiful-commission>

17 The National Design Guide produced in late 2019 identifies how to achieve well-designed places that are beautiful, enduring and successful – in support of the Policy set out in the updated NPPF. The aim of the guidance is to set out the ingredients, namely ten key characteristics, of well-designed places. A number of these are applicable to SuDS, if well-designed and integrated within high quality new development.

Figure 1-1



The National Design Guide’s 10 key characteristics of a well-designed place

18 The Government intends these essential requirements to be translated within local design guidance, to meet specific priorities whilst maintaining the “golden thread” in relation to achieving well-designed places.

National Design Guide (pdf file):

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/843468/National\\_Design\\_Guide.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/843468/National_Design_Guide.pdf)

The National Model Design Code sets a structure that local design codes should follow, founded on the principles set out in the National Design Guide.

### 1.4 Evidence supporting place quality

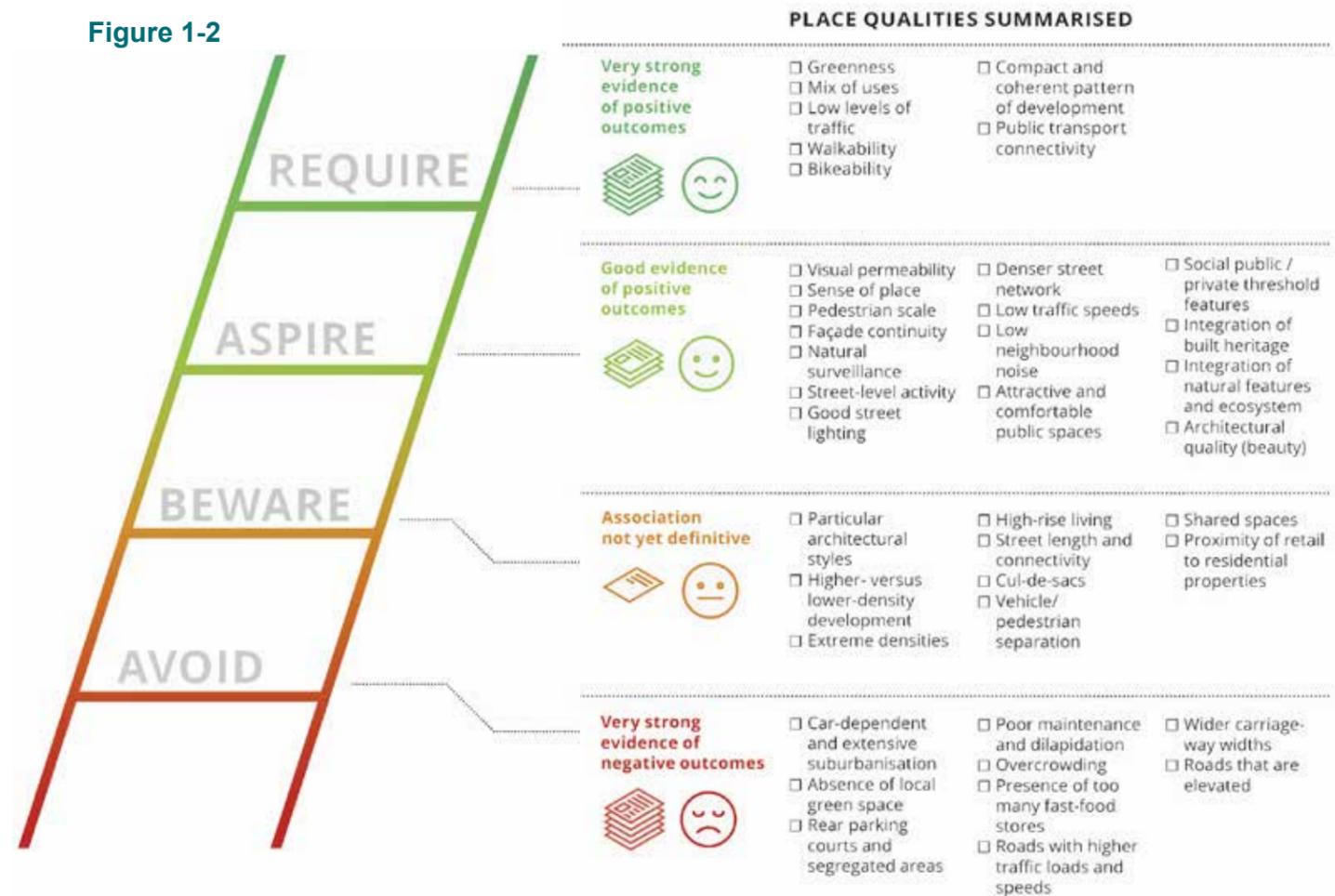
19 Significant research has been undertaken to gauge the positive benefits of nature, green space, landscaping and water upon our wellbeing and the impact this can have on place quality. The Place Alliance, a body working for the collective aim of better place quality, has recently reviewed extensive past research identifying the virtuous loop between place quality and value, and its impact upon key aspects of national and local policy and governance.

20 Their report entitled “Place Value and the Ladder of Place Quality” summarises place attributes, both positive and negative, within the “ladder of place quality” – with the upper rungs demonstrating positive attributes that should be essential/aspirational elements, and lower rungs demonstrating negatives ones which should be avoided. Unsurprisingly, greenness in the built environment (trees, grass, water and high-quality open space) is at the top of the list of required elements.

21 The recent pandemic and the impacts of confinement on people’s sense of wellbeing has also served to highlight the importance of accessible and attractive landscape, waterscape and open space. This SuDS Manual will enable a much more creative design and management approach, to help deliver place quality, and secure enhanced wellbeing and resilience across our Borough.

Place Alliance “Place Value” (website): <http://placealliance.org.uk/research/place-value/>

Figure 1-2



The Place Alliance’s “Place Value and the Ladder of Place Quality”

### 1.5 Which planning policies apply?

22 National and local policies provide a positive framework in relation to sustainable drainage. In addition, Cheshire East Borough Council has a residential design guide, which sets out the principle of integration of SuDS as part of achieving sustainable new development, but it isn't specific about the process of designing SuDS or their management. This manual seeks to build upon that policy and design guidance, specifically focusing on SuDS design, with a strong focus on place-making and creative design as part of new development. It also considers the practical matters of SuDS design to show how SuDS can be delivered and managed effectively, achieving a wide range of benefits.

This section outlines the key policies in the national and local planning policy framework, further information on these policies can be found in [Appendix B](#).

### 1.6 When Should SuDS be Considered?

23 The revision of SuDS National Standards (November 2015) provides the opportunity to address pressures on the water environment by establishing systems which aim to mimic the natural processes of interception, infiltration and conveyance to the ground and existing rivers and streams whilst also realising the additional benefits which SuDS can provide.

24 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the requirements for SuDS based on development type, size, and location. This is further explored in [Section 1.9](#) which explains the policy context for SuDS. Developers and stakeholders should use this guidance as the basis for SuDS design and planning approval applications.

### National Policies

#### The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The framework presumes in favour of sustainable development, i.e. development that meets interdependent social, environmental and economic objectives, as set out in its various chapters.

#### Chapter 14 Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change

Establishes principles in relation to water management, and the need to plan for climate change and coastal impact from rising sea levels. In regard to water management and flooding, it requires a rigorous approach to assessment of flood risk. Paragraphs 167 and 169 identify the requirement for major development to include SuDS, stipulating specific requirements including, where possible, that they provide multifunctional benefits.

#### Chapter 12 Achieving well designed places

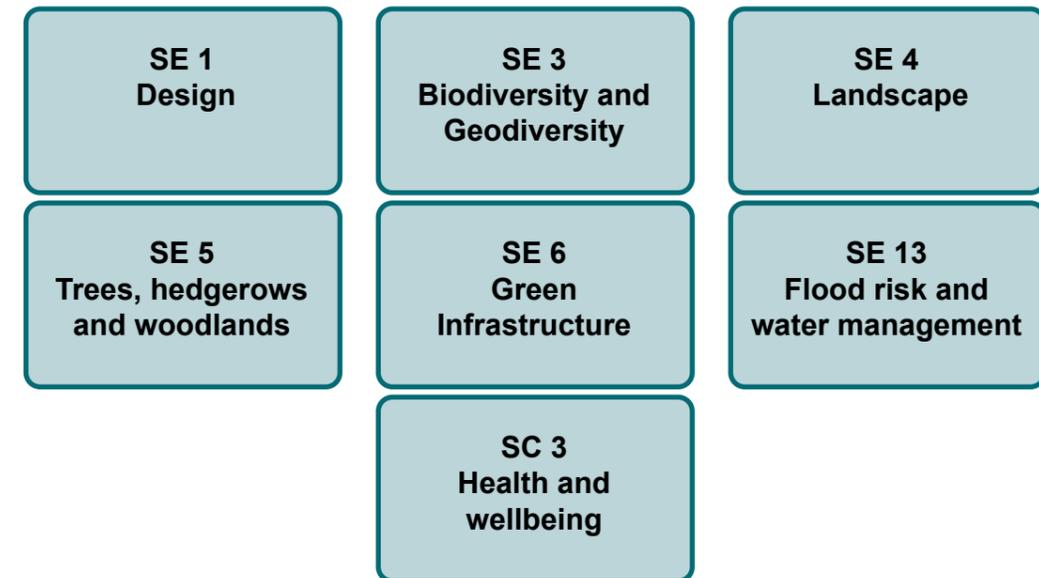
Describes the importance of achieving high quality design by creating beautiful and characterful places, influenced by an area's existing qualities and the opportunities presented by a site and its surroundings. It also emphasises the importance of design that functions well and which is responsive and resilient to change. Explicitly it requires that planning permission should not be granted where these opportunities are not realised.

**Making space for water is an important consideration for developing safe, sustainable and desirable places to live and increasing our resilience to climate change.**

### Cheshire East Local Plan (Excluding that part of the Peak District National Park within its area)

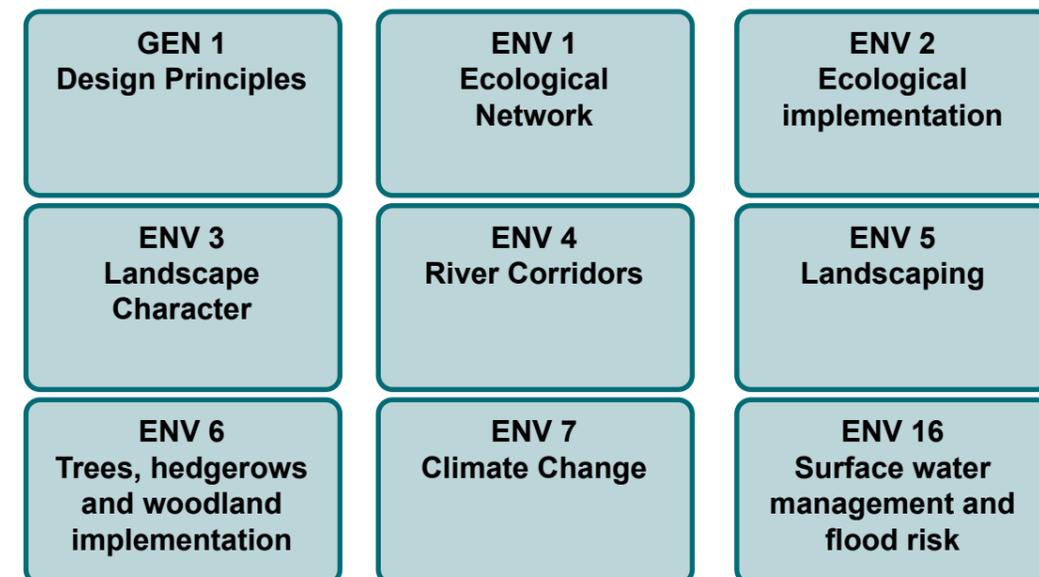
#### Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy (CELPS)

The CELPS is the first part of the Cheshire East Local Plan, and sets out the strategic planning policy framework for the borough, including the key strategic development sites/areas.



#### Cheshire East Site Allocations and Development Management Policies (SADPD)

The SADPD forms the second part of the Local Plan. It sets non-strategic and detailed planning policies to guide planning decisions and allocates additional sites for development to assist in meeting the overall development requirements set out in the LPS. It was adopted as part of the development plan on 14th December 2022.



This SPD has been prepared in a way to be consistent with emerging planning policies. Whilst this is not a legal or national planning policy requirement, this approach provides opportunity for this SPD to complement and support the implementation of future development plan policies too.

**2**

# **Integrating SuDS with Site Design**

## 2.1 The Need for a Holistic Approach

25 Early consideration of SuDS is essential in the preparation of development briefs, masterplans and design codes. Developers should design their drainage systems in a holistic way, integrating them with urban and landscape design.

26 Alongside this, SuDS design should be inbuilt into the process and timeline for neighbour/community engagement, pre-application discussions and planning performance agreements (where they are entered into). Planning applicants submitting major applications should provide evidence of engagement with their site's local communities.

The list below summarises the key actions and considerations which should be made when designing SuDS:

- Plan SuDS at development proposal inception
- Enhance landscape through SuDS design
- Ensure access and maintenance is feasible
- Promote and encourage biodiversity
- Reduce waste produced from SuDS
- Replicate natural drainage and avoid pipes / pumps
- Promote water re-use
- Maximise benefits and multi-use features
- Ensure an iterative design process to improve your site's water management proposals

## 2.3 Design Team for SuDS

27 A SuDS design team should be multidisciplinary to promote a holistic approach to the design process. Identifying considerations for SuDS early on will avoid potential delays and budget issues, and maximise the potential of the development.

Your design team should have experience of designing creative SuDS and should include:

- Drainage Engineer
- Landscape architect
- Ecologist
- Arborist
- Archaeologist
- Geotechnical engineer
- Urban designer
- Architect
- Maintenance Engineers
- Town planner
- Highways Engineer
- Land developer

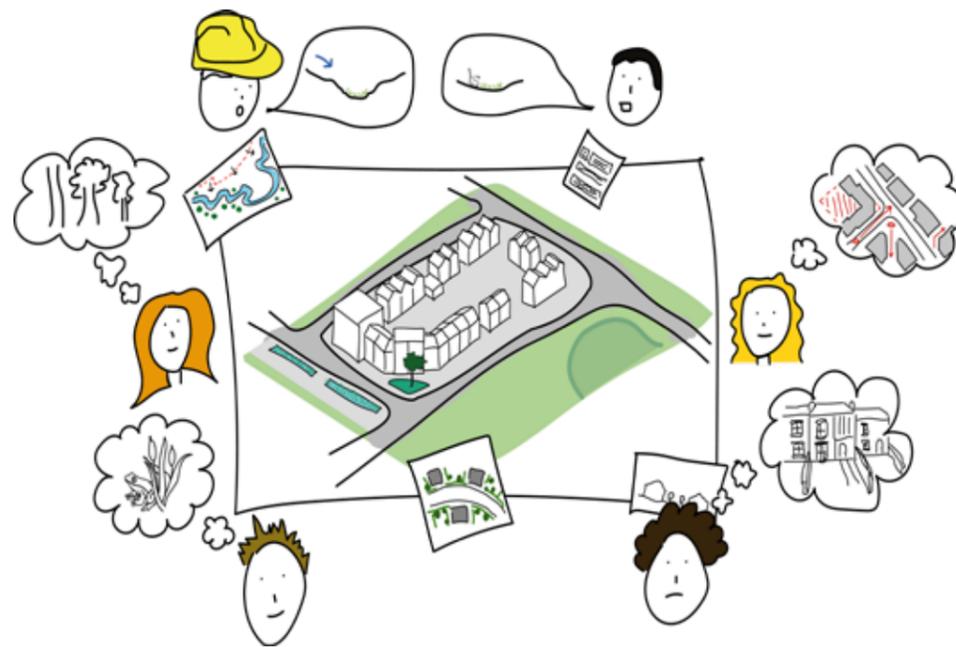


Figure 2-1 A team approach is required to design high quality, integrated SuDS

## 2.2 Site Constraints

28 It is the development designer's responsibility to ensure their design considers all of their site's constraints and mitigate accordingly. Designers should seek specialist advice at conceptual design stage in order to accommodate foreseeable impediments.

29 Constraints which may influence the design of their SuDS could include legal constraints affecting land use, such as retaining the alignment of Public Rights of Way or root protection areas for trees and hedgerows, as well as physical constraints such as land instability or contamination. There may be options to still allow SuDS to be implemented subject to mitigation, for example by using a Watching Brief where archaeological finds are possible.

30 Land-use constraints which may affect your SuDS design also include easements for utility services, or safety zones for airports and railways. Some key infrastructure to consider in Cheshire East includes National Railways, Manchester Airport, the canals network, and Jodrell Bank. Each infrastructure constraint has different restrictions and developers must consult the relevant bodies.

31 Manchester Airport is an officially safeguarded aerodrome. Under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Safeguarded Aerodromes, Technical Sites and Military Sites) Direction 2002, Manchester Airport Group is the statutory Aerodrome Safeguarding Authority (ASA) for Manchester Airport, requiring that development within specific zones and of specific types must be referred to the ASA as a statutory consultee in the planning process. Failure to take account of the views of the ASA will result in referral of the application to the Secretary of State and risks breaching the Air Navigation Order (articles 240 and 241).

32 The provision and design of SuDS can present significant implications for aviation, through their potential for attracting birds that are hazardous to aircraft. The environmental need for sustainable drainage needs to be carefully balanced with the regulatory need to protect the safety of aircraft and aerodrome operations through the process of aerodrome safeguarding. Consequently, any SuDS proposal within the 13km bird hazard consultation zone for Manchester Airport requires consultation with the ASA. The ASA also strongly encourage designers and the LPA to consult as early as possible in the design process, including at pre-application and in masterplanning larger developments.

33 Similarly, in the south of the borough the civil parishes of Dodcott-cum-Wilkesley, Audlem, Buerton, and Newhall have areas within a Birdstrike Safeguarding Zone surrounding RAF Tern Hill, some 8.4km south of the boundary of Cheshire East Council. Within this area, applications including SuDS will require consultation with the MOD. They should be consulted as early as possible in the design of SuDS, which should be designed in a way that does not attract large and flocking bird species.

### WAYMARKER

Some of the land-use constraints are shown on the Local Plan Adopted Policies Map:

<https://maps.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ce/localplan/adoptedpoliciesmap2022>

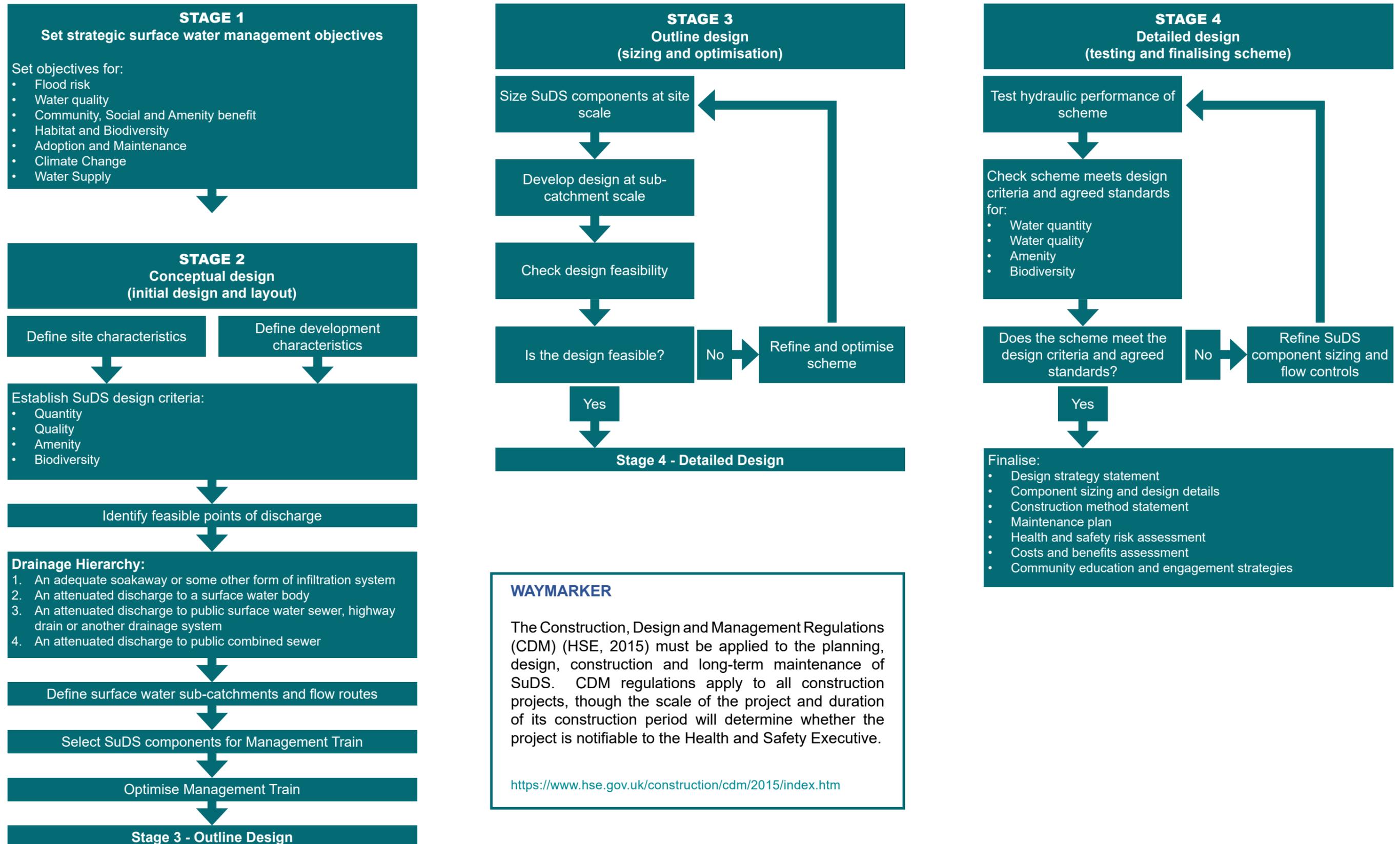
## 2.4 The SuDS Design Process

The SuDS Design Process can be broken down into the following four Stages:

### 1. Strategic Objectives 2. Concept 3. Outline Design 4. Detailed Design

The flowchart diagram below describes best practice for the SuDS design process based on the **CIRIA SuDS Manual**.

Figure 2-2: The SuDS Design Process



## 2.5 The SuDS Management Train

34 Sustainable drainage systems for both public and private areas should utilise a management train of components to follow and reinforce the natural pattern of drainage. The train of components should be designed to reduce the adverse effects that additional run-off from a development would have on land and watercourses.

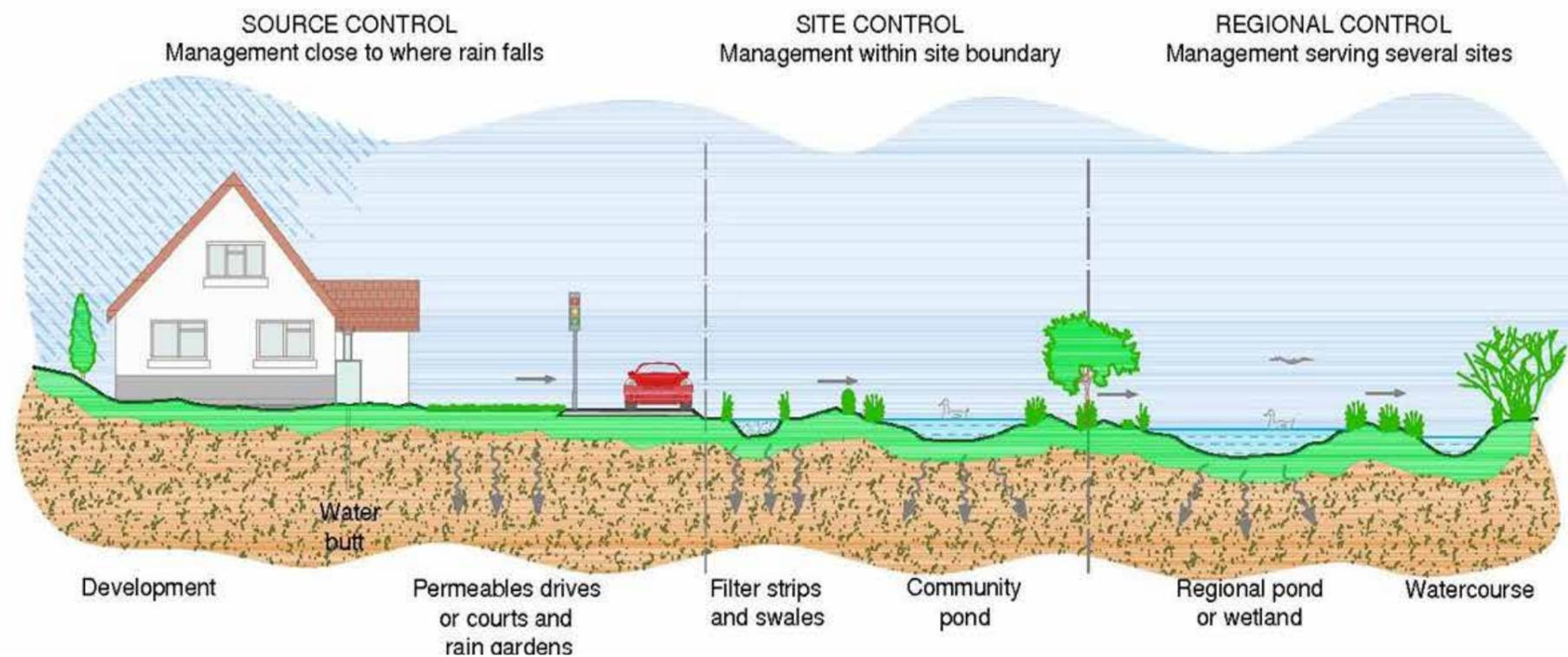
35 The SuDS Management Train follows a hierarchy of techniques:

- **Prevention** – the use of good site design and housekeeping measures on individual sites to prevent run-off and pollution
- **Source control** – control of run-off at, or very near, its source
- **Site control** – management of run-off within the site
- **Regional control** – management of run-off in the locality

36 All developments must give priority to prevention to reduce the need for mitigative structures. **The requirements for drainage should be considered whilst determining the overall layout of the development because the site's natural features; geology, topography, soil types and existing habitats, will dictate some aspects of the drainage system design.**

### Figure 2-3 Control Zones

Once all prevention opportunities have been explored and incorporated into your development's design, there are 3 zones of water control to consider: **Source, Site** and **Regional**.



### WAYMARKER

Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management's Directory of Flood Consultants:

<https://www.ciwem.org/assets/pdf/CIWEMConsultancyFile2021.pdf>

### WAYMARKER

For masterplanning guidance refer to:

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20110118111818/http://www.cabe.org.uk/files/creating-successful-masterplans.pdf>

Masterplanning with SuDS

[https://www.kent.gov.uk/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/23578/Masterplanning-for-SuDS.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/23578/Masterplanning-for-SuDS.pdf)

### WAYMARKER

Landscape Architects are trained in physical landscape assessment for all situations: urban, peri-urban or rural and can create an integrated masterplan for your site.

To find a Landscape Architect search the Landscape Institute directory:

<https://my.landscapeinstitute.org/directory>

**3**

# **Key Requirements for System Design**

### 3.1 Integrate with the natural drainage system

37 A **sustainable drainage system** works with natural drainage and reduces run-off rates by emulating natural water-movement to utilise soil capabilities to slow the flow and filter sediment and impurities.

38 The physical landscape characteristics of a site, and of its local and regional setting, have a major effect on its drainage. Developers should first consider their site's natural drainage system to design integrated development proposals, especially with regard to appropriate site use, scale of built development and site layout. This applies to both natural settings and previously developed sites.

39 Investigate both hidden and visible **natural drainage system components**. Some of these components are indicators of water conveyance, such as subterranean aquifers or surface streams, and others indicate water storage, such as soil, hollows and ponds. There may also be natural drainage system components such as vegetation which filters water and slows run-off rates, and seasonal pools which may not be obvious in summer. Developers should study their site in different precipitation conditions - aerial and seasonal photography can be very helpful.

40 Check for other evidence of including erosion (which indicates areas with high run-off speeds and/or volumes and reveals the direction of travel in its soil-scraping and silting patterns) seasonal flooding (which can indicate areas with low and/or slow infiltration) and underground components including soil depths, bedrock and groundwater.

41 On previously developed sites, some **traditional artificial drainage components** may be obvious, such as roofs, hard-surfacing, down-pipes and gutters. Other traditional artificial routes may be less obvious such as buried pipes for conveying water, canal feeder channels (which can be open or piped), and outfalls from weirs and sluices are easier to identify in periods of heavy rainfall and should not be confused with land drainage channels. Developers should investigate site-history, and consider how their proposals can be sustainably integrated with their site's natural drainage.

42 The physical landscape characteristics of a site and its surroundings determine its natural drainage. The key characteristics include:

**Geology**

**Topography**

**Soils**

**Vegetation**

43 Developers should work with the landscape character of their site and its location by referring to Cheshire East Council's Local Landscape Designation Areas, Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Strategy for further guidance on characteristic and/or protected landscape features, and Cheshire East's strategy for retaining and enhancing landscape character.

### Components of artificial drainage systems include gutters, pipes, land drains and chambers

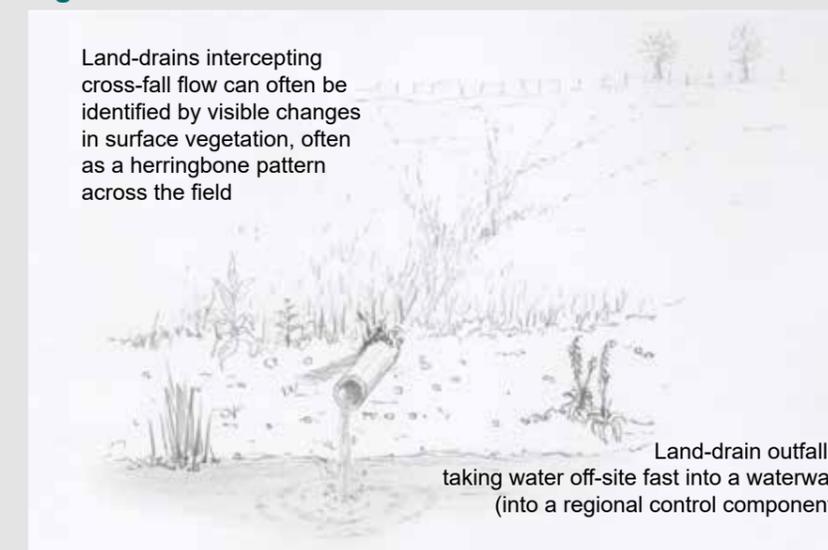
Figure 3-1

Hard roofs, gutters, downpipes, gulleys and hard-surfacing are all components of a traditional artificial drainage system



Figure 3-2

Land-drains intercepting cross-fall flow can often be identified by visible changes in surface vegetation, often as a herringbone pattern across the field



### Components of natural drainage systems include slopes, hollows, soil, hedgebanks and vegetation

Figure 3-3

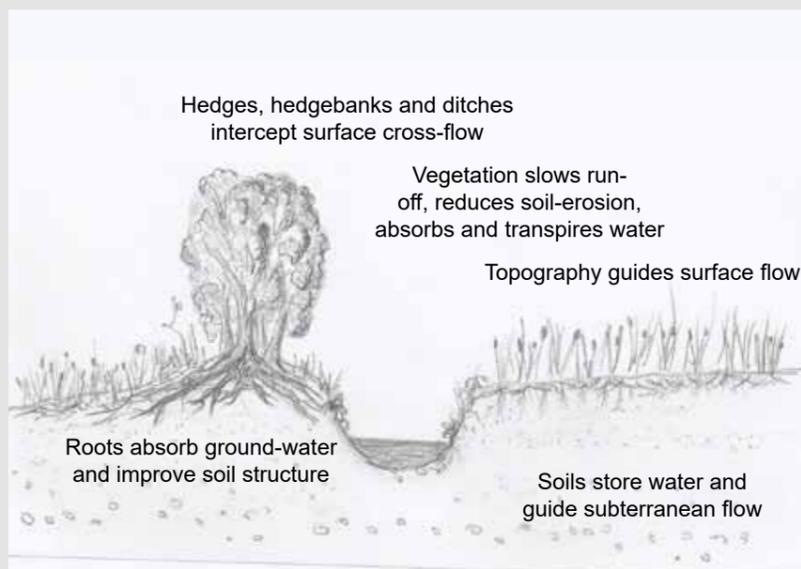
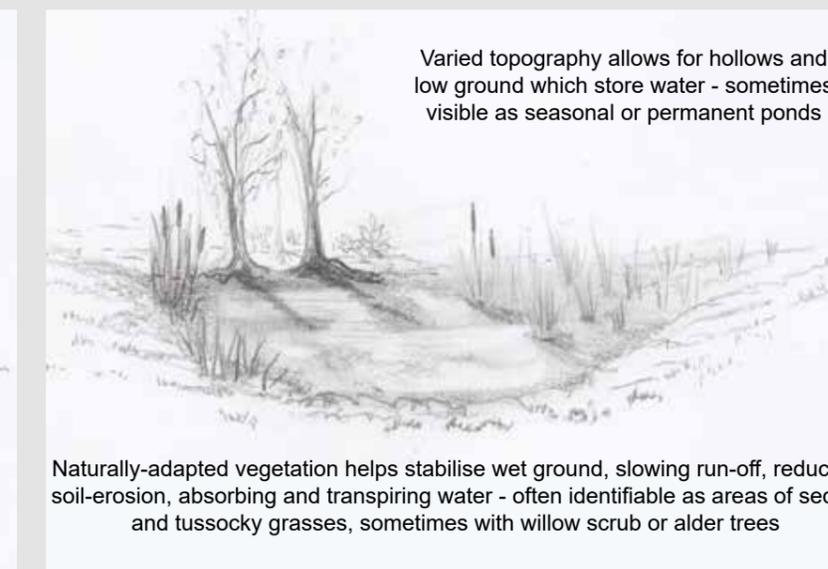


Figure 3-4

Varied topography allows for hollows and low ground which store water - sometimes visible as seasonal or permanent ponds



**WAYMARKER**

Cheshire East Council's Local Landscape Designation Areas

[https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/cheshire\\_east\\_local\\_plan/site-allocations-and-policies/sadpd-examination/documents/examination-library/ed11-cheshire-east-llid-review.pdf](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/cheshire_east_local_plan/site-allocations-and-policies/sadpd-examination/documents/examination-library/ed11-cheshire-east-llid-review.pdf)

**WAYMARKER**

Cheshire East Council's Landscape Character Areas and Landscape Strategy Reports

[https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/cheshire\\_east\\_local\\_plan/site-allocations-and-policies/sadpd-examination/documents/examination-library/ED10-Cheshire-East-LCA.pdf](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/cheshire_east_local_plan/site-allocations-and-policies/sadpd-examination/documents/examination-library/ED10-Cheshire-East-LCA.pdf)

### 3.2 Integrate with geological drainage

44 The general geology of Cheshire East is dominated by Triassic rocks of the Mercia Mudstone Group, interspersed with smaller areas of more variable rocks, including siltstones, limestone, coal, and halite, and areas of Sherwood Sandstone to the north and west. The north-east of the borough is dominated by the Carboniferous Millstone Grit of the Peak District National Park.

45 Mercia Mudstones have a generally weak structure which has led to the formation of extensive low-lying flatter land of the Cheshire Plain. The Cheshire Plain is bisected by a ridge of Triassic sandstone, running in a generally south-north direction from Peckforton and Beeston up to Runcorn Hill, with another sandstone outcrop at Alderley Edge.

46 The properties of different bedrocks are very variable. The bedrock properties which are particularly relevant to drainage include permeability, angles of slope, density and hardness. These properties affect the bedrock's rate of erosion, ability to store or convey water, and its effects on the directions of underground ('groundwater') flow.

47 Geological faults can affect aquifers and groundwater flow in a range of ways, with faults sometimes acting as barriers to flow, or, where they have a high permeability they may form a preferential flow-path.

Figure 3-5

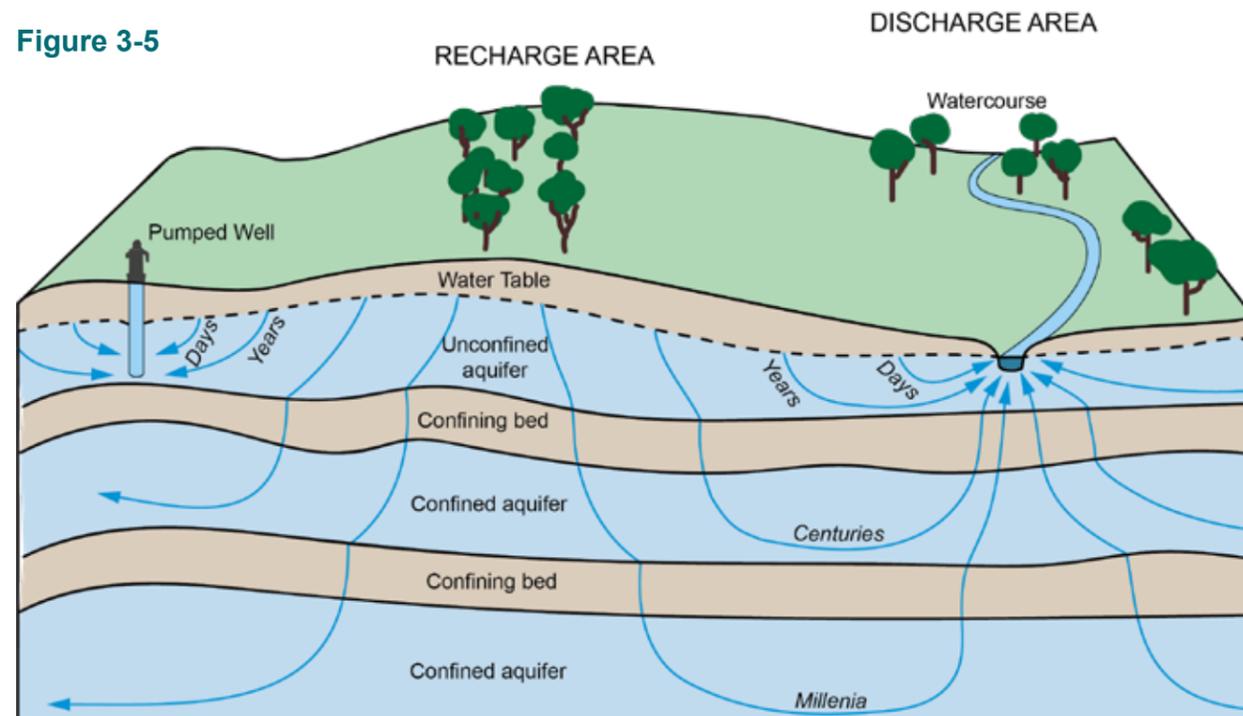


Diagram illustrating the influence of different-permeability bedrocks on underground water-movement

48 The types of bedrock under and around a proposed development site will affect the direction and speed of water flow, both into and out-of the site. Developers should find out what the geology of their site's local area is, how it influences their site's ability to store and convey water, and how their site links to groundwater aquifers (natural underground water-stores).

#### WAYMARKER

You can find baseline information for hydrogeological mapping from the British Geological Society (BGS) at:

<https://www2.bgs.ac.uk/groundwater/datainfo/hydromaps/home.html>

#### WAYMARKER

Ground investigation should be undertaken to understand site-specific hydrogeology. Specialist surveyors can be found through:

<https://www.hydrogroup.org.uk/>

49 The Sherwood Sandstone which dominates the north and west of Cheshire is an example of an aquifer - an underground water-store. Groundwater abstraction from the Sherwood Sandstone is important in this region for public water supply, and for industry and agriculture.

Figure 3-6

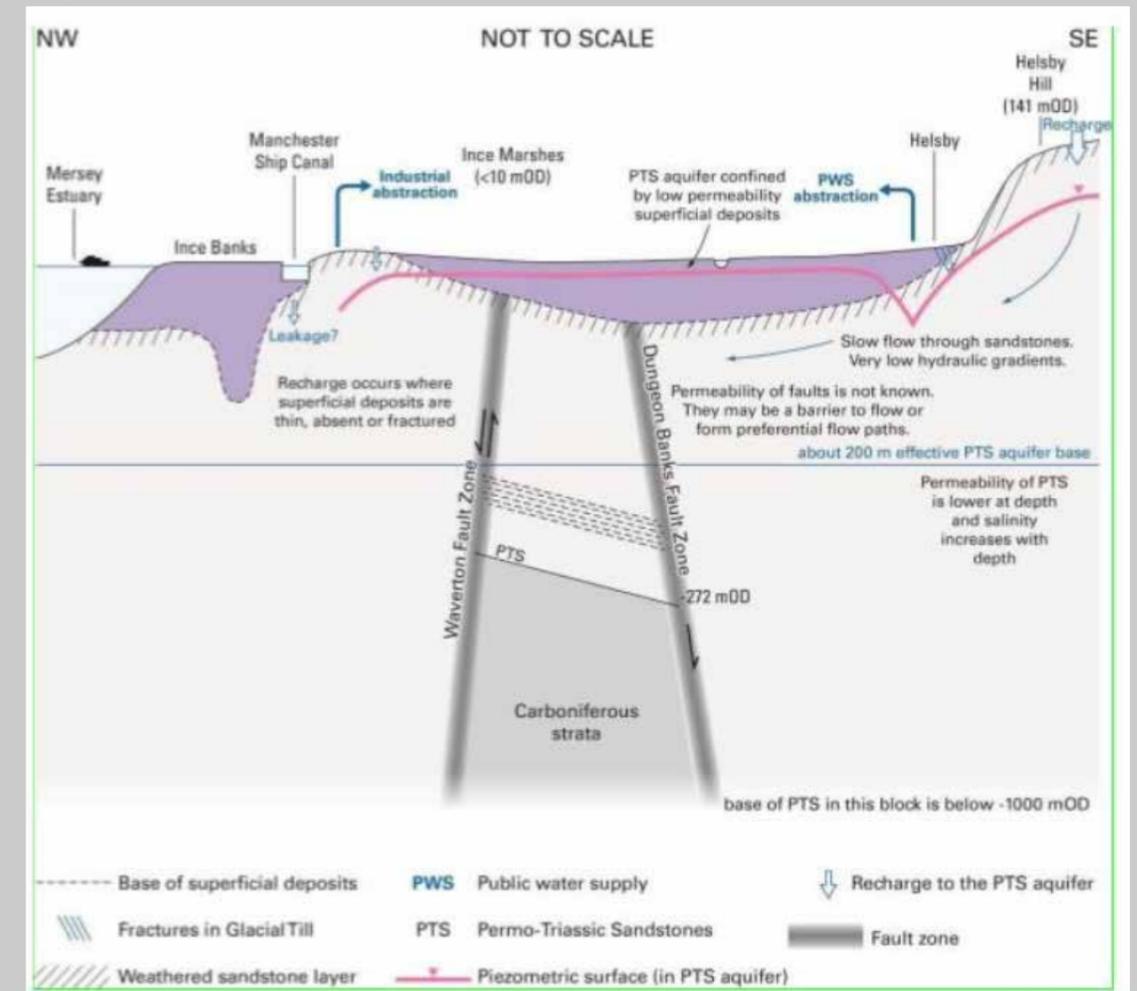


Diagram illustrating hydrogeological cross-section where the Weaver and Mersey rivers conjoin.

(Image: ukgeos.ac.uk)

Figure 3-7



The inundated floodplains of the Weaver and Mersey rivers over low permeability sandstones

(Image:LLong)

### 3.3 Integrate with topographical drainage

50 The topography of a site and its surrounding land will affect drainage patterns. A site's natural topography is primarily shaped by its geology (underlying rock) and hydrology (water movement), and to a lesser degree, wind. Topography includes the land's slopes (steepness), aspects (angles in relation to the sun) and relief (surface texture) and is a fundamental element of landscape character.

51 Harder bedrocks can resist erosion more than softer bedrocks so different bedrocks lead to different types of topography. Although localised differences may be found due to unusual events, such as glacier movement or quarrying, harder bedrocks often lead to more angular and dramatic topography. Steeper slopes create faster water-flow, whereas shallow slopes allow gentler flow and a flatter area may slow the flow almost to a stop, encouraging the formation of water-storage areas, such as bogs or fens. Hollows, ponds and ditches all add water-storage capacity, prolong infiltration opportunity and mitigate run-off speeds and volumes.



Integrate with topography:  
Steeper slopes where harder bedrock has resisted erosion and run-off will be faster

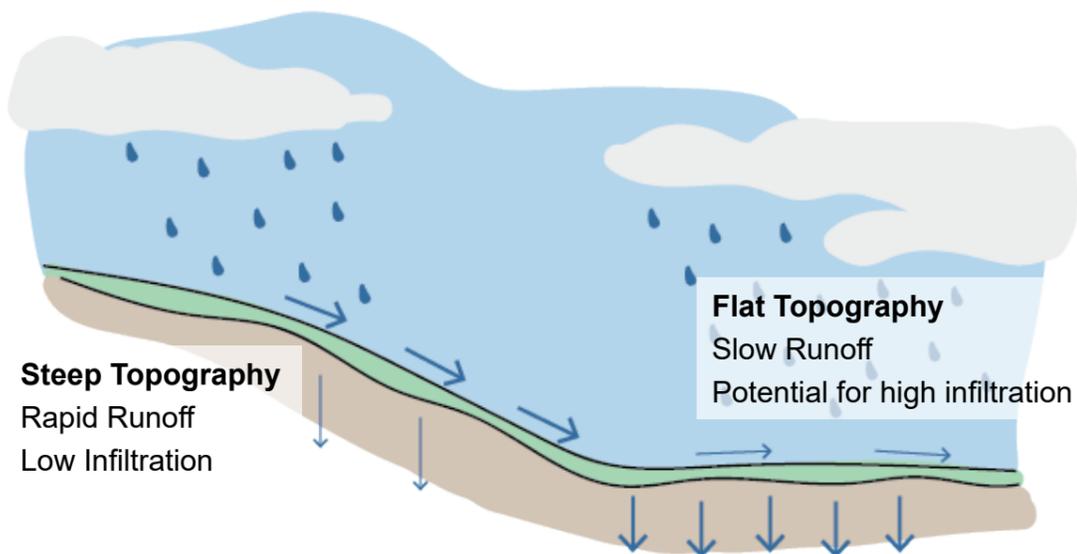


Integrate with topography:  
Flatter land where geological layers have succumbed to erosion and run-off will be slower.

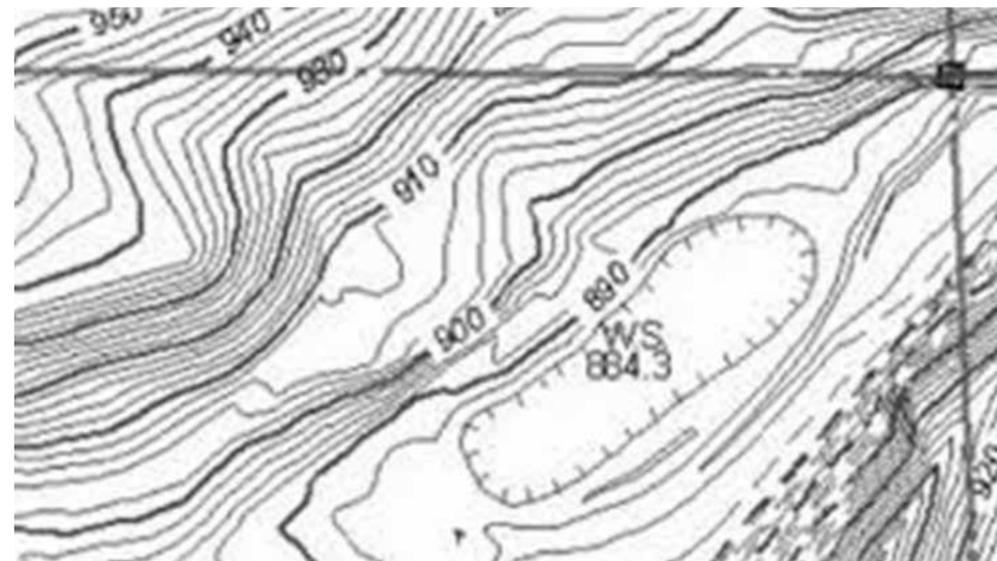


Integrate with topography:  
Undulating land where water run-off has accumulated in hollows and is stored until it infiltrates or evaporates.

52 A topographical survey is essential for understanding the site and its context, and geotechnical advice from a suitably qualified ground engineering advisor is likely to be required to ensure ground conditions are suitable for developer's proposals, particularly regarding soil properties, infiltration potential and structural stability, e.g. of slopes, embankments and cuttings, retaining walls or loosely consolidated materials. Artificial slopes, such as canal cuttings and embankments, need careful consideration as changes to land drainage can affect land stability and the structural integrity of these structures. Developers should integrate SuDS with the locality's natural topography, including accommodating existing watercourses in their development proposals.



Speed of run-off and potential for infiltration are affected by angle of slope



A topographical survey is essential for understanding the site and its context

#### WAYMARKER

Guidance for  
Topographical surveys:  
Royal Institute of  
Chartered Surveyors  
(RICS)

<https://www.rics.org/globalsets/rics-website/media/upholding-professional-standards/sector-standards/land/measured-surveys-of-land-buildings-and-utilities-3rd-edition-rics.pdf>

**53 Ordinary Watercourses** are regulated by Cheshire East's Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). The LLFA strongly discourages the culverting of watercourses and instead promotes the opening of previously culverted systems as promoted in Policy SE 13 - Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy 2010 - 2030. In line with the Land Drainage Act 1991, if a developer intends to alter a watercourse or provide a new outfall connection from development to an ordinary watercourse this requires Land Drainage Consent from the LLFA before any works are carried out - further information can be found at the following link:

<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/flooding/floods-and-flood-risk/land-drainage-consent.aspx>

**54** There must be no development within 8 metres of an ordinary watercourse. This is in line with Cheshire East Council's byelaw 10 and is in place to ensure against degradation to the watercourse's flood plain and to ensure development is sited outside flood risk areas.

**55** Watercourses which are designated as '**main river**' are regulated by the Environment Agency. For more information on working in proximity to main rivers and what consent is required please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits>

**56** If either an ordinary watercourse or main river is located within your land then you are legally required to ensure that natural flow through the watercourse is maintained and is free of obstruction at all times. For more information on your responsibilities for a watercourse within your ownership please visit the following web links:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse#owners-your-responsibilities>

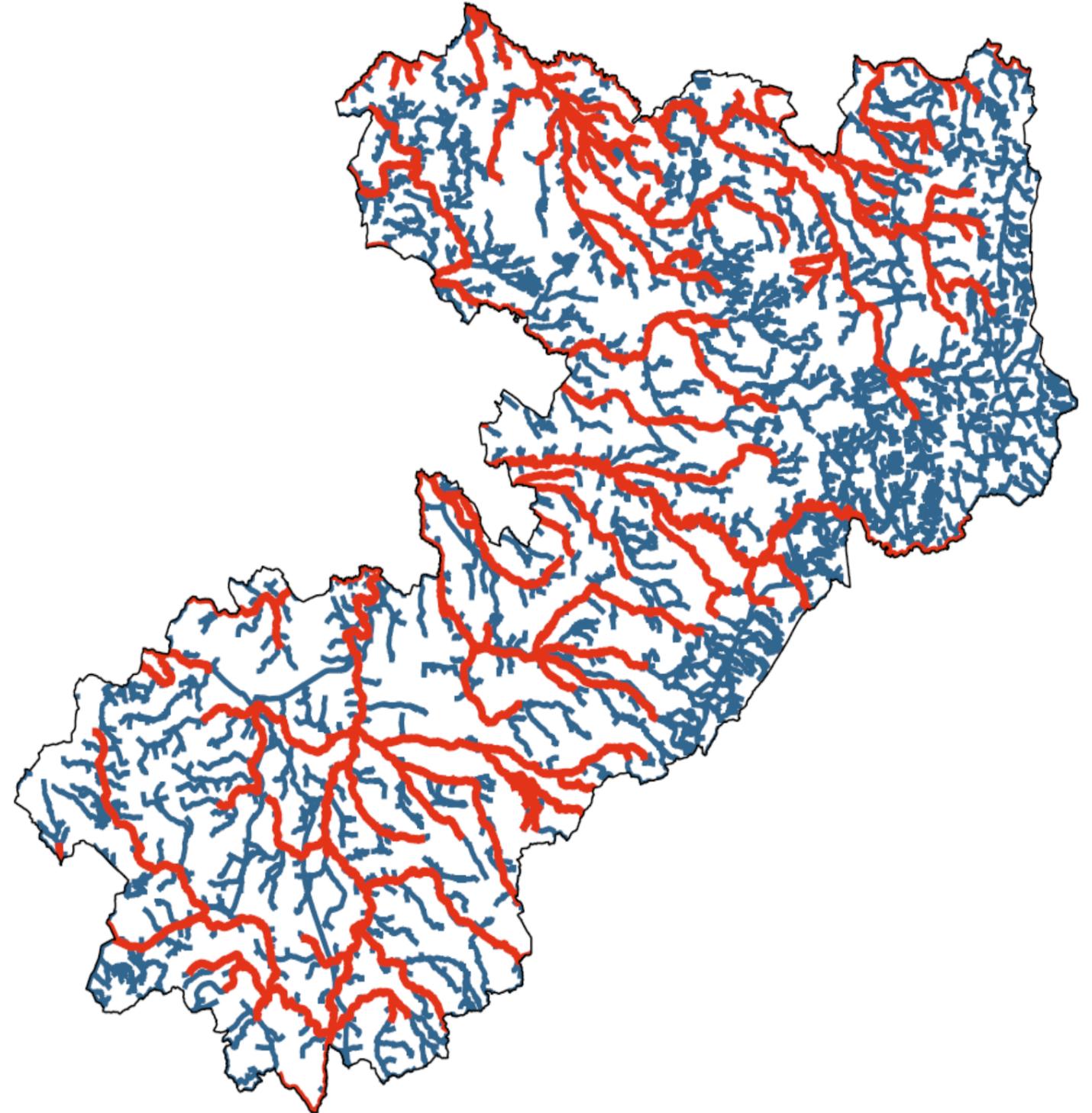
#### Issues associated with culverted watercourses

- Increasing upstream flood risk due to blockages of culverts or trash screens and/or restricted flood flows within the culvert itself.
- Increased downstream flood risk flows as a result of reduced flood retention in artificial channels, in comparison with natural watercourse floodplains.
- Increase difficulty in maintenance and health and safety responsibilities for drainage operatives.
- No ecological benefit within concrete channels due to loss of natural riverside habitats and green/blue corridors which causes population decline in aquatic species.
- Loss of waterside recreational activities.
- Existing culverted watercourses in and adjacent to development sites (including third-party owned culverts) can be affected by changes to surface water flows as a result of development, such as the quantity and quality of flow, during construction and in the long term.

#### The benefits of day-lighting watercourses

- Re-establishing floodplains increases flood storage capacity which helps to protect neighbouring land and development from flooding.
- Open watercourses help to tackle the pressures of climate change by providing cooler areas for people and wildlife within urban settlements during periods of intense heatwaves.
- Increased health and wellbeing for local communities as watercourses create opportunities for water-based activities and green corridors promote outdoor exercise.
- Increased economic value of new development due to desirable riverside locations.
- Open watercourses provide educational opportunities for local schools and lessons on the natural environment, promoting environmental stewardship in schools and local communities.

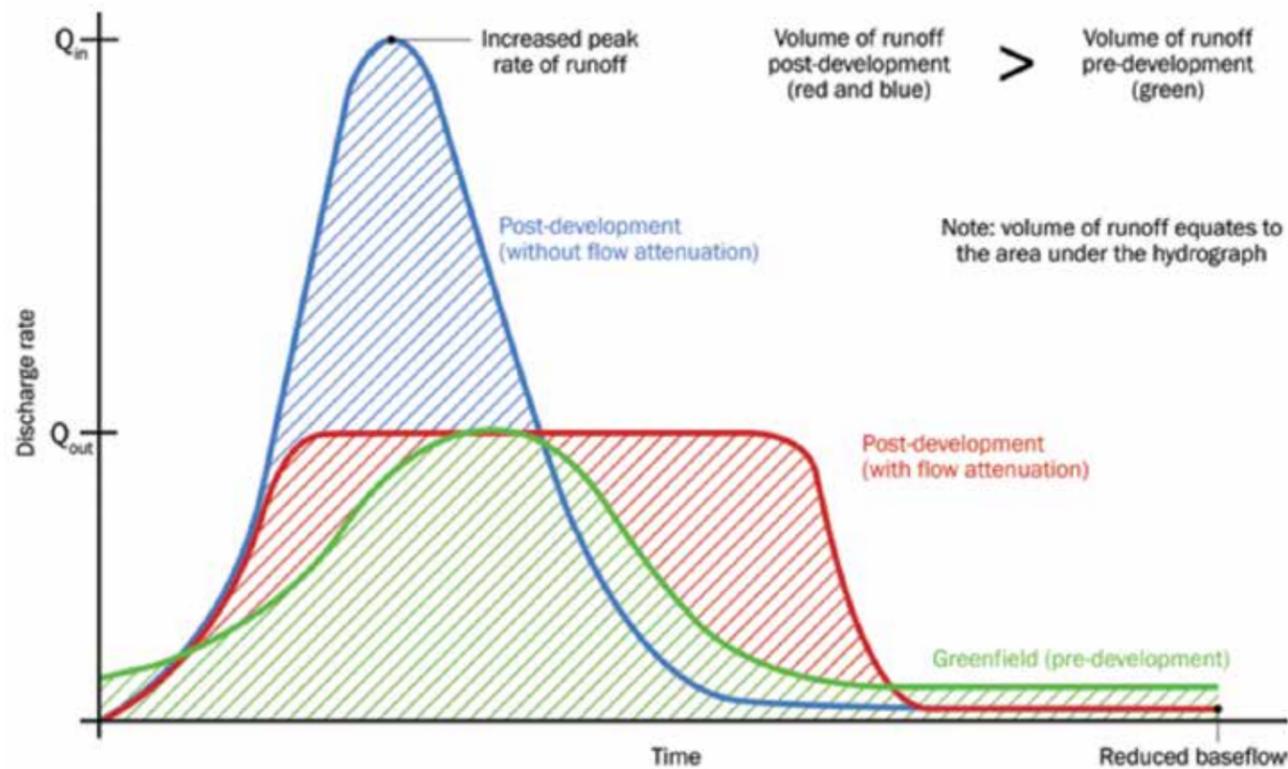
Cheshire East Borough is heavily-populated with watercourses - Developers should seek confirmation of the status of watercourses which cross their site or run near their site's boundaries



57 Sites will have existing **overland flow routes** present onsite relating to topographical variations and depressions. These should be maintained as existing to ensure no increase in flood risk on/off site. If the proposed development layout conflicts with existing overland flow routes, they must be safely managed by diverting them away from dwellings and commercial buildings.

58 The volume of overland flow routes should be quantified through appropriate hydraulic modelling so that they can be accommodated within the capacity of the onsite surface water drainage infrastructure. The developer should demonstrate how they are proposing to maintain the flow route within the development site layout plan.

59 New surface water drainage infrastructure should be designed to accommodate 1 in 100yr + Climate Change allowance storm events. However, during extreme rainfall events, surface water drainage infrastructure may become overwhelmed. It is therefore important that new development accommodates safe, unobstructed **exceedance flow routes** within their design which will not pose a risk to people or property. During the planning process an exceedance flow route plan should be submitted to the LLFA which considers proposed flooded volumes and post-development site topography.



Graph illustrating how sustainable drainage can reduce the extremes of peak runoff rates

Source: CIRIA SuDS Manual (C735F), diagram of flow rates

60 It is predicted that Climate Change is likely to increase the risk of more intense rainfall in the future, therefore all SuDS schemes must be designed to accommodate this. Guidance from the Environment Agency (February 2016) identifies two possible scenarios for future increases in rainfall intensity, 'Central' and 'Upper End'.

61 The 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) plus the allowance for climate change for all developments up to a 100 year design life should be considered. This reflects the fact that a 100 year design life will now extend beyond the latest timeframe specified by the Environment Agency guidance.

62 Where there is flood risk present onsite and/or there is an increase in land levels proposed onsite, the LLFA advises developers to incorporate **boundary drainage** to capture surface water run off at the site boundary and to prevent surface water run off transfer between the development site and third-party land.

63 Boundary drainage should also be incorporated as part of individual plot drainage for proposed dwellings where there is a fluctuation in finished floor levels between adjacent dwellings. Swales and Filter Drains are useful SuDS components for incorporating boundary treatment and preventing the transfer of surface water runoff. Hydraulic modelling and catchment analysis should be undertaken to inform the required capacity of these components for receiving surface water flows.



Image showing a grassed swale incorporated in a roadside verge

Source: Susdrain, <https://www.susdrain.org/delivering-suds/using-suds/suds-components/swales-and-conveyance-channels/swales.html>

#### WAYMARKER

Climate change allowances for peak rainfall in England:

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/hydrology/climate-change-allowances/rainfall#>

### 3.4 Integrate with soils' storage and drainage capacities

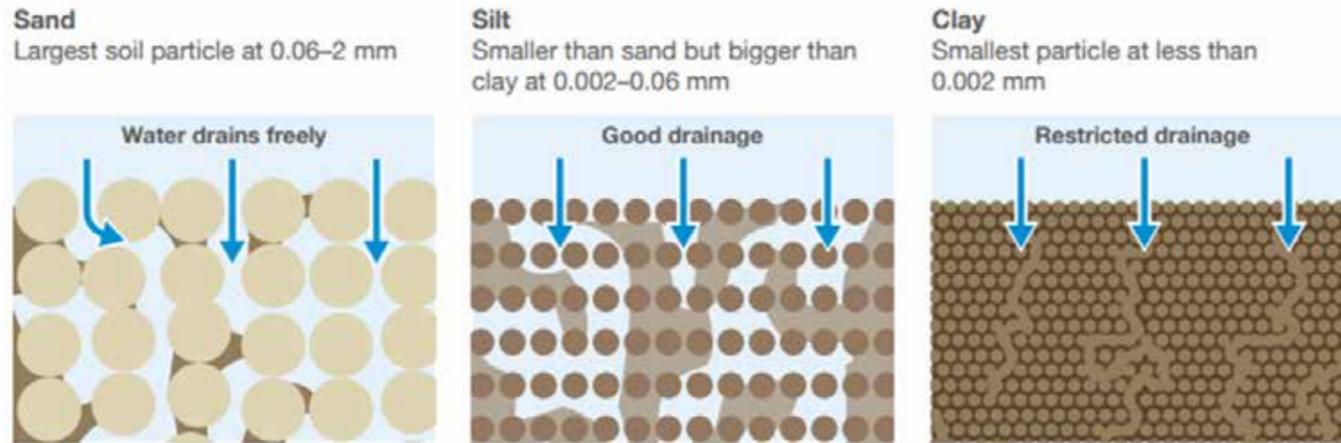
The capacity of a site to store or convey water is heavily dependent upon soil structure.

64 The types of soils on site affect both the site's water-storage capacity, drainage volumes and speeds and run-off quality. Depths and volumes of soils, and the grain-size of soil particles (or aggregated particles) affect their ability to retain and transport water.

65 A soil's **porosity** determines its capacity to store water. Soil water-storage capacity increases as soil texture becomes finer because it becomes more capable of trapping water. Small pores not only restrict the passage of water but they also keep it closer to the particle surface where chemical-bonding can further slow its movement.

66 A soil's **permeability** determines the ease of movement of water through that soil. Soil-permeability increases as soil texture becomes coarser as soil pores are larger and water can flow through more easily. Fundamentally, the larger the **pore size** the more space there will be for water to move.

67 Clay and humus affect both porosity and permeability by binding soil grains together into aggregates, thereby creating a network of larger pores, 'macropores', that allow water to move more easily.



Soils with larger particles have larger pores therefore convey water more quickly.

Soils with smaller gaps between particles will hold water for longer.

68 **Groundwater and Percolation testing** should be undertaken to BRE365 / CIRIA C753 to determine suitability for site drainage/infiltration.

69 Well-structured and deeper soils decrease surface run-off and have greater water-storage capacity (depth limits to ensure good soil health are discussed to the right).

70 Compacted and shallower soils increase surface run-off and increase the site's susceptibility to erosion and flooding.

1 - James Hutton Institute; STARS; British Geological Society; CIWEM; British Ecological Society; Dr Tim Harrod; Prof Mark Hodson; Institute for Global Food Security; Lancaster Environment Centre; Microbiology Society; Soil Security Programme; Robert Palmer; Soil First Farming

### Managing Soils to improve or maintain Health, Depth and Structure

71 Soils are created by a combination of weathering of bedrock and decomposition of organic matter by soil-ecology. Soil-ecology counts for a quarter of the earth's biodiversity including earthworms, fungi and bacteria.<sup>1</sup> One hectare of healthy topsoil can contain up to 5 tonnes of living organisms. Potential pollutants carried-by or dissolved in water entering soils must be considered and managed.

#### Soil Quality

72 Developers should avoid moving soils where possible. Soil movement leads to loss and deterioration of its structure and health. Where soils require movement (whether those are in-situ site-soils or imported) SuDS proposals should show compliance with the Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites. This code of practice provides guidance for soil surveys, soils management plans and methodologies for soil stripping, storage and re-laying).

73 Where site soils have to be relocated to planting areas or where imported soils are required: subsoil must meet BS 8601:2013 Specification for Subsoil and Requirements for Use topsoil must meet BS 3882:2015 Specification for Topsoil.

#### Soil Depths

74 Existing in-situ site-soils should be re-used where suitable and possible to prevent loss of natural resources, prevent unnecessary transportation and prevent transit-damage to soil structure.

75 Soil-depths required for new planting are:

	Minimum Topsoil Depth	Maximum Topsoil Depth*	Minimum combined depth of Topsoil + Subsoil**
Grass and herbaceous species	150mm	400mm	450mm
Shrubs and hedgerows	200mm	400mm	600mm
Trees (including hedgerow trees)	300mm	400mm	900mm

\*Due to particle-size and compaction, topsoil depths exceeding 400mm can lead to anaerobic conditions so subsoil should be used below 400mm depth to create suitable conditions for rootzones.

\*\*For example: for trees 350mm topsoil to BS 3882:2015 could be laid over 700mm subsoil to BS 8601:2013 giving a rooting-depth of 1050mm.

#### WAYMARKER

Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites - DEFRA (includes advice for Soil Resource Surveys and Soils Management Plans):

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/716510/pb13298-code-of-practice-090910.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/716510/pb13298-code-of-practice-090910.pdf)

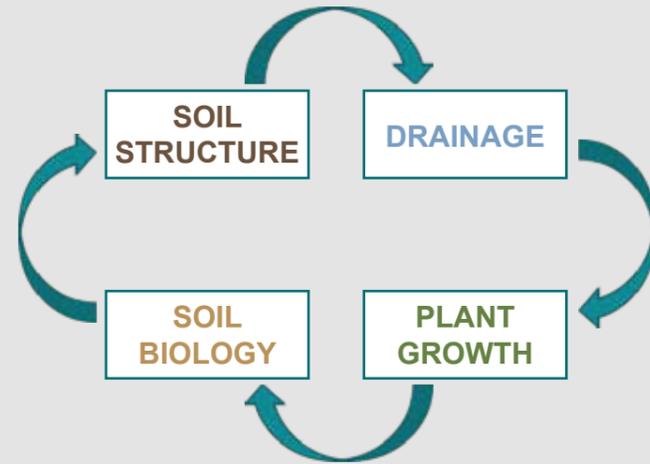
#### WAYMARKER

BS 8601:2013 Specification for subsoil and requirements for use  
<https://shop.bsigroup.com/ProductDetail?pid=000000000030209662>

BS 3882:2015 Specification for topsoil  
<https://shop.bsigroup.com/ProductDetail/?pid=000000000030297815>

### 3.5 Integrate with vegetation

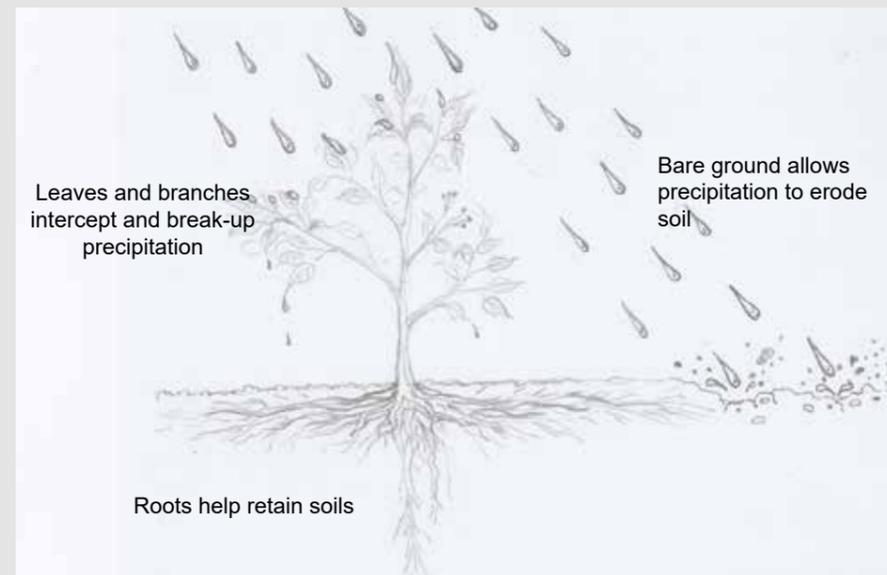
76 Plants are an essential component for the natural drainage system. Plants provide the food necessary for the development of healthy soil biology, which in turn develops good soil structure, which in turn helps with the storage and conveyance of water.



77 Natural vegetation cycling can improve soil water storage capacity. When deciduous leaves are dropped or plants die, plant material (humus) feeds soil organisms and creates a less dense soil structure which can store or convey more water. The movement of soil organisms increases this process, helping soil pores to enlarge to macropores. As soil organisms digest and decompose humus, they release nutrients back to the soil which in turn feeds new plants.

78 Living plants perform other key drainage tasks:

As plants grow, their roots open pores between soil particles, enabling increased storage and movement of water. The growth of plant roots also helps to physically bind soil and resist erosion, and the leaves of plants reduce raindrop impact on the soil.



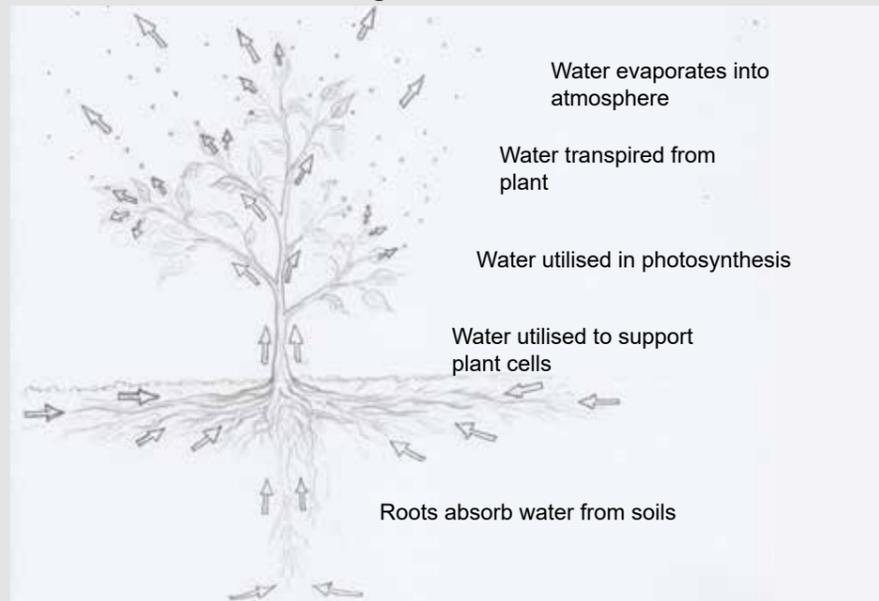
Schematic diagram of roots increasing erosion resistance



Vegetated land showing better erosion resistance during flood conditions

Attribution: Image from: <https://www.frontierag.co.uk/blog/protecting-soil-from-erosion>

79 Plants also transpire - removing water from the ground and releasing it back into the atmosphere. Root hair cells absorb water from the soil by osmosis, some of that water is used for photosynthesis to feed the plant, some gives plant cells their rigidity, and some is released through leaf stomata.



Schematic diagram of water removal by evapotranspiration

#### WAYMARKER

Surveying vegetation: Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey  
<https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/9578d07b-e018-4c66-9c1b-47110f14d-f2a/Handbook-Phase1-HabitatSurvey-Revised-2016.pdf>

80 All vegetation will help to absorb and transpire water, reduce run-off volumes and slow run-off speeds.

81 Higher vegetation density will help provide a higher quantity of drainage benefits through:

- more diverse rooting depths
- more diverse plant heights for increased transpiration
- greater opportunity for filtering
- increased resilience of the natural water-cycle

If vegetative species diversity is limited, such as just grasses, water uptake will be restricted to the limited rootzone



Photo showing the limited range of grass roots in soil

Image: <https://www.pennington.com>

Where vegetative species diversity is greater, capacity for water uptake by roots is greater and the variety of roots provide more easy infiltration paths for water into multiple soil layers



Photo showing typical underground spread of tree roots in soils

Image: <https://www.treeworks.co.uk/where-are-the-roots/>

82 It is important to record and consider all vegetated surfaces, including vegetation that survives on man-made structures, such as climbing plants, succulents, ferns and mosses.

83 Developers should utilise a Phase 1 Habitat Survey of their site to identify existing vegetation coverage and inform their SuDS designer of areas where vegetation-density and vegetation-diversity could be increased to support SuDS.

### 3.6 Achieve a well-designed place

84 Growth will continue to be a major pressure upon the environment, therefore it is important that new development improves the quality of places and minimises its adverse effects on the environment and upon existing communities. Creatively designed SuDS should enrich both new development and existing areas by reducing the pressure on drainage systems and creating more attractive, nature rich, and enjoyable places within Cheshire East Borough.

85 Cheshire East is a varied place and new development must build upon its inherent qualities. The green and blue infrastructure for a site and its surroundings should be the foundation for any new development. Thinking positively about this could help to achieve maximum social, environmental, and economic value for a development.

86 SuDS provide an opportunity for habitats within and around a development. The incorporation of open water, both permanent and temporary, and associated reedbeds, wetlands and ditches provides a range of habitats for wildlife increasing the biodiversity value of a scheme.

87 Creatively designed SuDS, designed as a system (or train) of positive components, can be a major structuring element for new development, even on a site that has few pre-existing features or which is quite heavily constrained. They can build upon and cement the existing character of a place or help to build a new, positive identity. SuDS can also help to educate people about the environment and climate change, and promote social interaction and a sense of community.

88 SuDS designers should think more widely than the red line of a site and follow guidance set out by the Cheshire East Residential Design Guide.

#### WAYMARKER

CEC Residential Design Guide Parts 1 & 2 found at:

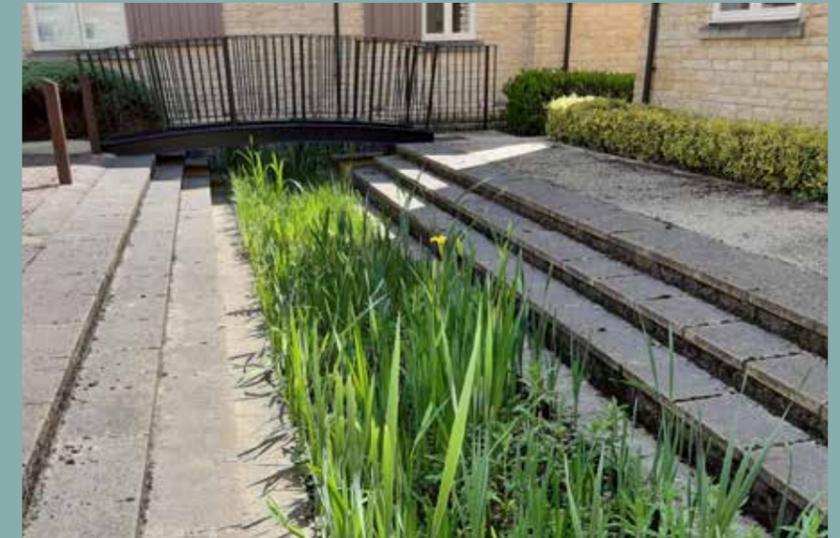
[https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial\\_planning/cheshire\\_east\\_local\\_plan/supplementary\\_plan\\_documents/design-guide-supplementary-planning-document.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial_planning/cheshire_east_local_plan/supplementary_plan_documents/design-guide-supplementary-planning-document.aspx)

89 A positive example on a neighbourhood scale is Upton in Northampton where, as part of the Masterplanning and design coding for a new community, SuDS were integral elements of the place infrastructure. This fulfilled a practical need but did so in a way that also brought a distinctive townscape quality.



Images: e\*SCAPE Urbanists

90 On a smaller infill scale, the Riverside Court scheme, at Stamford, demonstrates a different approach to SuDS as part of a creative urban design approach for a very constrained site. A full management train including canalised SuDS has enriched the townscape, and softens what could otherwise have been a hard, and somewhat featureless, development.



### 3.7 Incorporate Amenity and Recreation

91 When designing SuDS as part of place-making, developers should embrace opportunities to celebrate water, to educate and engage both existing and new communities, by creating safe opportunities for people of all ages to interact with water and to be playful.

92 Water can bring nature, movement, light, noise, drama, mark the changing seasons, add to the richness of a place and offer a more immersive experience to the user. People are drawn to water: looking at it, being near it, or even dipping fingers or toes into it. It can ignite the imagination, the senses, offer a sense of freedom and exhilaration or create places of calm reflection and playfulness. Its fluidity presents opportunities for self-initiated creative play and inclusion or creation of public art features.

93 As with all design, consideration of how people might use and respond to SuDS is a key consideration which should be taken into account from the outset of development planning. All ages benefit from a more creative, thoughtful integration of water and of SuDS into their environment, though particular consideration must be given to more vulnerable adults and children.

94 The CDM (Construction Design and Management) Regulations help all project managers, clients and designers to ensure all foreseeable risks are assessed, including designing maintenance access and implementation of future maintenance. Any unacceptable risk should be removed through design (designed-out) and where unavoidable risks remain they must be mitigated and managed. A Health and Safety file must be produced and a copy submitted to the Local Planning Authority.

95 SuDS should positively contribute to the amenity of developments and, whilst there are risks involved with water, with careful design, risk management and appropriate maintenance, SuDS could incorporate opportunities for community recreation, fun, and add distinctiveness and character.

96 Currently, the majority of drainage solutions proposed for residential developments in Cheshire East comprise pipes to detention basins. This solution can present a high risk in terms of amenity and recreation due to their potential flow-rates and depths of water and, as a consequence, these areas are often fenced off, reducing active recreation and play opportunities.



97 One of the objectives of this SuDS guide is to help developers move away from a 'one component fits all' solution, towards the design of an integrated, site-wide SuDS train which combines a number of components to negate or mitigate the need for large detention-basins.

98 In emulating the way the natural environment absorbs water, the SuDS should naturally reduce the risks associated with recreation and spreads it across the site. Thoughtfully-designed and well-managed solutions should open-up opportunities to include safer amenity and recreational elements for all sectors of our communities to enjoy. It should be supported by engagement with new and existing communities, by materials that creatively explain their purpose and presence and be clear about the required and specific maintenance they will receive.

99 Increasingly, water-play opportunities are incorporated into urban play-schemes, however the most common route has been through the use of mains-fed features such as jets, fountains or paddling pools.

100 Mains water is an expensive and unsustainable resource. Mains-fed play features tend to be seasonal and predictable, simply spraying or wetting people during the summer months. These could be considered as part of larger public realm schemes where the increased installation costs, management and maintenance are sustainable and the use of an increasingly important resource justified. Using rainwater and SuDS for play offers more diverse opportunities. It can also be simple, cost effective and easy to implement provided it is designed-in from the outset and as part of a well-considered masterplan.

101 SuDS must remain safe and accessible for the life-time of the developments they serve. Cheshire East Council will only approve SuDS where the risks have been formally assessed by a suitably-qualified person, taking into account future amenity and maintenance requirements of all components of the system.

*"A paddling pool, even if shallow, involves a low but inevitable risk of drowning but this [risk] is normally tolerable. The likelihood is typically extremely low, the hazard is readily apparent, children benefit through the benefit of water play and finally, further reduction or management of risk is not practicable without taking away the benefits" - Health and Safety Executive*

102 Water can provide formal and informal play and learning opportunities, ranging from naturalistic exploration akin to the understanding of risk taught at forest schools, to more contained experiences, such as how the cold water feels or the sound of a stone as it hits the water. SuDS systems and nature ponds should be considered within every new school or educational facility where the learning opportunity is maximised.

#### WAYMARKER

Further advice regarding designing-out and managing risk should be sought from current national guidance which includes:

Health and Safety Executive - <https://www.hse.gov.uk/>

ROSPA - <https://www.rospa.com/>

CDM Regulations - <https://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/cdm/2015/index.htm>



**4**

# **Selecting components**

## WHAT THIS SECTION WILL COVER:

- Choosing SuDS components
- The SuDS selection matrix
- Considerations for discharge
- Local SuDS zones

### 4.1 Choosing SuDS components

103 SuDS design should focus on easy and efficient maintenance, to achieve low operational and maintenance costs and provide a safe environment for residents, visitors and the maintenance operatives.

104 One of the key elements of designing a site with SuDS is the decision about which components to use. As described in the previous chapter, there are a variety of SuDS components but not all will be suitable for all sites. It is therefore vital to have a comprehensive understanding about the nature of the site, particularly if there is contaminated ground and to ensure that a constant review is undertaken from project inception to SuDS operation. **Section 4.7** describes the best practice for this decision-making process based on the **CIRIA SuDS Manual**.

Source control options are detailed in the SuDS Suitability Selection Matrix as detailed at the end of **Section 4**.

105 *Developers should be mindful that pumping stations are not covered in this document. If your surface-water drainage strategy requires a pumping station, you will need to gain approval from Cheshire East's Lead Local Flood Authority.*

106 When undertaking SuDS design and construction, Developers should also refer to:

**CIRIA report C768 'Guidance on the Construction of SuDS'**.

#### WAYMARKER

The CIRIA's report C768 contains further best practice guidance SuDS designers and developers should follow. Further information can be found on the CIRIA website:

<https://www.ciria.org/>

Figure 4-1: Example of Sustainable Drainage Components in a System





## 1 Prevention

Good housekeeping and site design to reduce and manage runoff and pollution, eg land-use planning, reduction of paved surfaces

## 2 Source control

Runoff managed as close to the source as possible, eg using green roofs, rainwater harvesting, permeable paving, filter strips



## 3 Site control

Runoff managed in a network across a site or local area, eg using swales, detention basins, public realm SuDS components for attenuation and treatment. Also, flow should be slowed using overland conveyed routes



## 4 Regional control

Downstream management of runoff for a whole site/catchment, eg retention ponds, wetlands

Diagram: CIRIA C687

## 4.2 Prevention

107 Preventing increases in surface water run-off should be the first priority when considering site drainage.

108 The first tool for preventing surface-water run-off should be more sustainable site design which maximises the site's natural drainage capabilities and minimises both building footprints and hard surfaced areas.

109 Preventing surface run-off reduces the pressure on water catchments, and on the sewerage system in times of flood. Prevention also reduces the need for SuDS components and consequently reduces potential land take and construction costs.

### To prevent or reduce surface-water run-off:

- **Assess and understand the natural drainage of your site and plan your layout to integrate with it**
- Minimise footprints for buildings - ensure floor areas are a true reflection of need
- Retain the maximum extent and depth of natural soils
- To ensure their long term porosity and permeability, and water-storage capabilities, manage soils to preserve & improve their health including their structure, biology and chemistry
- Retain the maximum scale and extent of existing vegetation on site, including herbaceous plants (non-woody stems, including grasses), shrubs and trees
- Increase vegetation where possible and appropriate, including using hedges rather than fenced boundaries, adding trees, shrubs, planters, and living wall systems or climbing plants and plug-plants for walls
- Utilise green roofs on large and small scale buildings. Technology is widely available and can also provide insulation, carbon absorption and visual integration
- Minimise the extent of hard-surfacing, e.g. use soft centrelines within wheel-strips for driveways and reduce paved-patio sizes
- Utilise softer surfacing, e.g. reinforced grass and grid-type vehicular surfacing wherever possible and appropriate

## All proposed developments in Cheshire East are expected to employ run-off prevention measures.

Key surface water run-off prevention measures include retaining vegetation, good soils management, minimising hard development and maximising soft development.



### Retain Vegetation:

Hedgerows and trees take decades to establish and develop as wildlife ecosystems and they are essential elements of the natural drainage system, improving soil structure for infiltration and absorbing and transpiring water.



### Manage Soils Well:

Poor soil-management disrupts the soil system, causing a cycle of decline through death of soil-biology which creates chemical imbalance. This disables soil's functions, particularly supporting life and absorbing water. Developers should employ good soils management which retains and promotes good soil structure, thriving soil biology and balanced soil chemistry, to maximise soil's capacity for water attenuation, storage, and subterranean conveyance.



### Minimise Hard Development:

Avoid and reduce the adverse impacts of hard structures and surfaces, by ensuring the scale of built development is kept to the minimum required, including roofs, approach roads, parking & turning areas and pedestrian paving.



Royal Horticultural Society Research Project: [Greening Great Britain](#)

### Maximise Soft Development:

Retain existing soft ground and softer structures where possible and utilise alternative design, permeable materials, and green technologies to maximise the softness of built development.



Scott Mitchell, Bridgehampton

'Ribbon driveways' and access roads reduce hard-surfacing by 60-70%

### 4.3 Source control

110 Source control uses sustainable drainage system components to manage your site's rainwater close to where it falls. Source control components affect the speed of run-off by helping to **intercept, capture and temporarily store water close to its fall-point**.

111 Source control components can also **reduce run-off quantity and improve run-off quality**.

Examples of source control components include:

- green roofs
- living walls
- permeable surfaces
- rainwater harvesting

Many source control components can be utilised for both new developments and retro-fitting to existing development.



Aberyswth University (Singleply.co.uk)

Green roof technology reduces run-off by retaining some infiltration, evaporation and plant-transpiration over the footprint of the building



Image courtesy of K. Swindells (2021)

Permeable paving reduces run-off by allowing infiltration on what would be an otherwise impermeable surface

### 4.4 Site control

112 Site control components can further **reduce run-off** from your site, **temporarily store excess water** and **guide the flow of any remaining run-off**. Site controls are also needed to **manage any run-on from neighbouring land**.

113 There are a variety of SuDS components which act as site controls and can be incorporated in any drainage system. SuDS components should be selected for their appropriateness in the context of your SuDS management train and should integrate with your site's context, considering land character and availability, maintenance needs and adoptability.

114 To reduce and control development run-off within your site, infiltration systems are encouraged. The following are examples of site control components:

- swales and filter strips
- canals, rills and channels
- raingardens

115 Where infiltration does not provide sufficient reduction of run-off, water-storage components should be incorporated in your SuDS management train. Subject to site constraints and the results of a risk assessment, ponds can provide the most effective water treatment. Underground storage does not provide water quality benefit and can only be used in conjunction with other SuDS. In order of preference, storage components include:

- attenuation basins
- underground storage



### 4.5 Regional control

116 Regional control components **gather run-off from multiple local sites, guide the flow of regional run-off** and **temporarily store regional run-off**. Regional controls also affect run-off **quality**, through sedimentation and filtration. Regional control components include:

- detention ponds



Large-scale regional controls can have multiple benefits, including providing resources for wildlife and recreation

117 Larger-scale regional control components can become biodiverse habitats, including temporary or permanent waterbodies, wet woodland such as alder carr, extensive wet grassland, bogs and fens. Such habitats can benefit many priority species in local biodiversity action plans. To maximise their value as wildlife habitats ponds should be designed to:

- Hold an area of permanent open water
- Have a range of depths, with extensive shallows
- Have gently sloping sides
- Have Scalloped edges
- Be planted/seeded with native plant species
- Be sited close to other habitats
- Not be shaded from the south
- Be sheltered from the north by trees or hedges

#### WAYMARKER

For further advice regarding providing resources for biodiversity and recreation, refer to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWF) publication 'SuDS: Maximising the potential for People and Wildlife'

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/our-positions-and-casework/our-positions/land-use-planning/sustainable-homes-and-buildings/>

## 4.6 Discharge and Run-off Considerations

118 The preference for the discharge of surface water run-off is to the ground via infiltration. However, this may not be entirely possible for all sites due to soil-permeability, contaminated land, topography of the area or quantity of sediments and contaminants within the surface water.

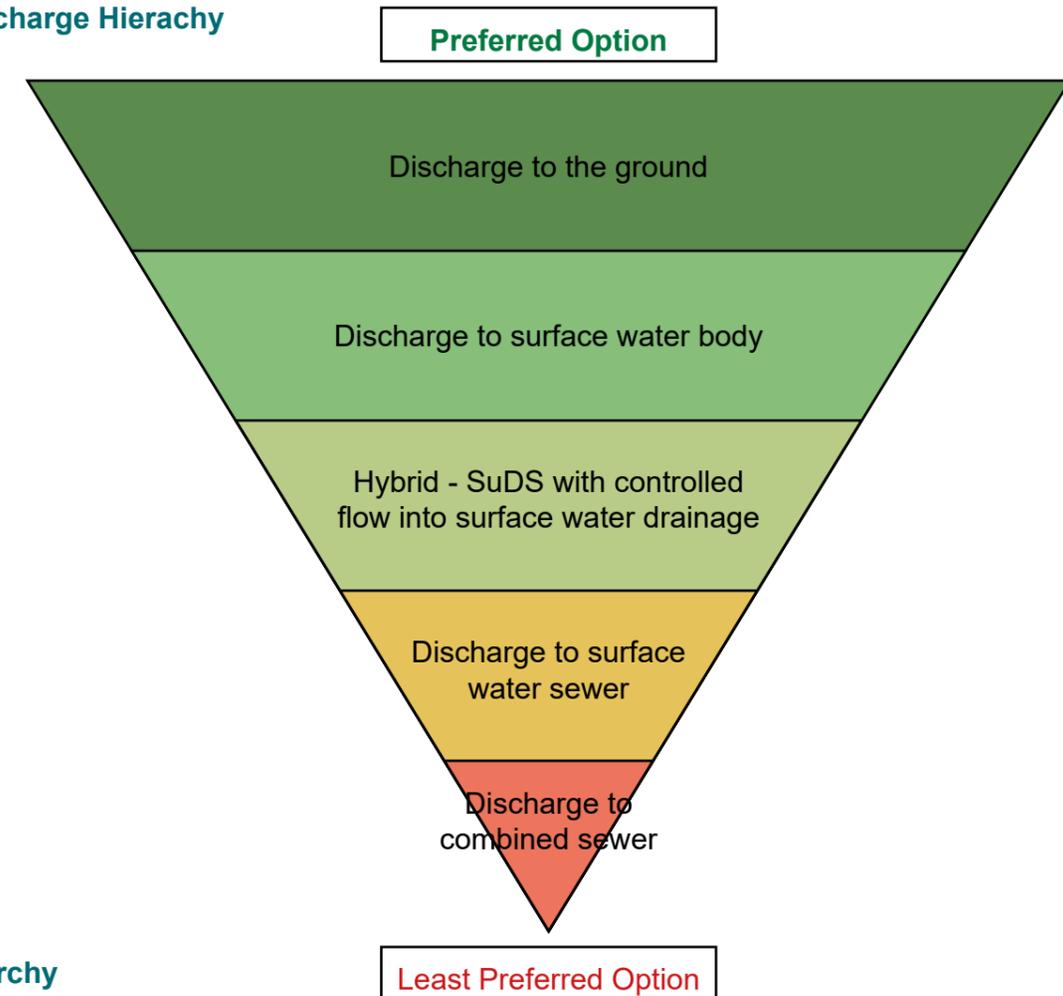
119 As shown in the run-off destination diagram to the right, other options of discharging to a surface water body, to a surface water sewer, or a combined sewer (in that order of preference) should be explored where infiltration is not fully possible. Surface water should never be discharged to the foul sewer. Connections from developments are not permitted onto highway drainage unless they comprise solely water from highway gullies.

### Considerations and actions that should be undertaken include:

- Calculations of pre- and post-development run-off rates to ensure a neutral or better impact as appropriate.
- Consideration of the method of attenuation.
- Identification of whether the site lies within the coastal / tidal, fluvial or surface water (pluvial) flood outlines, or affected by groundwater.
- Consideration of the effects of climate change upon surface water volumes and flow pathways.
- Consultation with the relevant bodies depending on the location to which surface water is to be discharged:
  1. To the ground - consultation (where relevant) with the Environment Agency, National Coal Authority, British Geological Survey, Cheshire Brine Subsidence Compensation Board.
  2. To surface water bodies -
    - Ordinary Watercourse:** Requires Land Drainage Consent from CEC LLFA under Land Drainage Act 1991. If the ordinary watercourse is not located within the developer's land ownership then they will be required to submit third-party landowner approval for this connection in the form of a written agreement.
    - Main River:** Requires consent from the Environment Agency and a Flood Risk Activities Permit
    - Canal:** Requires consultation with the Canal & River Trust. Any surface water discharge would be dependent on the canal's capacity to receive additional water (quantity, quality, and velocity of water) and require prior assessment to ensure the discharge does not contain unacceptable levels of physical, chemical, or biological contaminants. Any discharge would be subject to the completion of a commercial agreement.
    - Reservoir:** Requires consent from Reservoir asset owner.
  3. To a surface water sewer -
    - Private:** Surface water discharge rate needs to be agreed with the LLFA. Any alterations/new connections may be subject to Land Drainage Consent Approval.
    - Public:** A new connection to the public sewer requires United Utilities Consent. Please note that the allowable surface water discharge rate is determined by the LLFA.
  4. To a combined sewer -
    - Private:** CEC LLFA determines surface water discharge rate. Permission from sewer owner is required if not located within applicants site boundary.
    - Public:** Surface water and Foul Water must be drained on separate drainage system. Requires consent for connection by United Utilities. Please note that the allowable surface water discharge rate is determined by the LLFA

120 Once the preferred method of discharge has been decided, additional information will be required depending on the site's characteristics. Further information can be found on the following page.

Figure 4-2: Discharge Hierachy



### Drainage Hierarchy

121 The developer should select an appropriate drainage strategy that follows the hierarchy of drainage set out in Part H of the Building Regulations as shown above.

122 Surface water drainage strategies must be designed effectively to ensure all surface water flows up to the 1 in 100-year storm event +% Climate Change are managed safely within the site boundary and do not cause flooding to development or third-party land.

123 If the developer believes a stage of the hierarchy is unfeasible to incorporate onsite, then they must submit evidence of this to the Lead Local Flood Authority before it can be discounted. For example, if infiltration is to be discounted then the developer would be required to submit a ground investigation report/borehole logs and infiltration test results. The Cheshire Brine Subsidence Compensation Board should be consulted for any new development proposing the incorporation of SuDS infiltration/soakaway drainage within their consultation areas and in particular areas recorded to be underlain by Halite (rocksalt) deposits ("wet rockhead"), in order to prevent any potential dissolution of the underlying rock salt and ground stability issues.

### Infiltration testing

124 Infiltration testing onsite must be carried out in line with BRE 365 guidance. The LLFA requires the trial pit to be excavated in the same location as the proposed soakaway/SUDs feature and to the same depth of the proposed soakaway, if stability is an issue, the use of stone/pipe must be employed, as per BRE 365 guidance. This is to ensure that there are no variations in ground conditions which would negatively impact the effectiveness of infiltration. It is also required to ensure that no groundwater is encountered at the proposed depth of the soakaway to be constructed.

125 The trial pit should be filled 3 times within a 24-hour period and to a minimum of 75% full depth. Please calculate the soil infiltration rate from the time taken for the water level to fall from 75% to 25% effective storage depth in the pit.

126 An important criterion for all sites is the quality of run-off. Storm flows can trigger combined sewer overflows, causing foul pollution and they can also overload waste water treatment works, reducing treatment efficiencies. In exceptional circumstances the water authority might request that the run-off is detained completely and released only at night.

### Brownfield sites

127 On uncontaminated brownfield sites, the water quality design criteria will depend on the existing sewerage infrastructure. If the water is discharged to a separate surface water sewer or directly to a watercourse, the site should be treated as an undeveloped site and the quality criteria will relate to the proposed land use.

128 If the site drains to a combined sewer that is unlikely to be converted to a separate system, the surface water should be treated with a single stage of treatment to remove grit and coarse solids. Foul sewage should be drained separately within the site.

129 When calculating the brownfield run-off rate, surveying and modelling should be undertaken to confirm how the site currently drains. For example if the brownfield site is currently drained by a 225mm pipe, the brownfield run-off rates should take account of the limitation this poses.

### Contaminated land

130 Where a contaminated land site is proposed for redevelopment, SuDS may still be used for drainage of surface water. However, the design of the drainage system will be site-specific and dependent upon the contaminants at the site, the remediation strategy and the risks posed by any residual contamination, in addition to normal design considerations.

131 The developer will need to consult with the planning authority and demonstrate that the proposed drainage system will not cause re-mobilisation of contaminants resulting in exposure to the wider environment. Infiltration systems may not be appropriate without remedial measures, and most techniques will require the use of liners. Remediation and redevelopment of contaminated land is a complex subject that requires specialist knowledge. **The CIRIA publication SP164 (Harris et al, 1998)** should be referred to for further information.

### Land instability

132 Where past mining activity has taken place on or beneath the site proposed for redevelopment, the design of the SuDS system should consider the implications of this in relation to the stability and public safety risks posed by coal mining legacy. The developer should seek advice from a technically competent person to ensure that a proper assessment has been made of the potential interaction between hydrology, the proposed drainage system and ground stability, including the implications this may have for any mine workings which may be present. In some cases the effectiveness of the SUDs scheme may be affected by rising water tables relating to the cessation of past mining activity. The Coal Authority's Environment team or the Cheshire Brine Subsidence Compensation Board may be able to advise you if such matters may be of relevance in this locality.

## Run-off Calculator

The greenfield run-off rate estimation tool is an online tool which can be used to calculate peak the greenfield run-off rate. The current most commonly used run-off calculator can be found at the website below:

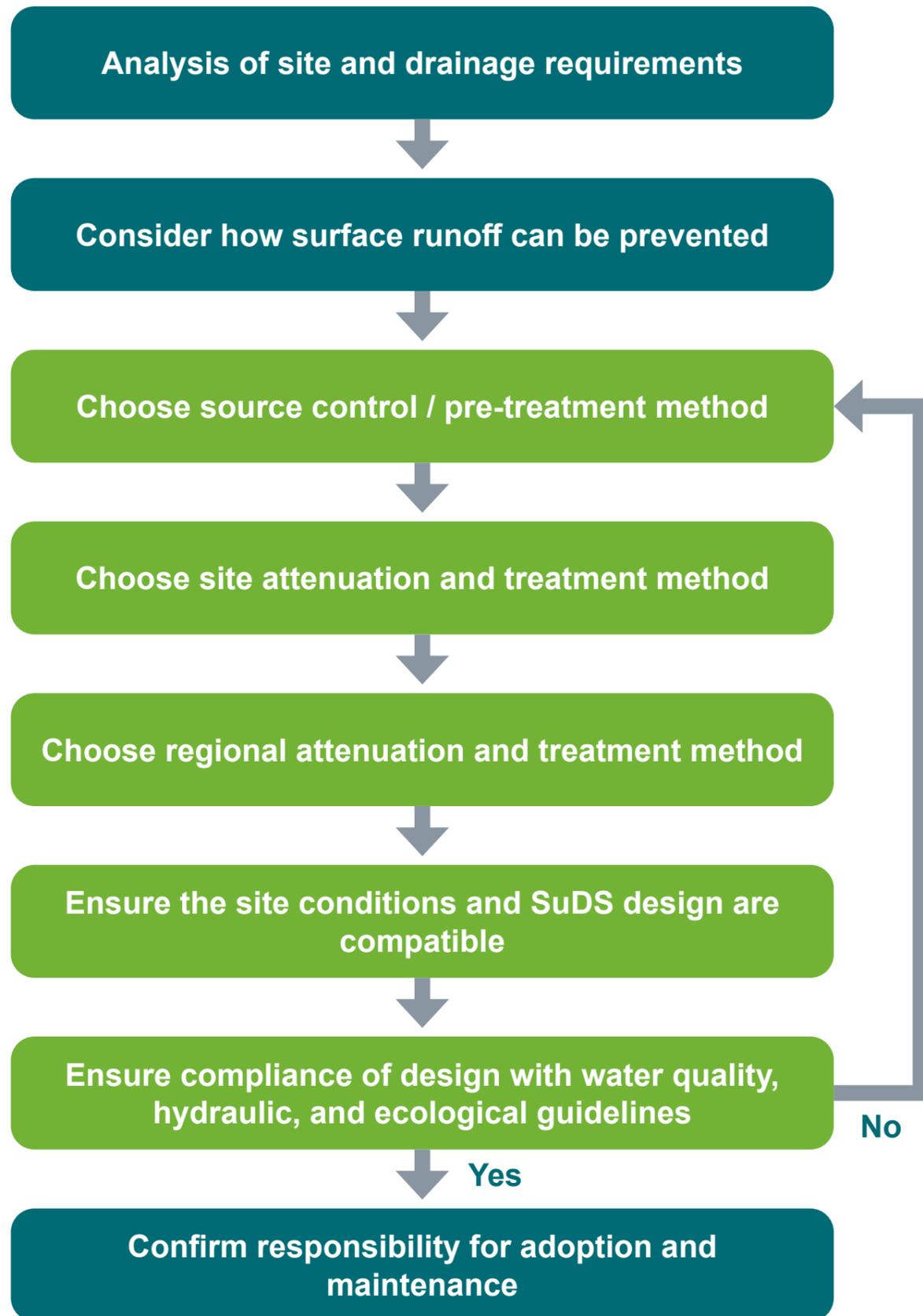
<https://www.uksuds.com/tools/greenfield-runoff-rate-estimation>

## WAYMARKER

The gov.uk webpages contain extensive guidance regarding Brownfield and Contaminated Land. Here is a starting point for finding-out the condition of your land:

[Performance standard for laboratories undertaking chemical testing of soil - brief guide for procurers of analytical services \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

## How to Select SuDS Components



## 4.7 Selecting SuDS Components

133 Development tools can also be used to help design SuDS Trains which effectively respond to the unique characteristics of an individual site. This can be useful when considering how SuDS components work together and the impact these features can have in mitigating flood risk.

Examples of such tools include:

<https://www.causeway.com/products/drainage-design>

<https://www.autodesk.co.uk/products/infodrainage>

though there are a variety of tools available which offer similar assistance.

134 As discussed in Chapter 3, the type of SuDS components in a system should be chosen to suit site character, including local geology, topography and soils conditions, and integrate with site elements. Particular consideration must be given to the relationships between SuDS components and other on-site and neighbouring features, both natural and artificial.

135 Ground risk is also a significant factor for some components. For example, some sub-terranean or surface-permeable SuDS components may not be suitable in chalk or halite soils near highways and properties. Depending upon the site's character and features, minimum offsets from built structures may be required for some SuDS components. A ground modelling exercise may be required to ascertain suitability.

136 To assist in the selection of appropriate SuDS, the following page includes a **SuDS Suitability Selection Matrix** which identifies the various benefits and constraints of common SuDS techniques. This Selection Matrix should be used in conjunction with advice in [CIRIA C768 parts B, C & D](#), to choose components suited to:

- Land character and proposed land use
- Water quantity
- Water quality
- Environmental benefits
- Budget
- Land instability (Salt Subsidence)

### WAYMARKER

Research regarding component costings can be found here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6034ee6c8fa8f54334a5a6a9/Cost\\_estimation\\_for\\_SUDS.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6034ee6c8fa8f54334a5a6a9/Cost_estimation_for_SUDS.pdf)

CIRIA's BEST Tool for monetising the value of SuDS can be found here:

<https://www.ciria.org/ItemDetail?iProductCode=W047AF&Category=FREEPUBS&WebsiteKey=3f18c87a-d62b-4eca-8ef4-9b09309c1c91>

### WAYMARKER

The Cambridge SuDS Design and Adoption Guide details maintenance and costs for many of the components identified in the CEC SuDS guide:

<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/5471/suds-design-and-adoption-guide-appendices.pdf>

# SuDS Suitability Selection Matrix

General Suitability					Landuse Suitability									Water Quantity Suitability	Water Quality Suitability					Environmental Benefits		Cost Suitability		Item	Description		
SU DS Group	ID	Technique	Suitability Conditions	Management Train Suitability	Low Density (1)	Residential (1 to 2)	Local Roads (2)	Commercial (2 to 3)	Industrial (2 to 3)	Construction Site (1)	Brownfield (1)	Contaminated Land (3 to 4)	Land Instability (Salt Subsidence)		Water Quality Removal Technique	Pollutants Removed	Removal Treatment Potential					Community Appeal	Habitat Creation Potential			Maintenance	Capital
																	TSS	Heavy Metals	Nutrients	Bacteria	FSSDP						
Retention	1	Retention pond	A, F	Site control, regional control	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y*	Detention, infiltration*, water harvesting	Sedimentation, filtration, adsorption, biodegradation, volatilisation, precipitation, uptake by plants, de-nitrification	Nutrients, sediments, hydrocarbons, metals, pesticides, cyanides, organic matter, BOD	H	M	M	M	H	H <sup>1</sup>	H	M	M		Infiltration-dependent components; will only work with permeable soil
	2	Subsurface storage		Conveyance, site control	Y	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y	Y	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y*	Conveyance, detention	Sedimentation*, filtration*	Nutrients, sediments, metals, hydrocarbons	L	L	L	L	L	H	L	L	M		Not suitable / not applicable
Wetland	3	Shallow wetland	B, D, F, I	Conveyance*, site control, regional control	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y*	Conveyance*, detention, infiltration*, water harvesting	Sedimentation, filtration, adsorption, biodegradation, volatilisation, precipitation, uptake by plants, de-nitrification	Nutrients, sediments, hydrocarbons, metals, pesticides, cyanides, organic matter, BOD	H	M	H	M	H	H <sup>1</sup>	H	H	H		Potentially suitable providing that design prevents mobilisation of contamination
	4	Extended detention wetland	B, D, F, I	Conveyance*, site control, regional control	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y*	Conveyance*, detention, infiltration*, water harvesting	Sedimentation, filtration, adsorption, biodegradation, volatilisation, precipitation, uptake by plants, de-nitrification	Nutrients, sediments, hydrocarbons, metals, pesticides, cyanides, organic matter, BOD	H	M	H	M	H	H <sup>1</sup>	H	H	H		Suitable
	5	Pond / wetland	B, D, F, I	Conveyance*, site control, regional control	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y*	Conveyance*, detention, infiltration*, water harvesting	Sedimentation, filtration, adsorption, biodegradation, volatilisation, precipitation, uptake by plants, de-nitrification	Nutrients, sediments, hydrocarbons, metals, pesticides, cyanides, organic matter, BOD	H	M	H	M	H	H <sup>1</sup>	H	H	H	Y	Yes
	6	Pocket wetland	B, D, H	Conveyance*, site control, regional control	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y*	Conveyance*, detention, infiltration*, water harvesting	Sedimentation, filtration, adsorption, biodegradation, volatilisation, precipitation, uptake by plants, de-nitrification	Nutrients, sediments, hydrocarbons, metals, pesticides, cyanides, organic matter, BOD	H	M	H	M	H	M <sup>1</sup>	H	H	H	N	No
	7	Submerged gravel wetland	B, D, F, I	Conveyance*, site control, regional control	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y*	Conveyance*, detention, infiltration*, water harvesting	Sedimentation, filtration, adsorption, biodegradation, volatilisation, precipitation, uptake by plants, de-nitrification	Nutrients, sediments, hydrocarbons, metals, pesticides, cyanides, organic matter, BOD	H	M	H	M	H	L	M	M	H	L	Low
	8	Wetland channel	B, D, F, I	Conveyance*, site control, regional control	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y*	Conveyance*, detention, infiltration*, water harvesting	Sedimentation, filtration, adsorption, volatilisation, precipitation, uptake by plants, de-nitrification	Nutrients, sediments, hydrocarbons, metals, pesticides, cyanides, organic matter, BOD	H	M	H	M	H	H <sup>1</sup>	H	H	H	M	Medium
Source control	9	Green roof	G, H	Prevention, pre-treatment, source control	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y	Detention	Filtration, adsorption, volatilisation, precipitation, uptake by plants, de-nitrification, biodegradation	Sediments, hydrocarbons, metals, pesticides, chlorides, cyanides, organic matter, BOD, nutrients	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	H	H	H	H	H	A	Liner is required for permeable soil
	10	Rain water harvesting	H	Prevention, conveyance*, source control	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y*	Conveyance*, detention*, water harvesting*	Sedimentation*, filtration*, adsorption*, biodegradation*, volatilisation*, precipitation*, uptake by plants*, de-nitrification*	Chlorides, sediments, hydrocarbons, metals, pesticides, chlorides, cyanides, organic matter, BOD, nutrients	M	L	L	L	N/A	M <sup>1</sup>	L	H	H	B	Surface base flow may be required
	11	Pervious pavement	C, D	Prevention, source control, site control*	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y*	Y*	Detention, infiltration, water harvesting*	Sedimentation, filtration, adsorption, biodegradation, volatilisation	Sediments, hydrocarbons, metals, pesticides, nutrients, cyanides, organic matter, BOD	H	H	H	H	H	M	L	M	M	C	Minimum depth to water table shouldn't be less than 1 m
Infiltration**	12	Infiltration trench	C, H, J	Conveyance*, source control, site control	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y*	Conveyance*, detention, infiltration	Filtration, adsorption, biodegradation, volatilisation	Sediments, hydrocarbons, metals, pesticides, cyanides, organic matter, BOD	H	H	H	M	H	M	L	L	L	D	Slope should not exceed 5%
	13	Infiltration basin	C, F, J	Site control, regional control	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y <sup>1</sup>	Y*	Detention, infiltration	Filtration, adsorption, biodegradation, volatilisation	Sediments, hydrocarbons, metals, pesticides, cyanides, nutrients, organic matter, BOD	H	H	H	M	H	H <sup>1</sup>	M	M	L	E	Follows contours for slope greater than 5%
	14	Soakaway	C, H, J	Source control	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y*	Y*	Infiltration	Filtration, adsorption, biodegradation	Sediments, hydrocarbons, metals, nutrients, pesticides, organic matter, BOD	H	H	H	M	H	M	L	L	M	F	Only suitable for large spaces
Filtration	15	Surface sand filter	C, D, F, K	Pre-treatment, site control, regional control*	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y*	Detention, infiltration*	Filtration, adsorption, biodegradation, volatilisation, precipitation	Nutrients, sediments, hydrocarbons, metals, pesticides, cyanides, organic matter, BOD	H	H	H	M	H	L	M	M	H	G	A roof has to be able to support 2 KN/m2 for extensive, 7 KN/m3 for semi-intensive and 10 KN/m3 for intensive configurations.
	16	Sub-surface sand filter	C, D, H, K	Pre-treatment, site control, regional control*	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y*	Detention, infiltration*	Filtration, adsorption, biodegradation, volatilisation, precipitation	Nutrients, sediments, hydrocarbons, metals, pesticides, cyanides, organic matter, BOD	H	H	H	M	H	L	L	M	H	H	Not suitable if area draining into SU DS is more than 2 ha
	17	Perimeter sand filter	C, D, H	Pre-treatment, site control, regional control*	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y*	Detention, infiltration*	Filtration, adsorption, biodegradation, volatilisation, precipitation	Nutrients, sediments, hydrocarbons, metals, pesticides, cyanides, organic matter, BOD	H	H	H	M	H	L	L	M	H	I	Only suitable where high flows are diverted around SU DS component for area of more than 2 ha
	18	Bioretention / filter strip	C, D, F, H	Pre-treatment, source control	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y*	Conveyance*, detention*, infiltration*	Sedimentation, filtration, adsorption, biodegradation	Nutrients, sediments, hydrocarbons, metals, pesticides, organic matter, BOD	H	H	H	M	H	H	H	H	M	J	Only if available head is less than 1 m
	19	Filter trench	A, C, D, H	Conveyance, source control, site control*	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y*	Conveyance, detention	Filtration, adsorption, biodegradation, volatilisation	Nutrients, sediments, hydrocarbons, metals, pesticides, cyanides, organic matter, BOD	H	H	H	M	H	M	L	M	M	K	Only if available head is between 1 and 2 m
Detention	20	Detention basin	A, C, F, K	Site control, regional control	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y*	Detention	Sedimentation, filtration*, adsorption*, biodegradation, uptake by plants*	Nutrients, sediments, hydrocarbons, metals, pesticides, cyanides, organic matter, BOD	M	M	L	L	L	H <sup>1</sup>	M	L	L	1	One treatment train stage may be sufficient
Open channels	21	Conveyance swale	C, E, F, H, J	Conveyance, pre-treatment, site control	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y*	Conveyance*, detention*, infiltration*	Sedimentation, filtration, adsorption, uptake by plants*, biodegradation	Nutrients, sediments, hydrocarbons, metals, pesticides, organic matter, BOD	H	M	M	M	H	M <sup>1</sup>	M	L	L	*	Some opportunities, subject to design
	22	Enhanced dry swale	C, E, F, H, J	Conveyance, pre-treatment, site control	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y*	Conveyance*, detention*, infiltration*	Sedimentation, filtration, adsorption, uptake by plants*, biodegradation	Nutrients, sediments, hydrocarbons, metals, pesticides, organic matter, BOD	H	H	H	M	H	M <sup>1</sup>	M	L	M	*	Will require draw-down and rehabilitation following construction activity, prior to use as a permanent drainage system.
	23	Enhanced wet swale	B, E, F, H, J	Conveyance, pre-treatment, site control	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y*	Conveyance*, detention*, infiltration*	Sedimentation, filtration, adsorption, uptake by plants*, biodegradation	Nutrients, sediments, hydrocarbons, metals, pesticides, organic matter, BOD	H	H	M	H	H	M <sup>1</sup>	H	M	M	(...)	Number of treatment train stages required.
																								!	There may be some public safety concern associated with open water which needs to be addressed at the design stage.		
																								FSSDP	Fine Suspended Sediments and Dissolved Pollutants		

\*\*The use of infiltration drainage is subject to approval with the Cheshire Brine Subsidence Compensation District

**5**

**Key requirements  
for  
common  
components**

## 5.1 Common Site challenges for SuDS Design

137 Constraints which may restrict the use of certain SuDS components include flood plains, groundwater, geology, soils or contaminated land. A summary of common site challenges is outlined below:

### Attenuating flood flows and volumes

### Addressing surface water runoff

- Proximity to sites with existing surface water issues
- Proximity to homes and other urban features
- Runoff caused by adopted highways and other impermeable surfaces

### Consideration of groundwater

- Potential entry of pollutants to groundwater through infiltration of surface runoff
- High groundwater levels
- Additional restrictions of Groundwater Protection Zones

### Topography

- Conveying water on ground without a gradient
- Conveying water on ground with a steep gradient

### Conditions of the ground

- Highly cohesive soils restricting infiltration
- Contamination

### Constrained space

- Limitations of space within site area

### Existing / buried infrastructure

- Buried utilities - particularly water pipes that could come into contact with SuDS
- Predominantly impervious sites

## 5.2 What standards should be met?

138 The non-statutory technical standards for SuDS (March 2015) provide guidance for Councils to define their own standards for approval of SuDS proposals within planning applications to ensure developments suit local requirements and address common site challenges for SuDS.

139 SuDS should be designed with the minimum amount of underground or traditional piped linkage as possible. The designer should always aim to use easily accessible features to connect SuDS features wherever possible.

140 SuDS should be designed with these needs in mind: design, construction, maintenance, and operation. The following criteria should also be considered:

- **Function** - as well as treating and attenuating run-off, SuDS should be designed with multiple benefits in mind such as public-friendly spaces, enhanced and new landscape features, habitats encouraging wildlife to flourish, which in turn create better places for people.
- **Maintenance** - all SuDS components should have suitable access provisions included and component design should enable safe and easy maintenance.

141 Please note that the embankment slope gradients of Sustainable Drainage Systems should be designed in accordance with national health and safety guidance on access/egress and maintenance requirements.

### WAY MARKER

#### SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems)

Cheshire East Council is the Lead Local Flood Authority and Local Planning Authority for the Borough of Cheshire East and refers to the following nationally-recognised best practice guidance from the Construction Industry Research & Information Association:

#### CIRIA SuDS Manual (C753)

&

#### CIRIA Report C768 Guidance on the Construction of SuDS:

<https://www.ciria.org/>

[ItemDetail?iProductcode=C768&Category=BOOK](https://www.ciria.org/ItemDetail?iProductcode=C768&Category=BOOK)

#### Sewerage Sector Guidance:

<https://www.water.org.uk/sewerage-sector-guidance-approved-documents/>

## 5.3.1 Source Control - Rainwater Harvesting



Rainwater harvesting is the collection of rainwater runoff from impermeable surfaces via interception which can be used as a sustainable water supply, whilst also reducing the volume of surface water run off on site and in turn reducing flood risk. Rainwater harvesting supports SuDS systems and helps to provide interception storage.

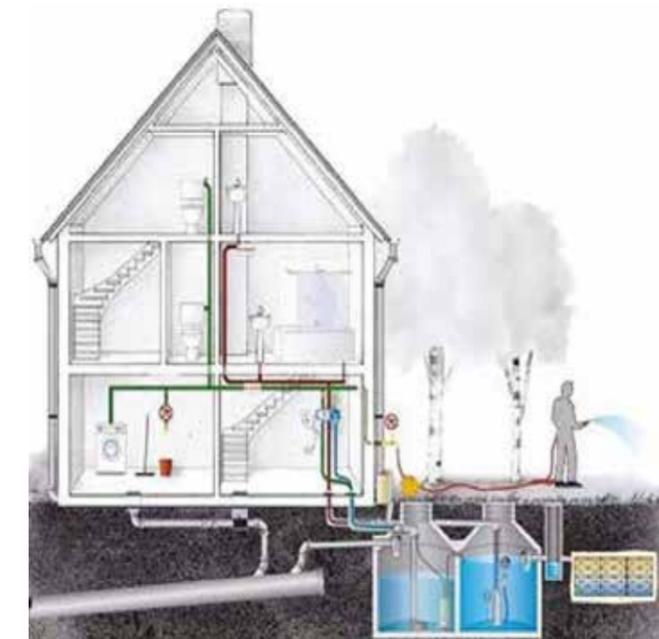
Rainwater can be collected in water butts for watering gardens or more sophisticated systems can re-use water to flush toilets or irrigate living walls.

### WAYMARKER

SEE MATRIX ID 10

For best practice refer to:

- CIRIA C753 The SuDS Manual Part D.
- CIRIA report C768 'Guidance on the Construction of SuDS'.
- Sewerage Sector Guidance



### Key Characteristics

- Can be utilised for capture and re-use of rainwater or simply as a form of attenuation on both new and existing roofed structures: commercial or agricultural buildings, public amenities such as cycle-stores or bus-stops, and domestic garages, sheds and dwellings.
- In its simplest form, water butt(s) can be used
- More complex harvesting systems can provide benefits both within and outside buildings
- It can be part of a combined system that also includes 'grey' water

### Main Considerations

- Controlling contaminants and managing flow into the tank are important parts of the design
- Ground/hydrological conditions need to be suitable if below-ground tanks are proposed
- Excavation proposals must include appropriate soils' management and re-use
- The more complex the system, the greater the purchase and management cost
- System type should be designed to suit the nature and context of the development
- More complex systems require water quality monitoring, depending on use

### Key Benefits

- Many new developments are taking place in the Borough, where even simple harvesting could make a significant cumulative impact
- There are a number of large-scale commercial sites where harvesting systems could be utilised
- Rainwater harvesting is also promoted in Chapter 5 Volume 2 of the CEC Design Guide
- In many areas ground conditions should be favourable for more complex systems (e.g re-use of water to supply living walls or to water crops)
- collected and re-used water could reduce a property's long-term revenue costs if run-off into sewerage system is reduced

Rainwater harvesting can take on many forms in a variety of situations:

Within a residential context this may include the provision of individual water butts to collect rainwater from roofs.

A commercial application could be the use of storage ponds to accumulate water for reuse as an alternative water supply for a garden centre.

### Smart Water Butts

Smart water butts typically use wifi to access upcoming data on weather patterns. In the event of a storm, the water butt pre-emptively empties to free-up capacity for water attenuation. As a result, they can help to reduce the volume of water run-off during a storm.

These systems therefore have the benefit of reducing the potential impacts of excessive water run-off during a storm whilst operating as water butts for rainwater usage. These components can be used as part of a wider SuDS train, helping to manage water through an integrated approach.

## Technical Requirements: – Rainwater Harvesting

There are three key types of RWH system; composite systems, gravity-based systems and pumped systems.

Gravity systems are designed so that the rainwater is collected by gravity and stored at elevation (e.g. in roof space or just below gutters) so that it can also be supplied by gravity.

Pumped systems tend to store water at ground level or underground, where it is then pumped out for supply purposes.

Composite systems use both gravity and pumped features in their design

The primary parameters used for calculating the size of the storage are:

- The rainfall volume that is to be captured.
- Average annual rainfall (AAR)
- Daily need for non-potable water
- Building occupancy number
- Contributing surface area

### Hydraulic and water quality design criteria

There are various methods available to design an RWH system; the most accurate is via modelling.

### Selection and siting

Rainwater harvesting is a SUDs component that can be used in a variety of development settings e.g. residential, commercial or industrial development.

- Storage tanks should be placed in secure locations and are commonly fitted underground, on roofs and adjacent to buildings.
- Geotechnical ground investigations are needed to establish site selection for RWH units (tanks should not be placed on made ground).
- Careful consideration should be given to the ground water table when using underground units as flotation issues may arise, if the ground water level is shallow on site.
- Structural considerations (e.g. depth of building foundations) should be given to RWH tanks sited parallel to buildings.

### Pre-treatment, inlets and outlets

Primary screening devices are used to avoid leaves and from entering the tank. Primary screening devices often have a wire mesh screen installed near the downspout.

First flush devices can be designed to divert the first part of the rainfall away from the main storage tank; this normally contains the largest amount of dirt, debris and contaminants. This must then be safely treated and managed downstream.

RWH systems need either an inlet valve that closes flow into the container when it is full, or an overflow arrangement that conveys excess surface water runoff away from the building without causing damage.

### Landscaping and Amenity

- Support the resilience of developments and their landscape to variabilities in climate and water resource availability.
- Create opportunities for learning in educational and community settings.

## Safety

RWH systems should be installed using safe construction methods and manufacturers guidelines should be adhered to.

### Operation and Maintenance

- Access to RWH components should be safe and easily accessible to ensure regular maintenance and inspection can be carried out.
- Maintenance requirements are specific to each individual RWH system.
- Routine inspection of the filter system should be carried out every 3 months.

Any property with an RWH system installed should be provided with appropriate information as to what equipment has been installed. This information should include:

- Its purpose
- Its maintenance requirements
- The actions required to rectify any potential failure
- The expected performance of the system.

## 5.3.2 Source Control - Pervious Paving



<https://www.escofet.com/en/products/walking/permeable-paving/checkerblock>

Pervious paving allows water to infiltrate its surface and flow through its construction layers. Water then either infiltrates into the soils below or collects into an outfall.

By allowing water to flow into its pores, or permeate through joints, pervious paving can help effectively control water run-off.

NOTE: All driveways in front gardens in England built since 2008 should be designed to be permeable. (See waymarker for more information)

### WAYMARKER

SEE MATRIX ID 11

For best practice refer to:

- CIRIA C753 The SuDS Manual Part D.
- CIRIA report C768 'Guidance on the Construction of SuDS'
- Sewerage Sector Guidance

### WAYMARKER

Adoptable standards required for public highways:

<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/highways/policies-and-standards-documents/highway-surface-water-policy.pdf>

Government guidance for new or refurbished front gardens:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/permeable-surfacing-of-front-gardens-guidance>

The Paving Expert website contains information and inspiration for available materials and commercially-tested techniques:

<https://www.pavingexpert.com/>



### Key Characteristics

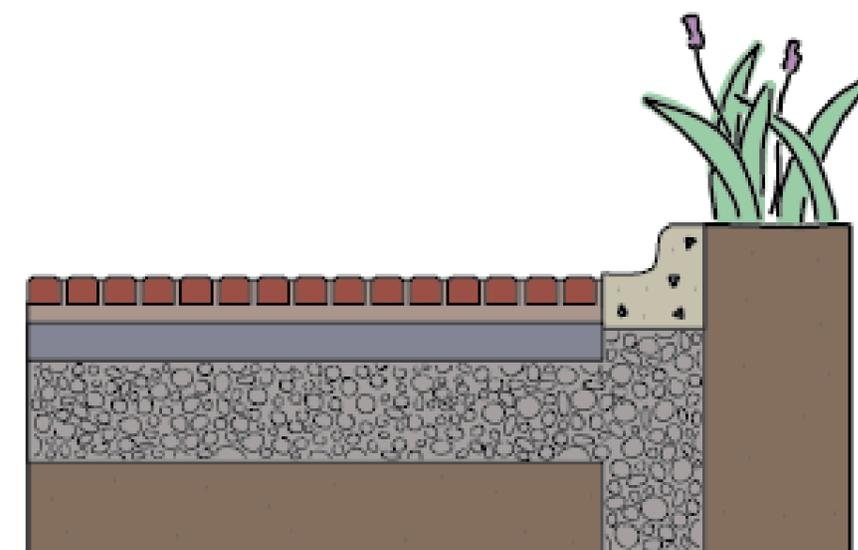
- A great variety of pervious paving is available to suit different situations and location character
- Allows infiltration into the sub-base where water is stored and released gradually, either down to the ground below, or along an impermeable membrane and out via an outfall (which usually directs flow to another SuDS component)
- Effective at slowing run-off
- Can help improve water quality
- Can add water-storage capacity
- Cross-construction permeability is required, through the wearing course, base and sub-base layers (and through the ground surface membrane where infiltration to subsoils below is possible and desirable)

### Main Considerations

- Extent of any artificial surfacing should be minimised to promote natural drainage, preserve soils and promote vegetation. Excavation proposals must include appropriate soils' management and re-use
- Construction materials should avoid the landscape impacts of quarrying virgin rock by utilising appropriate re-used or recycled materials in preference to new. Any new materials should be locally-sourced where possible. Any stone used should reflect local geology where possible. Ensure any new stone is certified as ethically-sourced & supplied
- Permeable paving and underground cellular based systems are not preferred in the adoptable highway due to maintenance requirements. However, if it can be demonstrated that the system has been designed to minimise siltation then Cheshire East Highways will consider adoption on a case-by-case basis
- Incorporate outflow components to manage excess

### Key Benefits

- Usable for parking areas, vehicular hard-standings, pedestrian walkways, driveways, patios and other hard ground cover.
- Can substantially reduce run-off at source
- Can be retro-fitted to existing development
- In many areas, ground conditions should be favourable for infiltration, however, areas with poor soil-infiltration can use pervious paving as an attenuation component



<https://specificationproductupdate.com/2019/05/01/permeable-paving-by-inter-pave/>

## Technical Requirements: Porous or Permeable Paving

Porous pavements use blocks with pores (voids or holes) or skins of materials with pores which allow water to seep through the body the construction.

Permeable pavements have a surface where water can run through cracks or joints between non-porous blocks or stonechips.

Materials are selected and positioned to provide void space through the wearing course and base to the sub-base. Materials commonly used include: porous asphalt, reinforced grass, gravel, concrete or clay block permeable paving. Concrete block permeable paving must be designed in accordance with British standard BS 7533-13:2009.

### Hydraulic and water quality design criteria

There are different surface water management methods which could be used:

A) All surface water run-off infiltrates the pavement's structure and permeates into the subsoils below. (An overflow pipe may be required to manage surface water flows during extreme rainfall events).

B) Surface water run-off which exceeds the infiltration capacity of the subsoils below, discharges to a component of the receiving drainage system e.g. to a watercourse or sewer.

C) Where it is necessary to avoid infiltration into the subsoils, e.g. where there might be risk of creating a contamination linkage, a non-permeable membrane can be used as the bottom construction layer and water drains through the pavement's structure to the impermeable membrane and then flows to an outfall.

There are four features of hydraulic design to consider:

- 1) Calculation of the infiltration rate through the permeable pavement structure.
- 2) Calculation of the storage volume necessary to accommodate flows up to 1 in 100yr (plus percentage for climate change).
- 3) Calculation of the discharge rate to the outfall (litres per second).
- 4) Exceedance design layout so that all surface water run-off flows are contained and managed safely onsite without causing any increased flood risk.

- In order for the system to have a positive outfall for associated surface water run off, the infiltration rate of the soils onsite should be significantly greater than the design rainfall intensity.
- Stormwater calculations for a range of rainfall durations up to 1 in 100yr + CC event should be carried out to accurately determine the capacity of the storage volume required.
- Surface water flow paths during exceedance events should be planned for within the overall surface water drainage layout. This should ensure that flooding to property is avoided and safe access and egress from the development site is maintained.
- Where adjacent areas drain into the surface, the ratio of impermeable to pervious should be limited to 2:1 to prevent clogging.
- A minimum value of 2500mm/h is considered reasonable for a pavement surface to be considered pervious in relation to surface water management.
- It is advised that a factor of safety of 10 is applied to the surface infiltration rate of all permeable structures, to account for potential clogging of the pavements surface area over its design life.

## Selection and siting

- Pervious pavement should be designed to withstand the loading pressures of its proposed use, e.g. pedestrian, light vehicular, or heavy vehicular, and can be designed close to buildings' foundations subject to a structural engineer's approval.
- Developers should use Arboricultural Impact Assessments (AIA) that identify existing trees and their Root Protection Areas(RPA) to inform the location of SUDS and prevent any adverse impact on the long term health and safe wellbeing of trees
- Ground investigations and infiltration testing should be carried out onsite inline with BRE 365 guidelines to determine the infiltration rate of underlying soils.
- Regular maintenance must be carried-out to ensure effectiveness over time, especially where pervious paving is at high risk of silting-up.
- On sites where groundwater pollution is suspected or there may be contaminants present in the soil, impermeable lining membranes must be used unless it has been demonstrated that the risk of contaminant leaching is managed within acceptable levels (this may need to be agreed with appropriate environmental regulatory bodies e.g. Environment Agency and the LLFA).

Unless a full risk assessment and approval has been provided by a geotechnical engineer, unlined pervious pavements are not suitable for use:

- within one metre of the water table's highest level.
- in areas which are susceptible to slope instability

### Landscaping and Amenity

- The extent of any artificial surfacing should be minimised to promote natural drainage, preserve soils and promote vegetation
- Excavation proposals must include appropriate soils' management and re-use, following DEFRA Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites, and meeting BS8601: 2013 Specification for Subsoil and Requirements for Use and BS 3882:2015 Specification for Topsoil.
- Construction materials choices should avoid the landscape impacts of quarrying virgin rock by utilising appropriate re-used or recycled materials in preference to new. Where any new materials are necessary, they should reflect local landscape character and should be locally-sourced where possible. All stone products (e.g. flagstones, setts, cobbles etc.) should be ethically sourced and a certificate may be required by the Local Planning Authority.
- Wearing courses (the visible ground-level surfaces) should be designed to be in-keeping with local geology and landscape character.
- Ensure any new stone or quarried materials are certified as ethically-sourced & supplied.

### Safety

Permeable pavements should be fitted using safe construction methods and in strict accordance with manufacturer's guidelines.

### Operation and Maintenance

- To preserve their infiltration capacity, porous or permeable pavements require regular inspection and maintenance, particularly to prevent silt blocking their pores or water flow-routes.
- The frequency of required maintenance is site specific but many of the maintenance activities can be undertaken as part of a general site-cleaning contract.
- Maintenance plans and schedules should be submitted to Cheshire East's Local Planning Authority and Lead Local Flood Authority for review during the design phase.
- Table 20.15 (pg 430) of the CIRIA report C753 includes an example of a maintenance schedule.

## 5.3.3 Source Control - Green Roofs

Green roofs consist of a multi-layered system for growing plants on flat or gently-sloping building-roofs.

They are designed to mimic a proportion of predevelopment surface hydrology by intercepting and collecting precipitation. Green roofs can attenuate peak flows and decrease surface water run-off.

The main advantages of green roofs are high value local biodiversity, treatment of rainwater, improvement of local air quality, and increased economic and aesthetic value of development

For a full list of benefits please see page 233 of CIRIA SUDS Manual.

### WAYMARKER

SEE MATRIX ID 9

For best practice refer to:

- CIRIA C753 The SuDS Manual Part D.
- CIRIA report C768 'Guidance on the Construction of SuDS'.
- Sewerage Sector Guidance



<https://www.urbanplanters.co.uk/blog/new-breeam-scheme-set-reward-addition-green-roofs-walls/>



### Key Characteristics

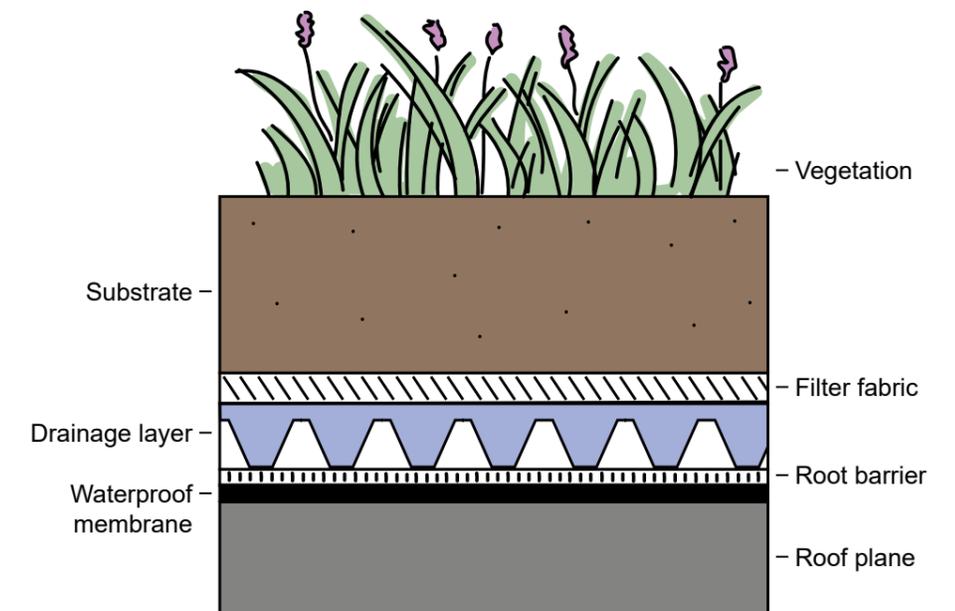
- Green roofs are very effective as part of a comprehensive SuDS approach
- Potential to add significantly to ecological framework for a development
- Variety of options to create living surfaces

### Main Considerations

- Loadings upon structures for living roofs, need to be purpose designed
- Solar aspect important for determination of planting specification
- Choice of growing mediums will effect water storage capacity and planting choices
- May need specialist design to enable maintenance and irrigation

### Key Benefits

- Can be included on new buildings and on structures associated with development and/or within the public realm (e.g. garages, busstops, cycle-stores etc.)
- Can significantly reduce run-off and improve biodiversity for all types of new built developments
- Can also be retro-fitted to existing built development to increase biodiversity and decrease water run-off
- Multi-functional: also providing the amenity and place-making benefits of additional living surfaces, particularly biodiversity, improved air-quality, reducing urban heat island effect, increased aesthetic value and well-being
- Green-roofs are also supported in the CEC Design Guide Volume 2 Chapter 4 (p.63)



Example Green Roof Cross-section (not to scale)

### WAYMARKER

A green roof policy was introduced in London in 2008 and they have produced additional technical information and case study evidence for green roofs and living walls:

[https://livingroofs.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/LONDON-LIVING-ROOFS-WALLS-REPORT\\_MAY-2019.pdf](https://livingroofs.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/LONDON-LIVING-ROOFS-WALLS-REPORT_MAY-2019.pdf)

## Technical Requirements: Green Roofs

There are two key categories of green roof available for installation:

**Extensive Green Roofs** - These generally have low loadings on the building structure due to shallow substrate depths. They typically feature a 20-150mm thick growing medium. They include resilient, slow growing, low maintenance plants e.g. succulents, herbs, mosses and grasses.

**Intensive Green Roofs** – These generally have deeper substrates and therefore heavier loadings on the building structure. They typically feature a deeper substrate (150mm plus). They can support an advanced landscape environment that can provide high quality amenity and biodiversity benefits.

### Siting: can be suitable for:

- Residential (including high-density residential)
- Commercial
- Retrofit (providing there is sufficient structural capacity for the roof to support them).
- Contaminated Land
- Vulnerable groundwater

### Design Considerations

Hydraulic design of green roofs should be focused on two aspects of performance:

- How the roof is expected to perform during an extreme rainfall event.
- How the roof is likely to perform throughout the year and during both summer and winter rainfall periods when the roof is likely to be saturated.

May need to provide an additional outfall/overflow pipe into site wide surface water drainage infrastructure for these extreme events ).

Exceedance flows should be safely accommodated for onsite when events larger than those designed for may occur.

### Pre-treatment, Inlets and Outlets

There is no requirement for pre-treatment or inlet, unless there are plans to use water for irrigation purposes.

**Outlets** – Outlets should be signed in order to reduce the possibility of blockages. They can include flow control devices to dictate downpipe flows and deliver attenuation capacity.

Outlets must be separated from the growing medium to prevent plant root obstructions and free gravel blockages.

### Maintenance requirements

- The most intensive maintenance is required within the first 12 to 15 months during the establishment phase.
  - Maintenance schedules should always be specific to the individual green roof design.
- See Table 12.5 (pg.252 of CIRIA Report C753) for example maintenance schedule.

### Safety

- All maintenance arrangements at roof level must be in full compliance with the appropriate health and safety regulations.
- Access routes to the roof must be safe and should be clear of obstruction at all times.

See p.g. 251 of CIRIA Report C753 for further guidance.

## Landscaping and Amenity

- Significantly improves roovescape for local communities.
- Delivers natural environments for people to use or visit, improving their health and wellbeing.
- Can be combined with Rainwater Harvesting to provide a source of water for non-potable uses.

If designed effectively they can help deliver on key amenity principles; such as;

Improved air quality – via the increased absorption of CO2 and various air pollutants found in dense cities, including VOCs and particulates.

**Climate Resilience** - Has the possibility to significantly reduce energy demand if designed correctly due to increased thermal efficiency.

The sound-dampening affect of soils and plant material helps reduce Noise Pollution which can reduce wildlife disturbance and improve people's well-being.

### Economic Benefits

High aesthetic value increases property/rental prices.

Reduced energy costs due to increased heat conservation.

## 5.3.4 Source Control - Living Walls



Living walls are wall-mounted growing systems. They can directly intercept precipitation, and utilise harvested rainwater, to attenuate peak flows and both improve quality and decrease quantity of surface water run-off.

Additional key advantages of green roofs are high value local biodiversity, increase in local air quality, and increased economic and aesthetic value of development

### WAYMARKER

SEE MATRIX ID 9

For best practice refer to:

- CIRIA C753 The SuDS Manual Part D.
- CIRIA report C768 'Guidance on the Construction of SuDS'
- Sewerage Sector Guidance



### Key Characteristics

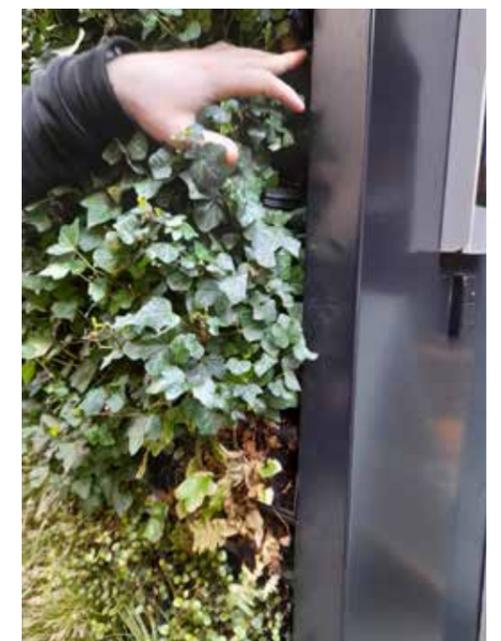
- Can be combined with rainwater harvesting
- The multifunctionality of living walls makes them very attractive SuDS components, particularly visually and economically.
- Can provide visual softening for new buildings and help integrate them with their site and the wider landscape
- Contribute to the biodiversity of developments
- Can be a relatively expensive SuDS component but may reduce on-going energy consumption if they contribute to thermal insulation of building and can reduce sewerage costs if combined with a rainwater harvesting system.

### Main Considerations

- Liaison needed between architect, landscape architect and living wall supplier for successful design and implementation
- May require specialist maintenance, particularly during plant establishment period of 3-5 years
- Design-in monitoring and maintenance needs, such as cherry-picker accessibility
- Solar aspect important for determination of planting specification
- Choice of growing mediums will effect water storage capacity and planting choices

### Key Benefits

- Can significantly reduce run-off and improve quality of any residual run-off for all types of developments
- Multi-functional: also providing the amenity and place-making benefits of living surfaces, including improved air quality, enhanced aesthetics, increased well-being, reduced noise
- Can be retro-fitted to existing built development, and to associated structures, such as garages, cycle-stores, bus stops, etc.
- Potential to reduce on-going sewerage-treatment costs of buildings when combined with rainwater-harvesting
- Potential to contribute to the biodiversity net gain of developments
- Living-walls are also supported in the CEC Design Guide Volume 2 Chapter 4 (p.63)



### Technical Requirements: Living Walls

Living walls require a structure and support system designed to suit their host building's construction. Design must account for all applicable building regulations and fire regulations.

Excepting plants or growing-medium replacement, the system's structure must be designed to:

- endure for the life of the building
- provide sufficient rooting medium
- maintain appropriate levels of irrigation for its plants
- allow the addition of plant nutrients and pest or disease control via its irrigation system

Where possible and appropriate, living wall irrigation should utilise rainwater harvested from their host building.

### Siting: can be suitable for:

- Residential developments (including high-density residential)
- Commercial or mixed use developments
- Retrofitting (provided there is sufficient structural capacity of wall to support them).
- Contaminated Land (provided uncontaminated water supply for irrigation is used)
- Vulnerable groundwater

### Hydraulic Design Considerations

Hydraulic design of living walls should focus on how the living wall is expected to perform and endure:

- extreme rainfall events
- freezing conditions
- drought
- pollution events, such as spillage or particulates into the irrigation system

Appropriately sized and located outfall/overflow pipe(s) into site-wide surface water drainage infrastructure should be incorporated in the living wall's design.

Exceedance flows should be safely accommodated on site.

Allow for pump failure or electrical fault to avoid irrigation system stoppage.

### Pre-treatment, Inlets and Outlets

Irrigation inlets require filters, pumps (unless gravity-fed) and controllable valves to ensure appropriate quality and quantity of water and nutrients is provided to plants.

Monitoring equipment is required to allow adjustment of irrigation flow, according to plant up-take of water and plant growth.

The irrigation route should be designed to reduce the possibility of blockages. Irrigation may be gravity-fed or pumped and may include flow-control devices.

Outlets must be separated from the growing medium to prevent plant root or particulate material from obstructing flow.

### Monitoring and Maintenance

Planning applicants must submit an appropriate monitoring and maintenance regime, which is designed by experienced living wall managers, and follows the advice of the living wall's designer(s) and plant supplier(s).

The most intensive monitoring and maintenance is required within the first 3 years, during the plant-establishment phase.

Monitoring should include a minimum of 6 additional visits for ground-view inspections and system-monitoring.

Maintenance should include a minimum of 6 regular cherry-picker (full living wall height) visits per year for plant inspection, pruning, removal of dead/dying plant material and plant replacement.

### Landscaping and Amenity

Plants should be rooted in a lightweight growing medium, in sufficient growing medium to ensure each plant can establish a firm rooting system, e.g. in containers allowing circa 100 x 100 x 100mm of growing medium per plant.

Given their separation from the availability of water, nutrients and biology in natural soils, living wall plants must be provided with an adjustable flow of water, feed and pest control.

Pesticides and insecticides should be avoided. Pests and diseases should be biologically-controlled where possible and appropriate, e.g. nematodes to reduce vine weevil.

Quantities of feed and water must be adjustable to allow for variations in plant demand.

Plant specification must reflect anticipated growing conditions, particularly aspect due to different walls' exposure to heat and light, e.g. south-facing walls require plants with adaptations for withstanding direct sun and for reducing their transpiration. Plants should also have good wind resistance characteristics, particularly those planted in upper zones.

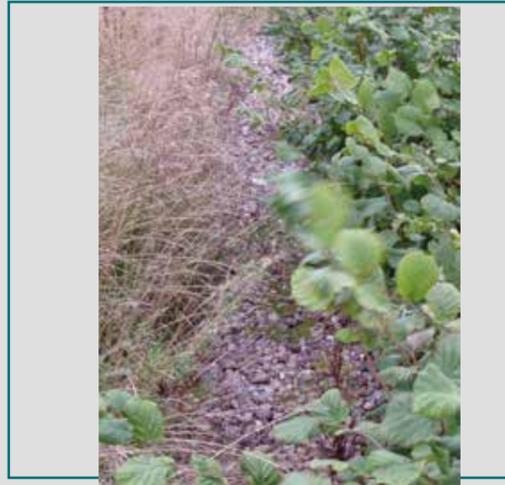
Because plant damage would be quite swift in a full-sun situation in dry weather conditions should there be an irrigation system stoppage, pumped systems should include a failsafe, such as a small header tank to provide gravity-fed supply to plants in case of pump failure or electrical fault.

### Economic Benefits

Design should provide environmental and aesthetic improvements which enhance people's sense of place. This can also provide developer benefits, such as increased value of properties.

Thermal insulation properties should be considered in living wall design and location in order to reduce energy-demand to heat the host building. This can also provide economic benefits to the developer with through increased building value, and to future occupants through reduced heating bills.

## 5.4.1 Site Control - Filter strip / Infiltration trench



Gravel or rubble filled trench that creates subsurface storage for infiltration, or filtration of surface water runoff.

Trenches can be used to filter, attenuate and dissipate storm water into the ground through the base and sides of the trench and/or provide a level of treatment prior to reaching a secondary SuDS feature.

### WAYMARKER

SEE MATRIX ID 19 & 12

For best practice refer to:

- CIRIA C753 The SuDS Manual Part D.
- Design Manual for Roads and Bridges CG 501
- CIRIA report C768 'Guidance on the Construction of SuDS'
- Sewerage Sector Guidance



### Key Characteristics

- The location of the filter trenches should be carefully considered to avoid interaction with people, vehicles, or exiting rootzones.
- Work best with SuDS components which provide attenuation of storm flows.
- Use in combination with effective pre-treatment.
- Separate filter media from surrounding ground with a geotextile where infiltration is desirable, or a membrane where infiltration is not permitted.
- Include a geotextile layer within the upper gravel and incorporate observation wells and rodding points for maintenance.
- Use a distribution pipe in combination with point discharges.

### Main Considerations

- Can be prone to blockage and work best in combination with pre-treatment such as filter strips to reduce sediment load.
- Excavation proposals must include appropriate soils' management and re-use
- Features to help inspection and maintenance are critical.
- Can be expensive to replace the filter material if poorly designed or neglected maintenance.
- Difficult to identify pollution and maintenance issues underground.
- Must be sited to avoid impacts on existing hydrologically-sensitive ecological habitats
- BRE365 Percolation testing will need to be reviewed by LPA
- Consider the impacts of stone scatter.

### Key Benefits

- Ideal for use with small contributing areas.
- The land-take is usually moderate, with a slope not exceeding 1 in 20.
- Moderate water quality treatment.
- Can be easily incorporated into site landscaping and alongside roads.
- Can be enhanced using grass/wildflower seed mixes.
- Can link green areas.
- Low cost and maintenance.

## Technical Requirements – Infiltration Trenches & Filter Strips

### Configuration and Dimensions of Infiltration Trenches & Filter Strips

- Filter / Infiltration Trenches should be used as source controls only.
- Filter / Infiltration Trenches should not be designed as sediment traps.
- Filter / Infiltration Trenches should be designed to the requirements of the **HE-DMRB-D CD 533 Determination of pipe and bedding combinations for drainage works (formerly HA 40/01). Version 1.1.0 and the requirements of this document.**
- Existing site subsoils and topsoils are to be reserved and re-laid in accordance with DEFRA's Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites. Should existing site soils prove unsuitable (due to contamination for example) or insufficient then any relocated or imported subsoil must meet BS 8601:2013 Specification for Subsoil and Requirements for Use and relocated or imported topsoils must meet BS: 3882:2015 Specification for Topsoil.
- Filter / Infiltration Trenches should not exceed 3m in depth.
- It is preferred that storm water inflow be sheet flow from drainage areas. Where this is not practical point flow inputs will be acceptable.
- Where point flows are used, a pre-treatment stage should be installed that will effectively remove particulate matter present in the water and prevent clogging of the trench.
- Point flow inputs should be connected to a slotted high level distributor pipe. The pipe should be capable of conveying the design flow.
- The stone filter material should be wrapped in geotextile with a minimum 150mm overlap at all joins. The geotextile should meet the requirements of the **Specification for Highway Works Series 500.**
- Filter / Infiltration Trenches should be provided with a high-level overflow to accommodate design exceedance.

### Hydraulic and Water Quality Design Criteria

- The trench design should be checked for design exceedance and modelled explicitly and holistically to demonstrate the impact to the downstream drainage components.
- Infiltration trenches should be designed to half-empty in 24 hours to allow for incoming flows from subsequent storms.
- The base of the trench should be at least 1m above the highest seasonal or permanent groundwater table.

### Selection and Siting

- A risk assessment shall include all relevant safety and environmental issues associated with siting a filter / infiltration trench.
- Developers should use Arboricultural Impact Assessments (AIA) that identify existing trees and their Root Protection Areas(RPA) to inform the location of SUDS and prevent any adverse impact on the long term health and safe wellbeing of trees
- The trench shall be designed for easy maintenance.
- Infiltration trenches should be sited on stable ground, soil and groundwater conditions should be assessed to verify ground stability.
- Design of infiltration trenches must comply with **groundwater protection regulations and with EA policy on infiltration.**
- Must not direct water towards existing dry habitats or direct nutrient-rich water towards existing habitats with a low nutrient status. If the trench directs water towards high value habitat, the pH of the water discharged must be comparable with that of the existing habitat.

### Safety

- Risk assessment shall include risks associated with scatter of filter material.

### Operation and maintenance

- All maintenance access points shall be clearly visible and documented in the Operation and Maintenance plan.

## 5.4.2 Site Control - Swales



A vegetated shallow channel or depression designed to treat, filter, store and convey run-off.

Swales can be either 'dry' (where water is stored beneath the ground in a gravel layer) or 'wet' where run-off is stored above the surface in the channel so may be permanently wet.

Lining can be added to prevent subterranean infiltration when there are known contaminants in the water.

### WAYMARKER

SEE MATRIX ID 22 & 23

For best practice refer to:

- CIRIA C753 The SuDS Manual Part D.
- CIRIA report C768 'Guidance on the Construction of SuDS'.
- Sewerage Sector Guidance
- Design Manual for Roads and Bridges CD 532



### Key Characteristics

- Conveyance swales are suited to directing flow
- Dry swales provide additional filter treatment
- Wet swales encourage filtering and attenuation through wet and marsh-like conditions
- Parts of a swale designed to hold water permanently can be planted up with a range of native aquatic or marsh plant species. Other parts of the swale which may only be wet temporarily can be seeded with a pond-edge type mixture which will include species tolerant of both drier and damper soil conditions.

### Main Considerations

- Should enhance and integrate with site's topography
- Must be planned into layout early in design process, particularly for residential developments due to access crossings
- Relatively moderate land-take
- Checkdams may be needed for steeper sites
- Needs to be shaped to attenuate or significantly reduce peak flow or volume
- May require lining on contaminated sites

### Key Benefits

- Ideal for use with linear contributing areas like roads
- Good for pre-treatment
- The land-take is usually moderate, minimum of 4m wide
- Excavation proposals must include appropriate soils' management and re-use
- Good water quality treatment
- Can be incorporated into site landscaping and alongside roads
- Can be enhanced using grass/wildflower seed mixes
- Can be linked to create green corridors
- Can provide biodiversity enhancement
- Low/Medium cost and maintenance

## Technical Requirements – Swales

### Configuration and Dimensions of Swales

- Swales should be designed to the requirements of **CIRIA C753 The SuDS Manual, and the requirements of this document**.
- Swales should be:
  - a. Trapezoidal or parabolic in cross section.
  - b. The side slopes of a swale shall be a maximum of 1 vertically to 4 horizontally.
  - c. The base of the swale shall be a minimum of 0.5 m and a maximum of 2 m wide and designed to avoid the formation of rills.
  - d. The depth of the swale shall be between 400 mm to 600 mm deep and achieve a freeboard of 150 mm during design flow conditions.
  - e. Swales shall be no less than 30m in length.
  - f. The longitudinal slope of the swale shall not exceed 1 vertically to 40 horizontally without the use of checkdams and then shall not exceed 1 vertically to 10 horizontally.

### Hydraulic and Water Quality Design Criteria

- Swales should be designed so that the flow arising from a 1 in 1 year 30-minute storm event does not exceed 0.3m/s or 100mm in depth.
- The average velocity should be calculated using Manning's equation with a roughness coefficient of 0.025 for flows up to the grass height. Grass height in the channel should be assumed to be 100-150mm height. At depths of flow above the grass height the friction factor can be reduced to 0.01 for the analysis of design exceedance storm events.
- Storage volumes for the 1 in 1 year design event should dissipate within 24 hours, so that subsequent storms can be accommodated in terms of storage and treatment.
- Where practical, swales should form part of a wide blue/green network, designed for the temporary storage and conveyance of design exceedance storm events 30 to 100 year storm event. The maximum flow velocity should be below 1.0m/s. Higher velocities up to 2.0m/s may be permissible if erosion, soil stability and safety aspects can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the LLFA.

### Selection and Siting

- Swales should be:
  - a. Positioned as close to the source of receiving runoff as possible.
  - b. In a location that is easily and safely accessible by maintenance machinery.
- On stable ground and where groundwater will not occur within 1 m of the base of the swale.
- Infiltration swales shall not be positioned adjacent to building foundations without a design certificate from a suitably qualified geotechnical engineer.
- Infiltration swales shall not dissipate water directly to ground without a suitable groundwater risk assessment
- Developers should use Arboricultural Impact Assessments (AIA) that identify existing trees and their Root Protection Areas(RPA) to inform the location of SUDS and prevent any adverse impact on the long term health and safe wellbeing of trees

### Safety

- A risk assessment shall include all relevant safety and environmental issues associated with siting a swale
- The embankment slope gradients should be designed in accordance with national health and safety guidance for access/egress and maintenance requirements.

## Pre-treatment, inlets, and outlets

- Sheet flow is desirable to minimise erosion and increase treatment potential. Other options to provide an approximate to sheet flow, such as flush kerbs, shall be considered on a site by site basis.
- Point flow outlets such as road gullies and pipes shall flow into a flow spreader to minimise the risk of erosion and silting.
- A drop of 50 to 100mm shall be included at the edge of the hard surface to prevent the formation of a sediment lip.
- Conveyance swale discharge pipes and underdrain pipes shall be provided with a hydraulically designed outlet structure that is resistant to erosion.
- Swales shall include a suitably designed overflow to safely convey flows arising from design exceedance events. Overflows shall be incorporated within the development strategy for managing exceedance events and routed to planned temporary storage areas.

### Landscaping

- Existing site subsoils and site topsoils are to be reserved and re-laid in accordance with DEFRA's Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites. Should existing site soils prove unsuitable (due to contamination for example) or insufficient then any relocated or imported subsoil must meet BS 8601:2013 Specification for Subsoil and Requirements for Use and relocated or imported topsoils must meet BS: 3882:2015 Specification for Topsoil.
- Swales shall be overlaid with soil at depths appropriate for the proposed vegetation. Proposed vegetation shall comprise native species tolerant of the anticipated soil-types, water tolerance requirements and microclimate.
- To increase the biodiversity of swales, specialist SuDS Turfs are also available which include a range of plant species to produce habitats tolerant of both drought conditions and periodic flooding.

### Operation and maintenance

- Access shall be provided to all areas of the swale for inspection and maintenance. All maintenance assess points shall be clearly visible and documented in the Operation and Maintenance plan.

### Groundwater

- Please note that the groundwater table level is a key design consideration for swales. The groundwater level should be established via formal onsite ground investigation carried out in the same location of the proposed swale.
- If the swale is of impermeable design, then the developer must ensure that there is no potential for hydrostatic pressure issues associated with a high water table and impermeable liners.
- If the swale is of permeable design, then any groundwater volume stored within the swale will need to be factored into the swale's volume capacity to ensure there is sufficient surface water storage provided for extreme storm events.
- Please note that ground water monitoring may be required to ensure seasonal fluctuations in groundwater levels are recorded and considered within the design of the swale.

## 5.4.3 Site Control - Bioretention: Cellular Planting



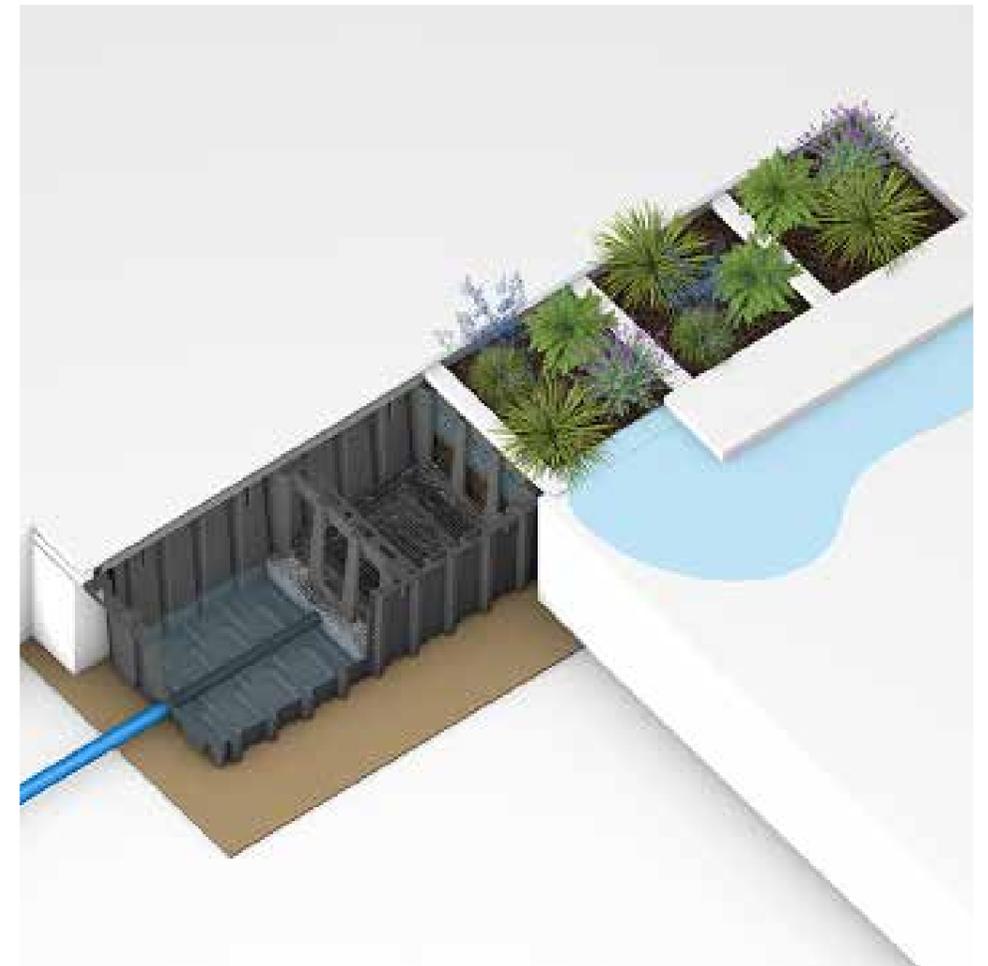
Areas of shallow vegetated open water with specially selected plant species and varying water levels and treatment areas.

Water flows almost horizontally and is gradually treated prior to discharge; flow control is required.

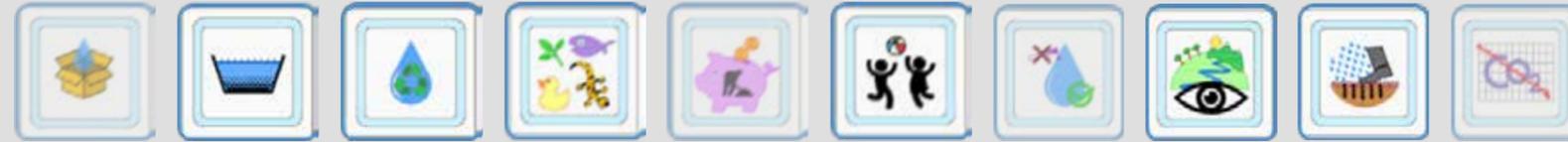
Cellular planting offers enhanced bioretention storage capacity

For best practice refer to:

- CIRIA C753 The SuDS Manual Part D.
- CIRIA report C768 'Guidance on the Construction of SuDS'.
- Sewerage Sector Guidance



Images: GreenBlue Urban



### Key Characteristics

- Can be installed in a variety of soil types from clay to sand
- Suggested minimum width of 3m and a 2:1 length to width ratio to allow random planting of vegetation
- Plants must be able to withstand pollution and tolerate extended dry and wet periods
- Can be part of a SuDS train or act as a stand alone component

### Main Considerations

- Construction materials should avoid landscape impacts of quarrying virgin rock by utilising appropriate re-used or recycled materials in preference to new. Any new materials should be locally-sourced where possible
- Plant species choice must be suited to the anticipated soil, water and site conditions
- Bioretention should be lined if water infiltration could cause slope stability or foundation problems
- Groundwater table must be 1m below the base of the feature

### Key Benefits

- Potential to enhance biodiversity and create more visual appeal
- Good retrofit solutions
- A highly visible SuDS component that can help educate and inform
- Works well in low permeability soils
- Can be very compact and used within streetscaping, or in larger landscaping areas
- Good water quality treatment and volume reduction

## 5.4.4 Site Control - Bioretention Units: Rain Gardens



Areas of shallow vegetated open water with specially selected plant species and varying water levels and treatment areas.

Water flows almost horizontally and is gradually treated prior to discharge; flow control is required.

Rain Gardens can offer localised storage and attenuation. They can also provide an opportunity for urban greening, cooling, and ecological enhancement.

For best practice refer to:

- CIRIA C753 The SuDS Manual Part D.
- CIRIA report C768 'Guidance on the Construction of SuDS'
- Sewerage Sector Guidance



Image: susdrain.org



### Key Characteristics

- Groundwater table must be 1m below the base of the feature
- Can be part of a SuDS train or a stand-alone component
- Adaptable to different situations
- Can be installed in a variety of soil types from clay to sand
- Can be part of a SuDS train or act as a stand alone component

### Main Considerations

- Applicable to private and public land, such as driveways or highway verges
- Potentially low installation cost
- Should be designed with appropriate flow control
- Bioretention should be lined if water infiltration could cause slope stability or foundation problems
- Groundwater table must be 1m below the base of the feature
- Planting can vary depending on the site and context and can include small trees

### Key Benefits

- Significant retrofit opportunities in urban and rural contexts, including individual householders
- Potential to enhance biodiversity and create more visual appeal
- A highly visible SuDS component that can help educate and inform
- Can be planted to reinforce local landscape character
- Reduces maintenance compared to regular mowing regimes for amenity grass
- Adds water-storage capacity and filtration
- Potential ecological benefits, including provision of pollinators in urban/suburban locations
- Assists in cleansing water of contaminants



<https://www.next.cc/journey/design/rain-gardens>

## 5.4.5 Site Control - Bioretention Units: Suspended-Pavement Tree-Trenches



Tree-trenches with suspended pavement facilities can offer water storage, water-cycling and attenuation, and help reduce pollutants through filtration, absorption, microbial action and tree uptake.

For best practice refer to:

- **CIRIA C753**
- **CIRIA report C768 'Guidance on the Construction of SuDS'**
- **Sewerage Sector Guidance**



### Key Characteristics

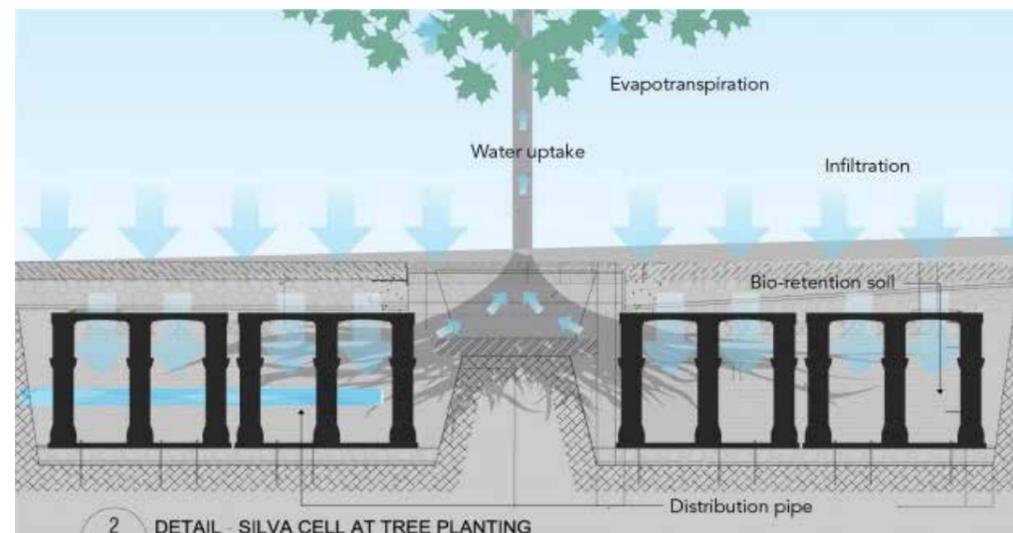
- Significant retrofit opportunities in urban and rural contexts including householders
- Adaptable to different situations
- Can be installed in a variety of soil types from clay to sand
- Can be part of a SuDS train or act as a stand-alone component

### Main Considerations

- Siting and trench shape should be adapted to suit existing constraints, such as underground cables etc.
- Tree species choice must be suited to anticipated soil, water and site conditions
- Bioretention Pavement Tree trenches proposed in the highway areas will be subject to specific technical checks prior to approval for use.

### Key Benefits

- Significant water-cycling through tree-growth and transpiration
- Increases water-storage capacity
- Increases attenuation periods for run-off
- Assists in cleansing water of contaminants
- Form significant landscape enhancement features
- Tree-species choices can build or reinforce local character
- Enhances biodiversity
- Creates more visually appealing places
- Helps with longer-term flood mitigation through climate change mitigation, including reducing heat-island-effect in urban areas and contributing to carbon-capture
- Can be incorporated on private or public land, such as driveways or highway verges (subject to Highways Authority approval)



### Tree-trenches as Storage, Water-Cycling and Attenuation Components

Suspended-pavement tree-trenches were originally designed to help street-trees to thrive in urban environments by ensuring against soil compaction, but recent adaptations now offer excellent innovations for bioretention units.

Research undertaken by The University of Manchester and City of Trees for Salford City Council, the Environment Agency and United Utilities has demonstrated that street trees can have a significant positive impact on managing water.

Street-trees can be planted in specially-adapted tree-trenches which receive rainwater run-off from the adjoining road and pavement. As run-off flows along the trench, it soaks into the soil and is extracted by the trees for growth and transpiration, leaving only excess water to drain out of this SuDS component.

Results from two years' monitoring showed 3 street trees and the soil they were planted in were able to reduce the amount of water running off a street into the sewer by approximately 75%, and that remaining excess water was attenuated by up to 3 hours.

Cheshire East Council encourages use of multifunctional technology, such as 'box-crate' planting-pits, which could provide key components for Sustainable Drainage Systems.



'Box-crate' Tree-planting as a Storage, Water-cycling and Attenuation SuDS Component (images courtesy: DeepRoot UK)

<https://www.deeproot.com/blog/blog-entries/multi-agency-green-infrastructure-streetscape-silva-cell-case-study>

## Technical Requirements – Bioretention Units

### Configuration and Dimensions of Bioretention

- Bioretention units should be designed to **CIRIA C753 The SuDS Manual and the requirements of this document**.
- The use of proprietary bioretention units is permitted and shall be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Performance of the bioretention units is independent of shape. Any shape can be used successfully subject to its practicality for the proposed planting and required maintenance.
- A mulch layer shall be maintained over the planting area to reduce erosion and help retain more consistent moisture levels for plants.
- The soils shall be suitable to sustain the selected plants and to achieve a permeability of 250 to 1000mm per hour under design conditions. The depth of soil will vary depending upon the selected planting scheme, but shall be a minimum total depth of 1m deep,
- The soils, transition sand layer and coarse bedding material shall be wrapped in geotextile to avoid migration, with a minimum 150mm overlap at all joins. The geotextile shall meet the requirements of **BS EN 13252:2014 Geotextiles and geotextile-related products - Characteristics required for use in drainage systems**.

### Hydraulic and Water Quality Design Criteria

- Ponding in bioretention units should not be able to exceed 150mm depth.
- The bioretention unit should be checked for design exceedance and modelled explicitly and holistically to demonstrate the impact on its downstream drainage components.
- The bioretention unit should be designed to be able to half-empty within 24 hours to allow for incoming flows from subsequent storms.
- The base of the bioretention unit shall be at least 1m above the highest seasonal or permanent groundwater table.
- The underdrain pipe design should follow standard hydraulic design methods. Bioretention units shall be provided with high level overflows and sub-surface collection pipe(s) to accommodate design exceedance.
- A maintenance pipe for cleaning the underdrain should be provided and secured against vandalism.
- The transition layer below the soil filter media shall consist of 100mm of coarse sand with a grain size of 0.5 to 1mm.
- The gravel around the perforated underdrain shall be 5 to 20mm size.

### Selection and Siting

- A risk assessment shall include all relevant safety and environmental issues associated with siting bioretention units. This should be carried out by a qualified Engineer or Geologist where infiltration systems are proposed.
- The bioretention unit shall be designed for easy monitoring and maintenance.
- Bioretention units should be sited on stable ground: soil and groundwater conditions should be assessed to verify ground stability.
- Design of bioretention units must comply with groundwater protection regulations and with Environment Agency policy regarding infiltration.

## Pre-treatment, inlets, and outlets

- Sheet flow is desirable to minimise erosion and increase treatment potential. Other options to provide an approximation of sheet flow, such as flush kerbs, shall be considered on a site-by-site basis.
- Point flow outlets such as road-gullies and pipes shall flow into a flow-spreader to minimise the risk of erosion and silting.
- To prevent the formation of a sediment lip around the boundary of the retention unit, a drop of 50 to 100mm shall be included at the hard-surface's edge.
- Bioretention units shall include a suitably designed overflow to safely convey flows arising from design exceedance events. Overflows shall be incorporated within the development strategy for managing exceedance events and routed to planned temporary storage areas.

### Landscaping

- Existing site subsoils and site topsoils are to be reserved and re-laid in accordance with DEFRA's Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites. Should existing site soils prove unsuitable (due to contamination for example) or insufficient then any relocated or imported subsoil must meet BS 8601:2013 Specification for Subsoil and Requirements for Use and relocated or imported topsoils must meet BS: 3882:2015 Specification for Topsoil.
- Bio-retention units shall utilise types and quantities of soils appropriate for the proposed vegetation and sufficient for plants' potential stature at maturity.
- Proposed vegetation shall comprise appropriate species suitable for the anticipated soil-types, water tolerance requirements and microclimate, and in-keeping with site character and wider landscape character.
- Confirmation of planting management responsibility, planting establishment schedule and long-term maintenance are required.
- All components should be in-keeping with local landscape character and any new stone should reflect local geology.

### Health and Safety

- A risk assessment shall include all relevant safety and environmental issues associated with siting bioretention units.

### Operation and maintenance

- Access, monitoring and maintenance requirements shall be incorporated into design and siting of the bioretention unit.
- All maintenance access points shall be clearly visible and documented in the Operation and Maintenance plan.

## 5.4.6 Site Control - Canals, Rills and Channels



Canals, rills and channels are hardscape open surface water channels used to store run-off within a constructed container.

They can be integrated into public realm areas which have a more urban character.

They can be above or below ground and should be sized to meet storage need, having regard to safety considerations.

### WAYMARKER

SEE MATRIX ID 21

For best practice refer to:

- CIRIA C753 The SuDS Manual Part D.
- CIRIA report C768 'Guidance on the Construction of SuDS'.
- Sewerage Guidance Sector



### Key Characteristics

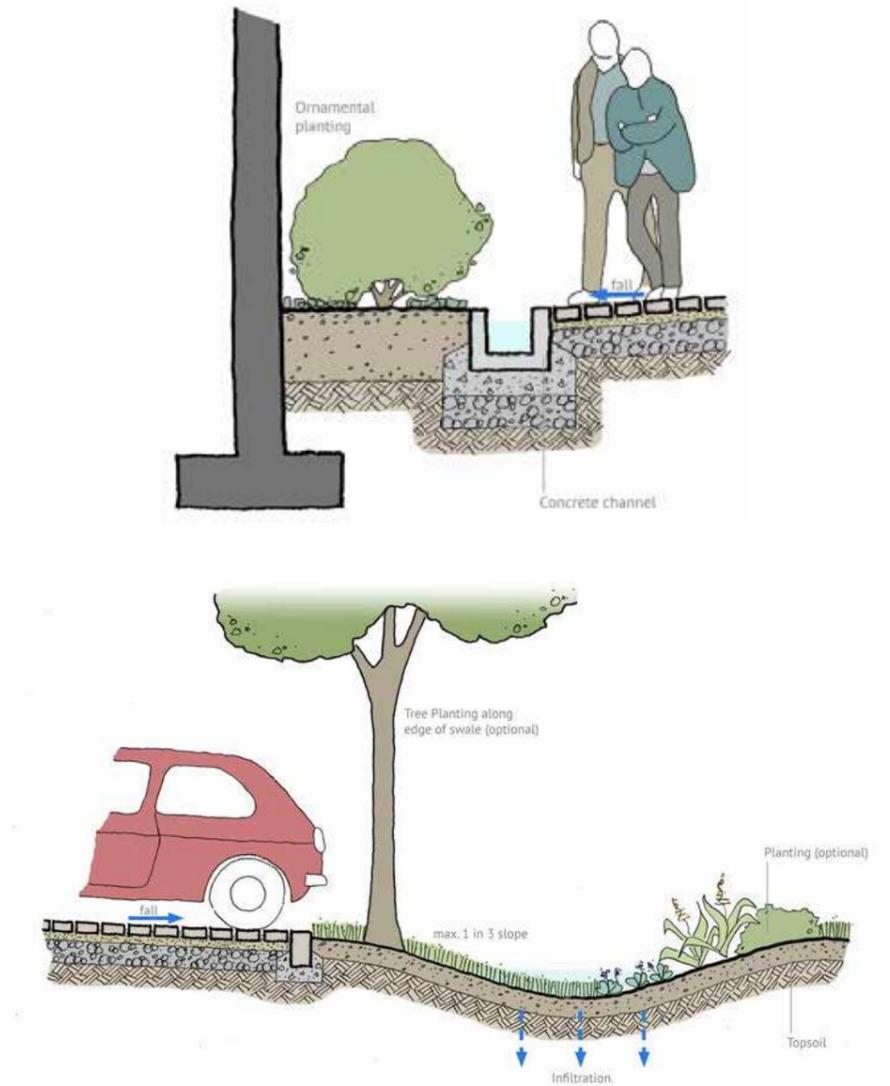
- Should be designed as an integral part of a SuDS system
- Can act as pre-treatment
- More complex storage and conveyance systems provide benefits both within and outside buildings
- Applications can be for residential, non-residential and public realm.
- Often designed as linear features including small pools to add significantly to the townscape and landscape quality, whilst managing water flow and cleansing
- Usually designed as linking components between other components within a SuDS train.

### Main Considerations

- Easy to construct and manage as part of the public realm
- Excavation proposals must include appropriate soils' management and re-use
- Construction materials should avoid landscape impacts of quarrying virgin rock by utilising appropriate re-used or recycled materials in preference to new. Any new materials should be locally-sourced where possible
- Choosing appropriate planting to prevent silt build up
- Need to give careful consideration to crossing points and people with mobility and visual impairment
- Potential complexities around adoption

### Key Benefits

- Provision of above-ground solutions within predominantly urban, higher density, space-constrained contexts
- Can be visually appealing and add to a sense of place
- Amenity value and informal play potential for local communities
- Planting can create distinctive, aquatic landscape features and biodiversity enrichment



Images: susdrain.org

## Technical Requirements: Canals, Rills and Channels

Canals, rills and channels are open surface water channels, usually crafted with hard edges. Their cross-sections can be adapted to suit topography, the scale of the scheme and to enable safe access for informal recreational use and management. Crossings and bridges can be incorporated to enable access to buildings and spaces and to encourage alternative views of the features and the feeling of crossing water. They should be designed so as not to require any safety railings or fencing to maximise the social benefits. Specific risk assessment will be required as part of the design process. Materials commonly used are concrete, reconstituted and natural stone. Planting needs to be tolerant to varying hydrological conditions.

### Hydraulic and water quality design criteria

- Stormwater calculations for a range of rainfall durations up to 1 in 100yr + CC event should be carried out to accurately determine the capacity of the storage volume required. Surface water flow paths during exceedance events should be planned for within the overall surface water drainage layout. This should ensure that flooding to property is avoided and safe access and egress from the development site is maintained.
- Treatment channels collect water, slow it down and provide storage for silt and oil that is captured. The outlet is designed to act as a mini oil separator thus the channel is very effective at treating pollution. They can provide excellent pre-treatment value to larger SuDS, as they are able to remove contaminants such as silt and oil before the water is conveyed into downstream SuDS features. However, it is important that they are managed effectively to prevent contaminant/sludge build up that affects their physical efficiency and the flora that assists the cleansing process.
- Depending on their placement in the SuDS management train, species selection needs to be designed based on the hydrological conditions to ensure that planting flourishes in either permanently wet, semi wet, or predominantly dry conditions

### Selection and siting

They are an effective SuDS measure in more dense, urban developments where space constraints are a common challenge. Rills and canals can be used to collect water straight from hard surfaces or they can be used to convey water, for example where it has been collected via a permeable pavement structure. They can be designed as integral parts of the landscape scheme, or as more incidental elements as part of a wider SuDS/landscape scheme. They can also be used as threshold definition between private and public spaces. Consequently they are suited to a variety of scenarios:

- Public realm and parks/open spaces
- Residential development
- Commercial/industrial development
- Contaminated sites (providing they use an impermeable lining)

### Safety

- Edging, sidewalls, bases and embankments should be designed in accordance with national health and safety guidance for perceivability, access/egress and maintenance requirements.

## Landscaping and amenity

All built components should be purposely designed to be in-keeping with the design philosophy for the scheme, having regard to local character. Materials and construction should be of high quality to help build a strong sense of place and character. Where stone is used then it should reflect local geology.

Bridges and crossing points can provide more dramatic linear views of the features, especially where well integrated into townscape to draw the eye to feature buildings or landscape. The potential for these features to be close to homes or commercial premises, and as part of the public realm, means potentially high levels of amenity benefit, particularly where they are designed to enable more direct access. Well designed, appropriate planting can help enrich the feel and quality of the development, bring people closer to nature and enhance the sense of community.

### Operation and maintenance

Routine maintenance is required, involving removal of debris and litter, whilst more intensive maintenance work, such as removing silt, is only required intermittently (e.g. every 5 years). Repair of the structure, including grouting etc. will also be required during the lifetime of the feature. The initial cost of installation should be no greater than an equivalent underground solution, but routine maintenance cost will be higher. However, the cost of more fundamental repair is likely to be no greater given they are surface based components.

Although quite straightforward to design, problems have occurred due to a lack of attention during design and construction including silt build up due to inappropriate landscape and treatment of adjacent areas, and the landscape quality being poor due to the frequency and type of planting, both of which are easy to address at the design stage.

## 5.4.7 Site Control - Detention Basins



Vegetated depressions in the ground that have been designed to attenuate storm water flows by providing temporary storage. They can also help improve surface run-off quality as they offer some pollution removal due to settling of particulates.

Detention basins are designed to be sufficiently dry underfoot in drier weather conditions for pedestrians to use them, and can offer amenity benefit.

### WAYMARKER

SEE MATRIX ID 20

For best practice refer to:

- CIRIA C753 The SuDS Manual Part D.
- CIRIA report C768 'Guidance on the Construction of SuDS'.
- Sewerage Sector Guidance Design Manual for Roads and Bridges CD 532



### Key Characteristics

- Maximum water depth should not exceed 2m (although situational safety considerations may reduce this maximum depth)
- Where space is constrained, maximum gradients of 1 in 3 to 1 in 5 for side slopes can be used, but gentler slopes must also be available to help people get out. Ledges should be incorporated into the side slopes at 0.5m height intervals to help people climb out
- Length to width ratio usually between 3:1 and 5:1
- Varying contours can define which areas within the basin are likely to be inundated
- A sediment forebay or pre-treatment option can be incorporated to increase the water cleansing
- Surface water bypass and drawdown is required for safe access for maintenance
- Can be enhanced to improve ecological value through appropriate native planting
- Large outlet pipes should be screened
- The bottom of any vegetated basin should be fairly flat with a gentle slope (no more than 1 in 100) towards the outlet

### Main Considerations

- Low volume and pollution reduction
- Should enhance and integrate with site's topography
- Excavation proposals must include appropriate soils' management and re-use
- Detention basins should be designed to retain a proportion of permanent open water habitat to enhance their ecological value
- Requires positive landscaping and management to maintain their landscape and ecological value

### Key Benefits

- Can be applied to large contributing catchments
- Works well in low permeability soils
- Can be incorporated into larger landscaped areas
- Good flow control
- Easy to design, build and maintain
- Can have amenity value if designed carefully

## Technical Requirements – Detention Basins

### Configuration and Dimensions of Detention Basins

- Detention basins should be designed to CIRIA 753 The SuDS Manual and the requirements of this document.
- An irregular shape should be used for maximising the aesthetic aspect of the detention basins. Angular shapes should be avoided as far as practical in the design of basin elements and details.
- As a minimum detention basins should contain the following sections:
  - a. The sediment forebay if expected sediment loading is significantly high
  - b. The main basin
  - c. A part of the main basin depressed to form a micropool
- Additional elements to be included in the design of basins should be an inflow structure, an emergency overflow structure, outlet with flow control device including drain down bypass. The sedimentation forebay shall be separated from the permanent pool by a permeable berm.
- Detention basin bases shall be designed with gentle inner slopes (1 to 100 maximum) towards the centre.
- Embankment inner slopes shall be less than 1 in 3.
- The maximum design water depth of the basins shall be 2m.
- The length to width ratio for online detention basins shall be between 5:1 to 3:1.
- The maximum volume of the detention basins shall be 5000m<sup>3</sup>

### Hydraulic and Water Quality Design Criteria

- The drain down time should be a minimum of 24 hours, to allow for sedimentation to take place.

### Selection and Siting

- A risk assessment should include all relevant safety issues associated with siting a basin.
- Siting of detention basins should follow a multicriteria analysis to provide the widest benefits to the public.
- Developers should use Arboricultural Impact Assessments (AIA) that identify existing trees and their Root Protection Areas (RPA) to inform the location of SuDS and prevent any adverse impact on the long term health and safe wellbeing of trees
- The 100yr +Climate Change water level in any detention basin shall be at least 600mm below the finished floor level of any adjacent properties and a minimum of 400mm below top of bank level.
- Consideration should be given to the potential failure of any embankment and the subsequent flood flows through, and downstream, of the site.
- The maximum 1-year return period event basin water level shall be higher than the appropriate return period event water level of the adjacent watercourse, as specified by the Local Authority as part of its flood prevention duties. Appropriate hydraulic checks on the implications of high watercourse levels should be made, where appropriate.
- At sites of high groundwater table, the basin bottom level shall be built 500mm above the annual maximum groundwater level.
- At sites with contaminated soil, detention basins shall be designed water tight. Unlined detention basins should not be used on brownfield sites unless it has been clearly demonstrated that there is no risk of groundwater pollution.

## Pre-treatment, inlets, and outlets

- Energy dissipation and erosion protection should be provided at the basin inlets. Basin inlets to be at least 300mm higher than the base of the basin.
- Safety grilles should be provided in all pipe inlets diameter greater than 350mm. During extreme events, operatives should be able to access safely the inlet pipe for cleaning.
- Detention basins should be designed with a slight depression in the inlet structures to encourage the water quality benefits of bioretention processes.
- A manhole and a flow control device should be provided at the outlet of the basin. Discharge from the basin should be limited to the allowable Council limit. The flow conditions in the receiving stream downstream of the basin should be modelled to the satisfaction of the Council.
- An overflow structure should be provided at the outlet. A spillway shall also be provided for an emergency. The spillway should be designed as a controlled overtopping of the embankment. It should not be designed to pass through the embankment. Emergency overflows should be routed back to the receiving watercourse to protect downstream properties.
- The top of embankment at the spillway should be 300mm above the 100 year + climate change allowance storm event.
- The outlet structure should be designed to operate and discharge the design discharge flow rate up to the 1 in 100 year + climate change 24-hour storm event. Appropriate hydraulic checks on the implications of high watercourse levels shall be performed, where applicable.

### Landscaping

- Existing site subsoils and topsoils are to be reserved and re-laid in accordance with DEFRA's Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites. Should existing site soils prove unsuitable (due to contamination for example) or insufficient then any relocated or imported subsoil must meet BS 8601:2013 Specification for Subsoil and Requirements for Use and relocated or imported topsoils must meet BS: 3882:2015 Specification for Topsoil.
- Detention basins shall be overlaid with soil at depths appropriate for the proposed vegetation. Proposed vegetation shall comprise native species tolerant of the anticipated soil-types, water tolerance requirements and microclimate.
- Consideration should be given to the suitable aesthetic design of the detention basin and its surrounds to enhance the visual amenity of the site and to reflect the landscape character of its location.
- Suitable native planting should be selected to maximise the ecological value of the detention basin and surrounds.
- To increase the biodiversity of detention basins specialist SuDS Turfs are available which include a range of plant species to produce habitats tolerant of both drought conditions and periodic flooding.

## Amenity

- The dual use of the detention basin as passive public open space for recreation activities should be considered where the area is subject to flooding from events less frequent than the 1-year return period and where it can be clearly distinguished from the area providing flood storage for frequent events.

## Safety

- A safety risk assessment shall examine all relevant safety issues for both operatives and the public and its findings shall be acted upon.
- The embankment slope gradients should be designed in accordance with national health and safety guidance for access/egress and maintenance requirements.
- Dense vegetation around the external perimeter of the detention basin is discouraged to allow high levels of visibility of the area. Detention basins should not normally require fencing. If fencing is deemed necessary, risk management should include means of egress should anyone enter the site.

## Operation and Maintenance

- 3.5m minimum width access road for maintenance shall be provided.
- Design should be carefully considered to ensure the access road:
  - is pervious
  - incorporates reused or recycled materials in its construction
  - utilises appropriate wearing-course materials which reflect local landscape character
- A summary of the maintenance activities is provided below and shall be considered for basin accessibility design:
  - a. Removal of litter, debris and grass cutting.
  - b. Removal of unwanted plant species and dead plant growth.
  - c. Removal of aquatic plants if present.
  - d. Bank vegetation cutting and removal.
  - e. Sediment removal from forebays and micropools.
  - f. Reseeding of areas with poor vegetation growth.

## Groundwater

- Please note that the groundwater table level is a key design consideration for attenuation basins. The groundwater level should be established via formal onsite ground investigation carried out in the same location of the proposed basin.
- If the basin is of impermeable design, then the developer must ensure that there is no potential for hydrostatic pressure issues associated with a high water table and impermeable liners.
- If the basin is of permeable design, then any groundwater volume stored within the basin will need to be factored into the basin's volume capacity to ensure there is sufficient surface water storage provided for extreme storm events.
- Please note that ground water monitoring may be required to ensure seasonal fluctuations in groundwater levels are recorded and considered within the design of the basin.

## 5.4.9 Site Control - Underground Storage Structures



Underground structures with capacity to store water below ground.

These structures only provide water-attenuation and not water-treatment therefore cleaning of the water is required prior to release.

**Please note that this is the least preferred option for SuDS implementation due to underground surface water attenuation structures not encapsulating the multiple benefits of best practise SuDS design.**

### WAYMARKER

SEE MATRIX ID 2

#### Refer to:

- CIRIA C753 The SuDS Manual Part D.
- CIRIA report C768 'Guidance on the Construction of SuDS'.
- Sewerage Sector Guidance



### Key Characteristics

- Use underground storage structures only where above ground space is not available
- Underground storage structures must be part of a wider SuDS Management Train
- Storage requires suitable internal void ratio of the structure (>90%)
- Structure requires regular silt removal
- Outflow may require pollution treatment

### Main Considerations

- The storage structure must fit into a planned SuDS Management Train to provide the required silt removal and pollution treatment
- Excavation proposals must include appropriate soils' management and re-use
- Examine possibility of enabling infiltration through geotextile-lined layers
- Designs should consider expected and potential loading to ensure avoidance of structural failure and collapse
- Stable ground is required
- Underground water-storage structures are not permitted under public highways
- Monitoring and maintenance of underground structures must be safe, programmed, practical and viable

### Key Benefits

- Can be designed to attenuate stormwater where no surface space available

## Technical Requirements – Underground Storage

### Configuration and Dimensions of Underground Storage

- The use of underground storage (which provides no surface water treatment) shall only be allowed where the use of other SuDS methods are inappropriate.
- The design of the underground storage shall aim to minimise sedimentation. Underground storage should be designed to the **CIRIA C753 The SuDS Manual Part D and the requirements of this document**.
- Existing site subsoils and site topsoils are to be reserved and re-laid in accordance with DEFRA's Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites. Should existing site soils prove unsuitable (due to contamination for example) or insufficient then any relocated or imported subsoil must meet BS 8601:2013 Specification for Subsoil and Requirements for Use and relocated or imported topsoils must meet BS: 3882:2015 Specification for Topsoil.
- Larger underground storage structures shall permit entry to enable inspection and maintenance activities to be carried out within the storage chambers. This shall include suitable clear opening and internal step irons for safe access/egress. Smaller underground storage structures should have suitable access points to permit remote cleaning and inspection to be readily carried out. Covers should be large enough to allow man-entry with breathing apparatus. Entry points should be on level ground to permit the erection of man-entry safety tripods.
- Design options that shall be acceptable for public areas are pre-fabricated structures, oversized pipes or cast in-situ concrete structures.
- Pipes less than 900mm internal diameter can be utilised for attenuation. However, pipes larger than internal diameter of 900mm will not be permitted under public highways.
- The maximum water level in any underground storage structure shall be at least 600mm below the lowest floor level of any adjacent premises.
- Underground storage should normally be designed as off-line storage and should be sized in accordance with the hydraulic design requirements.
- Low-flow channels should be provided.
- The minimum gradient for storage systems should be 1:100 for off-line tanks and 1:200 for on-line tanks to minimise sedimentation.

### Selection and Siting

- Underground storage should not be located beneath public areas and are not permitted under public highways. All attenuation tanks must be placed away from existing or proposed highway areas, taking account of the highway's 45-degree influence zone
- Existing and proposed tree root zones must be avoided or appropriately accommodated, including allowance for growth, appropriate backfill soils for local soil-type. Developers should use Arboricultural Impact Assessments (AIA) that identify existing trees and their Root Protection Areas(RPA) to inform the location of SUDS and prevent any adverse impact on the long term health and safe wellbeing of trees
- Ecological constraints must be accounted for such as possibility of leakage, locally-appropriate backfill soils and leaching potential
- Access route to components requires careful integration with site features

### Pre-treatment, inlets, and outlets

- The outlet structure should be designed to operate and discharge the design-limiting discharge rates. Appropriate hydraulic checks on the implications of high downstream water levels should be made, where appropriate, and take account of the receiving watercourse or downstream sewer capacity.
- Where debris can enter the control (e.g. where the upstream system is open or where the inlets are gullies), static controls should have a minimum opening size of 100mm or equivalent; Where the design of the upstream system will prevent debris from entering the system (e.g. underground systems where the inlets are pervious pavement systems), static controls should have a minimum opening size of 50mm.
- The outlet structure should have an overflow provided.

### Safety

- A risk assessment should cover all aspects of safety, including access, for operatives during maintenance operations.
- A minimum of two access points (upstream and downstream) should be provided with maximum intervals between access points of 50m.
- Ventilation should be provided to minimise the risk of build-up of dangerous gases.

### Operation and maintenance

- Operation and maintenance of underground structures must be integrated in their design.
- Monitoring and maintenance responsibility must be confirmed.
- A programme of safe, practical and viable monitoring and maintenance is required.
- All maintenance access points shall be clearly visible and documented in the Operation and Maintenance plan.

### Groundwater

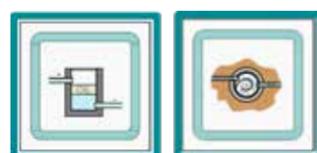
- Please note that the groundwater table level is a key design consideration for underground attenuation tanks. The groundwater level should be established via formal onsite ground investigation carried out in the same location of the proposed tank.
- The developer must ensure that there is no potential for hydrostatic pressure issues associated with a high water table.
- Furthermore, in areas of high groundwater the tank should be appropriately weighted to prevent flotation.

## 5.4.8 Site Control: Pre-Treatment - Oil and Sediment Separators

Where particular site issues demand it such as contaminated brownfield sites or large industrial sites (areas of hardstanding), alternative SuDS components should be prioritised but, **as a last resort**, oil and sediment separators can be used for pre-treatment, or site treatment for the removal of sediment, litter, and oil from surface water run-off.

These systems can be installed in a standard size manhole. Captured pollutants are retained within the separator, providing a single point of maintenance.

**Please note that United Utilities & the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges do not advocate use of oil and sediment separators within adoptable systems, and actively promote the use of green solutions.**



Key Benefits	Key Benefits
 <p>Silt removal</p>	
Design Standards	Design Standards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require designing so that regular maintenance can be undertaken</li> <li>As the vortex separator requires a velocity to function, a filtration chamber or detention basin should be used for small flow events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Must comply with BS EN standards for separating systems</b></li> <li>Require maintenance to prevent re-suspension of pollution</li> <li>Should be situated close to the pollution source</li> </ul>
Best Practice	Best Practice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most effective for removal of heavy particulate matter rather than solids or dissolved pollutants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Depending on the location to which the water is to be drained and the type / severity of pollutants, different classes of separators should be used</li> </ul>

Refer to:

- CIRIA C753 The SuDS Manual Part D.
- CIRIA report C768 'Guidance on the Construction of SuDS'.
- Sewerage Sector Guidance

### Technical Requirements – Oil and Sediment Separators

#### Configuration and Dimensions of Oil and Sediment Separators

- Oil separators used for the removal of oil and grease present in storm waters operate on the flotation principle. Separated oils are floating on the water surface inside the unit.
- The use of proprietary units is permitted and shall be considered on a case by case basis.

#### Hydraulic and Water Quality Design Criteria

- Facility design shall be in accordance with BS EN 858-1:2002 Separator systems for light liquids (e.g. oil and petrol). Principles of product design, performance, and testing, marking and quality control.

#### Selection and Siting

- Oil separator units should be installed underground. The installation site shall be within passive open space accessible by a vacuum tanker for cleaning and maintenance.

#### Health and Safety

- A risk assessment shall include all relevant safety and environmental issues associated with siting the oil separators.

#### Operation and maintenance

- Regular inspection of the unit in accordance with the manufacturer's maintenance requirements but no longer than every six months. The volumes of bottom sludge and the floating layer shall be estimated and cleaning of the unit should be scheduled.
- Cleaning of the oil separator shall be performed by a licenced waste management company to ensure appropriate disposal of the collected oils, floatables and sediment.
- Following cleaning the separator shall be filled with clean water, ready to fully operate with the first rainfall.



Retention ponds are structures that provide both retention and treatment of contaminated storm water run-off.

Retention ponds include a permanent pool of water into which storm water run-off is directed and outflows are controlled to reduce flow rate.

The pond's physical, biological, and chemical processes work to remove storm water pollutants. Sedimentation processes remove particulates, organic matter and metals, while dissolved metals and nutrients are removed through biological uptake.

In general a higher-level storm water quantity control can be achieved as well providing positive amenity benefits. A well-designed retention pond provides a community asset and opportunities for new habitats.



For best practice refer to:

- CIRIA C753 The SuDS Manual Part D.
- CIRIA report C768 'Guidance on the Construction of SuDS'.
- Sewerage Sector Guidance
- ROSPA Inland Water Sites - Operational Guidelines.

WAYMARKER

SEE MATRIX ID 1

#### Key Characteristics

- The pond should have 4 zones - sediment forebay, permanent pool, temporary storage volume and shallow, wetland-type zone
- Located outside the floodplain
- Water quality treatment levels required should determine design
- Depth should be <2m to prevent stratification
- A liner may be required to prevent infiltration if the water is polluted or if the pond is near an aquifer
- Maintenance should account for invasive species
- Health and safety should be considered to ensure public safety in proximity to the pond

#### Main Considerations

- Large area of land required
- Not suited to sloping sites
- Should enhance and integrate with site's topography
- Excavation proposals must include appropriate soils' management and re-use
- Perceived safety risks need to be managed
- Ecological advice must be sought regarding existing potentially high value habitats
- Whilst they have some nature conservation value, retention ponds should not be promoted as compensation for any proposed loss of existing wetlands or ponds.

#### Key Benefits

- Can be applied to large contributing catchments
- Works well in low permeability soils and permeable soils with a liner
- Good flow control
- Easy to design, build, and maintain
- Can be used for amenity use
- Can incorporate a drawdown zone to reduce run-off volume

## Technical Requirements – Retention Ponds

### Configuration and Dimensions of Retention Ponds

- Retention ponds should be designed to **CIRIA 753 The SuDS Manual and the requirements of this of this document**.
- Existing site subsoils and site topsoils are to be reserved and re-laid in accordance with DEFRA's Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites. Should existing site soils prove unsuitable (due to contamination for example) or insufficient then any relocated or imported subsoil must meet BS 8601:2013 Specification for Subsoil and Requirements for Use and relocated or imported topsoils must meet BS: 3882:2015 Specification for Topsoil.
- The aesthetic element should prevail in the design of ponds. Angular shapes and symmetry should be avoided in the design of pond layout and details. All ponds should contain several zones:
  - The sediment forebay
  - The permanent pool
  - The temporary storage volume
  - An aquatic bench
- Additional elements to be included in the design of ponds include:
  - A 3.5m wide maintenance route, suitable for vehicles.
  - An inflow structure.
  - A bypass sewer,
  - An outlet with flow control and drain down chamber.
  - An emergency overflow structure,
- The sedimentation forebay should be separated from the permanent pool by a permeable berm and have an average width of 5 to 10 times the inlet pipe diameter and a length of 10m or four times the width, whichever is greater.
- Inlets and outlets shall be placed at the maximum distance to maximise flow paths.
- The flow path length to width ratio shall be 3:1 minimum to avoid short circuiting.
- A maximum depth of 2m should be used for the permanent pool to prevent anoxic conditions and water stratification. The minimum water depth of the permanent water zone shall be 1.2m to prevent plant growth.
- The maximum depth of attenuation storage should not exceed 2m.
- The aquatic bench should be a minimum of 2m continuous around the pond, except at inlets and should range in depth up to 450mm below the design permanent pool level.
- The top level of the permeable berm shall be 150mm below the permanent pool water level.
- Energy dissipation should be provided at the inlet and outlet to the pond.
- Ponds should be designed to hold a permanent volume of water equivalent to the treatment volume, also referred to as  $V_t$ .
- The treatment volume ( $V_t$ ) should be calculated using the fixed depth method of 15mm of rainfall from impermeable (including paved and roofed) surfaces draining to the pond.
- Sediment forebay volume should be approximately 10% of the pond's permanent volume ( $V_t$ ).
- The maximum volume of any retention pond should be 5000m<sup>3</sup>.
- The Sedimentation forebay should be designed to provide efficient deposition of sediment and should be accessible for cleaning and maintenance operations in its entire area.
- The sedimentation forebay floor should be a minimum of 300mm above the main pond bottom.
- A safe and efficient means of draining the lowest point in the detention pond must be included.

## Hydraulic and Water Quality Design Criteria

### Ponds hydraulic design

- The top of the embankment should be 600mm above the maximum design water level.
- The outlet structure should be designed to operate and discharge the design discharge flow rates up to the 100yr + climate change 6-hour storm event.
- Ponds should provide a minimum permanent pool volume equal to one times the treatment volume for paved surfaces.
- Pond liners should be finished at a height 150mm below the outlet control unit, where appropriate, to encourage infiltration and to minimise discharges to the receiving water for small events. However, they should not be lower than the invert level if used on a site with a sensitive underlying groundwater zone or if used to treat runoff from a potential pollution hotspot.
- The by-pass sewer network should be designed for flows equal to the incoming flows.
- The hydraulic capacity of the draw down facility for emptying the pond should consider the geotechnical stability of the pond and associated embankments.

### Selection and Siting

- The risk assessment should include all relevant safety issues associated with siting a pond.
- A detailed analysis and impact assessment of a flood exceedance event indicating flow paths shall be undertaken and submitted to Cheshire East Council. Where ponds are impounded behind engineered embankments, the unlikely scenario of embankment failure should be examined and potential impacts downstream of the pond assessed.
- The siting of retention ponds should follow a multicriteria analysis to provide the widest benefits to the public.
- Developers should use Arboricultural Impact Assessments (AIA) that identify existing trees and their Root Protection Areas (RPA) to inform the location of SUDS and prevent any adverse impact on the long term health and safe wellbeing of trees
- The highest design water level in retention ponds should be at least 600mm below the floor level of any adjacent premises.
- The maximum 1-year return period event pond water level should be higher than the appropriate return period event water level of the adjacent watercourse, as specified by the Lead Local Flood Authority. Appropriate hydraulic checks on the implications of high watercourse levels should be made, where appropriate.
- In sites containing contaminated soils or contaminated groundwater, ponds should be fully contained within an impermeable liner to prevent cross contamination of surface water.

### Pre-treatment, inlets, and outlets

- Bypass structures shall be provided at both the inlet and outlet chambers. The risk to the embankment stability shall be kept to a minimum.
- An entry chamber shall be provided at the inlet of the pond.
- The invert level of the incoming sewers to the inlet structure shall be at or above the 1-year water level in the pond.
- Where debris can enter the control (e.g. where the upstream system is open or where the inlets are gullies), static controls should have a minimum opening size of 100mm or equivalent; Where the design of the upstream system will prevent debris from entering the system (e.g. underground systems where the inlets are pervious pavement systems), static controls should have a minimum opening size of 50mm.
- Bypass structures shall be provided at both the inlet and outlet chambers. The risk to the embankment stability shall be kept to a minimum.

## Landscaping

- Ponds should be designed to enhance the visual amenity of the site and to reflect the landscape character of its location.
- Existing site subsoils and site topsoils are to be reserved and re-laid in accordance with DEFRA's Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites. Should existing site soils prove unsuitable (due to contamination for example) or insufficient then any relocated or imported subsoil must meet BS 8601:2013 Specification for Subsoil and Requirements for Use and relocated or imported topsoils must meet BS: 3882:2015 Specification for Topsoil.
- Ponds should be planted and seeded with native species to promote variation in the physical habitat value of the pond.
- Trees shall not be planted within the pond or embankments needed to retain water.

## Ecology

- To maximise ecological value, retention ponds should be designed with:
  - Hold an area of permanent open water
  - Have a variety of depths, with extensive shallows
  - Have gently sloping sides
  - Have scalloped, sinuous edges to maximise length of shoreline
  - Be planted/seeded with native plant species
  - Be sited close to other habitats
  - Not be shaded from the south
  - Be sheltered from the north by trees or hedges



## Groundwater

- The groundwater table level is a key design consideration for retention ponds. The groundwater level should be established via onsite ground investigation carried out in the exact location of the proposed pond.
- If the pond is of impermeable design, then the developer must ensure there is no potential for hydrostatic pressure issues associated with a high water table and impermeable liners.
- If the pond is of permeable design, then any groundwater volume stored within the pond will need to be factored into the pond's volume capacity to ensure there is sufficient surface water storage provided for extreme storm events.
- Groundwater monitoring may be required to ensure seasonal fluctuations in groundwater levels are recorded and considered within the design of the retention pond.

## Safety

- A safety risk assessment shall examine all relevant safety issues for operatives and the public.
- The embankment slope gradients should be designed in accordance with national health and safety guidance for access/egress and maintenance requirements.
- The aquatic bench should be planted with appropriate species to achieve a high-density barrier when they mature which effectively dissuades people from trying to get access to the open water. Dense or tall vegetation (bushes and trees) around the external perimeter of the ponds is discouraged to provide high levels of visibility of the whole pond area.
- Barrier fencing may be required for retention ponds. All access gates must be lockable. The locks must be childproof. The minimum height of the fence shall be 1.1m and shall be constructed in such a manner that there are no step-ups to reduce the 1.1m minimum height. The form of the fence should not detract from the aesthetic value of the local environment. Design must include provision for unauthorised or accidental human access, e.g. incorporating a shelf (ledge) maximum 500mm below the waterline to enable escape by children.
- All exposed pipe inlets or outlets, which are larger than 350mm, should normally have safety grilles. However, where grilles can be avoided by the use of appropriate design to restrict human access into the structures, this is preferred. Grille designs should be suitable to minimise the risk of blockage, have safe access for clearing during extreme events and prevent unauthorised access particularly by children and dogs.
- Bar spacing should not exceed 150mm and should not be less than 75mm to avoid trapping small debris.
- Consideration should be given to the potential failure of any embankment and the subsequent flood flows through, and downstream, of the site.
- Warning signs should be erected providing information on pond function, basic data, and prohibition of swimming.
- The perimeter of the pond 1m inside and outside the water's edge (water level during dry periods) should have a gradient of less than 1:10. This shall provide a margin which is attractive to flora and fauna and is a disincentive for people to enter the pond. Other areas (above and below the pond) shall have gradients of less than 1:4.

## Operation and maintenance

- The pond shall be accessible to cleaning equipment by an access road 3.5m minimum width, whilst ensuring the access road's construction does not increase surface water run-off
- A summary of main maintenance activities is given below and shall be considered for pond accessibility design.
  - a. Removal of litter, debris and grass cutting.
  - b. Removal of nuisance plant species and dead plant growth.
  - c. Removal of submerged and emergent aquatic plants if present.
  - d. Bank vegetation cutting and removal.
  - e. Sediment removal from forebays and main pond body.
  - f. Re-seeding and re-planting as required.
- Pond outlet design shall provide for removal of blockages.

**6**

**System  
management  
&  
maintenance**

## 6.1 Key Elements of SuDS Management & Maintenance

142 Following appropriate installation, the main issue for SuDS to remain effective is appropriate management and maintenance. SuDS management and maintenance must be considered during the design process. Maintenance must be effective throughout the construction period and through the lifetime of the development. Developers need to consider costs of maintenance at design stage.

143 The development's design must include provision for protection and management of its SuDS during construction, appropriate accessibility and maintenance of its SuDS throughout the lifetime of the development, and specification of maintenance engineers' technical expertise requirements.

144 Pre-construction, site managers and construction operatives should be taught how sustainable drainage components should be installed. All SuDS components should be designed to be built safely and to be protected from damage during the wider development's construction and operation, and to function effectively for the life of the development.

145 Particular care must be taken during the design phase to ensure that site-wide construction activities do not adversely impact SuDS components or the future efficacy of the SuD system, for example through soil compaction, erosion or siltage.



Good site management should be employed during a development's construction to retain the site's water storage and attenuation capacities and protect its SuDS, e.g. silt fences protecting infiltration components

146 To reduce the likelihood and quantity of longer-term maintenance issues arising, construction of the SuDS components themselves should be overseen by appropriately trained staff. Particular attention should be given to elements critical to a component's long-term efficacy, such as membrane installation.

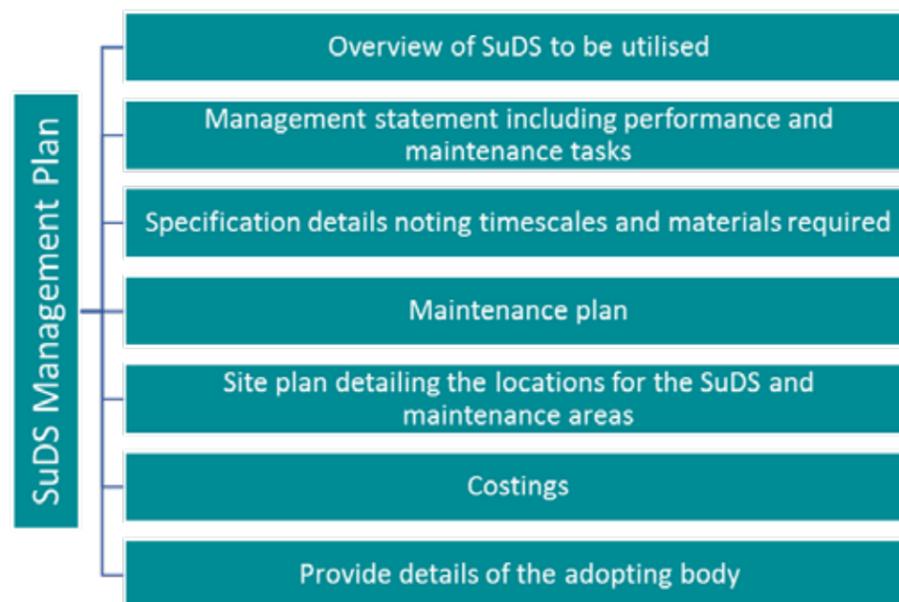
147 Post construction, the system's on-going maintenance managers must ensure operating performance is appropriately monitored against its expected performance and, where necessary, effective remedial measures are taken in a timely fashion.

## 6.2 SuDS Management & Maintenance Plan

148 SuDS management arrangements and procedures should be detailed in a SuDS Management & Maintenance Plan which should be submitted by the Developer with their planning application.

149 The Developer's SuDS Management & Maintenance Plan must include information on the design of the system and its components, and include methodologies for its safe construction, operation and maintenance, including ensuring safe access for maintenance i.e. gradients/slopes are accessible and safe to operate on. Things considered should include pipe connectors being shallow and short to allow for simple jetting to keep them clear. Inlets, outlets and control structures should be at or near the surface to allow day to day care by landscape contractors or site managers. Inspection points which are easy to access should be incorporated. Designers should reflect the guidance in Chapter 36 of CIRIA's 2015 SuDS Manual regarding managing the safety risk associated with SuDS in line with BS EN 31010:2010 and to consult ROSPA for further guidance or to help resolve site-specific issues.

150 The SuDS Management & Maintenance Plan must include details of the persons/organisations responsible for its implementation. The management and maintenance of SuDS should integrate and align with the development site's cross-site landscaping scheme and its landscape and ecological management plan(s). The plan should also make provision for a warning system and contingency arrangements.



151 SuDS Management & Maintenance Plans shall be living documents which include annual reviews to ensure their effectiveness and ability to adapt to unforeseen circumstances. Those responsible for SuDS Management should work in liaison with those responsible for implementation of the site's Landscape and Ecological Management Plans to ensure cross-site continuity and avoid any conflicting maintenance activities.

## 6.3 Responsibility for Post-construction Maintenance

152 Those responsible for the SuDS' maintenance must have a clear understanding of the system and must have sufficient knowledge and skills to be able to identify and remediate problems.

153 It is the responsibility of the developer to establish a maintenance agreement that ensures the drainage system is maintained and continues to function as designed in perpetuity for the lifetime of the development. National guidance indicates that this maintenance should be undertaken by any of the following bodies:



It should be noted that Cheshire East Council is NOT currently formally adopting or maintaining SuDS but, alongside developing this SuDS Guide and in advance of having a final position in relation to the adoption and maintenance of different types of SuDS, the Council will endeavour to be flexible in the consideration of SuDS proposals provided appropriate management systems are put in place and the Council's position in terms of future management liability is protected.

If future instances occur where Cheshire East Council takes on the responsibility for maintenance of a SuDS, a commuted sum will be payable to the Council for the agreed management and maintenance. Commuted payments will be determined on a case by case basis based upon situation and design of the SuDS.

## 6.4 Key points for Common SuDS Maintenance Activities

154 Many SuDS components are features of the landscape and should be managed according to best landscape practices. The management and maintenance of SuDS should integrate and align with the development site's cross-site landscaping scheme and its landscape and ecological management plan(s). The adverse impacts of proposed maintenance activities, such as soil compaction or reduction in tranquility, must be minimised through good system and component design, and by using best practice methodologies for landscape maintenance.

155 Grass-cutting regimes should be customised according to the needs of the affected SuDS component and its situation. It may be appropriate for some amenity grass areas to be mown frequently for recreation but, where possible, grass on or around SuDS components should be allowed to grow because longer grass tends to enhance water quality by reducing erosion and filtering silt, and longer grass provides habitat for greater biodiversity. The risk of pollution removal being compromised by longer grass lodging (being pushed over and flattened by the flow of water) is considered to be minimal so Cheshire East Council encourage keeping grass longer in swales and filter strips. An exception to this general rule to allow grass to grow is vegetation around inlet and outlet infrastructure which should be kept closely trimmed to retain their visibility (for safety and inspection) and to help ensure against blockages.

156 Short grass should particularly be avoided around wet system components, such as attenuation basins or detention ponds, because short grass encourages geese and their associated fouling. (This is particularly important where development sites may affect air transport protection zones where new attractions for large birds are discouraged). Grass beside wet components should be allowed to grow around the wet edge to deter larger birds and reduce associated nutrient increase, and to avoid risk of component clogging due to grass-clippings entering the system.

157 Unwanted vegetation, such as alien or invasive species or plants which are negatively affecting the technical performance or biodiversity of the SuDS, should be weeded by hand during the first year post-construction. Cheshire East Council does not support the use of herbicides and pesticides unless no alternative method is effective in eradicating an invasive species.

158 Cheshire East Council does not support the use of fertilisers as nutrient loadings are damaging to waterbodies and wetland habitats. Algae may grow in the establishment period (3-5 years) due to nutrient release from the disturbed ground of the development site and excessive growth may be reduced by removal with a skimmer or algae net.

159 Perennial aquatic (water-bourne) plants in SuDS components should have any build-ups of dead material from previous season's growth removed every 2-3 years to prevent formation of organic silt affecting the component's performance. Emergent (soil-rooted but growing up through water) vegetation may require periodic harvesting to maintain flood attenuation volumes. Up to 25% of aquatic or emergent vegetation may be cut and removed at any one time and arisings should be left at the water's edge for 48 hours to de-water and allow wildlife to return to their habitat.

160 Shrubs and trees on or adjacent to SuDS components should not be mulched with bark or compost, nor use plastic guards, but should use 100% hessian mulch-mats with bamboo pegs where competition from other vegetation is strong, and biodegradable guards and bamboo support canes to prevent mammal damage. Any mats, pegs, guards or supports enduring should be removed from site to a recycling facility at the end of the 5-year Landscaping Establishment period. Shrubs may be pruned to encourage lateral growth (side shoots). Trees require annual inspection and treatment for any damage, wind-rock or disease. Any vegetation which die during the first 5 years after seeding/ planting shall be replaced in the following planting season with plants of equivalent species and size.

## 6.5 Programming SuDS Maintenance Activities

161 Maintenance of SuDS components must be carried-out to ensure their ongoing effectiveness. Where preventative measures, such as de-silting, are necessary, maintenance activities should be programmed to ensure component efficacy.

162 Different activities will require different intervention timings and may need to be implemented on a "Frequent", "Occasional" and only on a "Remedial" basis. Annual review of maintenance plans should include monitoring and revision of activity frequencies, as required. Remedial tasks may include replacement of vegetation, parts of components, or whole components of the SuD system.

### Frequent maintenance

- Daily or monthly activities
- Cutting grass to recommended lengths
- Removal of litter
- Review of inlets and outlets for blockages

### Occasional maintenance

- Frequency is determined by each site
- Siltation management
- Vegetation control in pools and detention basins to address / prevent blockages

### Remedial tasks

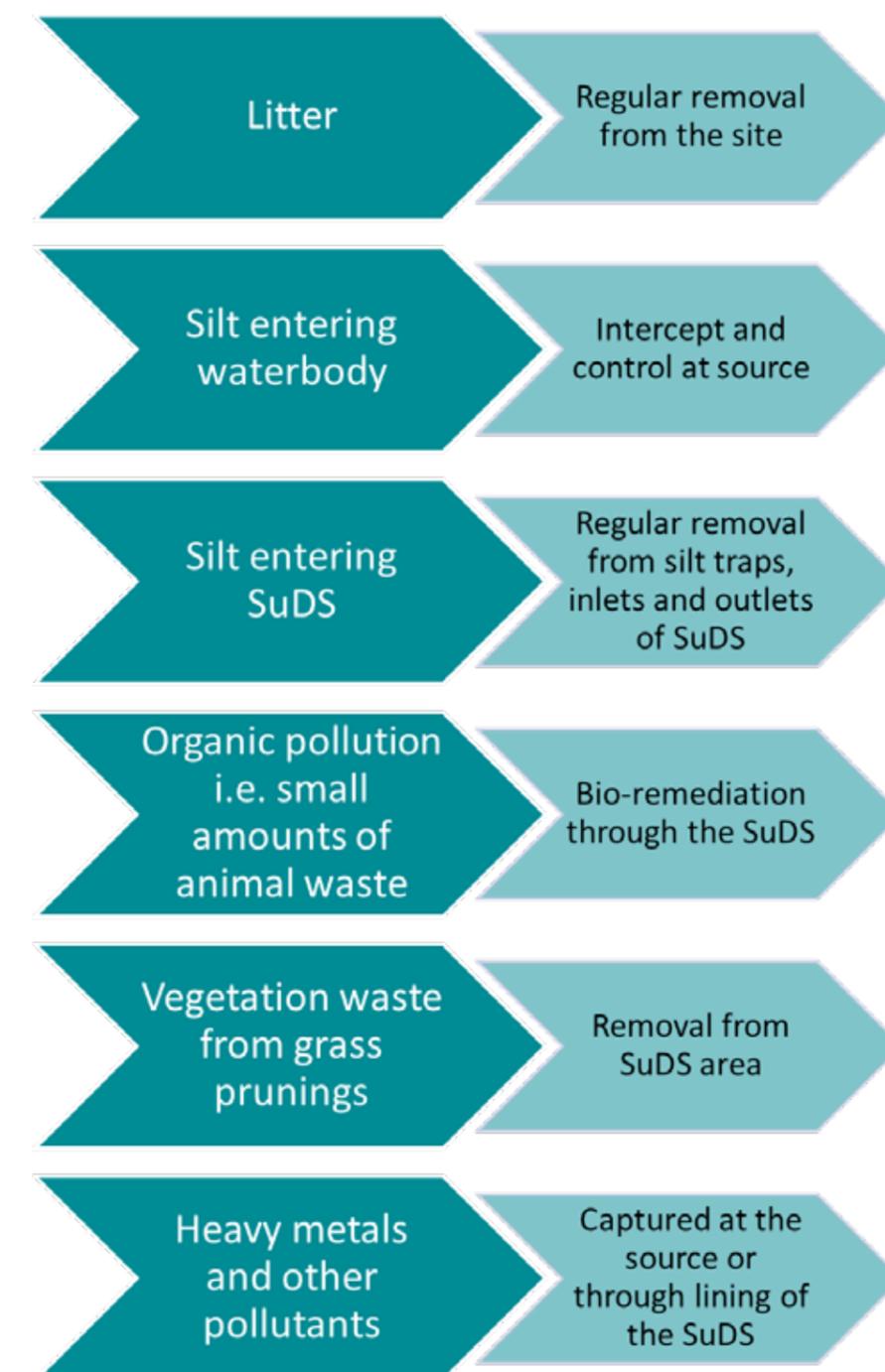
- Addressing defects or damage to the SuDS - these should be minimal if correct design procedures and standards have been followed
- Potential damage caused by interaction with people / vandalism
- Repairs due to wear and tear



	Activity	Permeable Paving	Green roof / wall	Filter Drain	Filter Strips	Cannels, rills and channels	Swales	Bio Retention	Detention Basin	Underground Storage	Pond	Vortex Separator	Oil Separator
Frequent	Removal of litter / debris		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•
	Pruning grass and SuDS vegetation		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•
	Maintenance of surrounding plants					•		•	•		•		
	Clearance of inlets / outlets			•	•	•	•		•	•			
	Silt removal	•						•			•	•	•
	Removal of compost						•						
	Replenish mulch							•					
	Surface scarification							•					
	High powered wash / suction sweep												
Occasional	Silt removal / review of silt levels			•	•	•			•		•	•	
	Replenish mulch												
	Excess vegetation removal		•			•	•		•		•	•	•
	High powered wash / sweep of paving												
Remedial	Review of erosion					•	•						
	Review / repair of inlets and outlets			•		•	•	•	•		•	•	•
	Replace filter stones			•	•								
	Readjust retention levels							•					
	Replace geotextile layer	•		•	•								
	Silt removal			•	•	•	•			•		•	

### 6.6 Waste management for SuDS

Maintenance programmes (example left) should be supported by plans for addressing waste produced by SuDS including:



**WAYMARKER**

Developers in Cheshire East are also advised to follow the supporting guidance in Part E of the CIRIA SuDS Manual 2015.

**7**

**Applying for  
Planning Consent  
&  
Identifying  
Adoption Options**

## 7 Planning Approval & Adoption

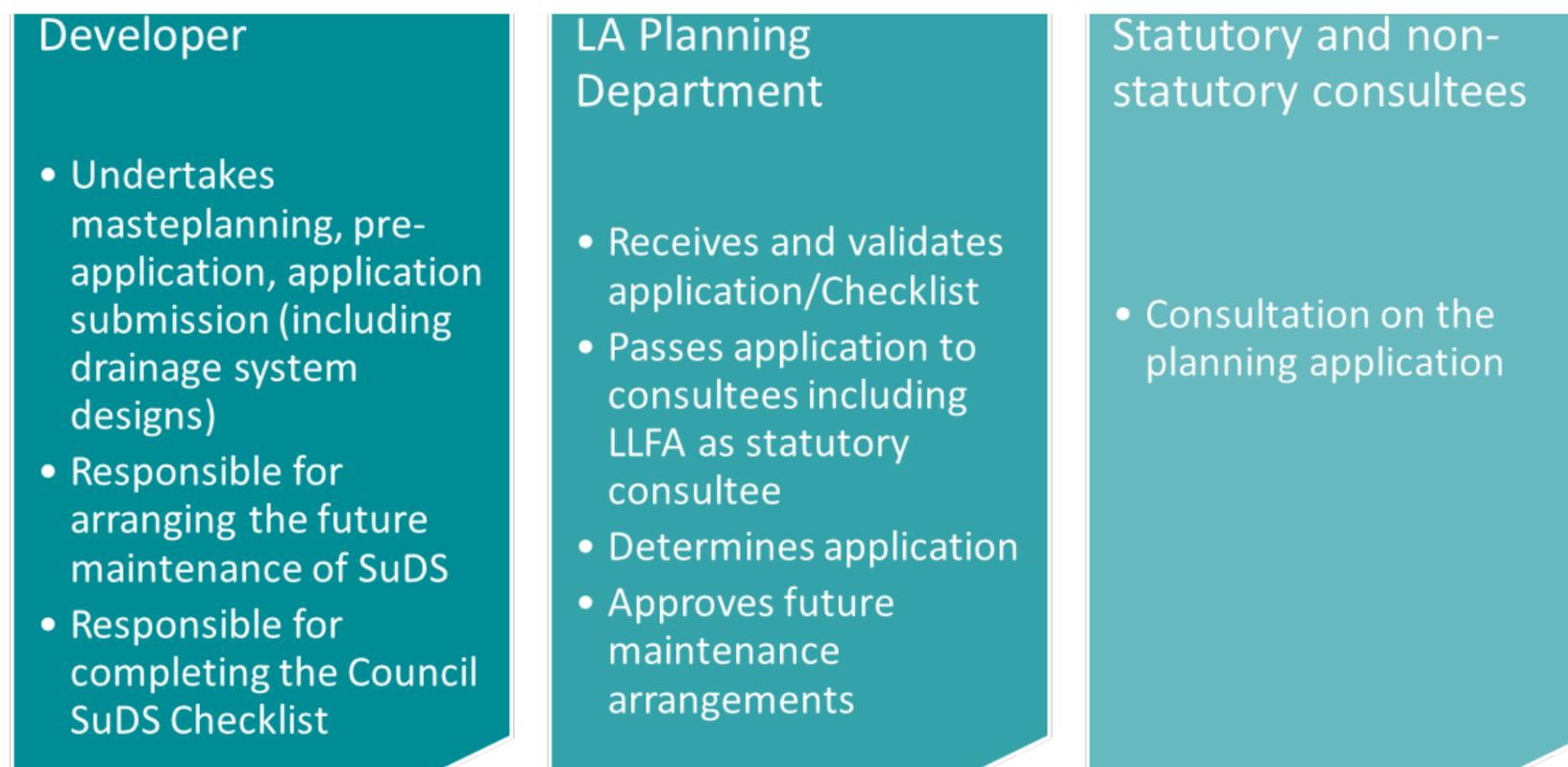
### WHAT THIS SECTION WILL COVER:

- Responsibilities - who does what?
- Introduction to the planning application process
- Requirements for different types of planning applications
- Consultation requirements
- The SuDS Application Submission and Approval checklist

### 7.1 Responsibility Designation

163 This Section details the approval process for implementing SuDS. SuDS proposals form part of planning applications and should adhere to both the **National Planning Practice Guidance** and the **Defra Non-Statutory Technical Standards for SuDS**. **Figure 7-1** outlines the responsibilities of the three key groups involved in SuDS from inception to implementation.

Figure 7-1: Responsibilities

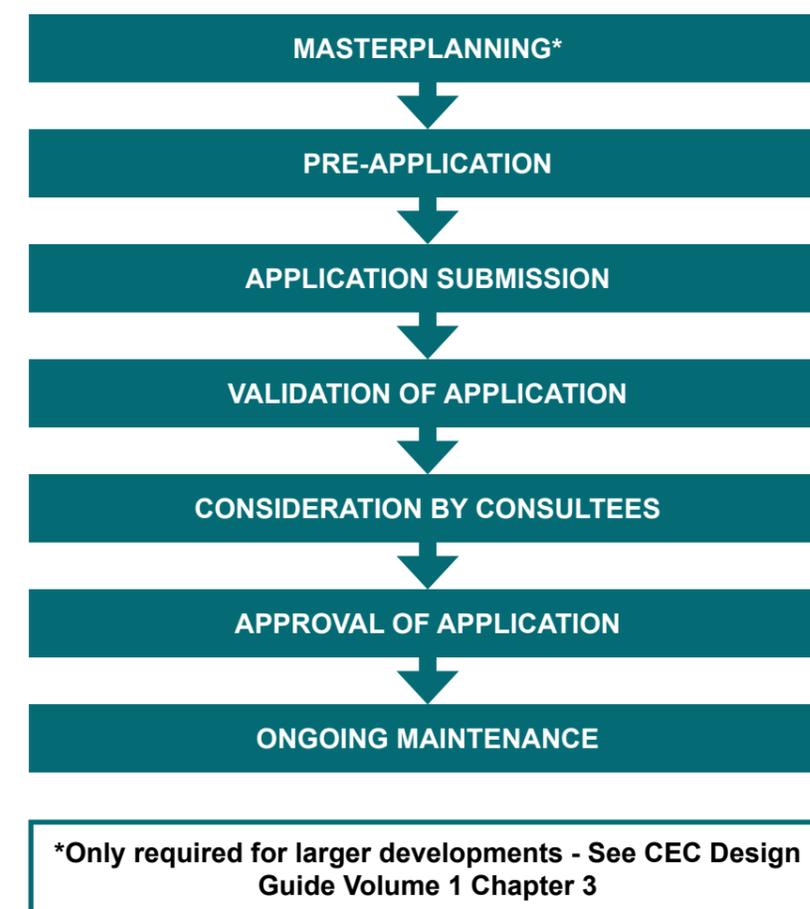


### 7.2 Planning Application Process

**Figure 7-2** below illustrates the stages involved in the submission of a Planning Application.

164 Cheshire East Council operates a paid pre-application service and enters into Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs) to provide developers with pre-application advice and in the case of PPAs with an enhanced, managed approach to the various stages of the planning process. As stated previously, the Councils are keen to promote a collaborative approach to place design, engaging meaningfully with stakeholders and communities, thus requiring a partnership approach to place-making from inception of the scheme to implementation. The Council is also keen to encourage design review on major schemes and therefore, in future, this should form part of the pre-application and application stages of the planning process.

Figure 7-2: The Planning Application Process



165 The following Sections describe the considerations and actions which should be undertaken at each stage of the SuDS submission as part of a Planning Application.

166 For those cases where the developer is uncertain as to whether the application should be submitted as Prior Notification for Permitted Development, Outline Application or a Full Planning Application, early consultation should be undertaken with the Councils Planning Department and Lead Local Flood Authority.

### 7.3 Masterplanning

167 Masterplanning is necessary for larger developments. At the masterplanning stage it is necessary to establish design codes and principles and the layout of development proposals.

168 For residential development proposals, Cheshire East Council's Residential Design Guide sets out the requirements for Design Coding and design information required for different types of applications. Coding is required for all schemes of 150 dwellings or more, including for component schemes for a site totalling 150 units and for smaller, sensitive sites.

169 At the outline stage, in developing illustrative masterplans, Cheshire East Council encourages the submission of testing layouts, to ascertain issues requiring resolution such as conflict between useable open space, SuDS and ecology. An appropriate balance of built and green space needs to be planned by multi-disciplinary teams at the earliest possible stage.

170 The developer or landowner should consider Cheshire East Council's requirements for SuDS at the earliest opportunity to ensure their integration with the site's landscape, ecology and any other pertinent on-site or adjacent characteristics, such as archaeological features or existing waterbodies.

171 The developer should plan the SuDS layout with regards to their site's and location's geology, natural topography, soils and vegetation, in order to utilise natural features to help mitigate flood risk, and taking account of established industry standards - **CIRIA SuDS Manual C753 and BS8582:2013 Surface Water Management**.

172 If considering constructing a development in phases, developers should provide a coherent drainage strategy for the entire development.

### 7.4 Pre-application Planning Advice

173 Cheshire East Council offers a paid Pre-Application Advice Service involving a multi-disciplinary team who can provide advice on urban design and built conservation, landscape character and features, trees and hedgerows, ecology and biodiversity net gain, flood risk management, asset management and maintenance and planning process.

174 Developers should undertake early consultation with Cheshire East Council's Planning Department to help avoid potential delays, misunderstandings, increased flood risk, or enforcement or adoption issues.

### 7.5 Planning Application Validation

175 When the application is submitted, Cheshire East Council's Planning Department will check to ensure that all required details have been provided. If all details have been provided to a satisfactory level the application will be validated. The application will then be passed to the Statutory and internal consultees for review.

176 To ensure future management and maintenance of SuDS that are not adopted by Cheshire East Council or other responsible body, a draft Section 106 agreement or Head of Terms, or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) details where an adopted CIL charging scheme is adopted. If the maintenance works are not done appropriately, these agreements may also require property owners to allow Cheshire East Council to carry-out the works and recover resulting expenses from the property owners. For this reason, they are widely used to safeguard the necessary long-term care of facilities.

### 7.6 Sufficiency of SuDS Submissions

177 SuDS Submissions will include the information identified in the **North West SuDS Pro-forma** (found in [Section 7.21](#)) and should follow the standards described and/or waymarked in this guide.

178 If a planning application's proposal deviates from guidance in this document or its waymarked guidance, the applicant must submit sufficient data and information on the proposed design to prove that it is a more appropriate solution for that site. The Council will assess this evidence and will confirm in writing whether or not it finds the proposal acceptable. Should the Council find the submission insufficient, it may ask the applicant to provide additional data or information.

### 7.7 SuDS Submissions - General Requirements

179 **The developer is responsible for the design of SuDS.** The design shall be supported by a risk assessment to ensure risks to both the local community and operators of the drainage system are minimised.

180 SuDS designs shall be carried out in accordance with this Guide and the best practice principles in current UK drainage guidance.

181 Where, as a last resort, the Water Authority permits both surface and foul water to discharge to a combined sewer system, the surface water sewer drainage shall be attenuated to the requirements of the water authority. The developer shall support their planning submission with written discharge consent from the water authority.

182 The developer should take cognisance of Cheshire East Council's Land Drainage Byelaws and Environment Agency Main River designations paying particular attention in their masterplanning to the requirement for no obstructions typically within 8 meters of the edge of the watercourse. Flood Defence Consent and Land Drainage Consent information is required as part of the submission, including distance of construction from watercourses etc. Easements for work adjacent to watercourses and culverts, drains, private sewers should be indicated and assumed to be 8m. It is the developer's responsibility to obtain all required discharge permits and evidence of this should be provided.

183 SuDS are not to be located adjacent to or within the adopted highway, carriageway or footway without prior Highways Authority approval.

184 SuDS components should be appropriately considered, for the best overall performance of the drainage systems and the water quality of the receiving water body, and for foreseeable human interaction.

185 SuDS must have suitable access for maintenance purposes. The Developer must tell the Planning Authority who will be responsible for the maintenance of SuDS.

186 Design submission requirements to the Council (calculations, drawings and construction details) for private SuDS and pipe drainage, are presented in the **SuDS Pro-forma** and forms part of the audit for the design of the proposed system.

187 The complete surface water drainage system for a development (sewers and SuDS) could be partly private, partly adopted by the relevant Water Company and partly owned and maintained by a third party but not the Local Authority.

## 7.8 Development and Flood Risk

188 When considering new development, Developers will need to consider flood risk and development in accordance with the requirements of the **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**.

Figure 7-3 summarises the process.

189 Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at the highest risk. Where development is necessary, it should be demonstrated to be safe and should not result in an increase in flood risk elsewhere.

190 The **NPPF** sets out the aims of the Sequential Test, to steer new development to areas with the lowest probability of flooding. Development should not be allocated or permitted if there are reasonably available sites appropriate for the proposed development in areas with a lower probability of flooding. The **Council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)** will provide the basis for applying this test although the most recent Environment Agency flood maps should also be reviewed. A sequential approach should be used in areas known to be at risk from any form of flooding.

191 A site-specific **Flood Risk Assessment (FRA)** will be required and this will need to demonstrate that the development will be safe for its lifetime taking account of the vulnerability of its users, without increasing flood risk elsewhere. Where possible, overall flood risk should be reduced.

192 On brownfield sites the existing drainage systems should be modelled to demonstrate actual pre-development surface water runoff. Appropriate consideration of the existing system operation, including number and frequency of gullies, and existing attenuation whether natural or artificial.

193 Appropriate reductions of surface water runoff should be achieved in accordance with **Section 7.11**

194 A site-specific flood risk assessment is required for development proposals:

- of 1 hectare or greater in Flood Zone 1;
- all proposals for new development (including minor development and change of use) in Flood Zones 2 and 3;
- or within Flood Zone 1 which has critical drainage problems (as notified to the local planning authority by the Environment Agency);
- and where proposed development or a change of use to a more vulnerable class may be subject to other sources of flooding.

**195 Drainage strategies will need to take local flooding into account. Interactions with receiving ditches and watercourses (including culverts) will need to be fully appraised in order to ensure that surface water runoff is effectively managed without increasing flood risk elsewhere.**

196 Proposals will need to include assessment of surface water interactions with other sources of flooding including fluvial and tidal interactions. This will need to include consideration of, for example, climate change, blockage scenarios and hydraulic capacity of for example, bridges and culverts during design flood events.

197 Developers will need to demonstrate that all land ownership and long-term maintenance issues have been resolved, prior to submitting a full planning application. Developers will also need to obtain relevant permits to discharge, and include information on pollution control measures where required.

198 It is recommended that developers consult with the Local Planning Authority and the Environment Agency to determine the requirements for a site specific FRA.

**Figure 7-3: Development & Flood Risk Assessment**

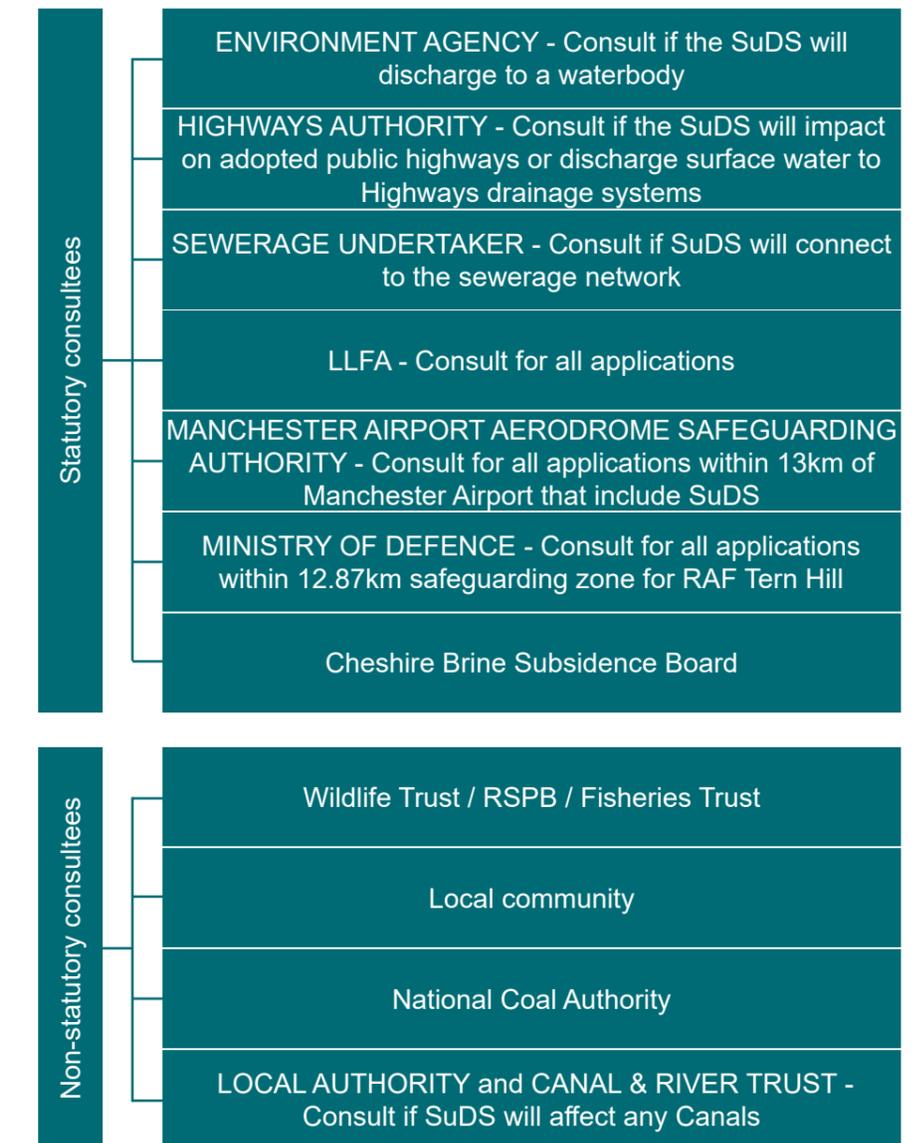


## 7.9 Consultation

199 In accordance with DEFRA Planning Practice Guidance, LLFA's should be consulted at the planning consultation stage to gain advice for surface water drainage. Under the **Flood and Water Management Act 2010**, Cheshire East Council are the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) covering Cheshire East Borough.

200 As Cheshire East Council is well placed in terms of existing strategic policy and flood risk evidence base, LLFA consultation in its borough will positively affect local decisions on planning and drainage and will make a significant contribution to the vision of the Local Plan. The Council will consult a mixture of Statutory and Non-statutory consultees, note that some consultees may be Non-statutory in some situations but Statutory in others.

**Figure 7-4: Consultees concerned with SuDS include:**



201 For example, the Canal & River Trust has three 'notifiable areas' which reflect both location and scale of proposed developments: - the Inner zone, Intermediate zone and Outer zone. In these notifiable areas, the Canal & River Trust is a Statutory consultee.

## 7.10 Drawings, Calculations, and Manhole Records

202 Drawings and calculations of the complete drainage system should be supplied with the SuDS application. Separate drawings of private systems should be supplied for record purposes only.

203 All drawings and calculations submitted should be in metric units.

204 The drawings should show all the necessary detailed information required by the the SuDS Pro-forma, this Guidance and Sewerage Sector Guidance.

205 Location and layout plans, sections and details should show the proposed SuDS and drainage system in full, including private SuDS. Plan scales should be those in common use, as appropriate.

206 Longitudinal sections should generally be to an exaggerated scale, with the horizontal scale the same as the plan (but no less than 1:500) and the vertical scale 1:100.

207 Record drawings shall contain the “as-built” information to 300mm accuracy in the horizontal plane, with dimensions related to fixed Ordnance Survey features or Ordnance Survey co-ordinates to 1m accuracy (12-digit accuracy, e.g. 123456, 123456).

## 7.11 Hydraulic Design

208 The surface water drainage system shall be designed according to **Part 6 Design and Construction Guidance for foul and surface water sewers offered for adoption under the Code for adoption agreements for water and sewerage companies operating wholly or mainly in England (“the Code”)**, so that flooding does not occur in any part of the site in a 1-in-30 year return period design storm flood frequency.

209 Appropriate software shall be used to simulate the system and provide expected performance data. For all developments which utilise SuDS, the use of appropriate analytical tools are needed to demonstrate the required level of flood protection performance. For developments of fewer than ten houses, the procedure presented in **Part 6 Design and Construction Guidance for foul and surface water sewers offered for adoption under “the Code”** shall be followed.

210 Representation of SuDS in simulation software should be explicit, where possible. A copy of the model and results should be submitted to the Council for acceptance. All hard surfaces draining to the network should be accurately allocated to the drainage network and represented in the model. All connecting manholes should be included in the model. Representation of the hard surfaces draining to the network should be accurately allocated to the drainage system and all manholes should normally be included in the model.

211 Surface water drainage should be designed for run-off from roofs and subject to the agreement of the Undertaker, roads (including verges) and other hard-standing areas. For these areas, an impermeability (runoff coefficient) of 100% shall be assumed.

212 An additional increase in the paved surface area of 10% shall be assumed for all areas to allow for future urban expansion (extensions and additional paved areas) unless this would produce a figure greater than 100% of the site.

213 Where it is proposed to connect to an existing adopted drainage network, the developer shall consult with the Undertaker and the LLFA regarding acceptable discharge criteria. Hydraulic performance modelling of the receiving drainage system may be required.

214 Where it is proposed to connect to other existing drainage networks (including but not limited to culverts, privately owned systems, open drainage ditches, or constrained watercourses) the developer shall consult with owner of the drainage network and the LLFA to agree acceptable discharge criteria. Hydraulic and structural assessment of the receiving drainage network is likely to be required.

215 Design event rainfall should be based on the use of the most recent version of the ‘Flood Estimation Handbook’ specific to the location of the development. An allowance for climate change in accordance with Environment Agency Guidance (by factoring the rainfall intensity hyetograph values) should be applied.

216 During severe wet weather, the capacity of the surface water drainage systems may be inadequate, even though they have been designed in accordance with this Guide and **Part 6 Design and Construction Guidance for foul and surface water sewers offered for adoption under “the Code”**.

### WAYMARKER

#### Climate Change & Peak Rainfall Intensity Allowance

Increased rainfall affects river levels and land and urban drainage systems. Information on the anticipated changes in extreme rainfall intensity can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessments-climate-change-allowances>

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/hydrology/climate-change-allowances/rainfall>

For design, assess both the central and upper end allowances to understand the range of impact.

217 Examples of different weather conditions which cause flooding include:

a.High-intensity rainfall events bypassing gully inlets;

b.High-intensity rainfall events resulting in sewer surcharging and surface water escaping where the ground level is below the hydraulic gradient;

c.High-intensity rainfall events on areas adjacent to the development site (urban or rural) from which overland flooding can take place;

d.Long-duration rainfall which may result in the top water level in storage systems becoming full, resulting in overflow;

e.Extended periods of wet weather which may result in high receiving watercourse water levels affecting the hydraulics of the drainage system.

218 Checks shall be made for the 1-in-100+ climate year return period to ensure that properties on and off site are protected against flooding for all these scenarios. The design of the site layout, or the drainage system should be modified where the required flood protection is not achieved. This is particularly relevant on undulating and steeply-sloping catchments and adjacent to watercourses. Developers should also demonstrate flow paths and the potential effects of flooding resulting from these storm events. Access roads into and through the site for emergency vehicles must be ensured for these events.

## 7.12 Attenuation Storage

219 The limiting discharge rates from the site should normally be assessed using the 'Flood Estimation for Small Catchments' (Institute of Hydrology 1994). For application sites, smaller than 50ha it should be applied for 50ha and linearly interpolated to the development area. Values should be determined for the 1-year, 1-in-30 year and 1-in-100 years as a minimum. A tool for assessing greenfield runoff rates is provided in Section 4.6 using the calculation described in Way Marker 4.4.

220 The maximum 1-year water level in attenuation storage should not cause significant backing up of flows in the incoming sewer and a 1-year, 1-hour duration event should not surcharge the drainage network.

221 Simulation modelling of the contributing development area considering the head-discharge relationship of the proposed SuDS discharge outlet is required to calculate the attenuation storage volume. The model may be based on either the fixed percentage run-off of 100% run-off from all impermeable surfaces, or the UK variable run-off model (see CIRIA document 'Drainage of Development Sites – A Guide' (2004) for the run-off from the whole site. Appropriate allowance in the reduction in run-off should be made for infiltration systems serving any impermeable areas.

### WAY MARKER 4.4

#### Calculation for greenfield run-off peak flows (Institute of Hydrology Report 124)

$$QBAR_{rural} = 1.08(AREA/100)^{0.89} SAAR^{1.17} SOIL^{2.17}$$

**QBAR<sub>rural</sub>** = Mean annual run-off for rural (greenfield) areas (litres/second)

**AREA** = area of the site (hectares)

If the site is smaller than 50 hectares, the calculations should be undertaken using 50 hectares and then amended (by dividing by the actual site area) at the end of the calculation.

**SAAR** = Standard Average Annual Rainfall (mm)

**SOIL** = Predominant soil type

The most suitable soil type should be selected from the table below:

Soil Description	Soil value for calculation
Peat (waterlogged)	0.50
Clay	0.50
Clayey loam	0.45
Loam	0.40
Sandy Loam	0.30
Sand	0.15

## 7.13 Peak flow rate and volume

222 Peak flow rate and volume does not apply to any surface run-off that is discharged:

- By infiltration; or
- To a coastal or estuarial water body; or
- To an alternative water body where the LLFA considers it appropriate to do so.

223 Developers will need to demonstrate that consent to discharge and 3rd party land ownership issues/crossing have been agreed prior to planning application and detail these in the relevant sections of the SuDS Pro-forma.

## 7.14 Low rainfall

224 There should be no discharge to a surface water-body, or sewer that results from the first 5mm of any rainfall event. In low-permeability soils where this is not achievable, the developer shall demonstrate to the Council that infiltration has been encouraged through the SuDS management train.

## 7.15 High rainfall

225 Either of the two approaches below must be used to manage the surface discharge:

### Approach 1: Restricting both the peak flow rate and volume of runoff

The peak flow rates for the:

- 1 in 1 year rainfall event; and
- 1 in 100+ climate year rainfall event;

must not be greater than the equivalent greenfield run-off rates for these events. The critical duration rainfall event must be used to calculate the required storage volume for the 1 in 100+ climate year rainfall event.

The volume of runoff must not be greater than the greenfield run-off volume from the site for the 1 in 100+ climate year, 6-hour rainfall event.

Climate change should be considered in attenuation storage calculations by increasing the rainfall depth using a climate change factor. Current Environment Agency guidance should be referenced to apply the appropriate climate change factors relevant to the location and design life of the proposed development.

### Approach 2: Restricting the peak flow rate

The critical duration rainfall event must be used to calculate the required storage volume for the 1 in 100+ climate year rainfall event.

The flow rate discharged:

For the 1 in 1 year event, must not be greater than either:

- The greenfield runoff rate from the site for the 1 in 1 year event, or
- 2 l/s per hectare. This should be agreed with the Lead Local Flood Authority within the planning process;

And for the 1 in 100+ climate year event, must not be greater than either:

- The greenfield mean annual flood for the site, or
- 2 litres per second per hectare (l/s/ha).

## 7.16 Previously developed land

226 Where the site is on previously developed land and neither Approach 1 or 2 is reasonably practicable then:

- An approach as close to Approach 1 as is reasonably practicable must be used (the Councils are seeking runoff from brownfield sites to mimic greenfield run-off rates wherever possible);
- The flow rate discharged from the site must be reduced from that of the actual modelled pre-development rate, in accordance with the following criteria:
  - The 1 in 1 year event; and
  - The 1 in 100+ climate year event.
- The volume of run-off may only exceed that prior to the proposed development where the peak flow rate is restricted to 2 l/s/ha.

## 7.17 Exceedance

227 The design of the drainage system must consider the impact of rainfall falling on any part of the site and also any estimated surface run-off flowing onto the site from adjacent areas.

228 Drainage systems must be designed so that, unless an area is designated for flood management in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, flooding from the drainage system does not occur:

- on any part of the site for a 1 in 30 year rainfall event; and
- during a 1 in 100+ climate year rainfall event in any part of:
  - a building (including a basement); or
  - utility plant susceptible to water (e.g. pumping station or electricity substation); or
  - on neighbouring sites during a 1 in 100+ climate year rainfall event.

229 Flows that exceed the design criteria (i.e. 1 in 100+ climate year rainfall event) must be managed in flood conveyance routes, preferably in green networks, that minimise the risks to people and property both on and off the site. Evidence of those conveyance routes must be submitted to the LLFA.

## 7.18 Water quality

230 The treatment train process described in **Section 4** of this document should be used to assess storm water quality requirements.

### WAYMARKER

#### Run-off Hazard Levels

Hazard	Level of hazard
Very Low	Residential roof drainage
Low	Other roofs (typically commercial/industrial roofs) Individual property driveways, residential car parks, low traffic roads and non-residential car parking with infrequent change (e.g. schools, offices) i.e <300 traffic movements/day
Medium	Commercial yard and delivery areas, non-residential car parking with frequent change (e.g. hospitals, retail), all roads except low traffic roads and trunk roads/motorways
High	Sites with heavy pollution (e.g. haulage yards, lorry parks, highly frequented lorry approaches to industrial estates, waste sites), sites where chemicals and fuels (other than domestic fuel oil) are to be delivered, handled, stored, used or manufactured; industrial sites; trunk roads and motorways

Further information regarding the pollution hazard indices for different land use classifications can be found in **CIRIA's SuDS Manual C753**.

### WAYMARKER

#### Treatment stages for discharge to groundwater

Groundwater Discharge Location		Minimum number of treatment stages		
Runoff Hazard Level		Low	Medium	High
G1	Source Protection Zone, within 50m of a well, spring or borehole that supplies potable water	1	3	Consult the Environment Agency
G2	Into or immediately adjacent to a sensitive receptor that could be influenced by infiltrated water. Includes designated nature conservation, heritage and landscape sites - including Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats and protected species.	1	3	
G3	Source Protection Zone II or III or Principal Aquifer	1	3	
G4	Secondary Aquifer	1	2	

Surface run-off from roof drainage must be isolated from other sources where it is discharged to G1 and G2.

Infiltration may only be used to discharge to G1 and G2 where a risk assessment has been undertaken and the SuDS design effectively addresses these risks.



Research undertaken by Portsmouth University, showing water quality improvement by vegetated SuDS components

Image: Wildflower Turf Ltd (TBC)

### WAYMARKER

#### Treatment stages for surface water bodies

Hazard	Normal surface water	Sensitive surface water
Low	0	1
Medium	2	3
High	Consult the Environment Agency	

Where discharged to a sensitive surface water body (defined as any catchment smaller than 50km; any catchment with less than 20% urbanisation; any catchment with an environmental designation or national or international recognition, or any catchment where good ecological status is at risk), one extra treatment stage must be added.

## 7.19 Record Information for the completed Works

231 Upon completion, the following items should be supplied to Council.

- Two sets of as-built record drawings in electronic format such as .dwg or .pdf;
- Where appropriate, closed circuit television (CCTV) survey of underground systems by a qualified contractor in accordance with **Clause E7.3 of the Design and Construction Guidance for foul and surface water sewers offered for adoption under the Code for adoption agreements for water and sewerage companies operating wholly or mainly in England** in CD or DVD format with a hard copy of the written report. CCTV at completion is at the discretion of the Developer. The Developer is responsible for checking that the CCTV survey shows no defects or debris within the infrastructure.
- Health & Safety File prepared in accordance with the Construction (Design & Management) Regulations 2015.

## 7.20 Planning Submission Assessment

232 Applications for Planning Approval may be made either as a **Minor Application**, an **Outline Application** (with one or more matters reserved for later determination) or as a **Full Application**. The level of information which would need to be submitted for each type of application or stage within the planning process will vary depending on the size of the development, flood risk, constraints and proposed sustainable drainage system.

233 The developer shall be wholly responsible for the design and construction of SuDS systems.

234 The council will assess SuDS applications to ensure proposed minimum standards of operation are appropriate and, through the use of planning conditions or planning obligations, that there are clear arrangements in place for ongoing maintenance of SuDS over the lifetime of the development.

235 Sustainable drainage systems may not be practicable for some forms of development (for example mineral extraction). The decision as to whether a sustainable system would be inappropriate in relation to a particular development proposal is a matter of judgement for the Local Planning Authority. The judgement of what is reasonably practicable will be by reference to the SuDS technical standards published by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs and take into account design and construction costs.

236 It should be noted that the council has no duty to adopt SuDS (**and is not currently adopting new SuDS**) and provision for the disposal and maintenance of run-off remains the responsibility of the Developer.

237 A satisfactory audit by the council does not authorise any activities by the developer which may be in contravention of any enactment or any order, regulation or other instrument made, granted, or issued under any enactment, or in contravention of any rule, byelaw or in breach of any agreement or legal rights.

This table summarises the various processes, including adoption running in parallel from inception to implementation:

Planning Stage		Development process required information (from the SuDS Guide)	Drainage design process (from the SuDS Guide)	Adoption process
Pre-application discussions and submission of FULL application	Pre-application discussions and submissions of outline application	Submission of FRA and drainage strategy in line with PPS25. Identification of likely SuDS methods to satisfy planning policy as part of spatial design code	Conceptual drainage design flow routes through the site and storage locations. Outline drainage design and drainage impact assessment. Demonstrate storage areas and volumes, conveyance routes and controls.	Initial consultation on adoption - locations and design requirements
Negotiation of Full submission and Section 106 discussions	Negotiation of Outline submission and Section 106 discussions	Submission of any amendments (if necessary)	Submission of any amendments (if necessary)	Agreement of outline drainage design and agreement to adopt in principle (or option to adopt in principle)
<b>Planning permission granted and Section 106 agreed</b>				
	Detailed design coding	Principles of the detailed design agreed site wide	Principles of the detailed design agreed site wide	Agreement that the detailed design is compliant with adoption guide and S106 agreement
	Reserved matters applications	Detailed plans in line with agreed design code	Final submitted design with location and size, depth, etc. compliant with approved detail above	Submitted design compliant with adoption guide
<b>Full approval/ S106 approval</b>	<b>Reserved matters approval</b>			
Construction of development	Construction of development	Discharge of any outstanding conditions	Construction of drainage system	Verification of construction to agreed design and specification
<b>Formal adoption of SuDS and monies paid as per the trigger/amount agreed in the S106</b>				

Adapted from the Cambridge SuDS Design and Adoption Guide

## 7.21 North West SuDS Pro-Forma Template

238 Cheshire East Council recognises the **North West SuDS Pro-forma Template** for use by planners, the LLFA and developers to ensure that the various requirements of adoption and maintenance have been carefully planned before submission. If sufficient provision has not been made, then absence of these details will be flagged and the planning application will be recommended for refusal by the LLFA.

239 The **SuDS Pro-forma** identifies the SuDS-related information which should be provided by the developer in support of a Planning Application. The requirements and level of detail needed are dependent upon the stage of application, as well as the scale of the proposed development.

240 The **SuDS Pro-forma** lists the documents Cheshire East LLFA and LPA require for the following planning application stages:

- **Pre-Application**
- **Minor Developments**
- **Major Developments**
- **Outline Application**
- **Reserved Matters**

241 The developer is required to provide all the information identified in the SuDS Pro-forma including specific links to key plans, calculations and supporting documents where required.

242 The **SuDS Pro-forma also screens** the information required through a series of questions. The SuDS Pro-forma has five sections:

1. **Application Details**
2. **General Details and SuDS Proposals**
3. **Hydraulic Assessment of SuDS Proposals**
4. **SuDS Discharge Proposals and Agreements**
5. **SuDS Maintenance and Management Proposals**

243 The Pro-forma is designed for the applicant to provide a response to each indicated questions appropriate to the stage and type of planning application.

244 The applicant's response should include references to their submitted reports, drawings and calculations where information to support their answer can be found.

**Developers are to submit all SuDS information as a package (hard & soft copy).**

245 The applicant will be required to confirm that the SuDS documentation submitted complies with Cheshire East Council's SuDS guidance documentation, local planning policies and all relevant national legislation, policies and guidance.

### WAY MARKER

#### North West SuDS Pro-forma Template

The **SuDS Pro-forma** is in the form of a PDF located on The Flood Hub website, as linked below:

<https://thefloodhub.co.uk/planning-development/#section-5>

### WAY MARKER

#### Water and sewerage companies adoption information:

Rules on surface water sewers that will apply from 1 April 2020 to all water and sewerage companies in England will allow English water and sewerage companies to adopt a wider range of sewer types than they have done to date, including some SuDS. Further information is available from Water UK:

<https://www.water.org.uk/sewerage-sector-guidance-approved-documents/>

### WAY MARKER

#### United Utilities - Sustainable Drainage Systems

United Utilities have a variety of useful information regarding the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems:

<https://www.unitedutilities.com/builders-developers/wastewater-services/sustainable-drainage-systems/>

## 7.22 Adoption of SuDS

246 Adoption includes the physical construction and subsequent maintenance of the SuDS. Commuted sums must also be considered for the maintenance responsibilities. To ensure proposed SuDS will be constructed and maintained to agreed standards and long term benefits will endure, developers should prepare an adoption agreement before submitting their planning application.

247 When they submit their planning application, developers should confirm to the Local Planning Authority which organisation will be adopting their SuDS. If planning approval is granted, the adoption comes into effect.

248 National guidance allows the developer to arrange for the adoption and maintenance to be undertaken by any one of four bodies:

- **Service management companies**
- **Water and sewerage companies** (United Utilities)
- **Individuals** (site owners or legal occupiers)
- **LLFA or LPA**

249 Please note that Cheshire East Council is not currently adopting SuDS on private land. Cheshire East Council (Highways) will usually adopt public highway drainage so where SuDS features exclusively drain public highway, Cheshire East Council (Highways) would consider adopting them as part of the publicly maintainable highway, but this would be agreed on a case-by-case basis.

250 Developers considering proposals that would require Cheshire East Council (Highways) to adopt a SuDS feature should discuss their proposals with the Council's Highway Adoptions team as soon as practicable. Components that are for prevention or source control should be located within the highway boundary if adopted by CEC Highways, or legal arrangements for access to maintain would need to be arranged. Where CEC Highways agree to adopt any SUDS features, the payment of a commuted sum to cover the associated management and maintenance costs would usually be required. CEC Highways calculates commuted sums using guidance issued by the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning, and Transport (ADEPT). It is recommended that all planning applications be accompanied by a site-specific highway drainage strategy that demonstrates compliance with this document and other supporting information referenced therein.

251 If developers intend to offer their proposed surface water drainage network for adoption by United Utilities (UU) they should engage in early discussions with UU to ensure their SuDS design meets UU's adoptability standards. UU can set a maximum limit on surface water discharge rates for new development entering the public sewer system, in relation to the sewer's capacity. However, CEC LLFA are solely responsible for setting surface water discharge rates for new development within Cheshire East.

252 Evidence of an agreement in principle with the body who will adopt the SuDS, connecting sewer networks and storm drainage is likely to be required with Planning Application submissions, together with a maintenance plan including programme and methodologies for maintenance activities. Further details of SuDS maintenance and management requirements can be found in **Section 6** of this guidance document.

## 7.23 Planning Approval

253 The approval of SuDS within an application will be determined by the council's planning department, who will base their decision on the recommendations made by the LLFA and the other consultees. This may take the form of approval with planning conditions.

254 The planning department will also take into consideration the extent to which the proposal has complied with national standards (general compliance will have been ensured at the validation stage of the process through ensuring appropriate completion of the **SuDS Pro-forma**), the understanding of local requirements and the Local Plan. Larger developments and potentially those which have been met with objections will be determined by planning committees within the Council.

255 **Please note developers should be aware that Schedule 3 within the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 is expected to be implemented in 2024. When these changes are implemented, it is anticipated that Cheshire East Council will be required to act as a SuDS Approval Board (SAB).**

## 7.24 Other Consents

256 In addition to planning approval, developers may also need to obtain further consents to discharge. The LLFA will normally require evidence of compliance from the responsible authority, as outlined in the table below.

### WAY MARKER

#### Useful Links to United Utilities pages

Sustainable Drainage Systems:  
<https://www.unitedutilities.com/builders-developers/wastewater-services/sustainable-drainage-systems/>

Pre-development Guidance:  
<https://www.unitedutilities.com/pre-development>

### WAY MARKER

#### Useful Links for LDC and EA Permits

Application for Land Drainage Consent:  
<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/flooding/floods-and-flood-risk/land-drainage-consent.aspx>

Environment Agency Flood Risk Activities Permit:  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits>

Consent	Responsible Authority
Land Drainage Consent (Ordinary Watercourse) (Land Drainage Act, 1991, Section 23)	LLFA
Flood Risk Activity Permits (Main River) (The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010)	Environment Agency
Environmental Permits for Waste or Emissions	Environment Agency
Adoption of a sewer (Water Industry Act, 1991, Section 104)	Water and Sewerage Companies (United Utilities)
Connection to a sewer (Water Industry Act, 1991, Section 106)	Water and Sewerage Companies (United Utilities)
Building over or close to a sewer (within 3m) (Building Regulations, 2015, Document H)	Water and Sewerage Companies (United Utilities)
Connection to an existing highway drain or adoption of highways drainage (Highways Act, 1980, Section 38)	Highway Authority
Highways Technical Approval Category D	Highway Authority
Third party landowner permissions	Third party landowner
Local Authority Land Drainage Byelaws	Lead Local Flood Authority

# **APPENDIX A**

## **Case Studies**

# West Gorton Community Park

## West Gorton, Manchester



### Project Lead

GrowGreen - Michelle Oddy

### Contractors

BDP - Landscape design  
ARUP - Drainage design  
IDVerde - Landscape contractor

### Partners

Manchester City Council  
Guinness Housing Trust  
University of Manchester  
Manchester Climate Change Agency

### Funders

European Commission Horizon 2020 programme  
MCC Strategic regeneration

The new community park in West Gorton, partnered with Guinness Partnership, is the final piece in a £100m regeneration scheme of 500 new homes, community facilities, and school improvements. This new park provides a valuable greenspace for local residents.

Unlike a typical park, the green space in West Gorton has been specifically designed using green infrastructure and natural engineering solutions to manage the flow of rainwater into sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) to help prevent flooding and overloading of the active drainage network.

The scheme has been designed to attenuate over 200m<sup>3</sup> of stormwater, which would otherwise have gone straight to the existing drainage system. The project was funded through the European Commission Horizon 2020 Research Programme, Grow Green.

The scheme provides a more resilient, healthy, and beautiful engaging park through its innovation by working more in harmony with natural systems, ecology, and biodiversity to tackle climate change. The design was developed with the existing and emerging community in West Gorton, entailing an extensive programme of community engagement, managed by Greater Manchester Groundwork.

### Benefits

- Innovative multi-component SuDS train cleansing water and managing flood risk
- Bringing the residents of West Gorton closer to nature and improving physical and mental health
- Education on climate management and ecology
- Centrepiece for the physical and community regeneration of the neighbourhood, strengthening cohesion and resilience
- Research that can be fed into other such projects and private developments

Expenditure	
<b>Design Costs</b>	<b>Budget of ~£130,000</b>
<b>Capital Costs</b>	<b>Budget of ~£1,200,000</b>
<b>Annual Maintenance Costs</b>	<b>Unavailable</b>
<b>Lifetime Cost</b>	<b>Unavailable</b>
Maintenance to be handed over to Manchester City Council	

Features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permeable paving</li> <li>• Rain gardens</li> <li>• Rills</li> <li>• Swales</li> </ul>

### Key Benefits

 <p>Biodiversity</p>	 <p>Infiltration</p>	 <p>Water Storage</p>	 <p>Visual Amenity</p>	 <p>Play</p>
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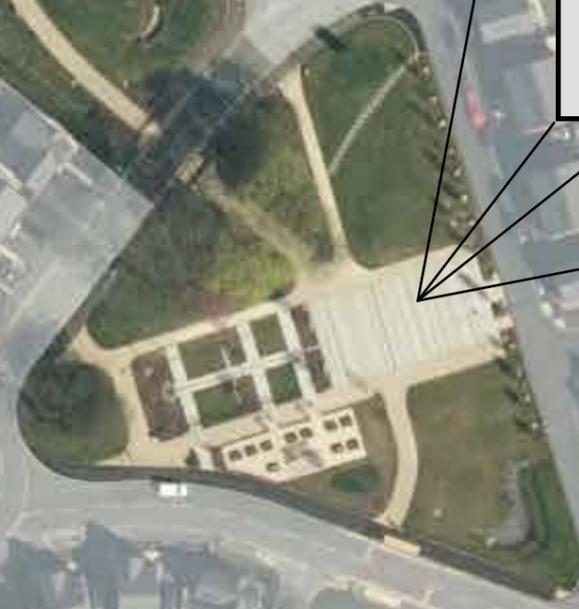
**Raingardens**



**Permeable Paving**



**Swales**



# Attenuation Pond

## Langley Playing Fields



### Contractors

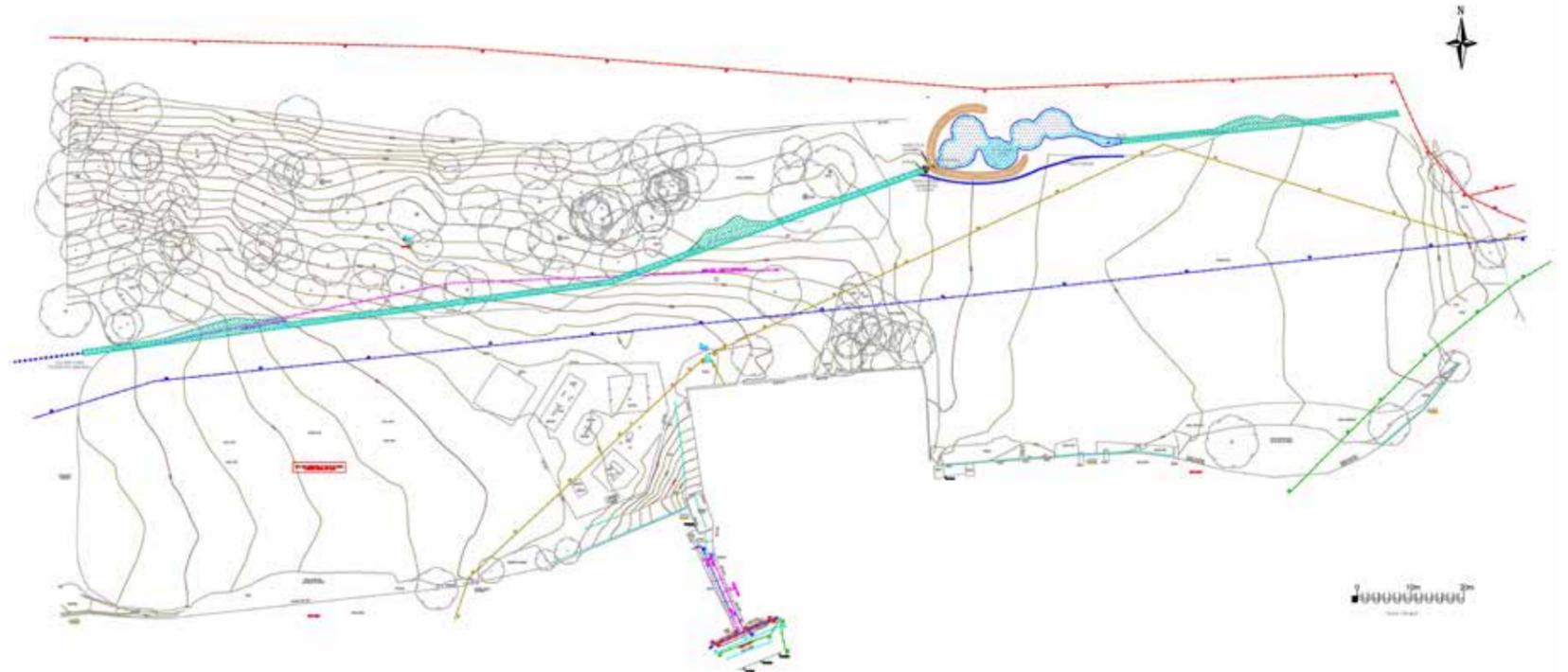
Ansa Project Management and Construction Team

### Partners

Ansa Parks Development  
Langley Playing Fields committee

### Funders

Section 106 commuted sums from development in Langley



Ansa's Park Development Team worked in partnership with Sutton Parish Plan Committee and local residents to form the Langley Playing Fields Committee. The committee worked with a local Landscape Architect to create a masterplan for the whole park, of which drainage/SuDS was a part. The masterplan was developed using the consultation results of the Sutton Parish Neighbourhood Plan. The final draft was displayed at the village hall for public feedback and taken to Langley Fete where residents had the opportunity to feed back to the Langley Playing Fields Committee and the Landscape Architect. Parish Councillors Tim Whiskard and the late Brian Thompson kept the Parish Council, including Councillor Gaddam, informed of progress. The masterplan was then presented to Sutton Parish Council.

This is a very simple sustainable drainage system; an attenuation pond with a large holding capacity. When it reaches capacity it overflows into the ditch. By the time it has made its way along the ditch there is very little water exiting the site. The distance the water has to cover slows it down and allows much of it to drain naturally into the ground before it reaches the outfall. Due to the effectiveness of the ditch, there is no flow restrictor to maintain.

## Expenditure

<b>Design Costs</b>	<b>£6,226</b>
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Topographical survey, drainage appraisal, ecology and arboricultural survey, masterplan, RoSPA water safety review

<b>Capital Costs</b>	<b>£23,153</b>
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Construction of pond, ditch, and walkways into the wooded area

<b>Annual Scheduled Costs</b>	<b>£848.04</b>
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<b>10 Year Scheduled &amp; Non-scheduled Cost</b>	<b>£20,956.95</b>
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Ditch clearance every 3-5 years or as required  
Pond clearance every 5-10 years or as required  
Repairs to pipework etc. in culverted routes, 10+ years or as required

## Key findings

- The site is much drier during typical weather conditions compared to its previous condition
- Feature adds to the quality and experience of the site, strengthening the sense of place
- The plans didn't take the surrounding vegetation and trees into account, therefore the pond had to be redesigned to accommodate the volume of water
- Involving/informing the local stakeholders is key as is education on changing approaches to surface water and drainage
- Always use drainage experts or water engineers
- Identifying what's essential, realistic and reasonable is key

# Living Wall

## Alderley Park



### Contractors

Ric Burgess, Bruntwood SciTech

### Sub-contractors

ANS

### Funders

Bruntwood SciTech  
LEP funding

Alderley Park, including the recently created life sciences campus, has been developed at the former site of AstraZeneca - the multinational biopharmaceutical company. It is the largest single site life science campus in the country and is already at the cutting edge of medical and other life science research and development. A range of other tech and creative businesses have been attracted to and operate from the site, due to the approach to design and the innovative concept and management of the campus. Alderley park provides live and work opportunities with a range of new housing and facilities across the park.

Innovation, quality, cutting edge design, and sustainability underpin the Alderley Park concept and this has been translated within the new 8-storey, 2227 space car park - employing living walling as part of the design at the ground, first, and second floor levels. This provides an animated, cooling, and welcoming route for pedestrians on approach to the Atrium: the main meeting and collaboration space on the campus. It also helps to integrate the car park into the wider woodland setting.

Expenditure	
<b>Design Costs</b>	<b>Included in Capital Costs</b>
<b>Capital Costs</b>	<b>£139,032.24</b>
Specialist Design, Construction, First year of maintenance	
<b>Annual Maintenance Costs</b>	<b>£15,000</b>
<b>Lifetime Cost</b>	<b>Unavailable</b>
Maintenance carried out every 6 months	

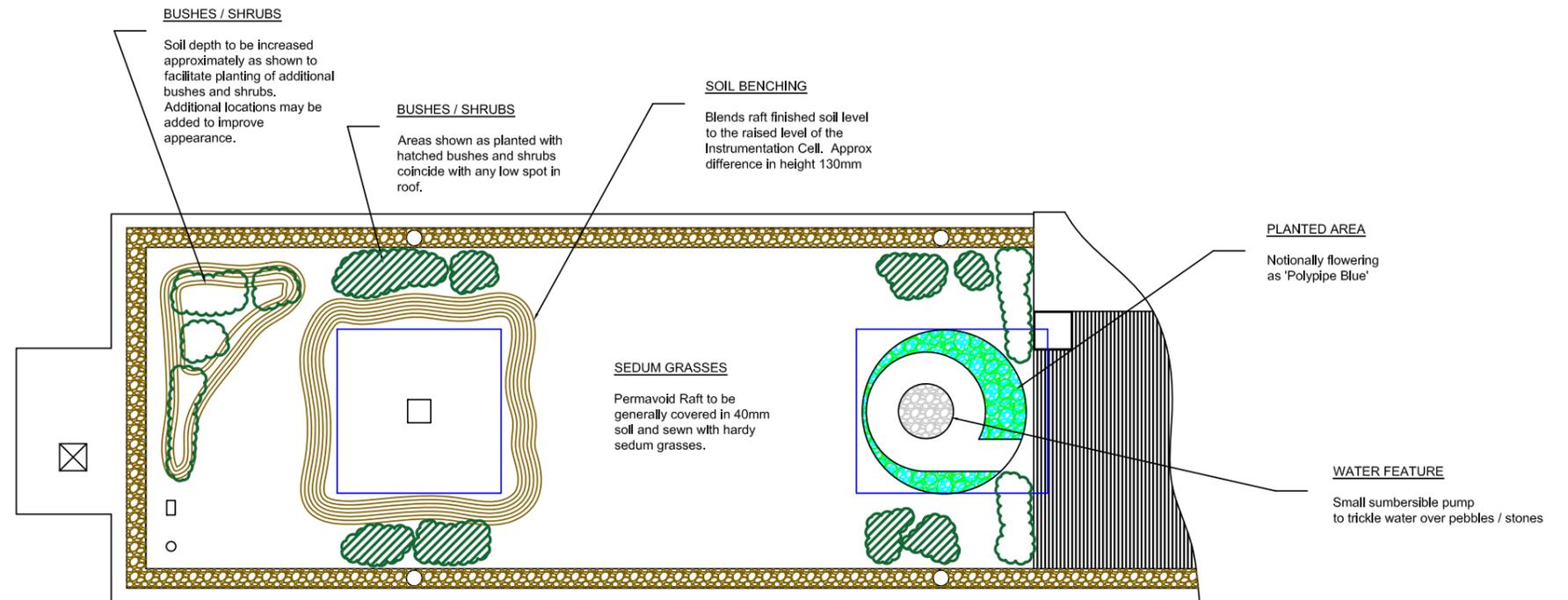
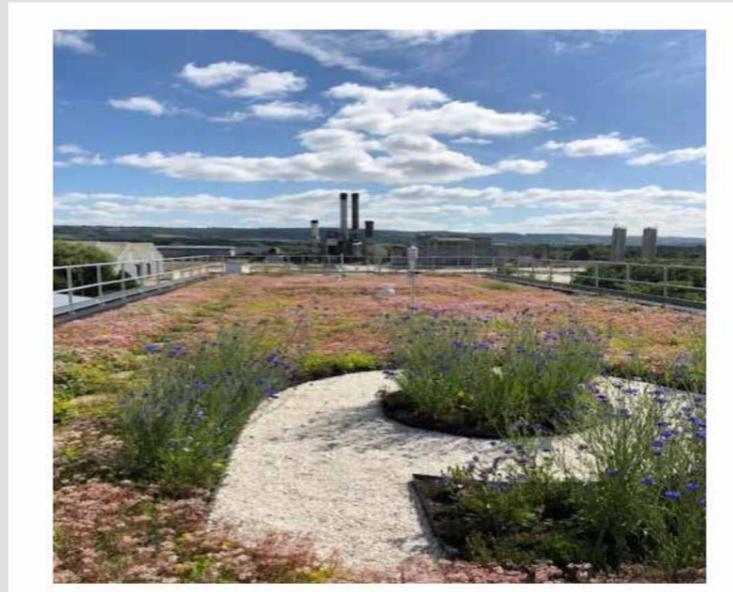


### Benefits

- Emphasises and provides an attractive green backdrop to the pedestrian route to the Atrium
- Contribution towards the SuDS for the car park building
- Test bed for future use of living surfaces at Alderley Park (and also more widely)
- Adds to the quality of design, innovation, and identity for the campus
- Helps to integrate the building into the wider wooded setting/parkland

Key findings
• It is apparent that some species of shallow rooting plants are susceptible to being damaged/unrooted during storms.
• Heuchera has been particularly prone to this.
• Birds have also been seen to uproot plants
• Over the winter 2021/22, there has been a loss of approximately 5-10% of the plants across the living wall
• The repair and replacement is covered as part of the MGD period, and ANS are working to ensure that replacement plants are less susceptible to damage

# Blue-Green Roof Aylesford, Kent



The Blue-Green roof of Polypipe's offices in Aylesford, Kent, was designed following the need for roofing renovations.

Building on research conducted in Amsterdam, Project Smart Roof 2.1 aimed to bring together the best of nature, technology, and engineered water management products into one streamlined system.

The structure of the roof is formed by a grid of capillary cones, which can store water and allow for capillary irrigation when sensors detect water levels are low. If the water storage reaches capacity, excess water overflows to the drain.

The finished green roof incorporates remote monitoring, water storage, and remote valve control to provide the optimum soil moisture conditions for the green roof to thrive.

## Benefits

- Improved energy efficiency
- Biodiversity net gain
- Health and wellbeing benefits for staff
- Reduction in precipitation discharged to sewer
- Can adapt to effects of unpredictable weather patterns

## Contractors

Polypipe

## Partners

Polypipe

## Funders

Polypipe Terrain

## Expenditure

### Capital Costs

Unavailable

### Annual Maintenance Costs

Unavailable

Rake sedum twice a year  
Document and clean flow meters every year or as required  
Clean and inspect valves and pumps every year or as required  
Remote monitoring live data and analysing historic data monthly or as required

## Key findings

- Storage of precipitation and capillary irrigation of roof vegetation was effective for increasing total annual evaporation
- On a conventional green roof, increasing the water stored in the drainage layer from 0 to 80mm can reduce total growing season water shortages from 28 to 4%
- Relatively simple to install and maintain

# Greener Grangetown Cardiff



Greener Grangetown is a retrofit SuDS scheme in Cardiff, Wales. The project covers 12 streets and 550 properties, containing a mixture of tree pits, rain gardens, and permeable paving to create high quality community space which helps to mitigate the impacts of high levels of rainfall and poor infiltration.

## Benefits

- 42,480m<sup>2</sup> of surface water being removed from the combined waste water network annually (the equivalent of 10 football pitches)
- 108 rain gardens created
- Increased biodiversity - 135 new trees and thousands of shrubs and grasses planted
- The creation of Wales' first 'bicycle street' along one of the busiest sections of the Taff Trail Active Travel route, slowing traffic by design and improving conditions for pedestrians and cyclists.
- An additional 1,600m<sup>2</sup> of green space (the equivalent of 4 basketball courts)
- Creation of a community orchard
- 26 new cycle stands
- 12 new litter bins
- 9 new seats and benches
- Increased resident-only parking spaces

## Contractors

ERH Communications & Civil Engineering  
ARUP

Gerald Davies Landscape & Maintenance Services  
GreenBlue Urban

## Partners

City of Cardiff Council

## Funders

Cardiff City Council  
Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water  
Natural Resources Wales  
Landfill Communities Fund

Expenditure	
Design Costs	Included in Capital Costs
Capital Costs	~£2,500,000
Annual Maintenance Costs	Unavailable
Lifetime Cost	Unavailable
18 month landscaping contractors maintenance period after completion	

Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SuDS can be delivered in challenging environments - Grangetown is heavily constrained by utilities, topography, ground conditions and existing infrastructure</li> </ul>

# Grey to Green (Phase 1)

## Sheffield

Grey to Green is a project which seeks to retrofit landscaping and SuDS into inner-city Sheffield, in combination with a reduction in carriageway space, to create a distinctive townscape within which people live and work.

The site was previously dominated by a dual carriageway however, following the completion of a relief road in 2008 - a large volume of traffic was diverted resulting in redundant highways.

Phase 1 of this project consists of 0.7km of landscaping, to form part of a 1.3km green corridor. The use of SuDS was seen as an opportunity to celebrate the functionality whilst using it to define the character and identity of the area through mixed planting.

### Benefits

- On-balance reduction in maintenance costs due to removal of bituminous surfacing, gulleys, and traffic management equipment

### Contractors

North Midland Construction - Main contractor  
 Ashlea - Softworks contractor  
 Green Estates - Softworks maintenance

### Designers

Sheffield City Council  
 AMEY - Highway Design  
 Robert Bray Associates - SuDS advice and flow modelling  
 Nigel Dunnett, University of Sheffield - Planting advice

### Funders

Sheffield City Region Investment Fund  
 European Union ERDF programme  
 Sheffield City Council

Expenditure	
<b>Design Costs</b>	<b>Included in Capital Costs</b>
<b>Capital Costs</b>	<b>~£3,600,000</b>
<b>Annual Maintenance Costs</b>	<b>Unavailable</b>
<b>Lifetime Cost</b>	<b>Unavailable</b>
3 years of establishment maintenance through a specialist local contractor Planting cut once a year	

Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close working with Highways allowed design fears to be addressed, such as achieving the flush kerb edge to the highway</li> <li>• Design teams need to remain flexible to incorporate constraints, such as services which can't be immediately located</li> <li>• A willingness to explore an innovative approach to the public realm and highway was facilitated by an in-house team of designers with a stake in the success of the city</li> </ul>

# Jehovah's Witnesses HQ

## Chelmsford



### Contractors

Jehovah's Witnesses

### Designers

Landscape architect - Murdoch Wickham  
 Architect, Civil Engineer, SuDS Design - Jehovah's  
 Witnesses Staff Design Team

### Funders

Jehovah's Witnesses

Remediation started: July 2016  
 Project completed: December 2019

The Jehovah's Witnesses Britain Headquarters was constructed as part of the redevelopment of a 33-hectare brownfield site. The site consists of buildings for accommodation, offices, production, and support services - incorporating existing ponds and ditches into the sustainable drainage system.

The sustainable drainage system seeks to manage run-off as early in the system as possible, with a comprehensive SuDS treatment train for all surface types. The key objectives of this system is to reduce off-site discharge to greenfield rates, blend the SuDS into the natural landscape design, and retain the existing site ditch catchments.

Close collaboration with the landscape architect was vital for the success of the scheme, allowing for the redesign of inorganic engineering features to provide a more natural system which is integrated into the landscape.

### Benefits

- Flood risk reduced downstream
- Remediation of contaminated site and existing ditch watercourses
- Three-stage management train for storm water treatment
- Significant biodiversity and amenity improvements

Expenditure	
Site Works	£19,000,000
SuDS Systems	£1,300,000
Annual Maintenance Costs	Unavailable
Lifetime Cost	Unavailable
Dedicated on-site maintenance team following maintenance schedule which is updated based on site monitoring	



### SuDS Features

- Green Roofs
- Raingardens
- Rainwater harvesting
- Permeable paving
- Swales
- Pocket wetlands
- Bioretention bed
- Attenuation ponds

Key findings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reversed splay kerb was used to facilitate sheet run-off, however this resulted in limited growth of adjacent grass - this could have been avoided</li> <li>• Some of the soil levels are too high alongside footpaths, this has led to sediment accumulation after rainfall events</li> <li>• Setting some of the buildings low to bed them into the landscape has had drainage implications, requiring piped drainage and careful exceedance pathway design which could have been avoided</li> </ul>

Permeable Paving



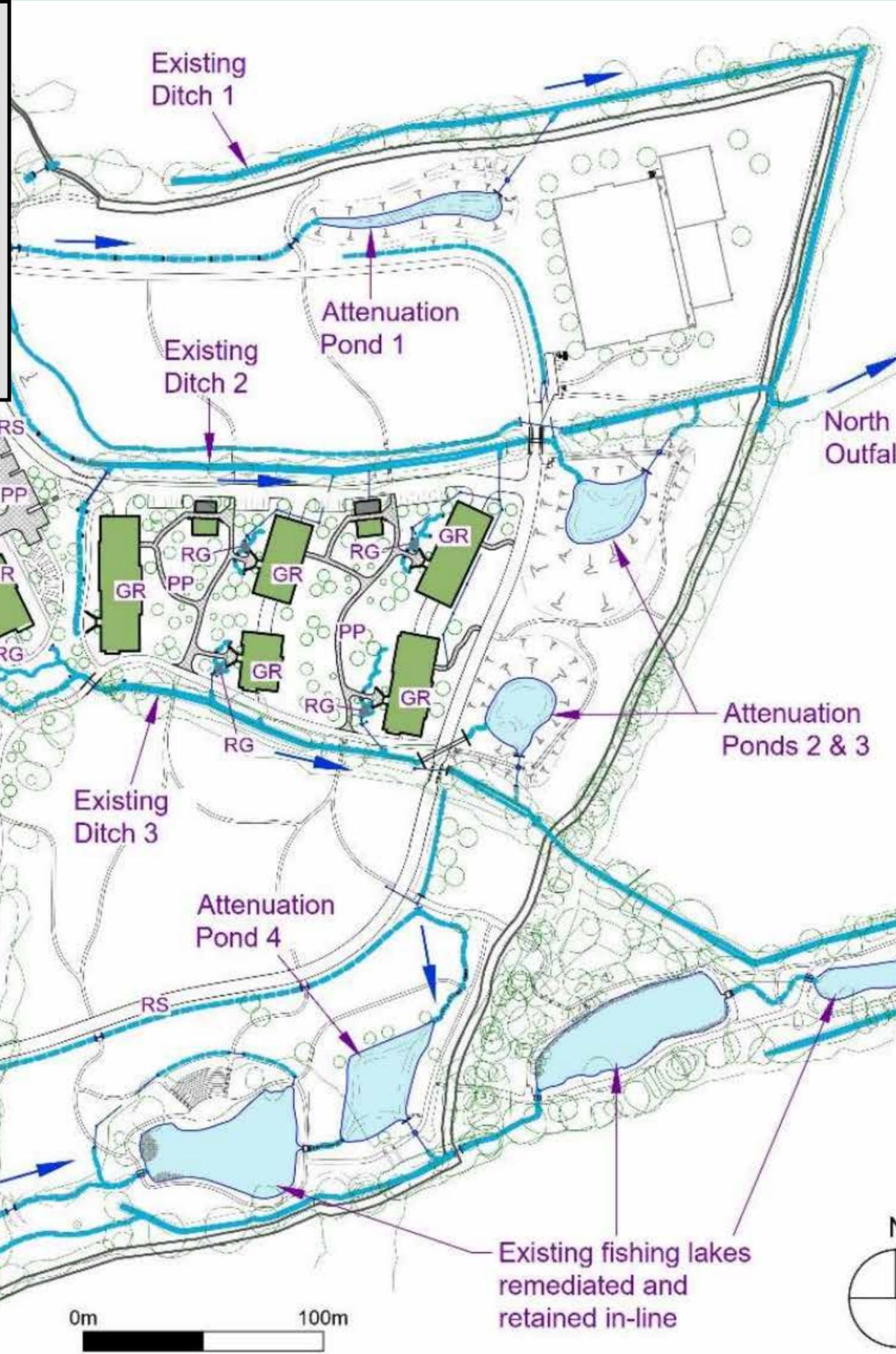
Green Roofs



Attenuation Pond



Raingardens



eds

# Tree Trenches

## The Strand, Liverpool



**Project Lead**  
Liverpool City Council, URBAN GreenUP

**Contractors**  
John Graham Construction Ltd. - Construction  
Deep Root Urban Solutions Ltd. - Tree systems

**Designers**  
BCA Landscape  
Amey  
Liverpool City Council



Urban GreenUP received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No.730426

**Project started: October 2019**  
**Project completed: January 2020**

Urban GreenUP strives to adapt to the effects of climate change and improve air and water quality using nature-based solutions. The Strand SuDS-enabled street-tree project in Liverpool began in autumn 2019, installing the first 14 trees in a new median, designed to improve the safety of the highway, improve the streetscene, reduce pollution and manage water run-off more sustainably. After four fatal collisions on The Strand between cyclists and cars, the median is more spacious which makes cycling safer and incentivises walking.

The highway drainage runs into the tree system, with water flowing directly into the central reservation trees from, aptly-named, Water Street. Any excess surface water on the carriageway is diverted into the tree pit and tree watering system. This reduces the need for excess water to go into the drainage system and helps to reduce the flooding pressure on the grids and gullies during periods of heavy rainfall.

Silva Cells ensure adequate soil volume for these 14 trees (336m<sup>3</sup> of soil volume). The soil within the Silva cells has the ability to filter out pollutants from the carriageway surface water and the water helps to support and irrigate the central row of Dawn Redwood trees (*Metasequoia* species). The redesign of the highway ensures traffic flow is more fluid, meaning that air pollution is reduced as traffic is not stop-starting as frequently.

The amount of standing water in the system is usually a great deal less than people anticipate - after only a short spell of dry weather, the next downpour's runoff is greatly delayed and reduced as it re-hydrates the soil and trees.

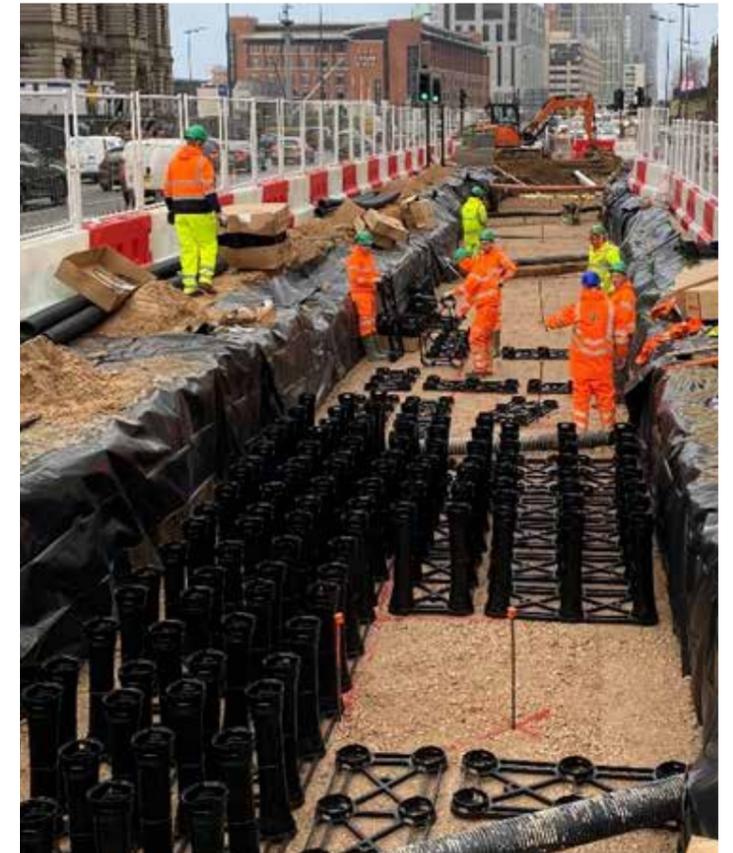


Image during construction phase

### Benefits

- Reduction in water and air pollution
- Improved traffic flows
- Improved local air quality
- Cooling effect (reduction in urban heat island effect)
- Improved visual amenity
- Increased biodiversity

### Key findings

- Monitoring and scheme results will soon be available for:
  1. Water flow and quality through a SuDS enabled tree planted area
  2. Planting data, permeable paved areas and catchment areas
  3. Water-flow graphs showing the effectiveness of the trees over a short time frame

### Expenditure

**Project costs not transferable due to the amount of research and technological equipment, therefore costs are based on reported costs for retrofitted SuDS-enabled street trees in 2019-2020**

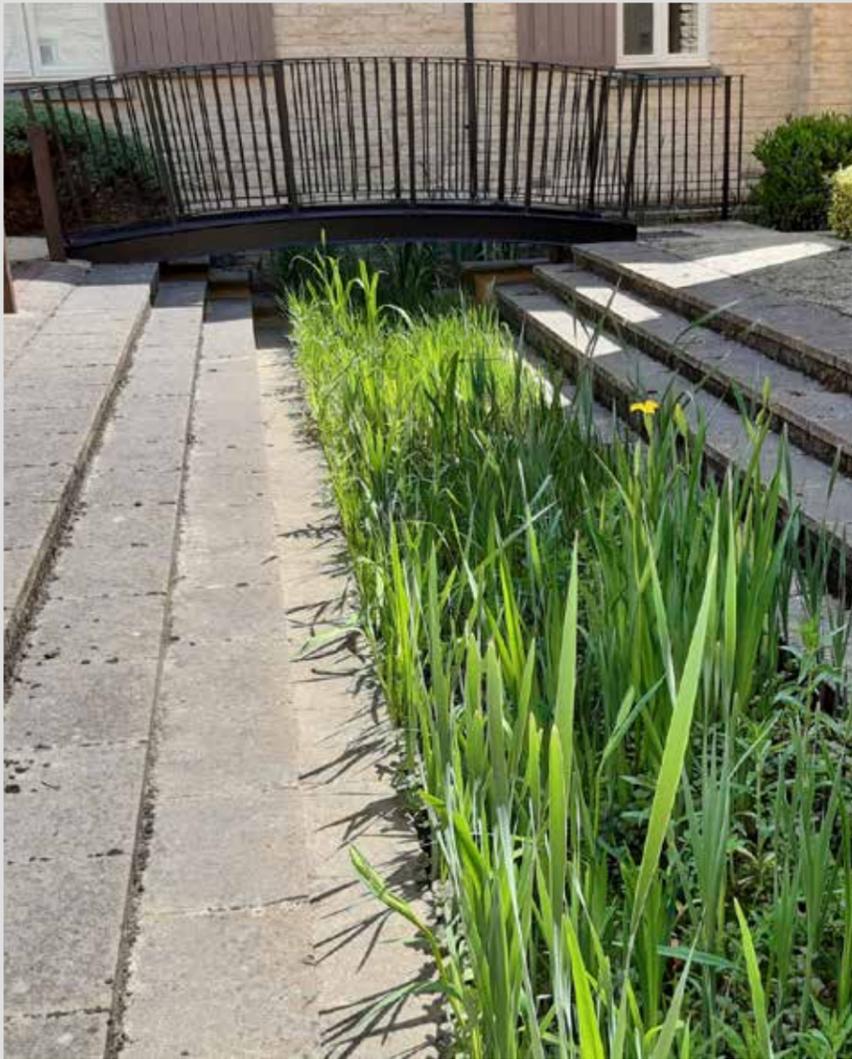
**Capital cost** **£5,850 - £9,061 per tree**

**Annual Maintenance Costs\*** **~£120 per tree**

\*Based on maintenance for the first three years during establishment

# Urban Canals

## Riverside Court, Stamford



Riverside Court is a high density, town centre housing scheme on the site of a former electricity sub-station adjacent to the River Welland.

The scheme comprises two loosely defined parking courts off a shared pedestrian and vehicular access street. It achieves a density of 104 dph, delivering 72 units.

Designed to be maintained by a management company, and helped by the inclusion of an innovative SuDS management train, it also provides a landscape/public realm focus for the development.



Plan of development

### Features

- Permeable paving
- Planted stepped canal and rills with bridge crossings
- Slot weir and stepped rill to river edge

### Benefits

- Reduction in water pollution
- Reduction in flood risk
- Delivery of attractive, high density urban development
- Exceedance route through the housing development
- Increase in amenity space

### Contractors

Wilson Connelly

### Designers

Landscape architects - Robert Bray Associates  
 Drainage designers - Robert Bray Associates  
 Architects - JWA Architects

### Developer

Expenditure	
<b>Design Costs</b>	<b>Unavailable</b>
<b>Capital Costs</b>	<b>Unavailable</b>
<b>Annual Maintenance Costs</b>	<b>Unavailable</b>
<b>Lifetime Cost</b>	<b>Unavailable</b>
Maintained by private management company	

Key findings
• Flexibility and well-designed SuDS components contribute to urban design and landscape quality with negligible land take
• Planting selection, implementation and management is important to the long-term success of the scheme
• Permeable surfaces are suited to higher density schemes and can be rehabilitated following silting
• Requires developers, contractors, and designers with experience of specialist SuDS implementation

# **APPENDIX B**

## **Additional Relevant Policies**

## National

### The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The framework presumes in favour of sustainable development, i.e. development that meets interdependent social, environmental and economic objectives, as set out in its various chapters.

**Chapter 8 Promoting Healthy and Safe Communities** – requires that planning processes seek to promote healthy, inclusive and safe places through a positive approach to design, including by creating the opportunity for social interaction via mixed uses and high quality public realm, making places safe and accessible for all, and supporting healthy lifestyles, including through provision of a high quality network of accessible spaces and access to sport and recreation.

**Chapter 14 Conserving and enhancing the natural environment** – promotes a positive approach to the management of the natural environment including valued landscapes, biodiversity, geodiversity, soils and the best quality and most versatile land, whilst recognising the intrinsic value of the countryside. It requires minimising ecological impact and promotes biodiversity net gain and ecological networks resilient to future change. A tiered approach to protection is provided, with a general presumption against ecological harm. In regard to Development Management, it sets out a process to protect important natural assets from development, including international, national and locally protected assets including ancient woodland and veteran trees. It also promotes supporting development aimed principally at conserving the natural environment or that would positively secure measurable biodiversity net gain.

The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) provides guidance for implementing the NPPF (but not set out here).

## Local

### Cheshire East (including that part of the Peak District National Park within its area)

#### Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy (CELPS)

#### Principal Policy

**SE 1 Design** – aims to ensure new development is well designed and makes a positive contribution to its surroundings by achieving sense of place, achieving sustainable design solutions, ensuring design quality is managed throughout the development process and, to achieve a high quality of life, in our living, leisure and working environments.

**SE 3 Biodiversity and Geodiversity** – seeks to protect nationally and locally important designated sites from inappropriate development, whilst securing appropriate mitigation in regard to non-designated assets or sites. In respect to all forms of development, the objective should be to positively contribute to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity

**SE 4 Landscape** – requires that all development should seek to conserve the landscape character and quality of the Borough, comprising both built and natural features, that contribute to its local distinctiveness. This is to be achieved by incorporating appropriate landscaping, preserving and promoting local distinctiveness, avoiding the loss of habitats of landscape importance and protecting historical and ecological character.

**SE 5 Trees, hedgerows and woodlands** – stipulates that proposals that would threaten the health of trees (including veteran trees), woodland or hedgerow, that provide a significant contribution to amenity, biodiversity and landscape and historic character should not be allowed unless there is a clear overriding justification. Where such development is allowed, there should be net environmental gain through mitigation, compensation or offsetting and the new development should provide for the sustainable management of woodland, tree and hedgerows as well as ensuring planting of large trees within structured landscape schemes to maintain canopy cover.

**SE 6 Green Infrastructure** – sets out the Council's ambitions to deliver high quality, accessible and connected GI across the Borough, providing for healthy recreation and biodiversity, and building on the varied characteristics of the GI across the Borough by protecting and enhancing existing GI and ensuring that new development includes high quality new green spaces that integrate with the wider GI framework.

**SE 13 Flood risk and water management** – requires a sequential approach to site selection to ensure development in areas of lower flood risk, whilst ensuring that all schemes have appropriate flood risk assessment, also accounting for climate change. It also requires that all developments seek improvement to the surface water drainage network, including appropriate forms of SuDS that seek to reduce the runoff rate.

**SC 3 Health and wellbeing** – promotes health and wellbeing through the planning process including by ensuring that new developments provide opportunities for healthy living and to improve health by creating well connected, walkable and cyclable neighbourhoods, cohesive and inclusive communities, enabling social interaction and access to quality open space, green infrastructure and sport and recreation.

## Cheshire East Site Allocations and Development Management Policies (SADPD)

**GEN 1 Design Principles** – this reinforces policy SE1 of the CELPS to achieve well designed new development through place identity, creating sustainable and responsive developments that can adapt to climate change and other changing circumstances, that create active lifestyles and promote health and wellbeing, and which integrate positively with the natural and built environment.

**GEN 5 Aerodrome Safeguarding** - Under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Safeguarded Aerodromes, Technical Sites and Military Sites) Direction 2002, Manchester Airport Group is the statutory Aerodrome Safeguarding Authority (ASA) for Manchester Airport, requiring that development within specific zones and of specific types must be referred to the ASA as a statutory consultee in the planning process. **Similarly, the Ministry of Defence must be consulted for SuDS applications within a safeguarding zone for RAF Tern Hill.**

**ENV 1 Ecological Network and ENV 2 Ecological implementation** – these elaborate on policy SE3 of the CELPS in terms of setting out the approach that new development should deliver proportionate opportunities to protect, conserve, restore and enhance the ecological network including setting out the approach to ecological net gain and the need for developments to be ecologically positive, both where ecological assets are impacted and to generally improve biodiversity within new development.

**ENV 3 Landscape Character, ENV 4 River Corridors and ENV 5 Landscaping** – collectively these policies seek to reinforce the landscape character of the Borough by ensuring that the landscape approach within new development seeks to protect and enhance landscape character and green and blue infrastructure, the incorporation of place relevant planting, an appropriate balance between space and built form, and by providing for climate change mitigation and adaptation (including SuDS) within new development

**ENV 6 Trees, hedgerows and woodland implementation** – requires the retention of existing landscape features and the need to compensate for any loss. Trees, woodland and hedgerow should be sustainably integrated and new planting should be integrated into proposals as part of a comprehensive landscape scheme.

**ENV 7 Climate Change** – sets out a number of requirements for new development, both in the design of buildings and spaces in accommodating climate change adaptation and resilience, including within retrofit situations.

## Cheshire East Design Guide SPD volumes 1 and 2 (the Design Guide)

The Design Guide includes a number of chapters that are important in considering the design of SuDS.

Volume 1 sets out in detail the local context and what makes Cheshire East distinctive, and the required approach to improving design quality, including processes such as Design Coding. Volume 2 sets out the specific considerations for designing new development and delivering place quality, sustainable design and improved health and wellbeing through high quality design. The relevant chapters are:

**Chapter 1 working with the grain of the place** – which aims that designers and developers establish a broad understanding of the site, its context and the opportunities to create a place specific and sustainable development based on a strong vision for the scheme.

**Chapter 2 urban design** – builds on chapter 1, setting out the means to create a strong structure for new development, identifying the important layers (including green and blue infrastructure at the top of the hierarchy) necessary to create a well-conceived and integrated development that responds positively to the place to ensure a sustainable, functional and attractive development.

**Chapter 4 Green Infrastructure and Landscape Design** - provides detailed guidance relating to GI and BI, and detailed aspects of landscape design, including the importance of maintaining existing landscape features and the appropriateness of new landscape design. It also provides a concise introduction to sustainable drainage systems and their value in terms of quality of place, providing the design context for this SuDS manual.

**Chapter 5 Sustainable Design Principles** – identifies spatial, active and passive aspects of sustainable design of buildings and spaces, including the role of trees and landscape in terms of passive design and adaptation, as well as considering how active approaches at source can contribute to water management as part of an integrated approach to SuDS.

**Chapter 6 Quality of Life** – identifies the importance of good quality and attractive homes and neighbourhoods including access to high quality open and green space and public realm, the promotion of community health and wellbeing and the specific wellbeing benefits of a sense of identity derived from the local character of places (a sense of belonging).

NB there are also a number of 'saved' policies from the legacy Local Plans but these are intended to be superseded in the near future by the SADPD. The intention of this SPD is not to provide further guidance on these policies, and so, they are not listed here.

# **APPENDIX C**

## **Sources for further information**

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## Glossary

**Attenuation** – The process of slowing and temporarily storing run-off to enable a more controlled rate and volume of discharge

**Brownfield** – Land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land (although it should not be assumed that the whole of the curtilage should be developed) and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. Refer to 'Previously developed land' in the National Planning Policy Framework for exclusions.

**Catchment** – The area of land drained by a river and other water bodies along that river's route

**Environmental Permit** - A permit which allows certain activities which have the potential to impact the environment and human health, following specific restrictions.

**Flood Risk Assessment (FRA)** - is an assessment of the risk of flooding from all flooding mechanisms i.e. fluvial, pluvial, tidal, groundwater, sewer systems.

**Greenfield** – Natural or agricultural land that is vacant of existing buildings or infrastructure

**Green Infrastructure** – A network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities and prosperity.

**Impermeable** – Not allowing passage (as of a fluid) through its matter.

**Impervious** – A material that prevents penetration or passage of another substance

**Infiltration** - The process by which surface water passes through the soil.

**Interception** – The disruption of the movement of water by vegetation cover.

**Land drainage Consent** - Is a requirement of the Land Drainage Act 1991, for any developer who plans to carry out any construction work that might affect the flow of an ordinary watercourse and subsequently increase the flood risk to the surrounding area.

**Main River** - Usually consists of larger streams and rivers, but some of them are smaller watercourses of local significance. Main Rivers indicate those watercourses for which the Environment Agency is the relevant risk management authority.

**Manning's Equation** – Is an empirical equation that relates the velocity (V) of water flowing through a stream to its slope (s), the hydraulic radius of the stream (R), and its approximate bed roughness (n).  $V = (R^{2/3}s^{1/2})/n$ .

**National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** – A strategic document which aims to address the Government's economic, environmental and social planning policies for England. The policies set out in this framework apply to the formation of local and neighbourhood plans and to decisions on planning applications.

**Ordinary Watercourse** – Includes every river, stream, ditch, drain, cut, dyke, sluice, sewer (other than public sewer) and passage through which water flows which does not contribute to part of a Main River. The Lead Local Flood Authority, District/Borough Council or Internal Drainage Board is the relevant risk management authority.

**Outline Application** - An application which allows for a decision on the general principles of how a site can be developed. Outline planning permission is granted by the Local Planning Authority on the basis that additional details of the development are conditioned to ensure they are submitted within a subsequent reserved matters application.

**Permeable** – A material which is able to be easily passed-through by a liquid

**Porous** – A material that is able to easily absorb fluids into its pores

**Reserved Matters** – Regards certain elements of a proposed development which an applicant can choose not to submit details of with an outline planning application, such as access details

**Riparian Owner** - An owner of land with a watercourse adjoining, above or running through it, who has specific rights and responsibilities, i.e. maintenance of the watercourse to prevent restrictions which have the potential to cause fluvial flooding. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse>

**Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)** – Is a requirement of the local planning process, as set out in Planning Policy Statement 25, produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government. It's overall aim is to ensure that requires local authorities to demonstrate that due regard has been given to the issue of flood risk as part of the planning process. Please see Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for further details on Cheshire East Council's SFRA.

**Topography** – The contours, gradients, levels and features formed on a terrestrial surface

**Urban heat-island effect** – the effect hard-surfaces in an urban environment have in raising built-environment temperatures above those of surrounding natural land



