

Encouraging sustainable drainage

- Using Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to manage surface water has a number of benefits, such as improving water quality and the local environment. However, they also provide an important function in reducing the risk of flooding of homes and businesses, as well as adjacent or downstream properties, as a result of heavy rainfall.
- Despite positive planning policies, few SuDS are built as part of new developments, even though they can often be more practical and cheaper than conventional surface water drainage (underground piped systems).

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- The FWM-Act 2010 requires drainage systems to be approved, against a set of National Standards, before building can commence and a connection to the sewer can be allowed (if needed). It also makes local authorities responsible for adopting and maintaining SuDS.
- Examples: rainwater recycling, individual soakaways, filter strips and swales, filter drains and porous pavements, basins and ponds.

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