

A close-up, high-speed photograph of water splashing onto a dark, textured surface of gravel or pebbles. The water droplets are captured in mid-air, creating a dynamic and energetic scene. The background is blurred, emphasizing the sharp details of the water and the ground.

# Legislation and guidance

# Legislation and Guidance

## The Cambridge landscape

Legislation and guidance that recommends the implementation of SUDS is varied and includes high level Government strategy. Although SUDS to be adopted by the City Council are required to be in accordance with this guide there are other sources of guidance that must be considered when approaching any design. The main relevant documents are listed below, but should not be considered as an exhaustive list:

- Future Water, published by DEFRA sets out the Government's vision for water, including good surface water management which will involve increased use of SUDS and surface water flow routes. This will be achieved through the design and planning of the whole urban fabric, as the capacity of the landscape to store and convey water is much greater than with below-ground systems.
- The Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC and the associated River Basin Management Plan - Anglian River Basin District, published by the Environment Agency. This sets down quality targets for local rivers and water-courses including Hobson's Brook and The River Cam and encourages the enhanced use of SUDS.
- Great Ouse Catchment Flood Management Plan soon to be published by Environment Agency provides actions that Local Authorities must report against including the provision of SUDS in new developments.
- Flood and Water Management Bill published by DEFRA which builds on the recommendations of Sir Michael Pitt's review of the summer 2007 floods and includes a recommendation that Local Authorities adopt SUDS.
- Planning Policy Statement PPS 25, Development and flood risk states that priority should be given to the use of SUDS and where they are not deemed appropriate (which is unlikely on all except the rarest of sites), justification should be given for not using them.
- The Building Regulations part H, Drainage and Waste Disposal, states that infiltration should be the first considered option for rainwater disposal, followed by discharge to a watercourse. Discharge to a sewer should only be considered where other forms are not practicable.
- The Cambridge Water Cycle Strategy Phase 1 aims to provide a sustainable approach to the provision of water services infrastructure to the growth sites in and around Cambridge. This includes aspects such as flood risk management, drainage and ecology. The strategy has been developed in conjunction with organizations including Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council. The use of SUDS can play an important part in helping achieve the aims of the Water Cycle Strategy. Phase 2 is currently being developed.
- Cambridge City Council Local Plan 2006. Policy 9/3 which states "the development of the urban extensions will incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems where practicable" policy 9/3m.
- Cambridge City Council Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document.
- East of England Plan, published by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Constitutes the regional spatial strategy for the east of England. Policy WAT 4 requires that sustainable drainage systems are employed in all appropriate developments.

- The Green Infrastructure Strategy published by Cambridgeshire Horizons recognises that water management features can create opportunities to enhance the landscape and biodiversity value. Wetlands are a particular target habitat. Green infrastructure should where possible be multi functional. SUDS features can provide opportunities for informal, quiet recreation and can help link up fragmented habitats and will provide an important contribution to achieving the aims of the strategy.
- Planning Policy Statement PPS 1 Delivering sustainable development
- Planning Policy Statement PPS 9 Biodiversity and geological conservation
- Biodiversity Action Plans
- Environment Agency Pollution Prevention Guideline PPG 3, Use and design of oil separators in surface water drainage systems.
- Under the terms of the Water Resources Act 1991 and the Land Drainage Byelaws, the prior written consent of the Environment Agency is required for any proposed works or structures in, under, over or within 9m of the top of the bank of the main river (Cam), this includes any headwalls.
- Any culverting or works affecting the flow of a watercourse requires the prior written Consent of the Environment Agency under the terms of the Land Drainage Act 1991/ Water Resources Act 1991. The Environment Agency seeks to avoid culverting, and its Consent for such works will not normally be granted except as a means of access. Please contact the Development and Flood Risk team within the Environment Agency direct.
- British Standard BS 7533-13: 2009. Pavements constructed with clay, natural stone or concrete pavers – Part 13: Guide for the design of permeable pavements constructed with concrete paving blocks and flags, natural stone slabs and setts and clay pavers.
- CIRIA Source control using constructed pervious surfaces. C582
- CIRIA Rainwater and greywater reuse in buildings: best practice guidance.C539.
- CIRIA Designing for exceedance in urban drainage – good practice. C635.
- CIRIA Building greener. Guidance on the use of green roofs, green walls and complementary features on buildings. C644.
- CIRIA The SUDS Manual.C697.
- CIRIA Site handbook for constructing SUDS. C698.
- CIRIA Structural design of modular geocellular drainage tanks. C680.
- Interpave - Guide to the Design, Construction and Maintenance of Concrete Block Permeable Pavements
- Interpave - Understanding Permeable Paving
- Environment Agency Green roof tool kit.
- Kellagher RBB and Lauchlin CS Use of SUDS in high density developments, defining hydraulic performance criteria. HR Wallingford Report SR 640.
- Kellagher RBB and Lauchlin CS Use of SUDS in high density developments, guidance manual. HR Wallingford Report SR 666.

Design guidance is available from a large number of organisations, listed below are a small selection. The guidance listed here is not exhaustive and is current at the time of publication:

The Flood and Water Management Bill may lead to potential changes in the design and adoption criteria for SUDS which (for example there is currently discussion regarding provision of National SUDS adoption criteria and which bodies will be responsible for adopting SUDS).

This guide follows best practice in the design and construction of SUDS and adherence to it should not cause any conflict if the proposed legislation is enacted.

The guide will be updated when the legislation is enacted, if necessary.