

## Responding To SuDS Consultations



### Getting the Best Out of SuDS for People and Wildlife

Firstly, every proposal for a new development that falls within the ambit of existing UK legislation should be in line with DEFRA's SuDS National Standards. Specifically they should also:

- Include sufficient detail of soils and hydrology to enable design of appropriate SuDS solutions.
- Include appropriate number and type of treatment stages which deal with the strength and volume of the rainwater/surface water.
- Where possible, use gravity to drain water, use as little energy as possible and avoid the use of pumps.
- Allow for increased rainfall and therefore increased inflows due to future climate change & land use change.
- Identify existing biodiversity designations of the development site and its surroundings and incorporate their conservation objectives into SuDS design and management.
- Adequately survey for existing biodiversity, and ensure that mitigation and compensation measures have been put in place to address any negative impact on existing wildlife.

If the proposal passes all these provisos, you can then assess the benefits it might provide for people and wildlife. Answer the questions in the tables by placing a score (either 1 or 0) against each question.

## Wildlife benefits

		Points
Is there an ecologist and/or landscape architect on the design team?	Yes	1
	No	0
Is there a detailed planting scheme showing locations of planting, species lists and quantities?	Yes	1
	No	0
Are all proposed plants native and of local provenance?*	Yes	1
	No	0
Will the SuDS have a positive impact for local Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species?	Yes	1
	No	0
Will the SuDS improve water quality in the receiving watercourse?	Yes	1
	No	0
Does the SuDS link in with existing green space?	Yes	1
	No	0
Does the proposal increase the total amount of green space for biodiversity?	Yes	1
	No	0
Are the banks of SuDS features gently graded to allow access for a range of wildlife?	Yes	1
	No	0
Do the SuDS features have non-straight edges and varying water depths? This will create more habitat diversity which will support a wider range of wildlife. There'll be more biodiversity if there's a mix of areas that are occasionally wet, boggy, or permanently wet.	Yes	1
	No	0
Is the rainwater stored and conveyed at the surface rather than through pipes? (Rainfall can be managed more effectively through above-ground features like swales, filter strips and temporary wetlands. This allows better access for maintenance, and provides wetland habitat and amenity opportunities).	Yes	1
	No	0
<b>Total points for biodiversity</b> (maximum 10, minimum 0)		

\* If not, check if any of the non-natives are classified as invasive in which case they should be removed from the proposal. Find out more:

<https://www.wwt.org.uk/conservation/saving-wetlands-and-wildlife/saving-wetlands/countering-wetland-threats/invasive-species/>

The Flora Locale website can be used to find suppliers of native pond and wetland plants:

<http://www.floralocale.org/Suppliers+with+stock+type+-+Plants+-+wetland+and+pond>

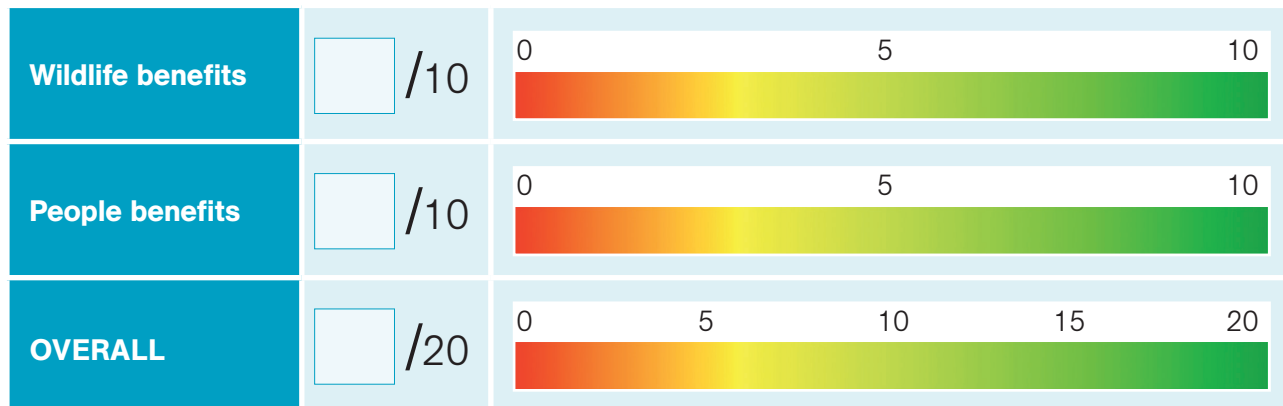
## People benefits

		Points
Has sufficient information on the SuDS proposal been made available for local people? This could include face-to-face meetings, a website or posters and leaflets.	Yes	1
	No	0
Has the local community been consulted?	Yes	1
	No	0
Have their ideas and concerns been taken on board?	Yes	1
	No	0
Will elements of the design encourage neighbourhood residents to work on projects together as a community, and so help enhance community cohesion?	Yes	1
	No	0
Are there opportunities for volunteering?	Yes	1
	No	0
Have local schools/other groups been involved? Is there scope to use the SuDS in a formal learning collaboration with schools?	Yes	1
	No	0
Will children be able to play in the area safely? <i>Note: Very gently sloping sides to SuDS features will minimise the health and safety risk.</i>	Yes	1
	No	0
Does the SuDS provide additional locally-needed green space for amenity purposes?	Yes	1
	No	0
Has the local community been involved in the development of the SuDS management plan?	Yes	1
	No	0
Will the local community be involved in the on-going management of the SuDS? The management should identify opportunities for local people to get involved with activities such as planting, maintenance, monitoring etc.	Yes	1
	No	0
<b>Total points for community engagement</b> ( <i>maximum 10, minimum 0</i> )		

Add up the scores for 'Wildlife' and 'People' and turn over the page.

## Total scores

Add up the scores for wildlife and people. Use the colour chart to assess the extent of the benefits for each.



If the overall score isn't as high as you hope, you might be able to help the developer to improve the score.

- For low-scoring SuDS proposals, you could contact your local Wildlife Trust or other local nature group for advice on how the designs could be improved for biodiversity.
- The WWT/RSPB guidance document entitled 'Sustainable Drainage Systems: Maximising the potential for people and wildlife

- A guide for local authorities and developers' provides clear, simple advice on how a wide range of SuDS can be designed to maximise opportunities for wildlife.

It can be downloaded from <http://www.wwt.org.uk/sudsguidelines>

- Local community interest groups will understand the specific local context and might be able to provide suggestions tailored to the needs to those living in the area. They may even be interested in getting directly involved.

■ Susdrain (The community for sustainable drainage) has online case studies of successful community engagement projects including SuDS at

[http://www.susdrain.org/files/resources/briefings/1208\\_briefing\\_suds\\_in\\_the\\_community.pdf](http://www.susdrain.org/files/resources/briefings/1208_briefing_suds_in_the_community.pdf)

and

[http://www.susdrain.org/files/resources/briefings/1204\\_briefing\\_community\\_outreach\\_for\\_swm.pdf](http://www.susdrain.org/files/resources/briefings/1204_briefing_community_outreach_for_swm.pdf)

