

Q: Do we have to offer our SuDS features for adoption to United Utilities?

A: All S104 applications must include any SuDS that are acting as sewers that form part of a continuous network for adoption. We will not accept sewers for adoption that discharge to privately owned SuDS components. We will not adopt off-line exceedance overflow storage or permit land drainage connectivity into adoptable SuDS.

Q: Will United Utilities adopt SuDS features in private property curtilage?

A: No, all adoptable SuDS features must be located in areas of public open space or communal land where maintenance access does not impact customer gardens. Property level SuDS will remain private but can drain to the adopted system provided there are arrangements for their ongoing maintenance.

Q: What standards do United Utilities assess adoptable SuDS design against?

Adoptable SuDS will be assessed against the standards within the Sewerage Sector Guidance (Design & Construction guidance & CIRIA SuDS Manual), we also have additional guidance company specific guidance on our website which compliments the sector guidance.

Q: Where we have inline SuDS features will you allow partial acceptance for piped networks like you do for pumping stations?

A: Unfortunately we cannot offer this service, as the SuDS features are often key to the overall surface water drainage strategy and changes through the design stage can often have significant effects on the overall system, we must assess and agree the standards of the SuDS features prior to issuing an overall design acceptance.

Q: Can you confirm who undertakes maintenance activities for grass cutting and clearance of materials with the SuDS feature to maintain flow of water?

A: In line with the CIRIA guidance regardless of adoption status access must be considered and provided for the upkeep of the feature. If United Utilities were to adopt the asset, then United Utilities maintains the function of the component. We will ensure that it drains effectively by clearing any debris from the component if flow was impeded. The form of the component is will remain the obligation of the developer or landowner and as such for grass cutting and aesthetics, would not be in United Utilities remit.

Q: Do United Utilities adopt Geocellular storage components?

A: We will only consider the use of geocellular tanks that enable sustainable drainage solutions that discharge flows to ground that cannot be achieved at surface level. We will not adopt geocellular products that are used purely for attenuation purposes on the adoptable network. A designer can continue to specify geocellular tanks, for private attenuation that interact with the adoptable network (for offline storage for volumes above the 30 year event).

Q: Will UU adopt a surface water pumping station which accepts flows from 'open' SuDS features?

A: Please ensure that you have explored all potential gravity solutions before proposing to pump surface water flows. Surface water pumping stations that accept flows from 'open SuDS' must be suitably protected from blockage, which can be provided by use of an upstream SuDS management train of features and by screening debris prior discharge to the wet well.

Q: Would United Utilities adopt SuDS features sized for 1:100 plus climate change volume?

A: Yes, provided that they are online 'green open SuDS features'.

# SuDS FAQ's

Q: Will United Utilities adopt proprietary treatment systems or petrol interceptors?

A: They will only be considered for adoption when facilitating a discharge to ground and in this scenario only when all greener treatment solutions (i.e., multiple SuDS in sequence) have been ruled out. United utilities will not adopt petrol interceptors.

Q: Will United Utilities adopt SuDS features which incorporate land drainage?

A: No we could not adopt any SW drainage feature (pipe or open feature) which includes Land drainage.

Q: Will United Utilities adopt SuDS features which accept highway drainage?

A: Adoptable SuDS should be designed to collect surface water run off primarily from properties, although we can adopt SuDS collecting highway run off but only as part of a holistic design. We would expect the use of permeable highways wherever possible.

Q: What is the smallest flow control UU will adopt?

A: Usually this should be a minimum of 100mm, however if the flow control has robust upstream protection which prevents debris this could be reduced to a minimum of 50mm

Q: Can you confirm the required easement for SuDS features?

A: Adoptable SuDS features require an easement of 2m around the SuDS component along with a standard easement covering the discharge pipework and headwall. More detail on easement requirements can be found in our local practice to easements found on our website: <https://www.unitedutilities.com/builders-developers/larger-developments/wastewater/sewer-adoptions/>

Q: Do United Utilities always require a sediment forebay for SuDS on residential developments?

A: SuDS should be designed with suitable upstream pre-treatment to reduce the risk of rapid silt accumulation. The type of silt management is dependent on the contributing area & land use. For swales a catch pit is usually acceptable. For basins and ponds this is usually a sediment forebay unless the catchment size is small. Any pre-treatment measures should be appropriately sized and the management and maintenance document should consider the frequency of maintenance. The proposals should ensure that reasonable safe access is provided for personal and machinery to undertake de-silting works.

Q: Is there a minimum and maximum distance for a swale to be considered for adoption?

A: Not usually, however if the swale utilizes an underdrain pipe we will require chambers for inspection of the underdrain sized as per standard sewer design in line with DCG, in this scenario the swale would need to be 'broken' and a chamber raised to ground level, usually this is achievable if there is a road or pathway intersecting the swale. The maximum distance between chambers is 90m.

Q: What information is required for SuDS after construction to facilitate the final adoption stage?

A: We would expect good records of construction such as photographs and evidence of ongoing maintenance along with information for any management company who will be undertaking work to the landscaping and open space, please see our [S104 maintenance application appendix](#) for our detailed information requirements.