

Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems – Pond

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For recent changes to this guidance, please see the [bottom of the page](#).

Aim

The aim of this item is to improve water quality by creating a pond to intercept and treat run-off that currently discharges direct to a watercourse or freshwater drain. Ponds can improve water quality through natural processes including filtration, retention and biological breakdown.

Eligibility

Any land is eligible, provided that it meets all of the requirements set out below.

This option must be combined with:

- [Stock Fence](#)

Additionally, ponds receiving field run-off only must be combined with the capital item for:

- [Rural sustainable drainage systems - sediment traps or bunds](#)

Ponds that only receive roof run-off can be standalone but those that receive run-off from a steading must be combined with the capital option for:

- [Rural sustainability drainage systems - sediment traps or bunds](#)

or

- [Rural sustainable drainage systems - swales](#)

Spatial targeting



[Map of target area – Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems – Pond \(PDF, Size: 1.9 MB\)](#)

doc_external_url: <https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/95559---AECS---Target-Map-Review-for-2021.pdf> This item is available within the target area shown on this map.

You can check if this item is available on your holding using the search targeting tool which can be found on any of the following AECS guidance pages:

[AECS Home](#)

[Eligibility](#)

[How to Apply](#)

[Management Options and Capital Items](#)

[Capital Items](#)

Application requirements

You must prepare a plan that must include a map of the relevant fields / steading, identifying the location of the rural sustainable drainage system feature.

For rural sustainable drainage system features receiving run-off from a steading, the plan must include a calculation of the size of the rural sustainable drainage system features including the amount of run-off draining to it (treatment volume).

You must also produce a [diffuse pollution steading assessment](#).

It is important that the assessment clearly identifies the source of the run-off to be collected, where it currently discharges to (e.g. river) and the pathway - how the run-off gets from where it originates to the watercourse.

Requirements

- run-off (except roof run off) must first enter a sediment trap or swale prior to the pond
- only run-off which currently discharges direct to a watercourse or freshwater drain and which does not fall within the definition of slurry or silage effluent may be conveyed to a pond
- run-off from pesticide handling or washdown areas must not be conveyed to a retention pond
- fencing should be provided to protect people and livestock
- existing ponds must not be used
- you must obtain planning permission, or have confirmation that planning permission is not required for your proposed pond

Payment

You can claim £15.00 per square metre (excluding fencing).

Inspections

The inspectors will check:

- the location and extent of the pond
- run-off first enters a sediment trap prior to pond
- only run-off which does not fall within the definition of slurry or silage effluent is conveyed to a pond
- run-off from pesticide handling or wash-down areas is not conveyed to a pond
- fencing should be provided to protect people and livestock
- existing ponds are not used

Additional guidance

[Supporting guidance is available for this item.](#)

Recent changes

Section	Change
Application Requirements	Insertion of link to Diffuse Pollution Risk assessment and Diffuse Pollution Steading Assessment web page

Previous versions

[Previous versions of this page](#)

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