

# Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems – Swales

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## Aim

The aim of this item is to improve water quality by creating a strategically placed swale to slow, treat and control run-off that currently discharges direct to a watercourse or freshwater drain and to direct flow to a point (e.g. a pond) where it can be safely discharged.

## Eligibility

The land must be within a diffuse pollution priority catchment or focus area (unless an endorsement has been obtained from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency) or a flooding target area.

## Spatial targeting



[Map of target area – Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems – Swales \(PDF, Size: 1.2 MB\)](https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/50_RSuDS_Swales.pdf)

doc\_external\_url: [https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/50\\_RSuDS\\_Swales.pdf](https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/50_RSuDS_Swales.pdf) This option is available within the target area shown on this map. It may be possible to apply for this option outside this area where there is strong justification as endorsed by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

## Application requirements

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

## Requirements

- only run-off which does not fall within the definition of slurry may be conveyed to a swale
- run-off from pesticide handling or washdown areas must not be conveyed to a swale

## Payment

You can claim £21.75 per square metre (excluding fencing).

## Inspections

The inspectors will check:

- the location and extent of the swale
- that only run-off which does not fall within the definition of slurry is conveyed to a swale
- that run-off from pesticide handling or wash-down areas is not conveyed to a swale

## Additional guidance

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