

# Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems – Pond

**This is an old version of the page**

**Date published: 24 November, 2017**

**Date superseded: 7 December, 2021**

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 – Retention Pond \(PDF, Size: 902.3 kB\)](#)

doc\_external\_url: <https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/87332-AECS-Review---2018-map---WQ-Rural-SuDS---Pond.pdf> This item is available within the target area shown on this map.

You can check if this item is available on your holding [here](#).

## 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
<a href="#">Spatial targeting</a>	We've updated the target area map

## Previous versions

[Previous versions of this page](#)

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