

Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems – Swales

This is an old version of the page

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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 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

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

Where a swale receives run-off from a steading, you must combine this option with at least one of the following associated capital items (except where the swale only accepts roof run-off or is located on an intensive pig or poultry unit):

- [Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems - Pond](#)
- [Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems - Wetland](#)
- [Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems - Sediment, Traps and Bunds](#)

Spatial targeting



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

doc_external_url: <https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/95559---AECS---Target-Map-Review-for-2021---Swales.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 [searching targeting tool](#).

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 and the point to which it discharges.

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 feature(s) based on 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

- 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 swale *
- run-off from pesticide handling or washdown areas must not be conveyed to a swale

* Unless the run-off is being conveyed to a constructed farm wetland designed in accordance with the Constructed Farm Wetland Design Manual – Scottish Environment Protection Agency / Northern Ireland Environment Agency – 2008.

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 or silage effluent is conveyed to a swale *
- that run-off from pesticide handling or wash-down areas is not conveyed to a swale

* Unless the run-off is being conveyed to a constructed farm wetland designed in accordance with the Constructed Farm Wetland Design Manual – Scottish Environment Protection Agency / Northern Ireland Environment Agency – 2008.

Additional guidance

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

Recent changes

Section	Change
Spatial targeting	We've updated the target area map

Previous versions

[Previous versions of this page](#)

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