

Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems – Swales

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To see recent changes to this guidance, check the bottom of this 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.

Spatial targeting



[Map of target area – Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems – Swales \(PDF, Size: 900.5 kB\)](#)

doc_external_url: https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/Updated-targeting-map---Rural-Sustainable-Drainage-Systems-_-Swales-16-12-2015.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 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

* 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 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 | Previous text | New text |
|-------------------|--|---|--|
| Eligibility | Amendment to eligibility criteria. | 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. | Any land is eligible, provided that it meets all of the requirements set out below. |
| Spatial targeting | Updated target area map. | - | - |
| | Sentence removed from caption below the PDF. | 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. | - |
| Requirement | Clarification on run-off that isn't defined as slurry. | - | * 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. |
| Inspections | Clarification on run-off that isn't defined as slurry. | - | * 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. |

Previous versions

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