

# Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems – Wetland

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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 wetland to intercept and treat run-off that currently discharges direct to a watercourse or freshwater drain. Wetlands can improve water quality through natural processes, including filtration, retention, biological breakdown and plant uptake.

## 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 – Wetland \(PDF, Size: 1.2 MB\)](#)

doc\_external\_url: [https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/52\\_RSuDS\\_Wetland.pdf](https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/52_RSuDS_Wetland.pdf) This option 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 proposed rural sustainable drainage system feature.

## Requirements

Only run-off which does not fall within the definition of slurry may be conveyed to a wetland, unless the run-off is of a type permitted by The Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) (Scotland) Regulations 2003 as amended to be conveyed to a constructed farm wetland, and the wetland has been designed and constructed in line with the Constructed Farm Wetland Design Manual for Scotland and Northern Ireland, 2008 as evidenced by a sign-off from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

Additionally:

- run-off from pesticide handling or washdown areas must not be conveyed to a wetland
- fencing must be provided to protect people and livestock
- existing wetlands must not be used
- you must obtain planning permission, or have confirmation that planning permission is not required for your proposed wetland
- where a proprietary lining is used, a receipt for the liner will be required

## Payment

You can claim:

- £9 per square metre for wetland with a proprietary lining

- £5 per square metre for wetland with a soil lining

## Inspections

The inspectors will check:

- the location and extent of the wetland
- that there is a receipt for a proprietary liner
- only run-off which does not fall within the definition of slurry is conveyed to a wetland
- run-off from pesticide handling or wash-down areas is not conveyed to a wetland
- fencing has been provided to protect people and livestock
- existing wetlands are not used

## Additional guidance

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

## 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.

## Previous versions

[Previous versions of this page](#)

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