

# Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems – Wetland

**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**Date superseded: 7 December, 2021**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 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.

\*Wetlands designed in accordance with the Constructed Farm Wetland Design Manual for Scotland and Northern Ireland, 2008 can be used to intercept run-off, which does not currently discharge direct to a watercourse or freshwater drain providing it complies with the requirements below.

## Eligibility

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

Wetlands that receive field run-off only must be combined with the capital option for [Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems - Sediment Traps and Bunds](#) .

Wetlands 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 Sustainable Drainage Systems - Sediment Traps and Bunds](#) , or
- [Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems - Swale](#)

## Spatial targeting



[Map of target area – Rural Sustainable Drainage Systems – Wetland \(PDF, Size: 901.7 kB\)](#)

doc\_external\_url: <https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/87332-AECS-Review---2018-map---WQ-Rural-SuDS---Wetland.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 proposed rural sustainable drainage system feature.

For rural sustainable drainage system features accepting run-off from a steading, the plan must include a calculation of the size of the rural sustainable drainage system feature(s) 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 from to the watercourse.

## Requirements

Only run-off which currently discharges direct to a watercourse or freshwater drain and does not fall within the definition of slurry or silage effluent 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
- run off (except roof run off) must first enter a sediment trap or swale prior to the wetland

## 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 that does not fall within the definition of slurry or silage effluent is conveyed to a wetland (unless it is a Constructed Farm 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
<a href="#">Spatial targeting</a>	We've updated the target area map

## Previous versions

[Previous versions of this page](#)

## Download guidance

Click 'Download this page' to create a printer-friendly version of this guidance that you can save or print out.