



Martyn Evans
6th September 2018

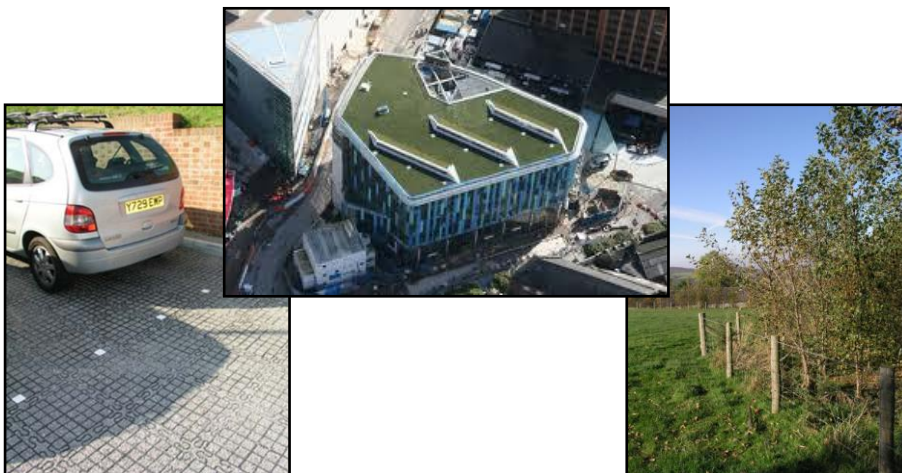
Darparu Systemau Draenio Cynaliadwy yng Nghymru **Delivering Sustainable Drainage Systems in Wales**



The journey so far

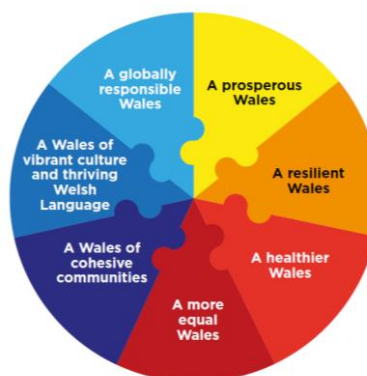
- **February 2016** Publication of interim, voluntary standards and technical guidance for SuDS in Wales.
- **May 2017:** Welsh Government consultation to introduce Schedule 3 and a statutory requirement for SuDS in new developments.
- **November 2017:** Further Welsh Government consultation to consider secondary legislation on how the approval and adoption system outlined in Schedule 3 will operate.
- **May 2018:** Welsh Minister for the Environment approves Commencement Order to bring Schedule 3 into force in Wales.
- **January 2019:** Current voluntary standards will become mandatory. Proposed new developments over one property or with a floor area of more than 100m² must be served by SuDS that comply with the Ministers' standards and approved by SABs

The case for change



New roles and purpose

- **Environment (Wales) Act 2016** helps manage Wales' natural resources and take better advantage of the potential to build resilience into our ecosystems.
- **Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** places new duties on public bodies in Wales to evidence of the wider benefits, such as health and wellbeing.





Wider references

- Supports our aim to embed the **Sustainable Management of Natural Resources** principles in all that we do.
- Links to wider legislation and strategy:
 - UWWTD
 - Water Strategy
 - Woodlands for Wales Strategy
 - SoNaRR
 - Natural Resources Policy
- Opportunity to radically change our approach to managing natural resources in Wales – taking a more ecosystems approach.

Principles of sustainable management of natural resources		
	Adaptive management	manage adaptively by planning, monitoring, reviewing and where appropriate, changing action
	Scale	consider the appropriate spatial scale for action
	Collaboration and engagement	promote and engage in collaboration and cooperation
	Public Participation	make appropriate arrangements for public participation in decision-making
	Evidence	take account of all relevant evidence, and gather evidence in respect of uncertainties
	Multiple benefits	take account of the benefits and intrinsic value of natural resources and ecosystems
	Long term	take account of the short, medium and long term consequences of actions
	Preventative action	take action to prevent significant damage to ecosystems
	Building resilience	take account of the resilience of ecosystems, in particular the following aspects: (I) diversity between and within ecosystems; (II) the scale of ecosystems; (IV) the condition of ecosystems (including their structure and functioning); (V) the adaptability of ecosystems

INCREASED URBANISATION

Pentrych, Cardiff

POPULATION GROWTH

RAINFALL SEEN AS A PROBLEM

Tongwynlais, Cardiff

FLOOD RISK

Llanberis, November 2012

CLIMATE CHANGE

WETTER IN WINTER...

... AND DRIER IN SUMMER

UKCP09 (50%, 2080s)

Ecosystem Pressures

POLLUTION AND SEWER DISCHARGES

Gwenfro, Wrexham

DEGRADED HABITAT AND BIODIVERSITY LOSS



Thinking sustainably

- Opportunity to think and act differently, and link with new purpose, roles and legislative requirements.
- An integrated approach – understanding natural systems
- Benefits for people, business and the environment
- Good design



SuDS in Wales

“Welsh Government’s objective is that, in future, drainage systems will provide multiple benefits, contributing to placemaking and improving the quality of public open space. Rather than surface water drainage being designed to deal with a disposal problem, it will aim to mimic natural systems, with water managed as much as possible on the surface, rather than in underground systems which are out of sight. These systems need to be designed to reduce flood risk, protect water quality, and to provide recreation and conservation benefits.”



What this means

- Commencement of Schedule 3, making the requirement for SuDS mandatory on new developments comprising more than one property or a floor area greater than 100m² from 7th January 2019.
- 100m² area defined in draft legislation as area of land covered by construction work, so this would include parking and patios.
- Statutory National Standards on the design, construction, operation and maintenance of SuDS schemes
- Six SuDS standards supported by guidance to ensure good-quality SuDS on new developments that will stand the test of time.
- Allocating SAB duties to local authorities. SABs to ensure that all SuDS schemes must meet the National Standards to be approved.
- Surface water drainage systems to be approved by the SAB before construction work with drainage implications may begin.
- SABs is responsible for adoption and maintenance.



What we want

- Developers to build great, multi-functional SuDS to manage surface water in new developments
- Drainage to be taken into account from the earliest stage, with greater emphasis on pre-application discussions for all interests.
- Surface water drainage systems to be approved by the SAB before construction work with drainage implications may begin for *most developments* (more than one property or 100m² floor area)
- Local Authority effectively deliver SABs, understand what the new application process means for them and work together, with internal staff and external partners, to deliver its aims.
- Effective, multi-purpose SuDS that will be maintained and remain effective for the life-time of the developments they serve.
- Everybody to learn from existing SuDS, both new and retrofit



Exemptions and transition

- Construction related to major roads (built by the Welsh Government), Network Rail railways and the activities of internal drainage boards (delivered by NRW).
- Single domestic dwellings and permitted developments with a floor area of less than 100m².
 - A number of consultation responses expressed concerns over the potential for developers to avoid the need for approval.
 - Welsh Government will maintain this exemption initially, with option to remove it after two years.
- Developments that have a planning approval or for which an application has been received by the planning authority before 7th January 2019 will not need to obtain approval from the SAB.
- Permitted developments over 100m² notified after this date will require SAB approval.



Next steps

- Five **statutory instruments** needed for the implementation of Schedule 3 have been prepared. Welsh Government will bring these forward soon.
 1. Fees
 2. Approval and adoption order
 3. Approval and adoption process
 4. Appeals
 5. Enforcement
- Minor amendments to the **SuDS Standards** have been completed. Now subject to Ministerial agreement (pending).
- Draft Welsh Government **Guidance** on the Implementation of the Act. Developed with the SuDS Advisory Group. It will be a living document, which will be updated to take account of comments received and lessons learned before and during implementation.



Next steps

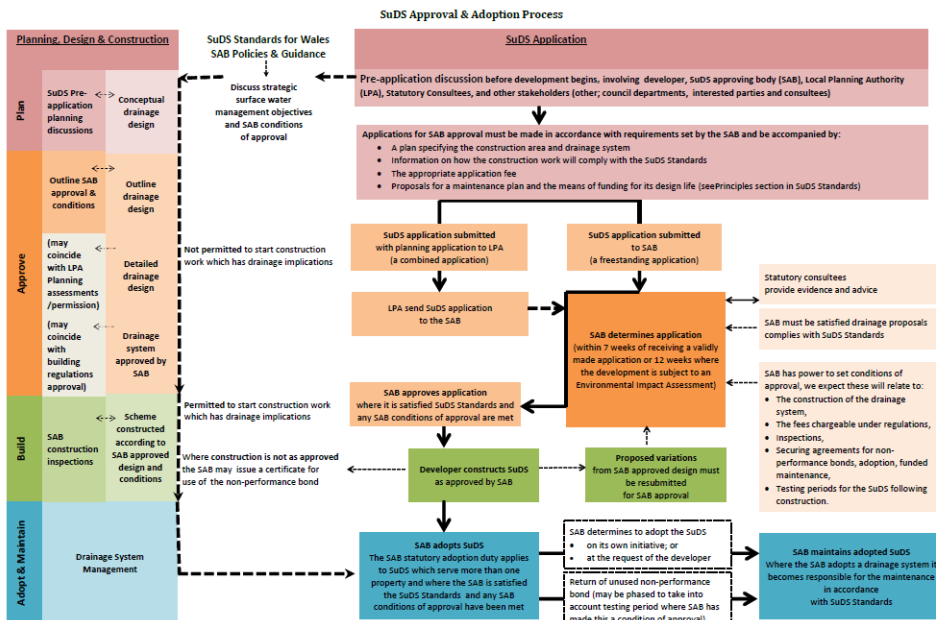
- **SuDS Implementation Group** set up to enrich guidance and training.
- **FAQs** to support implementation for local authorities' members and staff, developers and agents.
- WLGA developing **unified applications, approvals and adoption process**. Aim to ensure consistency and ease confusion.
- Industry standard agreement template and standard conditions.
- New **approvals process** from November 2018.



Challenges

- Limiting risk of proliferation of unadopted surface water drainage systems or poor management options.
- Ensuring good cooperation in and between partners. SABs with possible local government changes in mind.
- Dispelling myths on land take of SuDS
- Geography of our catchments.
- "Close to source as practicable" stresses importance of rural SuDS too.
- Ensuring suitable skills, resources and technical know-how to deliver.
- Need for retrofit cannot be forgotten.





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Diolch
 Thank you

