

Nominee: Sue Illman and Steve Wilson



Category	3. Outstanding Team
Nominators	Brian Smith, retired water industry professional

When Sue became interested in flooding and water management, promoting sustainable drainage as a solution, she coined the term “Civil Partnership” that is still echoed today in multidisciplinary conferences. Sue, the Landscape Architect and Steve, the Civil Engineer, encapsulate interdisciplinary partnership and the amazing things that can be achieved in the world of SuDS. They have delivered CIRIA SuDS courses, inspiring current and future SuDS practitioners about the importance of multidisciplinary working.

Sharing combined learning and experience from their respective disciplines resulted in joint authorship of the publication ‘Guidance on the Construction of SuDS’. They are co-authors of the CIRIA SuDS manual. Providing specialist services in their individual fields, they put aside competitiveness between consultancies, demonstrating the power of multidisciplinary working, which has inspired future generations of Landscape Architects and Engineers to engage with each other to deliver high quality SuDS.

Sue epitomises advocacy for SuDS and Blue Green Infrastructure, ensuring they are top of the agenda in the highest of circles, including a discussion with, the now, King Charles III. She tirelessly campaigns and influences Government to ensure SuDS are statutory and regulatory requirements in planning and environmental policy. She is SuDS champion for the Construction Industry Council and devised the popular ‘Let’s Get Nibbling’ animation. Sue is amongst the nine most inspiring women in nine decades of the Landscape Institute and one of only five female Presidents in its 94-year history: with “Water” as her theme.

As a civil engineer with geotechnical expertise, and inimitable polymath, Steve quickly came to understand that SuDS requires true partnership working with landscape architects. Surface water drainage being no longer just the domain of the civil engineer. Promoting SuDS as the drainage strategy, he has unlocked numerous brownfield sites for redevelopment. He developed the geotechnical and structural engineering industry standards for geo-cellular attenuation systems.