

# Retrofitting SuDS .....

...building resilience in urban areas

CIRIA November 2015

illmanyoung<sup>\*</sup>

# Why is it going to get worse?

- •Climate change bringing more extreme rainfall events and storm surges
- Towns and cities historically located on rivers
- Urban creep and upstream development
- Combined sewers have limited capacity
- Large number of homes and businesses currently at risk
- Estimated cost flood damage potentially £10's-100's millions per annum
   depending on level of protection provided
- Requires a comprehensive, long-term approach



# How retrofitting can help

Incremental but immediate effect

Multiple interventions inherently build greater resilience

Flexible application and value for money

Develop a mindset that considers SuDS first

Consider its application everywhere

Integrate with other planned works

 Aligns with other objectives around public health, GI, biodiversity, water quality and place-making

• NEED TO DO..... all the time ...... everywhere!

Portland – 56,000 downspouts Philadelph

Philadelphia – 25 year ongoing plan





# How's retrofitting different?

- Different approach to new build SuDS
- Different site constraints services in particular
- Design criteria decided on site by site basis
- Brownfield site redevelopment
- Engineering (and bioengineering) likely to be a key aspect
- Requires individual approach frequently linear
- Be opportunistic
- But can be expensive
  - so align with other outcomes



## Work in partnership

- Seek partnership funding with all stakeholders
- Consider local authorities, water companies,
   EA, LEPs, BIDs, local commercial organisations,
   third sector organisations, radio and TV
- Its not just cash!
- You need community champions
- Community engagement is time consuming
   ......expensive, but essential

Seek genuine partnerships... and be honest



### FLAT ROOFED BUILDING

- Consider when roofs need repair or renewal
- Green, blue or brown roofs
  - weight loading determines type of green roof





### **ANY BUILDING**

- Rainwater harvesting for internal use
- Water butts or tanks for external re-use
  - overflows back into existing system
  - can be done at any time

### INDIVIDUAL HOUSES

- Repave drives with permeable paving
- Disconnect downpipes
- Create rain gardens
- Green roofs on sheds
- Water butts
  - any loss of parking a key issue





### FLATS AND APARTMENTS

- Disconnect downpipes and
- Redesign the communal space
- Green roofs to garages, cycle sheds or bin stores or disconnect their downpipes

### CAR PARKS

- Repave sections with permeable paving and potentially connect to rain gardens
- Reconfigure to introduce stormwater planters
- Collect rain water for recycling on site
  - any loss of parking a key issue





### **SCHOOL GROUNDS**

- Redesign for creative play/use
- 'Spare' green space invariably available
- Soft SuDS especially align with the curriculum
  - be aware of BB98 requirements

### TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

- Resurfacing works an ideal opportunity
- Road widening/narrowing schemes
- Traffic management schemes
- Tram routes or light rail
- Parking schemes
- Pedestrianisation
- New cycle routes
- Street tree planters

### **DOMESTIC STREETS**

- Integrate with shared surface schemes
- Consider parking issues
- Tree pit planters very useful
- Create pocket parks in left-over space
  - beware the bin men!



### PARKS AND COUNCIL OWNED LAND

- Parks allow larger scale features
- Can be integrated with play or biodiversity
- Create pocket parks
- Enhance 'left over' green space
- Consider verges for shallow swales
- Roundabouts are a great opportunity!



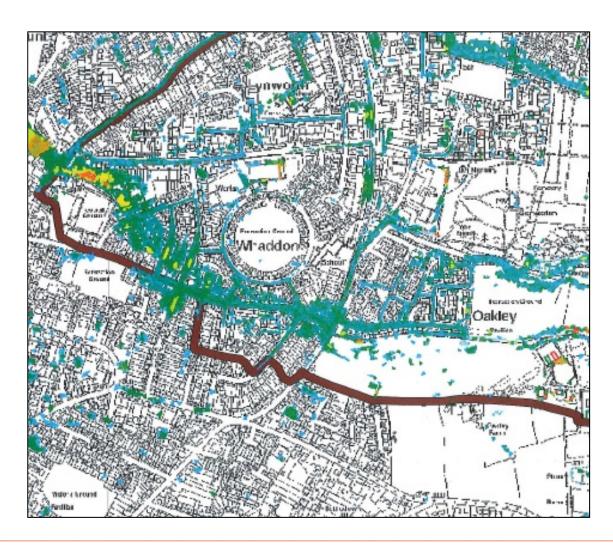


### **URBAN DESIGN**

- Town centre regeneration
- Pedestrianisation schemes
- Commercial projects
- Enhance 'left over' urban space
- 'Meanwhile' projects



# Priors Farm, Oakley – the problem



- Hatherley Brook overflowing
- Overland flows from hill
- Flooding of roads and houses generally
- Surcharging sewers downstream



# **Priors Farm, Oakley**





# **Retrofitting SuDS in Cheltenham**









illmanyoung

## **Design** issues

### RAINGARDENS

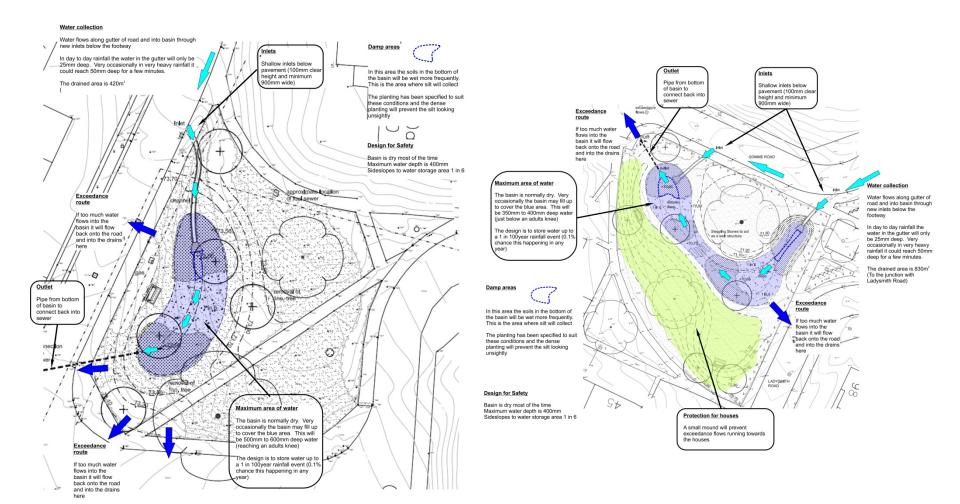
- Raingardens to take 1 in 100 storm event
- Limited infiltration as clay soils
- Stormwater diverted through raingarden with connection back to surface water system
- Overflow system
- Constructed soil
- Owners participated in design of rain garden and plant choices

### ATTENUATION BASINS

- Sized to take all road water to 1 in 100 storm event
- Gullies stopped up and inlet structures constructed
- Sett paving/rocks to break velocity
- Banks graded to 1 in 5 to allow gang mowing
- Simple flow control structure and reconnection back to surface water system
- Revitalised POS with planting and seating



# Design with engineering



## Raingardens



### Rain Gardens for Oakley



#### Rain Gardens for your local area

- · Existing pipes cannot cope with amount of water from roofs and tarmac
- · Environment Agency would like to build rain gardens in your local area to improve the situation
- · Your house is suitable for a rain garden because you have a down pipe and your front garden is either flat or slopes away from your house



Attractive garden features

#### What are Rain Gardens?

- · Similar to regular garden beds
- · Shallow depression in the ground or raised bed · Designed to capture rain water from your roof
- · Your downpipe would be connected into a shallow
- channel or directed straight into a rain garden
- · Layers of sandy soil help to slow down water entering the drainage system

#### Rain garden will be attractively planted

- · Planted with plants that don't mind getting their 'feet wet'
- · Ornamental grasses like sedges, snowy woodrush and chinese silver grass
- · Colourful herbaceous planting like Rudbeckia, Crocosmia and Aster

Look at design options overleaf

Irises





### Environment

### Rain Gardens for Oakley

#### What could they look like in my garden?

The type of rain garden suitable for you, depends on whether your garden is flat or sloping.

Option: Shallow planted depression for flat garden



Option: Sunken Timber Planter for flat garden



Option: Raised Timber Planter for sloping garden





Attractively planted shallow depreassion





## Raingardens



### Planting for your Rain Garden

We have created three colour schemes for you to choose from and a variety of plant choices. Please follow the steps below to design the planting for your rain garden.

Step 1: Choose a colour scheme out of three options; red/yellow mix, blue mix or pastel coloured mix. Then go to the relevent mix.

#### Red/Yellow Planting Mix

Step 2: Choose one species of the following evergreen shrubs to be planted individually.





Japanese spirea Spirea japonica 'Anthony



Prunus laurocerasus 'Zabeliana' evergreen, max height 1m

Step 3: Choose 2 species of the ornamental grasses and ferns to be planted in groups of 2-3.



Bowles' Golden Sedge

Carex elata 'Aures



Soft Shield Fern evergreen max 12m

Step 4: Choose one species of the herbaceous plant to be planted in groups of 2-3.



Coneflower 'Goldsturm'



Sneezeweed 'Moerheim Beauty', max. 1m



Knautia max, height 0.9m

Step 5: Add 2 species of ground cover planting to be planted in groups of 2-5 along the edges



Helleborus orientalis evergreen, max. height 0.5m



Rock Crane's Bill max. height 0.3m



Lady's Mantle 'White-ness', semi-evergreen, evergreen, max. height 0.5m



### Planting for your Rain Garden

#### Blue/Purple Planting Mix

Step 2: Choose one species of the following evergreen shrubs to be planted individually.



Cherry Blossom Prunus laurocerasus 'Zabeliana' Spirea japonica 'Little Princess' Cornus sericea 'Kel evergreen, max height 1m



Japanese Spirea



Kelseys Dwarf Dogwood

Step 3: Choose 2 species of the ornamental grasses and ferns to be planted in groups of 2-3.



max, height 0.7m



Great Woodrush Luzula sivvatica.



Soft Shield Fern Polystichum setiferum

Step 4: Choose one species of the herbaceous plant to be planted in groups of 2-3.



New England Aster Aster novae-angelica 'Violetta' Iris sibirica 'Shirley Pope' max. height 1.5m



Siberian Iris max. height 0.85m



Globe Thistle

Step 5: Add 2 species of ground cover planting to be planted in groups of 2-5 along the edges







Geranium 'Johnson's Blue' Heuchera 'Purple Palace Geranium 'Johnson's Blue', Heuchera villosa 'Purple Palace' evergreen, max. height 0.45m semi-evergreen, max. height evergreen, max. height 0.5m

# Raingardens

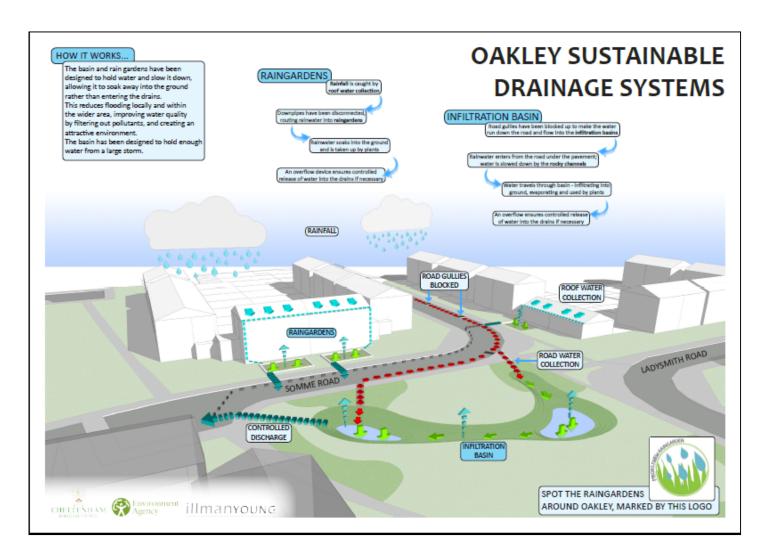








# Promoting understanding and SuDS awareness





# **Current schemes – original condition**









# **Current schemes – one of proposals**



## **Current schemes**

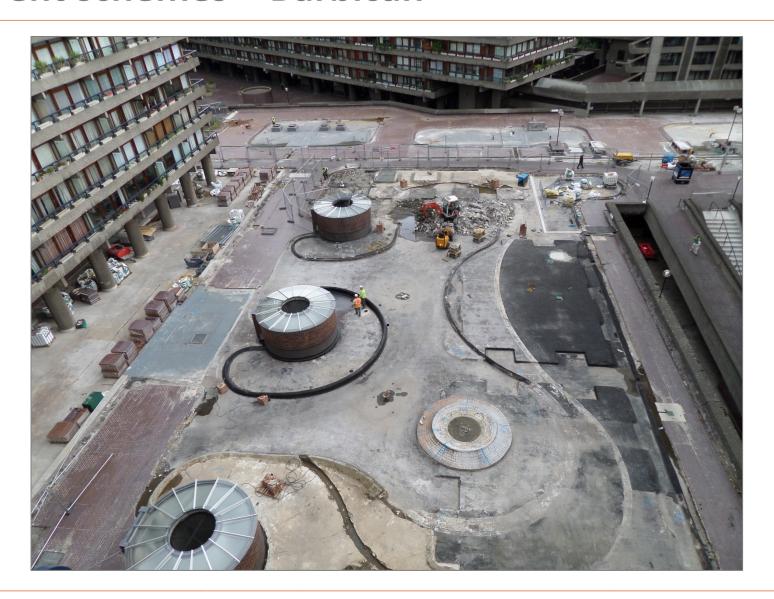




### **Current schemes**

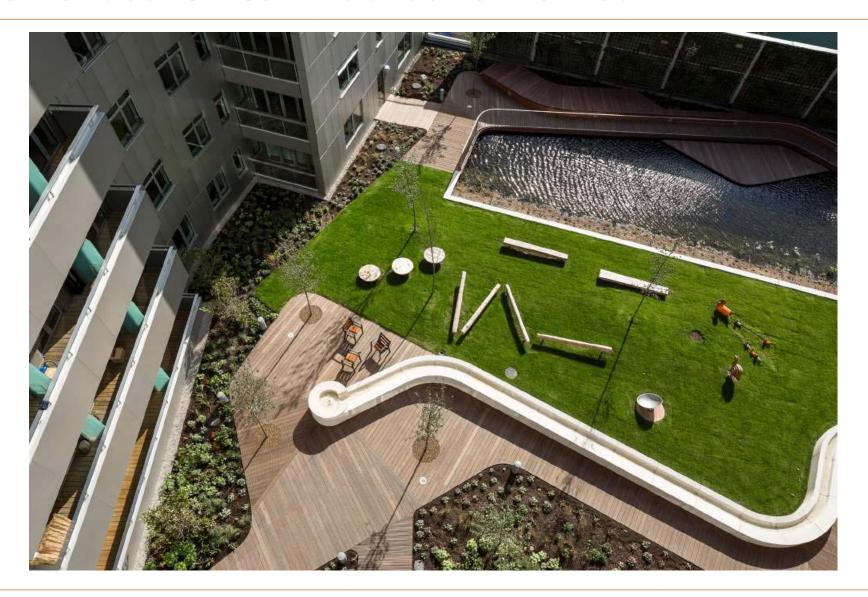


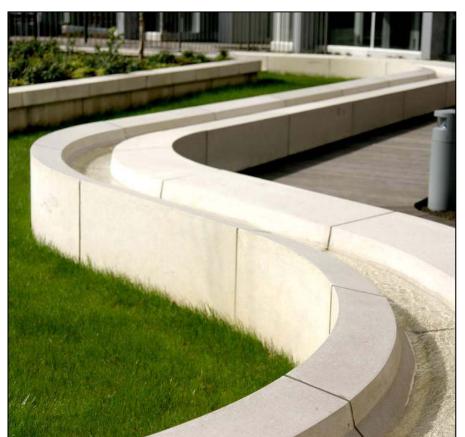
## **Current schemes – Barbican**



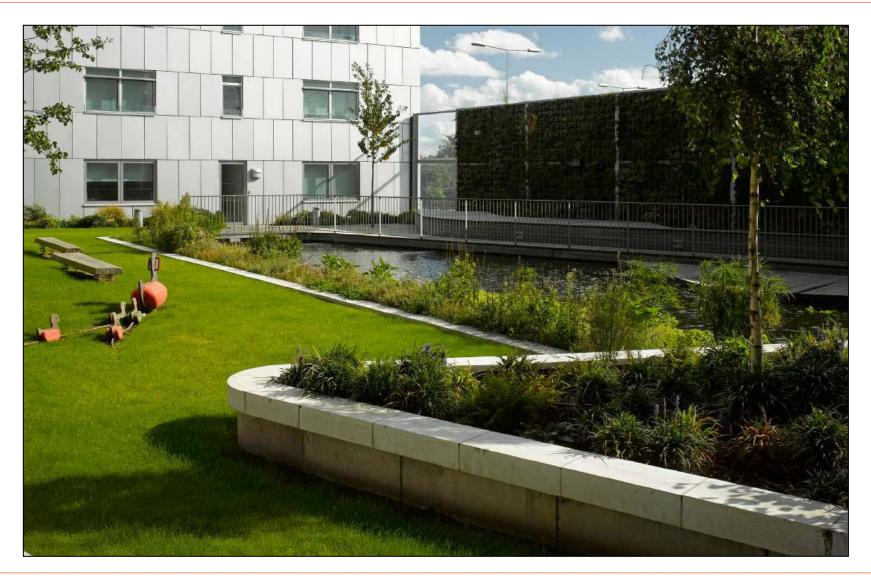
## **Current schemes – Barbican**

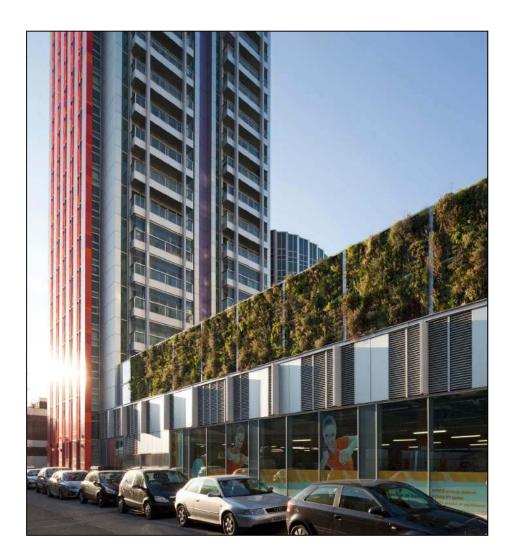


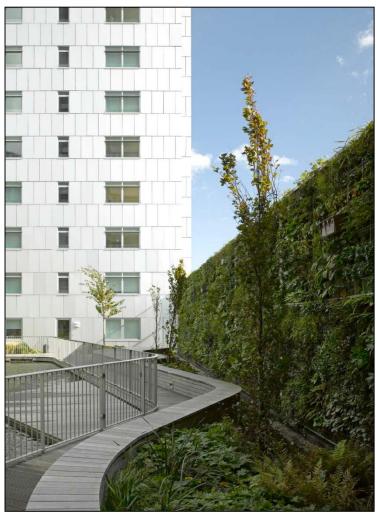














## ....and remember...



YouTube - 'Let's get Nibbling!'

illmanyoung

# Any questions?



illmanyoung