

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
11 January 2023

CIRIA welcomes Defra review of the implementation of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act (2010)

CIRIA has supported good practice sustainable drainage systems for over 20 years. The first CIRIA sustainable drainage guidance was published in 2001, with updates in 2004, 2007 and 2015 – the current [SuDS Manual](#) (C753). An update of the SuDS Manual is being scoped, and this is timely as yesterday (10th January 2023) Defra published its [review of the implementation of Schedule 3](#) of the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) and we are delighted that the recommendation to implement Schedule 3 has been accepted by Government. Whilst there is some work to do on the details, we are looking forward to continuing our support for the implementation of good practice SuDS through our highly regarded guidance documents and CPD training and through our established and vibrant SuDS community [susdrain](#).

Graham Fairhurst CEng, FICE, FCIWEM. Chair of the susdrain Project Steering Group commented: *“Along with many other stakeholders, I am very pleased that the government has produced the review for implementation of Schedule 3. SuDS are one of the best means available to us for managing both the flooding impacts of climate change and the water quality impacts we have from traditional urban drainage. At the same time, well-designed SuDS enable us to create better built environments; something that contributes to health and wellbeing. Whilst SuDS techniques are well-understood, the implementation of SuDS as core drainage infrastructure has been hindered by there being no designated means of approving, adopting, and managing them once built. These are the key issues handled by Schedule 3. This review is an excellent start to the new year.”*

Representatives of the susdrain steering group commented: *“The Government’s commitment to consider how Schedule 3 will be implemented will be greatly received by Water and Environmental colleagues across the industry. Mandating the requirement for new development to manage surface water runoff sustainably and embedding stewardship to help achieve the intended performance of drainage systems over their intended life, is another step forward in our nation’s challenge to adapt and become more resilient to climate change”* (**Matt Tandy, Associate Director, Environment, Water and Energy – UK & Ireland AECOM**).

“We warmly welcome the government’s announcement on Schedule 3 and the much-needed clarity it brings to enabling sustainable drainage in new developments. We also support the implementation of mandatory sewer adoption by water companies (Section 42) to minimise sewers in private ownership with potentially costly repairs borne by homeowners.” (**Martin Perrin, Director of Water and Waste Asset Strategy & Planning, Thames Water**).

Louise Walker, CIRIA Senior Research Manager and susdrain lead, said *“I am so pleased that we were able to input to this review and I am thrilled that its recommendations have been accepted; this will mean a huge improvement in the way surface water is managed in England.”*

ENDS

Notes to Editors

If you would like to talk to CIRIA about SuDS projects, good practice guidance or training please contact:

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About CIRIA

CIRIA is the construction industry research and information association. It is an independent, not-for-profit, member-based research organisation that exists to champion performance improvement in construction.

Since 1960 CIRIA has delivered support and guidance to the construction, built environment and infrastructure sectors. CIRIA works with members from all parts of the supply chain to co-ordinate collaborative projects, industry networks and events. Its high-quality guidance is delivered to industry through publications, training, and other performance improvement activities.

For more information on CIRIA's products and services please visit www.ciria.org.

About susdrain

The susdrain community brings together the relevant stakeholders to drive delivery of high-quality SuDS. susdrain supports the planning, design, approval, construction, and maintenance of SuDS. susdrain's ultimate focus is to demonstrate that SuDS can deliver multiple benefits on all sites.

For more information on susdrain please visit www.susdrain.org