

# What are SuDS and how can they help storm overflows?

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) are an eco-friendly and sustainable way to allow better drainage of rain, surface water and groundwater in communities. They can stop excess water entering the sewer network or flooding local areas.

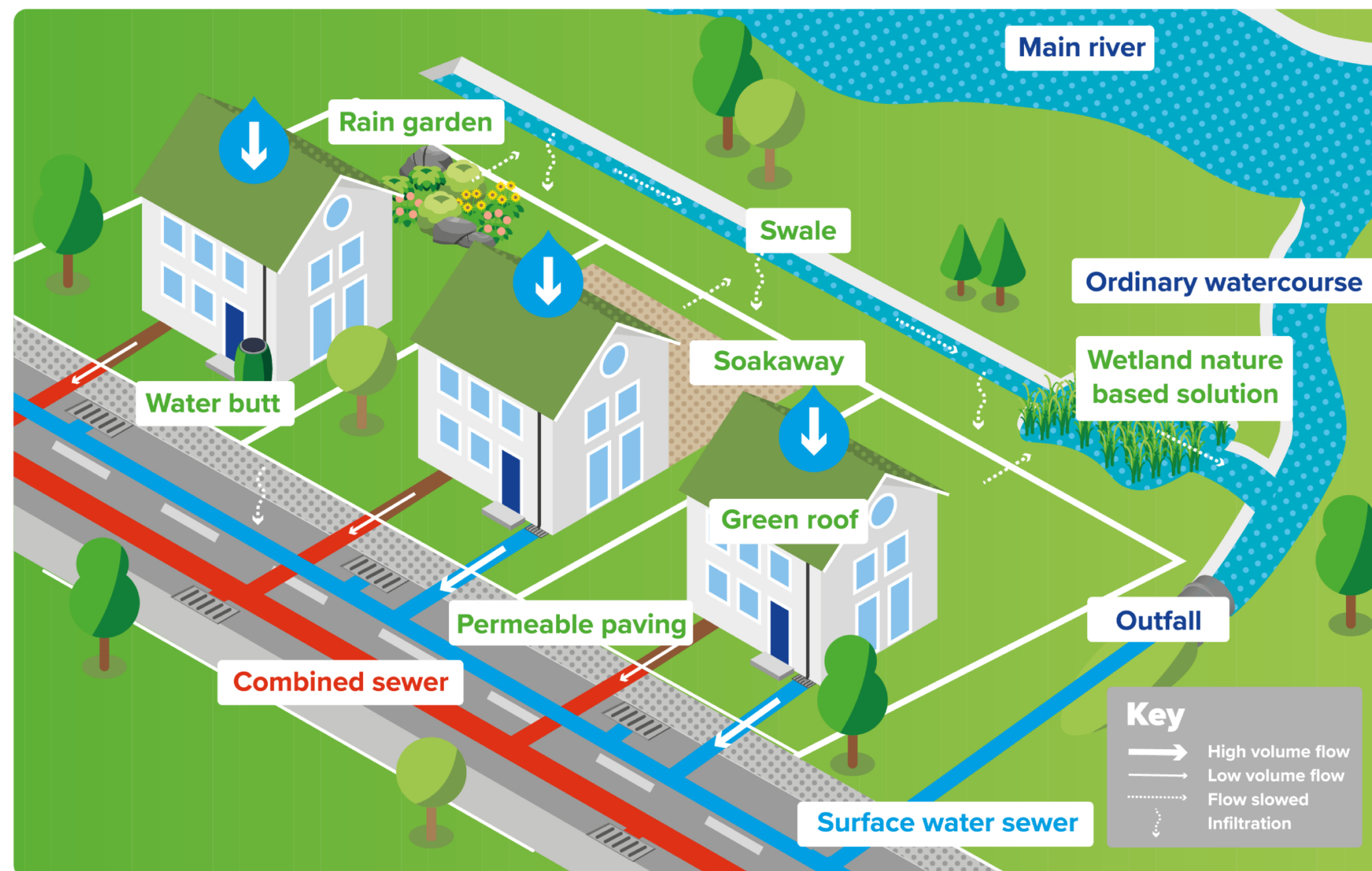
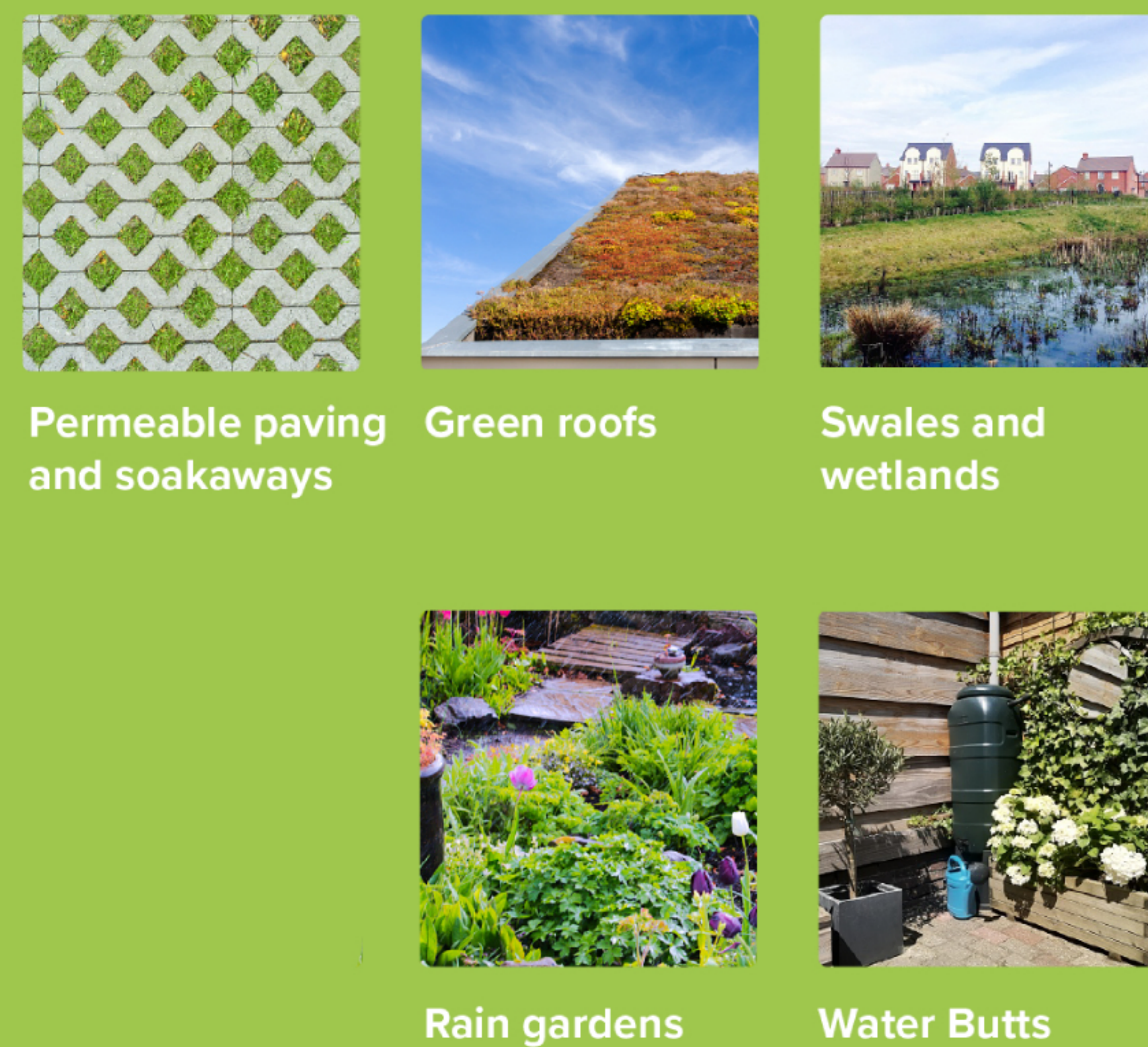
During heavy rain, local sewer networks can struggle to cope with the amount of water entering pipes and storage tanks. When they fill up, we use pressure relief valves built into the network – known as storm overflows – to stop homes and businesses from flooding.

These overflows release excess water through outfalls into rivers and the sea. Storm overflows are part of the design of the sewers and are regulated by the Environment Agency (EA). They're used in areas where the sewers were built to carry both wastewater from homes and businesses, and rainwater from roofs, gardens and roads.

The best way to reduce storm overflows is to reduce the amount of water that enters the system during heavy rainfall. This is why we're focusing our efforts on our 'slow the flow' initiative, finding innovative new ways to reduce the amount of excess water entering and overwhelming the system. SuDS are a critical part of this, as they can be used to hold, slow and redistribute both rain and groundwater.

## Sustainable drainage

The risk of flooding and storm overflows can be reduced by slowing surface water runoff reaching the sewer. There are a number of ways we can do this...



## Slow-drain water butts

