

Planning Guidance for Developers

Amenity and Biodiversity in SuDS Technical Note

Hampshire County Council
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This document has **5** pages including the cover.

Document history

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Contents

Chapter	Page
1. Aims and Objectives	4
1.1. How to use this document	4
1.2. National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems	4
1.3. Standard 5 (amenity) and 6 (Biodiversity)	4
2. Amenity and Biodiversity Guidance	5
Tables	
Table 1 - Example of an amenity and biodiversity strategy at initial design.	5
Figures	
Figure 1 -Example Detailed Drainage Plan with Amenity and Biodiversity SUDS	5

1. Aims and Objectives

This guidance is for anybody proposing to submit technical drainage information as part of a planning application for major development with surface water drainage. It sets out how Hampshire County Council expects the National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Standard 5 (amenity) and 6 (biodiversity) to be applied in practice. Please note that where there are contradictions between the National Standards and Local Policy, the more stringent requirements shall apply.

The level of detail required for supporting information varies depending on the type of planning application being made.

1.1. How to use this document

This document is written to provide more detailed support where needed on how to meet the requirements of the National Standards for SuDS. It should be read in conjunction with Hampshire County Council's Planning Guidance document.

1.2. National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems

In July 2025, the government introduced the National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), replacing previous guidance. These standards guide developers, designers, and local authorities, and will apply to planning applications in Hampshire from January 2026. The seven standards cover:

1. Runoff destinations
2. Everyday rainfall (interception)
3. Extreme rainfall and flooding
4. Water quality
5. Amenity
6. Biodiversity
7. Design

This document set out what should be submitted by developers to evidence that the proposals meet standards 5 and 6 only. Please see the other technical notes for details about meeting the other standards.

1.3. Standard 5 (amenity) and 6 (Biodiversity)

The National Standards for SuDS Standard 5 states:

'A 'SuDS approach' shall be adopted that maximises benefits for amenity through the creation of multi-functional places and landscapes.'

The National Standards for SuDS Standard 6 states:

'A 'SuDS approach' shall be adopted to ensure the surface water drainage system maximises biodiversity benefits throughout the development lifecycle. The surface water drainage system shall add biodiversity value by:

- creating diverse, self-sustaining, resilient local ecosystems which contribute to net gains in biodiversity
- supporting and promoting natural local habitat and species,
- contributing to the delivery of local biodiversity strategies
- contributing to habitat connectivity'

2. Amenity and Biodiversity Guidance

SuDS should contribute to meeting existing biodiversity and amenity planning requirements. This is not an additional obligation. The CIRIA SuDS Manual (Chapters 5–6) provides amenity and biodiversity design guidance. At the initial design stage (outline or where layout isn't set), identifying potential deliverable features (see Table 1) is sufficient. At detail design (full/reserved matters), any amenity or biodiversity providing SuDS should be identified. SuDS must comply with LPA planting and design standards relating to biodiversity and amenity. If biodiversity or amenity provision is not required, state this in the drainage strategy.

Table 1 shows how to demonstrate the feasibility of amenity and biodiversity-supporting SuDS. At this stage, confirming potential feasibility is sufficient.

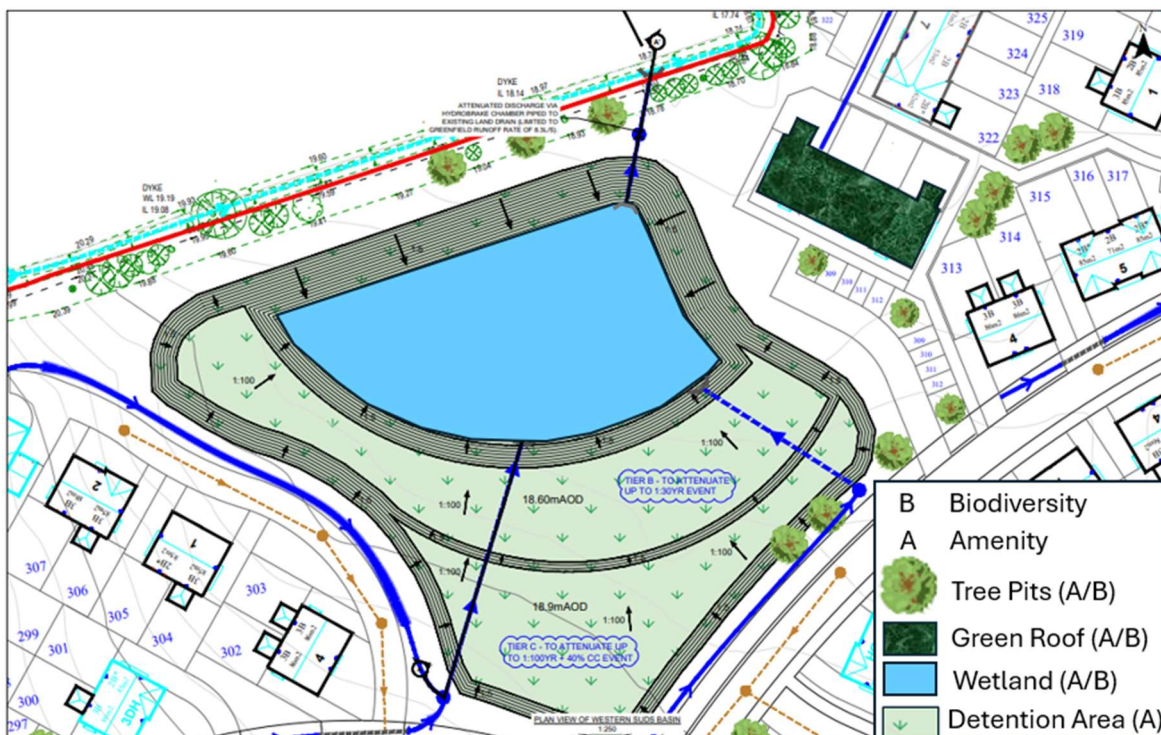
Table 1 - Example of an amenity and biodiversity strategy at initial design.

SuDS	Use	Viability at (Site Name)	Reason for viability rating
Type of SuDS	Amenity/ Biodiversity	Yes/No	Explain why the SuDS type can or can't be used at site for biodiversity or amenity.

At detailed design stage, show that SuDS provide amenity and biodiversity benefits by labelling drainage plans (e.g. using an appropriate key as shown in figure 1). Labelling is only required where wider planning requirements exist; if not, state this in the drainage strategy.

Figure 1 - Example Detailed Drainage Plan with Amenity and Biodiversity SuDS

Detail Drainage Plan with Amenity & Biodiversity SuDS



Explain how the proposed SuDS provide amenity or biodiversity in the Design and Access Statement (amenity) and Biodiversity Statement (biodiversity), where required.

