

## Anglian Water's Surface Water Drainage Policy

### 1.0 Introduction

Following a [Written Statement \(HCWS161\)](#) made by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, LLFA's have a clear role as statutory consultee on planning applications for major developments in relation to surface water.

Anglian Water (AW) recognises the need to support the national drive to implement sustainable drainage management both for new and redevelopment sites to provide a sustainable environment and provide mitigation on environmental impacts from climate change.

This document seeks to provide guidance on Anglian Water's position regarding the management of surface water arising from new and redeveloped areas.

### 2.0 Policy principles

Anglian Water as a Sewerage Undertaker has a duty to provide public sewer services for the management of both foul water and surface water from development sites.

For developments on Greenfield or Brownfield sites, sufficient evidence must be provided to prove that all surface water disposal routes have been explored. The Developer must demonstrate that the site does not increase flood risk both within the development and elsewhere, and that the surface water disposal hierarchy has been considered.

The disposal hierarchy should be in the following order of preference:

- Rainwater re-use (rainwater harvesting)
- Discharge by infiltration to the ground
- Discharge to an open surface water body
- Discharge to a surface water sewer, highway drain, or other drainage system
- Discharge to a combined sewer

**NB:** 1. A surface water connection to the combined sewer **can only** be permitted under exceptional circumstances and if it's proved that the previous site was connected to the same sewer. The combined sewer will be checked it has enough capacity to take the added flow. Anglian water will seek to separate any surface water from **ANY** new developments to relieve the existing pressures and treatment requirements.

2. If the combined sewer does not have enough capacity, the surface water should be run in a separate **new surface water only sewer** with its own outfall, and the total cost of the new infrastructure is paid for by the Applicant/Developer..

### 3.0 Surface water design criteria

In assessing the impacts of surface water on the existing network, Anglian Water will consider the following design criteria:

### **3.1 Undeveloped (Greenfield) sites**

Discharge rates and volumes to be limited to the equivalent Greenfield runoff rate (with on-site attenuation for all events up to the 1:100 rainfall event plus climate change).

Any new connection to Anglian Water public sewers will be limited to the equivalent 1 in 1 year Greenfield rate from the development, or an appropriate rate as agreed with Anglian Water.

### **3.2 Previously developed (Brownfield) sites**

Where a Brownfield site is redeveloped, no historic right of connection will exist, and any sewer connections will be treated as new. The site will be treated as if it was Greenfield and therefore discharge rate limited to the equivalent 1 in 1 year Greenfield rate. The Greenfield runoff for the site is calculated using the FEH method. A free Greenfield runoff estimation tool can be accessed on the UKSuDS website [www.uksuds.com](http://www.uksuds.com)

Where the above is not practical, the Developer is asked to calculate the existing Brownfield rates based on the existing roof areas. The discharge rate from the development will be limited to the equivalent 1 in 1 year rate, or an appropriate rate as agreed by Anglian Water.

In both circumstances, Anglian Water will assess the capacity of the public sewers and upon meeting the above policy principles, advise and make recommendations on the proposed development and or new connection.

### **4.0 Key principles and design standards**

For any new adoptable drainage system, Developers must demonstrate that the surface water drainage scheme ensures the following:

- The drainage system is designed so that flooding does not occur on any part of the development for the 1 in 30 year rainfall event other than in those areas/systems designated to store or convey water (for both conventional/unconventional system).
- Manage run-off within the development to ensure no flooding within any building or part of a utility infrastructure in a 1:100 year plus climate change event.
- Provide adequate exceedance capability within unobstructed paths within the development.

Further performance requirements and local standards should be referred to in the [DEFRA Standards](#) and LLFA Drainage Policies.

In addition, Developers are advised to refer to [AW SuDS Manual](#) for further guidance on our design criteria and standards for surface water drainage systems and adoption requirements.

**For further information or clarification on our  
Surface Water Drainage policy, contact:**

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