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SETTING THE SCENE IN SOUTH EAST

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Renowned for both its natural beauty and its economic vitality, the South East is a very popular place to live and work. It is the most populous region in England and is expected to see significant levels of growth in the future. The types of development that will accommodate this growth will range considerably, from new settlements and major urban extensions to small infill development in existing areas and lower density development in rural areas. This, along with the predicted impact of climate change will put considerable pressure on infrastructure and natural resources. The quality of the landscape in the South East is also exceptional, with over 37% of the region being designated as a 'protected landscape' for its outstanding natural beauty. Not surprisingly then, the delivery and management of green infrastructure and natural assets are incredibly important to the South East, not only to mitigate the impacts of climate change and maintain quality of life for communities, but also to showcase the extraordinary natural beauty it holds.



Good management of rainwater is vital to the South East, to protect the quality of water courses and coasts, to minimise the risk of flooding and to provide a reliable water supply to communities. The use of SuDS is essential for meeting these water management needs, and SuDS become even more advantageous where they can deliver green infrastructure and support high quality development.

The physiology of the South East, provides a range of opportunities for SuDS, where designers can tailor solutions to enrich and complement the local environment. Variations in soils, ecosystems, built and landscape character and community needs will all call for different benefits to be delivered through water management and urban design. Early consideration of SuDS provides the best chance for delivering these benefits.



Large swathes of chalk soils with good permeability in some parts of the South East provide excellent opportunities to use infiltration SuDS to reduce runoff and replenish groundwater supplies. Delivery of SuDS schemes in development areas, greenfield and brownfield, can also be used to reduce pressure on existing infrastructure and reduce surface water flooding which is a particular problem in and around urban areas. Using SuDS as an integrated system across a development will also support ecosystems by regulating flows, delivering habitat and filtering out sediment and pollutants that harm our treasured water courses and coasts. Importantly, as one of the driest parts of the UK, with some areas of the region receiving only 650mm of rain a year, the ability of SuDS to filter and store water for reuse will help build water security for the region.

The delivery of SuDS is central to the future of the South East that we want to live and work in