

## Implementation of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management 2010: Position Statement by the National Flood Forum (NFF)

### Our Position

**Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)** are a critical tool for managing surface water flooding from new development. By mimicking natural drainage, SuDS reduce runoff, ease pressure on sewers and watercourses, and deliver wider benefits for water quality, biodiversity, and communities.

**Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010** was designed to make SuDS mandatory for new developments in England. While this has been successfully implemented in Wales, the continued failure to enact Schedule 3 in England has left a significant gap in flood risk management and increased exposure to surface water flooding.

**We believe** the **urgent, full implementation of Schedule 3 in England** is essential. SuDS must become a **mandatory and enforceable standard**, embedded within planning and building control. Without statutory backing, uptake remains inconsistent, undermining flood resilience.

**We believe** implementing Schedule 3 would play a key role in **reducing flood risk, improving environmental outcomes, and strengthening community resilience**.

### Key Concerns and Challenges

#### 1. Delay in implementation

The failure to enact Schedule 3 in England leaves new developments without robust surface water management, increasing flood risk.

#### 2. Resource and capacity gaps

Many local authorities lack the funding, technical expertise, and staffing needed to properly regulate, approve, and monitor SuDS.

#### 3. Enforcement and long-term maintenance

Without clear accountability and maintenance requirements, SuDS schemes risk underperforming or failing over time.

#### 4. Lack of coordination

Poor integration between planning, drainage, and environmental bodies weakens the overall effectiveness of flood risk management.

## National Flood Forum Calls to Action

We call on the government to:

- 1. Immediately enact Schedule 3 in England**, placing statutory duties on local authorities to adopt, approve, and maintain SuDS.
- 2. Provide dedicated funding and resources** so local authorities can develop the technical capacity needed for effective SuDS regulation and enforcement.
- 3. Issue clear national guidance and training** to ensure consistent SuDS standards across all regions.
- 4. Introduce mandatory maintenance regimes and clear responsibility frameworks** to ensure SuDS continue to function throughout their lifetime.
- 5. Embed community engagement** in the design, delivery, and management of SuDS, ensuring local knowledge informs flood resilience planning.

### Conclusion

Schedule 3 and SuDS represent a **critical opportunity** to strengthen England's flood resilience, protect communities, and improve environmental outcomes. The National Flood Forum urges government to **prioritise the swift implementation of Schedule 3**, supported by clear regulation, adequate funding, and long-term accountability.

Only through **comprehensive, enforceable surface water management** can England build safer, more resilient communities in the face of increasing flood risk.