

Control of surface water discharges from new development

Betterment policy update

What is changing?

Wiltshire Council is reviewing its betterment policy with a view to publishing the updated policy in winter 2019.

What is our current policy?

With regards the control of surface water discharges from new development, Wiltshire Council requires post development discharges to provide **at least 20% betterment** over pre development discharges for both peak flow and volume. This aligns with national policy, as outlined in the SuDS Technical Standards¹, which requires the following peak flow and volume control:

Peak flow control

S2 For greenfield developments, the peak runoff rate from the development to any highway drain, sewer or surface water body for the 1 in 1 year rainfall event and the 1 in 100 year rainfall event should never exceed the peak greenfield runoff rate for the same event.

S3 For developments which were previously developed, the peak runoff rate from the development to any drain, sewer or surface water body for the 1 in 1 year rainfall event and the 1 in 100 year rainfall event must be as close as reasonably practicable² to the greenfield runoff rate from the development for the same rainfall event, but should never exceed the rate of discharge from the development prior to redevelopment for that event.

Volume control

S4 Where reasonably practicable², for greenfield development, the runoff volume from the development to any highway drain, sewer or surface water body in the 1 in 100 year, 6 hour rainfall event should never exceed the greenfield runoff volume for the same event.

S5 Where reasonably practicable², for developments which have been previously developed, the runoff volume from the development to any highway drain, sewer or surface water body in the 1 in 100 year, 6 hour rainfall event must be constrained to a value as close as is reasonably practicable to the greenfield runoff volume for the same event, but should never exceed the runoff volume from the development site prior to redevelopment for that event.

S6 Where it is not reasonably practicable² to constrain the volume of runoff to any drain, sewer or surface water body in accordance with **S4** or **S5** above, the runoff volume must be discharged at a rate that does not adversely affect flood risk.

¹ [Defra non-statutory technical standards for sustainable drainage systems, 2015](#)

² Compliance with the technical standards is unlikely to be reasonably practicable if more expensive than complying with building regulations – provided that where there is a risk of flooding the development will be safe and flood risk is not increased elsewhere. Similarly, a particular discharge route would not normally be reasonable practicable when an alternative would cost less to design and construct.