

MAYOR OF LONDON

Surface Water Flood Risk in London

Victoria Boorman, Principal Water Policy Officer, London

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Surface Water Flooding in London - What's the risk?

PROPERTIES AT RISK OF SURFACE WATER FLOODING

The National Infrastructure Commission Report

[NIC-Reducing-the-Risk-of-Surface-Water-Flooding-Final-28-Nov-2022.pdf](#)

- More properties are at high risk from surface water than of river and coastal flooding combined
- **85 per cent** of properties at high risk of surface water are in **towns and cities**

Future risk

- **20,000-135,000** due to increases in intensity of rainfall due to climate change of two to four degrees above pre-industrial levels.
- An additional **50,000-65,000** more properties may also be put at risk due to increases in impermeable surfaces in urban and suburban

 Residential Properties	 Commercial Properties
High (1 in 30 year event) 68,499	High (1 in 30 year event) 12,148
Medium (1 in 100 year event)) 164,546	Medium (1 in 100 year event)) 25,623

Source: GLA modelling based on: The GeoInformation Group (2016), UKMap; and Environment Agency (2017), Risk of Flooding from Surface Water.

SUMMER 2021 FLOODING

- Following the July 2021 floods, the Mayor convened a roundtable of those with responsibility for responding to our managing surface water flood risk in London
- A number of areas were highlighted for improvement and action under 5 key headings: Governance, Evidence, Funding, Communication
- A task and finish group was established to examine the challenges of longer-term management of surface water flood risk in the context of climate change. The group published a Progress Report in March 2022

The Mayor's projects and programmes

BASEMENT FLOODING LEAFLET



This leaflet is designed to help you prepare for flash floods, which we expect to happen more frequently in our city. Be prepared – it could help to save lives.

Safety message from the Mayor of London:
 "Serious flooding in London last year proved that the climate crisis was no longer a distant problem, but one increasingly on our doorsteps. We must all take action now to help build a greener city that is more resilient to the devastating impacts of climate change."

 **Sadiq Khan**
 Mayor of London

Flash flooding happens when heavy rain falls on hard surfaces overwhelming drainage and sewers. Flash floods are difficult to predict and often happen quickly with fast flowing water. They are more likely to happen during intense summer storms. The likelihood of flooding remains low for most basements, but where it happens, damage and risk to life can be serious.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TODAY TO BE PREPARED:

- Sign up to weather warnings: [metoffice.gov.uk](https://www.metoffice.gov.uk)
- Put your valuables on a high shelf to protect them from water damage.
- Make sure you know how to turn off your water, gas and electricity supply.
- Check your household building or contents insurance covers flooding. If you don't have any, FloodRe may be able to help: [floodre.co.uk](https://www.floodre.co.uk)
- Save phone numbers e.g. your insurance company, landlord, housing association and local council in your phone.
- Check drains outside your home and on your street are clear. Report street drainage issues to your council by phone, their website or at [fixmystreet.com](https://www.fixmystreet.com) or [lovecleanstreets.info](https://www.lovecleanstreets.info)
- Prepare a flood kit.

Your flood kit should contain items you must have if you need to leave your home. Things like:



Medicine and prescriptions



Warm / Waterproof clothing



Phone charger



ID / Passport and insurance policies



Torch

BEFORE IT FLOODS, YOU SHOULD:

PREPARE:
 Check Met Office warnings and listen to local news if storms are forecast. Make sure your flood kit is ready just in case.

IF IT FLOODS, YOU SHOULD:

ACT:
 If water starts to enter your home, move yourself, your family and pets away from danger. Turn off electricity, gas and water if safe to do so. Avoid flood water if possible as it may contain chemicals and waste. Don't drive through flood waters, as it's dangerous.

SURVIVE:
 Call 999 if there is a threat to life. Emergency services can help if you need to evacuate your home.

LEND A HAND:
 Check on vulnerable neighbours if you can.

WHO TO CALL DURING A FLOOD:

- For emergencies such as serious illness, injury and risk to life, call 999: fire, ambulance and police services
- If your toilet, sink or bath is flooding, call Thames Water: 0800 316 9800
- Inform your council of flooding coming from outside your property e.g. from the road or pavement - visit [gov.uk/find-local-council](https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council) to locate your council. Then, find contact information for the right team by searching for 'flood' or 'flooding' through the council website.

USEFUL CONTACTS

- For general advice, call the Environment Agency's 24-hour floodline: 0345 988 1188
- The National Flood Forum has a helpline that provides general support before, during and after a flood on issues including insurance, home re-instatement and home resilience. Contact the National Flood Forum charity: 01299 403 055 [nationalfloodforum.org.uk](https://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk)
- To find an insurer, try FloodRe: [floodre.co.uk](https://www.floodre.co.uk)
- If you are a renter inform your landlord/housing association if your home has flooded and needs repairs.

For more advice, visit: [London.gov.uk/flash-flooding](https://www.london.gov.uk/flash-flooding)



CLIMATE RESILIENT SCHOOLS

Working with 101 schools



SuDS Rain planters at the end of downpipes



Thames Water Smarter Business Visits to improve water efficiency



Climate adaptation education resources linked to monitoring of the SuDS rain planters

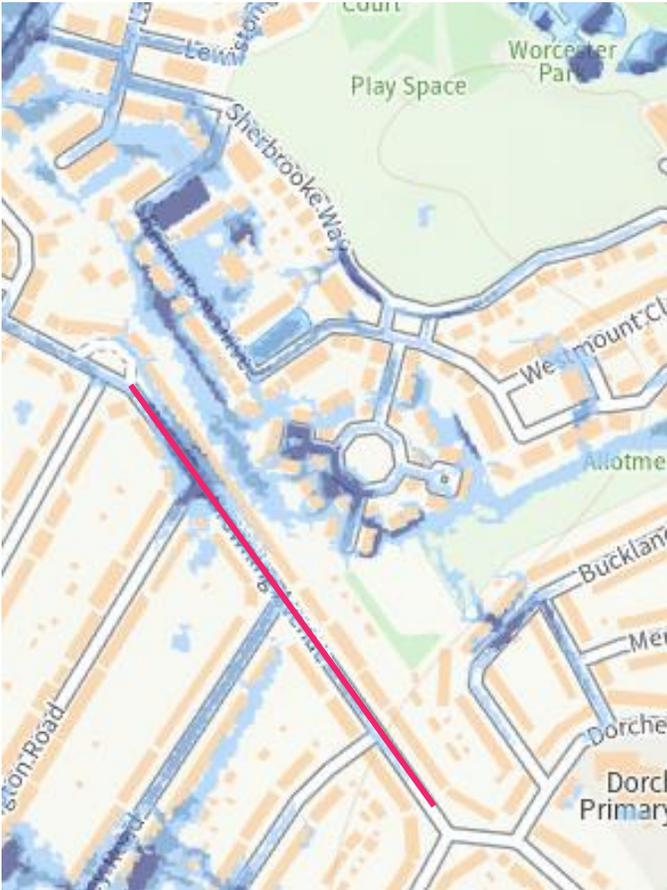
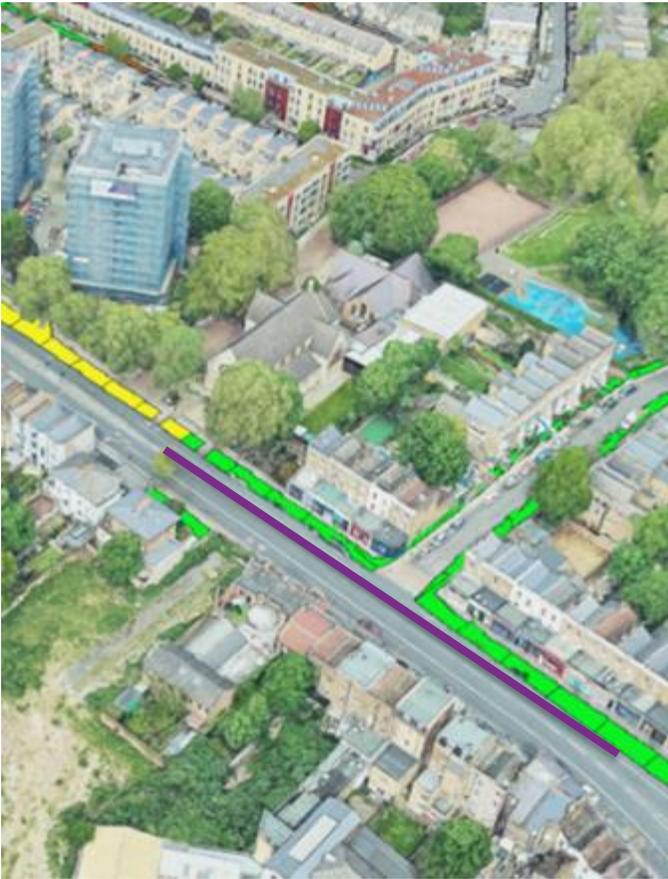


Be-spoke climate adaptation plans

36 schools have had 260 Suds rain planters installed so far

GLA INFRASTRUCTURE MAPPING APPLICATION IMA

Retrofit SuDs in the highway



<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/better-infrastructure/data-and-innovation-tools/infrastructure-mapping-application>

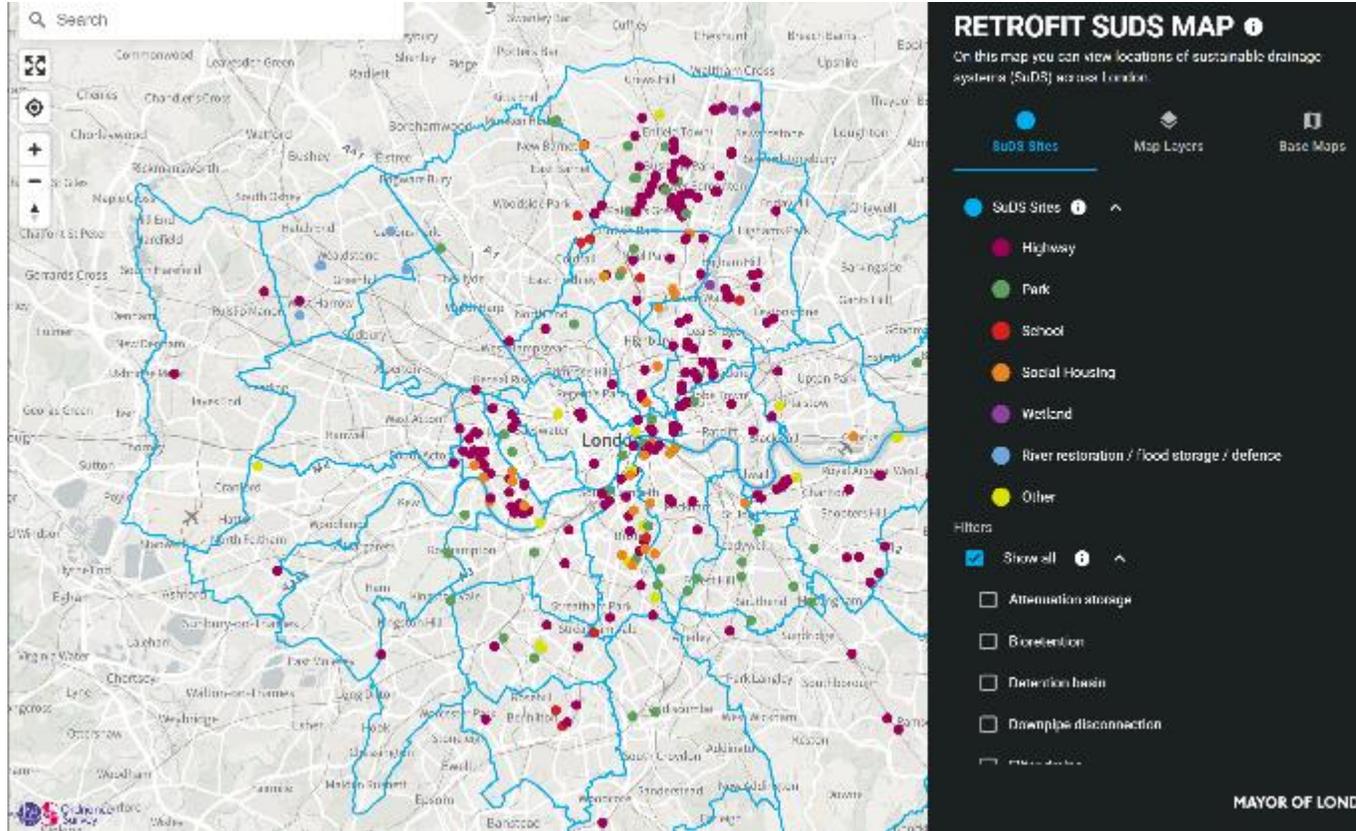
RETROFIT SUDS MAP

apps.london.gov.uk/suds

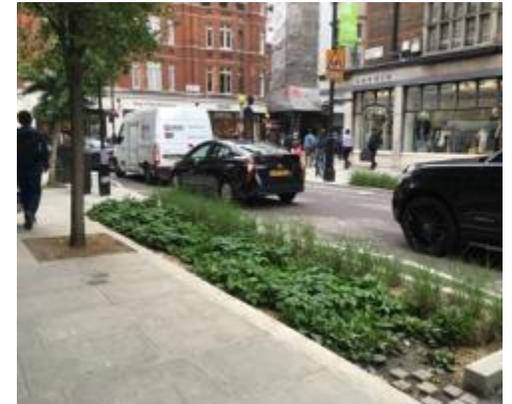


Victoria Crescent, Haringey

Dalgarno Gardens, K&C



Hillman Street, Hackney



Marylebone High Street, Westminster

SUDS PROJECTS ACROSS LONDON

PHOTOS CREDIT JAMES O JENKINS

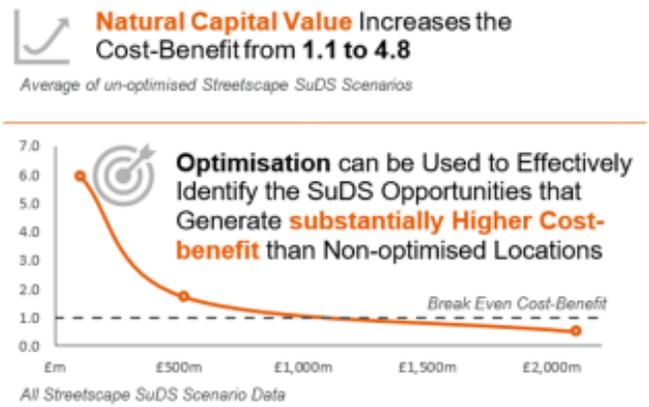
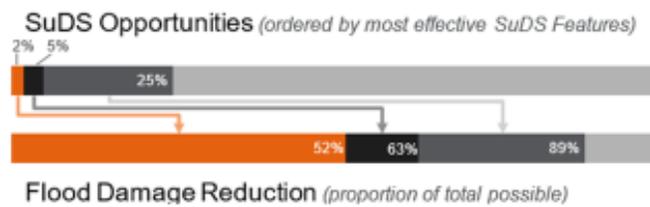


MAYOR OF LONDON

Other London Projects

LONDON STRATEGIC SUDS PILOT – NOW PROSPER

London Strategic SuDS Pilot Project



£3 Million in Street Tree SuDS Improvement Would Secure Full FCERM GiA Funding

On Average per London Borough

Already Secured £600,000 in Short-term FCERM GiA Partnership Funding



THAMES WATER

SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

SWMP Updates

Surface Water Management Programme

- Strategic Partnership with Lambeth & Hounslow
- Oxfordshire: how to work with 2 tier authority
- Activities to support future SuDS implementation:
 - Asset Standards
 - Costs
 - Share experience and knowledge: webinars (www.thameswater.co.uk/suds)
- Bringing SWMP and DWMP closer together

Project Examples

We heard from a variety of organisations implementing a range of different types of SuDS features:

- * [Constructed Wetlands](#) - Ian Russell, Enfield
- * [SuDS in Schools](#) - Daniel Johns and Paul Wyse. You can also view the [design report](#).
- * [GLA: SuDS in London](#) - Holly Smith, GLA
- * [Highway SuDS](#) - Kayan Cheng, Hackney
- * [Housing Estates](#) - David Ifould, Groundwork



THAMES WATER

SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

22 projects - £1,538,318 funding – 4.31 ha of effective catchment area

Entity	No of projects	Proposed Funding	Effective catchment area - ha	Cost effectiveness £/ha
London – Boroughs	17	£1,327,118	3.87	£340k/ha
London – community organisations	3	£50,000	0.20	£250k/ha
Thames Valley	2	£161,200	0.24	£670k/ha

Sewer Type	Number of Projects	Proposed Funding	Effective catchment area - ha	Cost effectiveness £/ha
Surface Water	11	£763,118	2.70	£280k/ha
Combined	9	£614,000	1.37	£450k/ha
Foul	2	£161,200	0.24	£670k/ha

