Funding Application Guidance
Property Level Solutions

AMP8 Surface Water Management

Contents

Introduction and Aims of the Programme

We are working in one of the most densely populated and built-up regions in the UK, which places a lot of pressure on drainage. Without action, population growth, urban creep and climate change would increase the likelihood of sewer and surface water flooding and pollution.

We have historically focussed on grey engineering solutions, but we are shifting to sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) which replicate the drainage processes provided by the natural environment.

This approach can help to:

- manage the quantity or rate of runoff of surface water (and so improve flooding resilience, as well as reducing the need for overflows),
- improve the quality of surface water run-off (and so reduce the risk of pollution),
- improve the amenity of public spaces as well as wider community benefits,
- help improve biodiversity and the customers' experience of their local environment.

Thames Water's Surface Water Management Programme follows these central principles:

- Need for capacity - we want to focus on areas where we know our existing sewer systems have lower capacity.
- Collaboration - we want to partner with those who are already improving the streets and places where we live, so we can achieve mutual benefits. We want to continue to build our experience of collaborative working.
- Generate public value - this is one of Thames Water's Strategic Ambitions. We want to go beyond regulatory compliance to demonstrate long-term stewardship of the environment and deliver social good for communities.

In AMP8 we are inviting applications for two workstreams:

- Workstream 2 - Property level solutions – Now Open to Applications. Anticipate 6 rounds of funding allocations between now and April 2029.
- Workstream 3 - Third party projects – the first round of applications has completed. Anticipate 4 rounds of funding allocations between now and April 2028. Please see our separate guidance for how to apply for funding through this workstream.

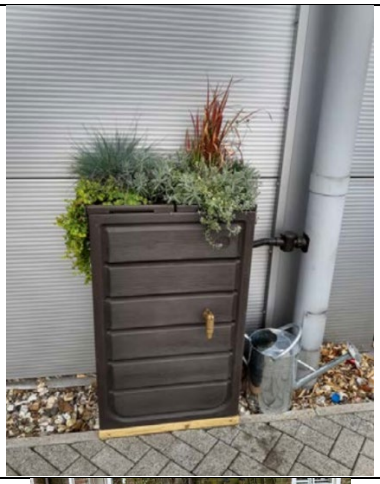
Thank you to everyone who applied and delivered projects in AMP7, which ended in March 2025. We received fantastic applications and jointly invested more than £30m to fund 74 surface water management projects. In AMP8, the programme has been expanded to include other property level solutions, such as soakaways and raingardens.

1. Call for Projects: Workstream 2 – Property Level Solutions

We are now inviting project partners to apply for funding of property-level sustainable drainage solutions. The Surface Water Management Programme (SWMP) funds can cover implementation costs of sustainable property level solutions that disconnect or attenuate surface water flows from Thames Water sewers. Our sewers include surface water, combined and foul sewers.

What are property-level sustainable drainage solutions?

Sustainable property level SuDS solutions are small-scale drainage solutions installed at or near individual buildings. They manage rainfall close to where it lands, reducing runoff and improving water quality. Examples include:

Type	Description	Example
Water butts	A water butt is a container used to collect and store rainwater, typically from roof gutters, for later use in gardening or outdoor cleaning, helping to conserve mains water and reduce runoff.	
Planters	A planter is a vegetated container that captures and filters rainwater runoff, helping to reduce flooding, improve water quality, and enhance urban biodiversity.	
Soakaways	A soakaway is an underground drainage feature that collects and gradually disperses rainwater into the surrounding soil, helping to reduce surface water runoff and prevent flooding.	

Type	Description	Example
Raingardens	A raingarden is a shallow, planted depression designed to capture and absorb rainwater runoff, helping to reduce flooding, filter pollutants, and support biodiversity.	
De-paving	Removing impermeable surfaces lets rain soak into soil, reducing runoff, easing drainage pressure, and lowering local flood risk. Support provided through covering costs of waste material from de-paving.	

Please contact us if you wish to have a discussion about your proposed scheme under Workstream 2 or Workstream 3 – we look forward to hearing from you. You can contact us at: swmp.applications@thameswater.co.uk.

Who can apply?

You can apply for funding from us if:

- You are a:
  - public body, including local councils,
  - not-for-profit organisation, including charities, community groups and environmental non-governmental organisations,
  - company or other business registered with HMRC, including sole traders, community interest companies and community benefit companies,

Schools should apply through Workstream 3.

And your project aligns with the following:

- You intend to complete a property-level sustainable drainage solutions scheme that will result in rainwater being diverted away from a Thames Water sewer, or stored for a time before being released back into a sewer at a controlled rate, with the aim of reducing flooding or pollution.
- Your project will be completed and operational by 30th November 2027.

How much can I apply for?

Funding requests should be between £10,000 and £100,000. However, only the best projects will be awarded larger grants (over £50,000).

There's no limit on the number of applications from each local authority area or applicant. However, we reserve the right to balance the allocation of funding between applicants.

Our cost assessment is based on storage volume or the effective contributing catchment area disconnected or redirected from Thames Water assets. We encourage the use of multiple sources of funding to maximise what can be achieved.

Project Need

The AMP8 SWMP is being delivered as part of Thames Water's Flooding Programme. We are therefore looking for projects that reduce the volume and / or rate of rainwater runoff to the Thames Water system, aligning with long term strategic need for capacity as well as known existing areas of flood risk. We are also interested in potential benefits to our Storm Overflow priority catchments.

When considering a scheme please get in touch with the SWMP team to allow a pre-screening assessment of whether the site of your project aligns with our priorities. Please contact us on swmp.applications@thameswater.co.uk with the location details.

Due to the difficulty in quantifying flood risk reduction, we will benchmark projects by the effective contributing area of a catchment (in m^2) which is either disconnected or where the flow of rainwater is attenuated (as per AMP7); as well as the storage volume provided, in m^3.

What can be the funding be used for?

The Surface Water Management Programme (SWMP) funding can be used to cover design and construction costs of SuDS projects that disconnect or attenuate surface water flows from Thames Water sewers. Our sewers include surface water, combined and foul sewers.

All costs must be directly associated with developing the surface water management projects or surface water management element (which may be only part of a wider project). The cost could include:

- surveys
- purchase of materials such as water butts
- construction / installation costs
- management of the project development and execution, including appropriate reporting and technical assurance.

The SWMP funding can cover up to 100% of eligible costs, however we encourage you to search for other sources of funding. Applications that bring multiple funding sources together are more likely to be successful.

For this first round, projects must be completed by 30th November 2027.

We are looking for a range of different types of projects and partners, to help inform our long-term strategy.

Projects that include the following are more likely to be successful:

- Projects that reduce the volume of runoff to the Thames Water sewer network
- Projects that reduce risk to an area that is at risk of property flooding
- Projects that provide added benefits to people and wildlife through vegetation and/or water re-use

Design Standards

It is recommended that all design should comply to CIRIA C753 – The SuDS Manual & relevant British Standards. The following resource provides useful further guidance:

GLA Sustainable Drainage Guide

2. Application Timeline and Support

The application process will follow the timeline outlined in the Table below.

If you have any additional questions, please contact us through the email address - swmp.applications@thameswater.co.uk. We will endeavour to respond to all emails within 1 week.

We are also happy to offer an additional support and facilitate individual conversations to discuss specific opportunities you are developing and to provide initial feedback on your potential submissions.

Table 1 – Application process timetable

Date	Application Process Milestone
Friday 12th December 2025	Applications for property-level sustainable drainage solutions open. Visit our website to complete and submit the online application form. Additional information supporting your application i.e. connectivity surveys, maps, should be sent to the email address: swmp.applications@thameswater.co.uk
December 2025 – February 2026	Application support – 'How to apply?' webinar and Q&A sessions We will be running a series of online events to support you with your applications. We will present the application process, scoring criteria, evaluation methodology and provide further information about how to maximise your chances of success. The sessions are planned on: • Thursday, 11th December 2025, 9.30am • Friday, 16th January 2026, 1pm We also plan to run dedicated Q&A sessions where you can get support with your applications. These are planned on: • Wednesday, 17th December 2025 • Wednesday, 21st January 2026 If you wish to be added to our contact list and sent invitation to webinar and Q&A session, please register your interest here.
Friday 27th February 2025 8am (GMT)	SWMP Applications submission closes. By the end of this date, you need to complete and submit an online application form and email supporting information such as drawings, survey evidence, maps and calculations to: swmp.applications@thameswater.co.uk We will endeavour to confirm receipt of your online application and supporting documents within 1 week of submission.

Date	Application Process Milestone
March 2026 - April 2026	Evaluations and clarifications. During this period, the eligible applications will be evaluated by team of assessors using a multi-criteria assessment methodology. Details of the Evaluation methodology and scoring criteria are included in Section 5 of this Guidance. We may request more information / clarification to support any statements made within the application or supporting information. We will expect to receive your response to any clarifications within 10 working days from our email to you. We reserve the right to stop the evaluation and reject the application if the missing information is not provided within the specified period. We will also inform you if your application is not eligible for funding.
Late April 2026	Steering Group Meeting All evaluated applications will be presented to the Thames Water SWMP Steering Group for acceptance. The Steering Group is comprised of Senior Thames Water staff. They will confirm which applications to fund and may also request additional information.
By end May 2026	Application feedback By the end of May 2026 (earlier if we can) we will inform you via email on the outcome of your application. If successful, you will be asked to complete and sign a Funding Agreement and further discussions will take place with the SWMP team to progress funding. If unsuccessful, we will provide feedback on reasons why your application has not been prioritised for funding allocation.

3. Application Form and Supporting Information

The questions contained within the online application form are listed below. The detailed scoring criteria can be found in Section 5.

Supporting Information

As a minimum, you will need to provide the following supporting information with your application:

- Evidence that the property connects to the Thames Water network (connectivity surveys, IAS, dye tests or other evidence)
- A map of the target area and the total number of units you would like to target
- A volumetric calculation of storage provided

In addition, please provide the following if appropriate to your scheme:

- For charity, NGO or private entity applicants, we require a confirmation of your status to confirm your eligibility to apply for funding. Evidence of the organisation type may include charity registration number, company number, public body terms of reference, HMRC registration, proof of status as a legal entity.
- Letters or statement of support from project collaborators.

Summary of application questions

The online application form must be completed once it is started, the form does not allow for partial completion, saving of responses and return to the form at the later date/time. To help you preparation of your responses, the summary of the questions as stated in the application form are shown below:

1 Eligibility Check

1. Confirmation that you are eligible to apply for SWMP funding.
2. Confirmation that you are willing to maintain the proposed feature
3. Confirmation that you are willing to sign up to the Funding Agreement (subject to review).

2 General Information and Contact Details

4. Opportunity Name.
5. Opportunity Location (address with postcode, coordinates).
6. Your organisation name.
7. Your organisation type.
8. Contact name and contact details of lead entity.
9. Do you have any additional organisations involved in this project? This may be a community group, other funding party, or another department in your local authority.
10. What best describes your project? Water butts, raingardens, soakaways, planters.
11. Anticipated implementation start date.
12. Anticipated completion date.
13. What are the key project risks or potential showstoppers that may impact the project delivery date?
14. Is your organisation the landowner or manager of the site(s)?

3 Need Information

15. Outline drivers of the opportunity. What need is this opportunity addressing?

16. Which of the following evidence of need do you have? Is the impact of the scheme measurable or quantifiable? If yes, please provide details (e.g. number of properties flooded, pollution incidents, flow reduction, downstream etc.). If possible, please make use of our online tools such as the Thames Water DWMP portal, which you can use to identify sewers of low capacity. Please contact us or your local system planner if you require support.
17. What type of Thames Water sewer does the area currently drain to?

4 Technical Information

18. What will the outflow arrangement be? Does rainwater flow back into Thames Water sewer system? Is, where?
19. What is the total and effective area of catchment from which flows are being disconnected or attenuated from the TWUL's network in m^2?
20. How many units (properties) will be targeted?
21. What volume of water will be stored (in m^3)?

5 Costs and Funding Information

22. What is the amount of funding sought from TWUL SWMP? (TWUL SWMP funding is VAT exclusive).
23. What is the estimated overall scheme budget?
24. Please provide a breakdown of cost showing the surveys, management and implementation costs
25. What other funding sources have been sought and what amount of funding has been secured to date? Are there other funding sources that are still to be explored? If no other funding sources identified, why is this?

6 Solution Information

26. Will your project include any education or volunteering component?
27. Does the opportunity include elements of rainwater re-use? E.g. rainwater harvesting, water butts

7 Other

28. Please provide any other additional comments that support this application.

8 Submission

29. Please provide name and date.

4. Application Scoring

The Thames Water SWMP team will screen submitted application to identify if:

- the project is eligible i.e. if it disconnects or attenuates rainwater from the Thames Water assets through sustainable property level solutions,
- the applicant is eligible to apply for funding,
- all required information and supporting documentation has been provided,
- the required supporting information is included.

Note we reserve the right to reject the application if the supporting documents are not provided.

Scoring Approach

Applications will be evaluated and scored using a multi-criteria assessment methodology. Applications will be scored against the following criteria:

1. Need for Capacity Score - is the project in an area that suffers from flooding? Will the project help to reduce flooding / flood risk or pollution risk?
2. Feasibility Score – does the property have a confirmed connection to the Thames Water sewer? Is the organisation experienced in delivering such schemes?
3. Community Engagement Score – does the project provide community and educational benefits with maintenance plan.

The three criteria are weighted as follows:

1. Need for Capacity - 30%
2. Feasibility - 30%
3. Community Engagement and Benefits - 40%

1. Need for Capacity Score

Each opportunity will be assessed on 'Need for capacity' principle (Scoring range: 0 – 5 points)

N1. Sewer type
   a. Combined or foul sewer – 1 point
   b. Surface water sewer – 0 points

N2. TWUL Flooding Hotspots (Scoring range: 0 – 1)
Scheme is located within 500m buffer zone of flooding hotspot (1 points)

N3. Capacity assessment (Scoring range: 0 - 1 points):
Use DWMP Practitioner Portal – review incidents within catchment local to the scheme (max 500m – can be increased for large schemes), score 1 point if:
   - DWMP CAF surcharge – up to 2030, and/or
   - Modelled DWMP Flooding – Internal or External

N4. Additional flooding assessment (Scoring range: 0 - 1 points):
   - Historical Flooding / Anecdotal flooding reports supported by stakeholder evidence, and/or
   - Significant flooding incidents e.g. affecting more than 10 properties

N5. Storm Overflows (Scoring range: 0 – 1 points):
   - AMP8 CSO priority catchment 500m radius of CSO (1 points)

2. Feasibility

Each opportunity will be assessed on feasibility (Scoring range: 0 – 5 points)

F1. Confirmed connectivity to Thames Water sewer (Scoring range: 0 - 2 points):

a. Connectivity unknown (0 points)
b. Desktop assessment / visual indication of connection (1 point)
c. Connectivity survey data provided in submission confirming runoff connects to Thames sewer network (2 points)

F2. Clear implementation plan and contractor (Scoring range: 0 - 2 points):

a. No contractors currently engaged (0 points)
b. Procurement route identified and evidenced in submission (1 point)
c. Procurement of contractor ongoing and quotes obtained / detailed pricing provided (2 points)

F3. Partnership funding

a. Applicant brings additional party into partnership, providing funding or a contribution in kind (e.g. Friends society to help with maintenance) (1 point)

3. Community Engagement and Benefits

Each opportunity will be assessed on community engagement and benefits (Scoring range: 0 – 4 points)

C1. What level of engagement has been completed to date? (Scoring range: 0 - 2 points):

a. No active engagement (0 points)
b. Involvement from residents or stakeholders (e.g. councillors), educational or awareness raising components proposed (1 points)
c. Involvement from residents or stakeholders (e.g. councillors), educational or awareness raising components proposed, with minimum of 40% uptake of recipients confirmed (2 points)

C2. How do you plan to maintain / encourage maintenance of property level solutions beyond installation? (Scoring range: 0 - 2 points):

a. No plan considered (0 points)
b. Maintenance plan in place and provided in submission (1 points)
c. Maintenance leaflet prepared and provided in submission and/or previous experience of successful property level solution maintenance programme (2 points)

5. Technical Guidance on Connectivity and Volume

The AMP8 SWMP is being delivered as part or Thames Water's Flooding Programme. We are therefore looking for projects that will reduce flood risk to properties (internal and external).

Due to the difficulty in measuring flood risk reduction, we will measure project delivery through the following metrics:

1. Confirmation of connection to the Thames Water sewer network (through survey)
2. Number of units with confirmed uptake, or assumed uptake rate (maximum suggested uptake rate of 30% of properties)
3. Storage volume provided, in m^3
4. Catchment area in m^2

Applicants should provide a simple calculation showing the catchment area, storage volume, and therefore depth of rainfall that will be attenuated. For example, for a downpipe planter:

Total roof area = $20m^2$

Effective roof area = 20 * 0.85 = $17m^2$

Water butt volume = 200l = 0.2 m^3

Rainfall depth attenuated = 0.2/17 = 0.011m = 11mm

Solutions should be either self emptying (to ensure there is always available storage capacity), or allow for a minimum rainfall depth of 10mm to be stored.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