Funding Application Guidance
Third Party Projects

AMP8 Surface Water Management

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1. 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 flooding and pollution.

We have historically focussed on 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.

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 we will be inviting applications for two workstreams:

- Workstream 2 - Property level solutions – Application window to follow (October 2025). Anticipate 6 rounds of funding allocations between now and April 2029.
- Workstream 3 - Third party projects – Open Now for Applications. Anticipate 4 rounds of funding allocations between now and April 2028.

2. Call for Projects: Workstream 3 - Third Party Projects

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

The first application period is for Workstream 3 - Third Party Projects run between August and December 2025 and allocated approximately £1.5m to the projects.

The second application period for Workstream 3 – Third Party Projects is open from **Monday, 26th October 2026 until Monday, 18th January 2027, 10am (GMT)**. We're planning to allocate up to £3m in this second round.

Note, this will be followed by a further 2 rounds of funding allocation for Workstream 3.

Please contact us if you wish to have an early discussion about your proposed scheme under either workstream – 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 and environmental non-governmental organisations,
  - company or other business registered with HMRC, including sole traders, community interest companies and community benefit companies,
  - school, including academy trusts, parents' associations or other organisations working on behalf of a school;

And your project aligns with the following:

- You intend to complete a sustainable drainage project 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 March 2030.
- You have a clear plan for how you will ensure suitable maintenance will be carried out.

Note, if your project involves construction of the grey infrastructure only i.e. below ground concrete tank, it is unlikely the project will be successful in securing SWMP funding, unless you can demonstrate a clear and measurable flood mitigation benefit.

If you are a school applying for SWMP funding, you might also be interested in the Department for Education SuDS in school Grant Scheme – for more information refer to DfE website. We would be interested to support schools in a joined application with the Local Council and/or other delivery partners. Please indicate your interest in the application or contact us separately to discuss at: swmp.applications@thameswater.co.uk.

How much can I apply for?

Funding requests should be between £20,000 and £250,000. However, only the best projects will be awarded larger grants (over £150,000).

Funding requests between £150,000 and £250,000 will be subject to additional assurance to ensure they are located in the high need area, have a high confidence in the scheme delivery within required timescale and demonstrate cost effectiveness and overall benefit.

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.

As a guide, we would expect the following:

Table 1 – Preferred and maximum cost effectiveness of the opportunity

Surface type	Preferred Cost	Maximum Cost
'Source Control' SuDS incl: Highway Raingardens SuDS in Schools Housing estates SuDS	< £75/m^2 effective contributing catchment area < £2,000/m^3 volume storage	£125/m^2 effective contributing catchment area < £3,000/m^3 volume storage
'Regional Attenuation' SuDS incl. Flood storage in parks and woodland *(surface water sewers)*	< £200m^3 volume storage	< 500m^3 volume storage

The costs are 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 within this.

Projects requesting higher than the maximum cost will only be considered if they demonstrate a strong need and clear reasons for not seeking co-funding.

Project Need

The AMP8 SWMP is being delivered as part of Thames Water's Flooding Programme. We are therefore looking for projects that will reduce flood risk to properties (internal and external), aligning with long term strategic need for capacity (DWMP) as well as known existing areas of flood risk. All projects will need to demonstrate that they will provide a flood risk reduction, although there is not a need to quantify this. We are also interested in schemes that are in our Storm Overflow priority catchments.

When considering a scheme please refer to the following data to check if it aligns with our priorities:

- DWMP Practitioners Portal
- Flooding Hotspots Catchments
- Storm Overflow Priority Catchments list

Please contact us for access to the above resources. We expect to refine the above data during the course of AMP8 and for future project calls as additional data becomes available.

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) funds can 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:

- feasibility study
- surveys
- detailed design
- construction costs
- initial maintenance costs for the first year (defects / establishment of planting)
- 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.

Projects must be completed by March 2030.

Examples of projects eligible for funding

Sustainable drainage measures include but are not limited to planters, rain gardens, green roofs, detention basins, ponds, rainwater (combined with greywater) harvesting, and permeable

paving (note that water butts on domestic properties will be funded through a separate Call for Projects). Examples of the types of schemes we're looking to fund include:

- Incorporating raingardens into traffic calming build-outs or cycle lanes
- Downpipe disconnection into communal features, such as detention basins and swales in housing estates
- Incorporating SWM features such as permeable paving and swales into highways improvements or resurfacing
- Surface water management to enhance wellbeing and education in schools and other public buildings, such as swales, planters and green roofs
- Rainwater harvesting for re-use, for example by a private business or a community garden
- Wetland creation in a park

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 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
- Projects with a low cost per m^3 storage or m^2 of output area.

Design Standards

The following are the minimum design return period we would expect to see:

- Highway Raingardens – 1 in 5 years (20mm rainfall depth)
- Swales and bioretention features on the estates – 1 in 10 years
- Flood attenuation – 1 in 30 years minimum, 1 in 100 year, if relevant (according to catchment need)

If the solution is designed to address flooding, please provide clear data to show the rainfall that the solution has been designed for.

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

GLA Sustainable Drainage Guide

SuDS in London - a design guide

Urban Design London – Designing Raingardens

3. 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 2 – Application process timetable

Date	Application Process Milestone
Monday 26 October 2026	Applications for the SWMP open. Visit our website to complete and submit the online application form. Additional information supporting your application i.e. drawings, reports, sketches should be sent to the email address: swmp.applications@thameswater.co.uk
October 2026 – January 2027	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, 8th October 2026, 1pm • Thursday, 22nd October 2026, 1pm We also plan to run dedicated Q&A sessions where you can get support with your applications. These are planned on: • Thursday, 19th November 2026 • Thursday, 10th December 2026 If you wish to be added to our contact list and sent invitation to webinar and Q&A session, please register your interest emailing swmp.applications@thameswater.co.uk
Monday 18 January 2027 10am (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, reports, sketches 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
January 2027 - March 2027	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 March 2027	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.
Late April 2027	Application feedback By the end of April 2027 (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.

4. 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:

- A sketch or drawing showing the proposed SuDS feature
- A calculation of the storage volume (if appropriate)
- A sketch, area take-off diagram and/or calculation showing how the catchment area has been determined and how the effective contribution area has been calculated.
- Evidence that the catchment currently drains to a Thames Water sewer system – site photographs, GIS records, drainage plans, or connectivity surveys or Impermeable Area Survey (IAS) or dye tests or any other evidence clearly demonstrating the above.

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 for 30 years.
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. If you are a school interested in accessing DfE SuDS in School Grant Scheme, please indicate the School Trust's name (if applicable) and name of your Local Council.
9. Contact name and contact details of lead entity.
10. 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.
11. What is the stage of the project? Just an idea; concept design; detailed design; contractor engagement; construction; other
12. What best describes your project? highway raingardens; 'pocket parks'; SuDS at a school (or hospital / governmental building); SuDS in a housing estate (housing estate improvements); flood storage (wetland, attenuation basin) in a park or other green

space; or other – define what other (for example: part of a regeneration project; new surface water sewer; underground storage tank; permeable paving);
property level interventions - planters/water butts – apply to separate project call

13. Briefly describe the scope of the SuDS elements of the project, including design criteria used i.e. rainfall depth / return period, water storage volumes.
14. Anticipated completion of detailed design.
15. Anticipated construction start date.
16. Anticipated completion date.
17. What are the key project risks or potential showstoppers that may impact the project delivery date?
18. Is your organisation the landowner or manager of the site(s)?
19. Is planning permission required for the opportunity?
20. Will you be maintaining the asset once constructed?
21. Maintenance Statement (What are the regular activities to be undertaken, and who will be responsible?)

3 Need Information

22. Outline drivers of the opportunity. What need is this opportunity addressing?
23. 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.
24. What type of Thames Water sewer does the area currently drain to?
25. How is the area discharging into SuDS feature currently connected to the Thames Water sewer (e.g. road gullies connected into the sewer). Has this been verified? If your scheme is diverting a Thames Water sewer (e.g. into a detention basin), what is the proposed diversion arrangement? E.g. weir plate in new manhole.

4 Technical Information

26. How will water enter the proposed feature(s)? e.g. diversion manhole, overland flow via drop kerb, etc
27. What will the outflow arrangement be? Does rainwater flow back into Thames Water sewer system?
28. 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? (Refer to Section 6 of this Guide for further information).
29. What method has been used to estimate the catchment area? E.g. hand calculation, hydraulic model. Please include runoff coefficients used.
30. What assumptions did you make when calculating your effective catchment area?
31. What rainfall depth have you used when designing your feature?
32. What volume of water will be stored (in m^3)?

5 Costs and Funding Information

33. What is the amount of funding sought from TWUL SWMP? (TWUL SWMP funding is VAT exclusive).
34. Is the SuDS project part of a wider scheme?
35. What is the estimated overall scheme budget?
36. Please provide a breakdown of cost showing the design, management and construction costs of the surface water management element(s), if available.

37. 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

38. Will your project include any education (including signage) or volunteering component?
39. Does your project offer additional public value due to one of the following factors: Enhanced amenity space with features such as benches, play features, community garden, cycle lanes; Education setting e.g. school; Health setting e.g. hospital; High quality habitat creation to enhance biodiversity
40. What types of SuDS solutions are going to be constructed? Majority Blue-Green (e.g. raingarden, pond, swale, green roof, attenuation basin); Majority Grey Infrastructure (e.g. new surface water sewer, storage tank, permeable paving); Equal mix of Blue-Green and Grey Infrastructure;
41. Does the opportunity include elements of rainwater re-use? E.g. rainwater harvesting, water butts

7 Other

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

8 Submission

43. Please provide name and date.

5. 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 surface water flows from the Thames Water assets through sustainable drainage means,
- 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 four 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. Cost Score - what is the cost per m^3 of storage provided or per m^2 of effective contributing catchment area removed or attenuated from the Thames Water sewer?
3. Confidence in Delivery Score – how progressed is the project, are there any key risks and blockers to project delivery?
4. Solution Score - how well does the proposed solution align with the programme principles, including: delivering public value, collaboration, level of protection

The four criteria are weighted as follows:

1. Need for Capacity - 40%
2. Cost - 30%
3. Confidence in Delivery - 20%
4. Solution - 10%

1. Need for Capacity Score

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

N1. Sewer type (Scoring range: 0 - 1 points):
   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 flooding hotspot watershed (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 (actual or modelled) e.g. affecting more than 10 properties

N5. Storm Overflows (Scoring range: 0 – 1 points):
   - AMP8 CSO priority catchment 250m radius of CSO (1 points)

2. Cost Score

Depending on the scheme type, each opportunity will be assessed for SWMP funding cost effectiveness, either by the effective contributing catchment area disconnected / attenuated by the project or storage volume provided by the scheme, in accordance with the table below:

Table 3 – Cost effectiveness scores

Scheme Type				
Source Control SuDS (£/m^2 of effective contributing catchment area)	< £50/m^2	£50/m^2 - £74.9/m^2	£75/m^2 - £125/m^2	> £125/m^2
Regional Attenuation SuDS (£/m^3 of storage volume)	< £200/m^3	£200/m^3 - £349.9/m^3	£350/m^3-£500/m^3	> £500/m^3
Score	3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points

3. Confidence in Delivery Score

Each opportunity will be assessed on confidence in delivery depending on project stage at the time of the application and level of collaboration involved in project (Scoring range: 0 – 4 points)

C1. What stage is your project currently in? (scoring range: 0 - 3 points);
   a. Just an idea (0 points)
   b. Concept design complete (1 points)
   c. Detailed design complete or Planning permission granted (2 points)
   d. Contractor engaged (3 points)

C2. Collaboration (scoring range: 0 - 1 points):
   a. Applicant brings additional party into partnership, providing funding or a contribution in kind (e.g. Friends society to help with maintenance). Could also be a different local authority department that will provide tangible support for the project (funds or maintenance). (1 point)

4. Solution Score

Each opportunity will be evaluated on how it reflects the scheme's alignment with SWM programme principles (Scoring range: 0 – 4 points):

S1. SWM Solution Type (scoring range: 0 - 1 point):
   a. High quality vegetated SuDS such as raingarden, green roof, attenuation pond with added features such as wetlands, parks enhancement.
   b. High quality amenity features with recreational features.

S2. SWM Method score based on the solution outlet configuration (scoring range: 1 - 3 points):
   a. Disconnection - removes surface water from the sewer network by conveying it elsewhere (i.e. infiltration or to watercourse). No connection to the sewer network is required (or only an overflow connection is required for extreme weather i.e. 1 in 30 year storm or above) (3 points).
   b. Attenuation - 'calms' the sewer network by reducing peak storm flows entering the sewer network, but a connection to the sewer network is required (2 points).
   c. Exceedance - normal flows remain in the sewer; in storm events, exceedance flows are attenuated (1 point).

6. Technical Guidance on Catchment Area 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 2 metrics:

1. Effective contributing area of a catchment (in m^2) which is either disconnected or where the flow of rainwater is attenuated
2. Storage volume provided, in m^3

'Effective contributing area' is determined by the application of appropriate factors/coefficients that take into account catchment characteristics and associated losses.

Run off coefficients can be found in Table 4 and Table 5 below. These apply mostly to simple/small semi urbanised to urbanised catchments.

Table 4 - Runoff coefficient values for catchments less than 5,000m^2

Surface type	Runoff coefficient	Notes
Paved area	0.70	Mix of pavements, drives, other paved surfaces (excl. road)
Road	0.90	Well drained roads only
Urban Road	0.80	Mix of road and paved surfaces
Roofs	0.85	
Lawns	0.20	
Parks and gardens	0.15	

Table 5 - Runoff coefficient values for catchments greater than 5,000m2

Area type	Runoff coefficient
City centre	0.70-0.95
Suburban business	0.50-0.70
Industrial	0.50-0.90
Residential	0.30-0.70
Parks and gardens	0.05-0.30

Use of alternative coefficients would require provision of supporting information i.e. calculation, modelling to justify coefficient value.

An example sketch showing how to calculate the effective contributing area of a catchment under 5,000m^2 is shown below in Figure 1.

For complex catchments, where funding request exceeds £150k, modelling or other established methodologies may be required to calculate the 'effective contributing area' and demonstrate the overall project benefit.

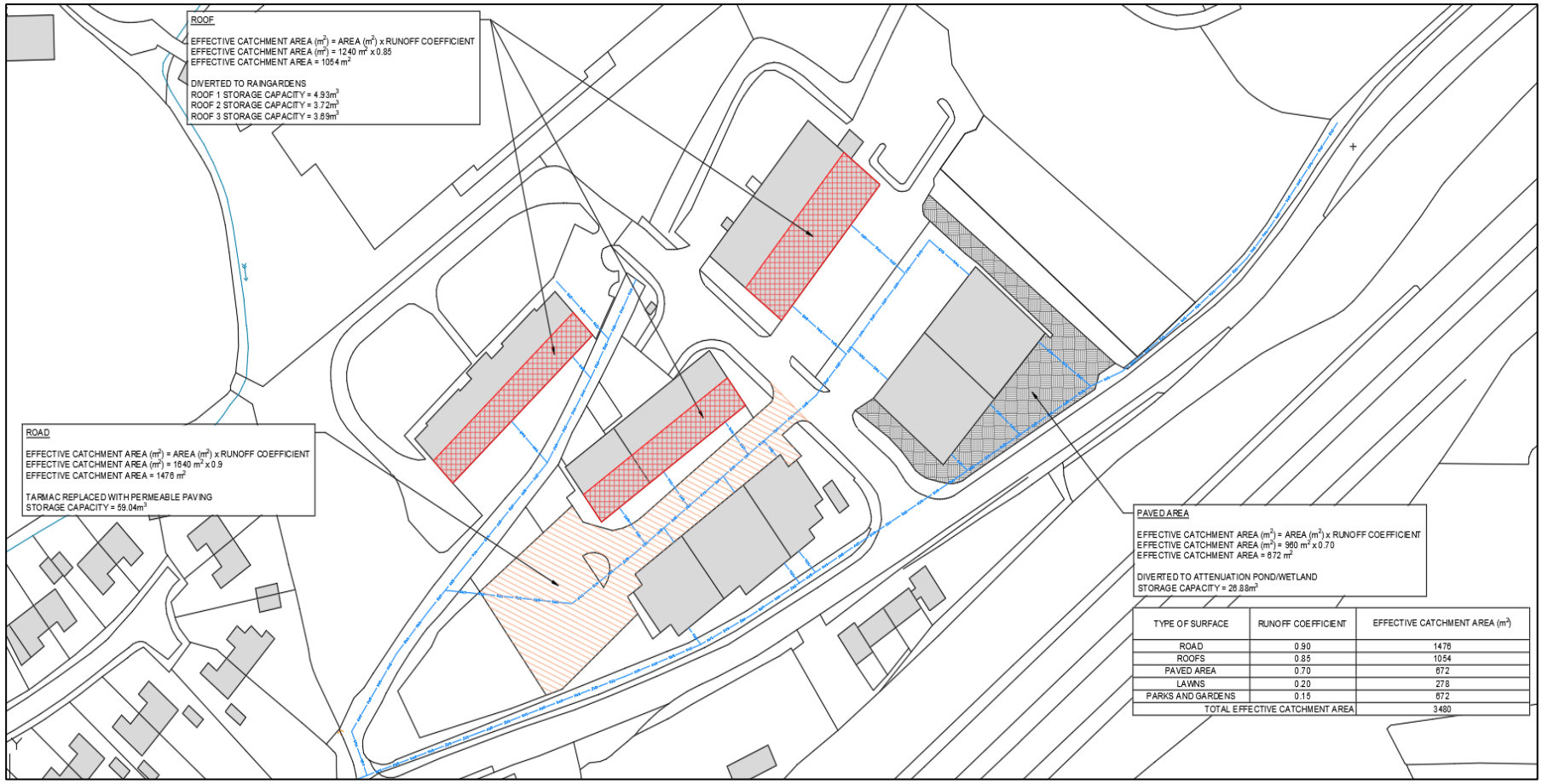


Figure 1 – Example of calculation of effective catchment area


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