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2nd IWA Leading-Edge Conference & Exhibition on
Strategic Asset Management

**Attaining the most sustainable solution in
stormwater control in England and Wales**

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Structure

- CUDS and SUDS
- SUDS In England and Wales
- SUDS In Scotland
- SUDS Adoption In England and Wales
- Progressing SUDS In England and Wales
- Conclusion



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CUDS and SUDS

- Conventional Urban Drainage Systems (CUDS) increasingly recognised as unsustainable
- Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) attempt to mimic natural drainage patterns
 - Several benefits over CUDS
 - Deemed more sustainable
 - More balanced perspective; water quantity, water quality and ecology/amenity aspects



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SUDS In England and Wales

- Supported by Govt & Championed by range Orgs
- 1995 Env't Act, 1991 Water Act
- Local Authority Planning System
 - PPS25 and TAN 15
 - The Building Regulations Approved Document H
- However current barriers to the implementation of SUDS in England and Wales are proving a deterrent



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SUDS In Scotland

- Considered standard practice
 - Recognised SUDS potential to enhance river water quality
- SUDS have been incorporated into Scottish Law
 - New developments must use SUDS
 - Clarification of maintenance and capital replacement



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SUDS Adoption In England and Wales

- Ownership and the long term maintenance of CUDS
- Responsibility for SUDS not clarified through legislation
- Sewerage Undertaker
 - SUDS are included in the latest addition of *Sewers for Adoption*
 - Reluctant to adopt schemes which they perceive as a liability and a risk
- Local Authority
 - SUDS can help meet a number of the objectives
 - Adoption under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990



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Progressing SUDS In England and Wales

- SUDS are being implemented without legislation change
- Sewerage undertakers
 - may not be the right organisations to adopt and manage SUDS
 - require landscape maintenance activities
 - ‘risk minimisation’ style of management may lesson the amenity and ecological benefits
- Local authorities
 - appear to represent suitable organisations for widespread adoption of SUDS
 - possess landscape maintenance skills and experience



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Progressing SUDS In England and Wales

- SUDS liability issues
 - Risk of polluted stormwater runoff
 - Health and safety concerns
 - Availability of the required skills and resources to maintain SUDS
 - Lack of practical experience in their adoption and maintenance
- Overcome through time, experience and training?
 - Conferences, Networks, Demonstration sites, Experienced practitioners



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Conclusion

- Comparison highlights how the institutional structure in England and Wales does not discourage the use of SUDS but arguably is neither facilitating the best management of assets
 - Implementation of SUDS in England and Wales has had limited success
 - Legislation does not clarify to whom the long-term responsibility for SUDS
- Progressing SUDS implementation?
 - Breaking down the barriers to local authority adoption by reducing the actual and the perceived risks involved



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Thank you for listening

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