

Case study: Camley Street Raingardens

The Camley Street Raingardens project was delivered by the Council as part of the London Strategic SuDS Pilot and was jointly funded by Thames Water, Camden Council and contributions from local developments obtained through the Planning process.

The 135 metre-long sustainable drainage system (SuDS) was completed in March 2021 and disconnects an area of 1,537 m² from the sewer by providing 142 m² of raingardens to a depth of 1 m to hold water before it enters the sewer. There are also 11 tree pits and beds containing over 30 diverse herbaceous planting and bulbs, contributing to local biodiversity improvements.

Camden's Surface Water Management Plan identified the area as being susceptible to surface water flooding in a 1 in 30-year return rainfall event. The scheme was designed to remove rainfall from the surrounding streetscape from entering the sewer for up to a 1 in 30-year rainfall event, helping to reduce the risk of surface water and sewer surcharge flooding in the area.

The raingardens and surrounding highways improvements also provide amenity to the local area with places for people to sit, biodiversity from the planting, and an 'urban cooling' effect.

The project was an example of how flood risk management stakeholders can work together to provide solutions which help to manage surface water and sewer flood risk simultaneously.



Figure 3:5 - Camley Street raingardens