Denmark Road SuDS

**Project Name:** SiSS Denmark Road SuDS  
**Location:** Sutton Council Offices  
**Location Address:** 24 Denmark Road  
**Location City:** Carshalton  
**Project Duration:** July 2017 – December 2018  
**Construction costs:** Approx. £27,000  
**Supported By:** Environment Agency, Thames Rivers Trust, Greener City Fund, SES Water, Thames Water  
**Related Projects:** SiSS Schools 2019 and 2020

**Aim**
- To reduce flood risk by installing SuDS that will store rainwater runoff from the site
- To develop a scheme that will demonstrate SuDS to council staff members, visitors, the schools involved in the project and to the general public

**Project Summary**
The Denmark Road SuDS is the first delivered scheme as part of the SuDS in Sutton’s Schools project, a partnership project between Sutton Council and the South East Rivers Trust. Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) are features that soak up or temporarily store rainwater so it doesn’t all go rushing to drains and rivers. The project was developed to alleviate flood risk in the Hackbridge area and to provide additional benefits for schools and the local community. By installing SuDS at the council offices first, the project has a demonstration site and has gained experience in completing a SuDS scheme. In this way, lessons learnt can be applied within schools.

**Flood risk benefits**
- The rainwater from approximately 410m² of roof area has been diverted from the drains
- The maximum flow rate from this roof area to the drains has been reduced from 5.7 l/s to just 0.7 l/s
- The site now has the capacity to store 12m³ of rainwater

**Public engagement benefits**
- 90 interactions with staff members and the wider public have taken place to explain the scheme and raise SuDS awareness
- 81 staff members and visitors from local schools have directly contributed to the SuDS
**Project Detail**
The Denmark Road sustainable drainage system (SuDS) has a rain garden as its main feature. On site features of the rain garden include:
- Approximately 55m² area of planting with sloped sides to attenuate rainwater
- Channels and guttering that feed water from six downpipes into the garden
- A soakaway to increase storage capacity
- An outlet and flow control so that excess water will flow from the rain garden to the sewer network at a controlled rate
- A newly contoured path and a relocated bench from which to enjoy the new rain garden

“The rain garden has made a real improvement to the front of the building.” – staff member, Denmark Road

**Public Engagement**
A variety of activities engaged a range of stakeholders.
- A drop-in was held to share designs with building users
- A Planting Day encouraged Denmark Road staff to actively contribute to the SuDS
- An Open Day was held to share the newly built rain gardens with schools and the public
- An interpretation board that explains the rain garden and raises SuDS awareness has been installed

**Challenges**
- Some design elements had to be omitted due to construction costs
- The size of the rain garden had to be scaled down to avoid damaging tree roots
- Support was required to ensure specifications were met as contractors were new to SuDS