



Sustainable Drainage Works

'Reclaim the Rain' is a pioneering joint project between Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils which will develop new ways to reduce flooding in small, rural communities. The project is funded by Defra and the Environment Agency as part of their Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme. Reclaim the Rain aims to promote and improve resilience to both flooding and drought in six selected small rural communities across both counties that will act as case studies. Watton in Norfolk is one of the selected sites.

Reclaim the Rain has been working closely with Watton Infant School and Watton Junior School to explore opportunities for water reuse and flood risk management, reflecting their unique needs and interests, as well as the schools' relative flood risk to building and site. For us to be able to achieve this we have applied for a Sustainable Drainage (SuDs) in schools grant from the Department for Education which we gained successfully to be able to financially support these works.

Watton Infant School are having a brand-new sensory garden installed to capture and manage surface water that also gives an environmental benefit back and gives an opportunity to show children how water can move through a garden.

Watton Junior School will have a sunken raingarden which will intercept surface water flows, the raingarden will offer some environmental re-use benefits where the young people can maintain these gardens and appreciate this type of water management feature. Watton Junior School is currently having some proposed major construction works before we can install the rain

garden. We recently installed a series of SuDs pods at the junior school to reduce the flow of water coming off some of the roofs via the downpipes, which will be stored in the pod and then slowly released into the system to reduce the chances of overwhelming that part of the system. Water resistant plants have also been planted on top of the pods and benches attached to the sides so the pods can be used as a seating area.

The Reclaim the Rain project team and both schools are fully aware that there will be some upheaval and change during the construction phases of these works. We would like to reassure parents that this will not affect your young person's learning during this time of construction. What your young people will see is a small period of change where there will be new faces on site alongside construction machinery which will sometimes be noisy. The contractor has insisted to the school and the Reclaim the Rain project team that at all times any areas of works will be made safe for young people.

To help the young people be prepared for this change, the Reclaim the Rain team will be speaking in an all-school assembly Monday morning so the students can have an idea and a better understanding of what we are trying to achieve and why we are doing it. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the reception or the Reclaim the Rain team.

Many thanks,

Sean and Chris

Reclaim the Rain

Contact us with any questions at
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