



Critical Drainage Area (CDA) South Hams District Council - Ivybridge

Catchment Drainage/Flooding Issues

Flood risk from the River Erme is limited in the town centre as it flows in a relatively deep gorge. However surface water systems in Ivybridge are not designed to a high standard. Pluvial flooding is known on the numerous minor watercourses/ditches and surface water culverts within the area. We are aware of some sewer flooding that may be exacerbated by heavy rainfall.

These watercourses are unlikely to attract funding for significant improvements, and given that current rainfall runoff rates already cause problems and climate change will increase the frequency of flooding further, alternative measures need to be applied.

The area has development pressure from new housing and commercial developments on its western and eastern extents. This new development must take the opportunity to meet higher standards available for new development.

Minimum Drainage Standards Required

All new development will have to play their part in reducing current rainfall runoff rates. This requirement also applies to brown field sites that will have to match the same standards. The SuDS hierarchy should be followed, by using infiltration as far as is practicable. Further guidance on such systems can be found in the CIRIA SUDS manual and in LLFA guidance.

All off-site surface water discharges from development should mimic “Greenfield” performance up to a maximum 1 in 10 year discharge rate. On-site all surface water should be safely managed up to the “1 in 100+climate change” conditions. This will require additional water storage areas to be created thereby contributing to a reduction in flooding downstream.

Devon - Critical Drainage Area

