

## DELIVERING SUDS

BARRY WEST  
HIGHWAYS ADOPTION OFFICER  
OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### THE OXFORDSHIRE APPROACH

- DISPOSAL OF SURFACE WATER CANNOT BE LEFT TO THE LAST MINUTE IN THE PLANNING PROCESS
- PPS25 REQUIRES THAT WE LOOK AT THE FLOOD RISK FOR ANY DEVELOPMENT
- THIS INCLUDES OVERLAND FLOODING
- OXFORDSHIRE EXPERIENCED SUCH FLOODING ON 20 JULY 2007
- WATER COURSES CANNOT COPE WITH A LARGE INFLUX OF WATER
- ATTENUATION IN ENLARGED PIPES AND PONDS CAN CREATE PROBLEMS
- DEALING WITH WATER WHERE IT FALLS IS THE BEST SOLUTION
- BUT HOW?

SWALES



OUR FIRST SWALE 1993



PONDS



POROUS PAVEMENT



- OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ALWAYS WORKS WITH THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY, FOR BOTH SMALL AND LARGE DEVELOPMENTS
- SMALL SITES ARE USUALLY DONE THROUGH OUR LIAISON OFFICERS
- FOR LARGE DEVELOPMENT SITES WE SET UP DESIGN TEAMS WITH THE PLANNING AUTHORITY
- THESE DESIGN TEAMS HAVE CORE MEMBERS AND THEN OTHER STAKEHOLDERS ARE BROUGHT IN WHEN REQUIRED
- THIS METHOD OF WORKING HAS BROUGHT FORWARD REWARDS IN SUDS AND IS NOW RECOMMENDED IN THE MANUAL FOR STREETS
- IT ALLOWS ECOLOGISTS, THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY, LANDSCAPERS, ENGINEERS TO SEE EACH OTHER'S POINT OF VIEW AND WORK OUT A DRAINAGE SYSTEM THAT SUITS ALL
- ALLOWS FOR AREAS FOR ADOPTION TO BE AGREED BETWEEN THE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY AND THE DISTRICT COUNCIL WHO ARE THE LAND DRAINAGE AUTHORITY

#### ADOPTION OF SUDS

- THE 1980 HIGHWAYS ACT SETS OUT HOW TO CREATE A PUBLIC HIGHWAY
- THE MOST COMMON FOR DEVELOPMENTS IS S38
- A S38 AGREEMENT SETS OUT THAT IF A DEVELOPER ENTERS INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE HIGHWAY AUTHORITY AND CONSTRUCTS THE ROAD TO THE HIGHWAY AUTHORITY'S SPECIFICATION AND THAT ON SATISFACTORY COMPLETION THE HIGHWAY AUTHORITY WILL ADOPT THE ROAD
- THE ACT DOES NOT SET OUT THE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROAD
- THIS FOR THE HIGHWAY AUTHORITY AND MOST AUTHORITIES HAVE SPECIFICATION WHICH IS REVIEWED FROM TIME TO TIME
- THE ACT DOES NOT SET OUT WHAT AREAS ARE TO BE ADOPTED THIS IS DOWN TO THE HIGHWAY AUTHORITY

- S38(6) ALLOWS A HIGHWAY AUTHORITY TO PUT IN THE AGREEMENT PROVISIONS TO COVER THE CONSTRUCTION AND FUTURE MAINTENANCE OF THE PROPOSED HIGHWAY
- THIS CLAUSE HAS BEEN PUT IN DOUBT BY THE LANCASHIRE CASE
- COUNSEL'S OPINION WAS SOUGHT BY A DEVELOPER ON S38(6)
- BUT IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT THIS WAS COUNSEL'S OPINION AND HAS NOT BEEN TESTED IN COURT
- OUR ATTITUDE IS TO ONLY CHARGE FOR MAINTENANCE OUTSIDE OF THE NORMAL YEARLY MAINTENANCE
- I AM PLEASED TO SAY DEVELOPERS HAVE ACCEPTED THIS IN OXFORDSHIRE AGREEMENTS

## THE FUTURE





## THE FUTURE

- WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING WITH COUNTRYSIDE PROPERTIES AND THEIR CONSULTANTS WSP ON THE DESIGN CODE FOR A 1600 HOUSE DEVELOPMENT SOUTH WEST OF BICESTER
- WE ARE TRYING TO ACHIEVE A DEVELOPMENT WHERE THERE ARE NO PUBLIC SURFACE SEWERS
- THE WATER IS TO BE DRAINED TO A COMBINATION OF SUDS SYSTEMS
- THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THIS DESIGN PROCESS BUT IT IS OCC THAT HAVE DRIVEN THE SCHEME
- A PAPER ON THIS SITE WILL BE GIVEN BY WSP AT NEXT YEAR'S INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUDS IN EDINBURGH