

BeST



Quick Facts

Inputs

SuDS scheme data in an Excel spreadsheet

Outputs

Graphs, tables and guidance

Scale

Site-based / local scale

Context

A range of land uses, generally urban

Cost

Open access

Software required

Microsoft Excel

Skills Required

Microsoft Excel, basic level

Developer

CIRIA

Description

BeST (Benefits of SuDS Tool) helps practitioners estimate the impacts and benefits of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS). It uses ecosystem services to understand the overall benefits that SuDS provide over conventional piped drainage, and estimates the economic value of the benefits.

Ecosystem services included

19 ecosystem services across provisioning, regulating and cultural categories.

Habitats

Terrestrial and freshwater habitats

How does it work?

It is based on research evidence from ecosystem services and Triple Bottom Line (accounting) frameworks, which consider the social, financial and environmental bottom line.

The tool uses an 'impact-pathway' approach. This looks at the ecosystem services altered by a SuDS scheme and how these changes contribute to human welfare.

Where possible, it uses values and decisions input by the user to quantify and monetise the benefits of a SuDS scheme for a given area over a specified time period.

The tool can be used for new developments or existing sites.

Case studies in the UK

BeST was used by Yorkshire Water at Roundhay Park, Leeds to assess options for reducing combined sewer overflow and improve water quality. They compared benefits and costs of SuDS and conventional drainage approaches. It was also used in Glasgow in an EIA to assess costs, flood risk benefits and wider benefits provided by surface water management including SuDS.

Where can I get it?

<http://www.susdrain.org/resources/best.html>

Development of the Tool Assessor database and information sheets was funded by JNCC.