Partnership working in Cornwall

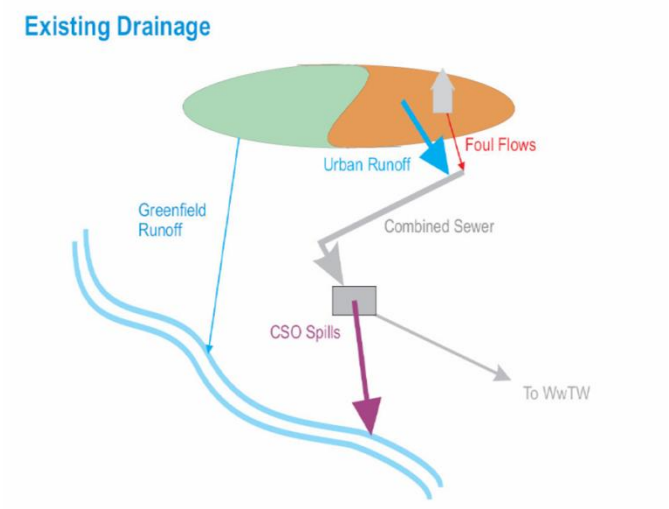
National FCERM strategy showcase case study

The *National flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England* sets out how communities, the public sector and other organisations can work together to manage the risk of flooding and coastal erosion better.

Kerrier District Council in Cornwall was one of the first local authorities in the country to produce a surface water management plan to tackle the problem of flood risk. Forging a successful alliance with specialist partners, the council developed a sustainable solution to surface water drainage that addressed water quality and flood risk issues and also supports regeneration of the local area.

The Challenge

The area surrounding Cambourne, Pool and Redruth was once a rich mining and industrial heartland. Today this Cornish region is one of the most economically deprived areas in England.

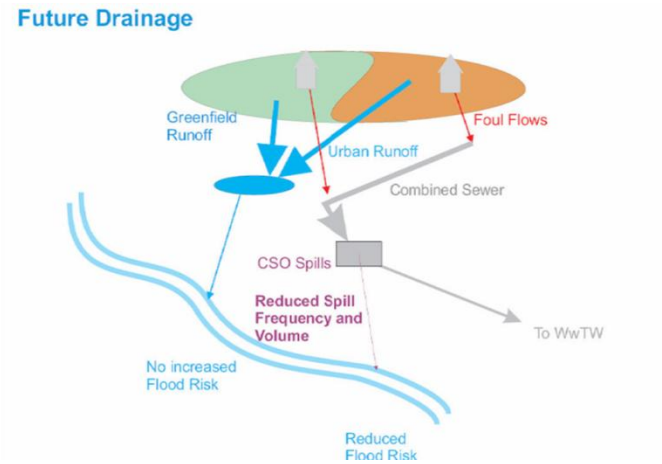


The existing combined sewer system is at capacity and extensive investment in new sewerage and treatment works is needed before any redevelopment work can take place.

'The council developed a sustainable solution to surface water drainage that addressed water quality and flood risk issues and also led to the regeneration of the local area'

Approach

Kerrier District Council worked with a range of partners, including the Environment Agency and the Regeneration Company to design new surface water infrastructure. This involved separating the surface water runoff from existing and new developments from the existing combined sewer systems. These surface waters were then redirected to drain through a new strategic overland surface water system that followed the historic mine 'leats' (artificial watercourses) that drain into the Red River. The leat system also provides a footpath and cycleway through the towns.



Benefits and outcomes

Partnership working has encouraged and nurtured innovative solutions to drainage problems, which have:

- enabled development and regeneration;
- cost £3 million less than a traditional approach;
- helped to manage surface water and reduce infiltration to the ground and mineshafts;
- freed up capacity in the combined sewer for new foul flows;
- reduced combined sewer overflow spills by almost a quarter.

More information

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Catcode: LIT 7731