

DRAINAGE STATEMENT

Proposed Installation of 4 x 15m Lighting Masts Seven Sisters RFC, Neath Port Talbot, Wales

1. Introduction

This Drainage Statement has been prepared in support of a planning application for the installation of four (4) 15-metre-high lighting masts at **Seven Sisters Rugby Football Club (RFC), Neath Port Talbot, Wales**.

The purpose of this report is to demonstrate that the proposed development will not increase flood risk either on-site or elsewhere and that surface water will be managed in accordance with Welsh planning policy and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) requirements.

2. Site Description

Seven Sisters RFC is an existing rugby club comprising playing pitch and associated facilities, located within the settlement of Seven Sisters in Neath Port Talbot.

- **Site use:** Sports pitches (rugby)
- **Existing surface:** Predominantly natural grass with localised hardstanding (e.g. clubhouse, paths)
- **Topography:** Generally level playing fields with slight localised gradients for drainage
- **Existing drainage:** Natural infiltration across grassed areas with established pitch drainage characteristics

The proposed development consists of four lighting columns positioned around the existing pitch perimeter, with underground cabling connecting to an existing or new power source.

3. Planning Policy Context (Wales)

This statement has been prepared in accordance with:

- **Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11 or latest)**

- **Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15: Development, Flooding and Coastal Erosion**
- **Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (Schedule 3 – SuDS)**
- Guidance from the **Sustainable Drainage Approval Body (SAB)** within Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Under Welsh legislation, SuDS approval may be required for developments with construction areas exceeding 100m². This proposal falls significantly below that threshold.

4. Flood Risk

Reference to Natural Resources Wales (NRW) flood mapping indicates:

- The site is understood to lie within **Flood Zone A (low risk)** (*to be confirmed if required*)
- The site is not at significant risk from rivers, sea, or surface water flooding

Given the nature and scale of the proposed works, there will be no material impact on flood risk.

5. Proposed Development and Drainage Impact

The proposed works include:

- 4 no. 15m lighting masts
- Reinforced concrete foundations (typically approx. 2.0m² each)
- Minor trenching for electrical cabling (to be reinstated)

Increase in Impermeable Area

The development will introduce a very small increase in impermeable area:

- Total additional impermeable footprint: **approximately 6–8m²**

This is negligible in the context of the overall grassed playing field.

6. Surface Water Drainage Strategy

Surface water management will follow the SuDS hierarchy:

1. Infiltration (Primary Approach)

All surface water generated from the concrete bases will drain directly into the surrounding permeable ground.

2. No Requirement for Formal Drainage Systems

Due to the minimal increase in impermeable area, no new drainage infrastructure (pipes, attenuation, etc.) is required.

3. Maintenance of Existing Drainage Regime

The natural drainage characteristics of the rugby pitch will remain unchanged.

7. Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) Compliance

The proposal aligns with SuDS principles by:

- Minimising impermeable surfaces
- Maintaining greenfield runoff characteristics
- Promoting infiltration at source
- Avoiding additional burden on drainage infrastructure

Given the scale and nature of development, formal SuDS features are not considered necessary.

8. Foul Drainage

No foul drainage is proposed or required as part of this development.

9. Construction Phase Drainage Management

During installation works, the following measures will be implemented:

- Excavations kept to a minimum and managed to prevent water ponding
- Temporary storage of excavated materials away from drainage paths
- Pollution prevention measures (e.g. silt control, spill kits)
- Immediate reinstatement of disturbed ground following installation

These measures will ensure no adverse impact on local drainage or water quality.

10. Conclusion

The proposed installation of four 15m lighting masts at Seven Sisters RFC:

- Results in a **negligible increase in impermeable area**
- Will **not increase flood risk on-site or elsewhere**
- Maintains the **existing natural drainage regime**
- Is compliant with **Planning Policy Wales and SuDS requirements**

The development is therefore considered acceptable in drainage and flood risk terms.