Infiltration SuDS are sustainable drainage systems that allow surface water to infiltrate the ground, and include features such as soakaways, infiltration basins, infiltration trenches and permeable pavements. The British Geological Survey has developed a bespoke Infiltration SuDS map that enables a preliminary assessment of the suitability of the ground for these drainage systems.

The BGS Infiltration SuDS map assists those involved in the design of the system by identifying various properties of the ground to aid the design of an appropriate system. It is also intended to support those who approve planning applications with local authorities.

The BGS Infiltration SuDS map is a decision support tool that addresses the following factors:

1. the presence of severe constraints that must be considered prior to planning infiltration
2. the drainage potential of the ground
3. the potential for ground instability when water is infiltrated
4. the protection of groundwater quality

The dataset is structured using the above four factors, and allows consideration of the subsurface permeability, the depth to groundwater, the presence of geological floodplain deposits, the presence of artificial ground, ground stability (soluble rocks, collapsible ground, compressible ground, running sand, shallow mining, landslide and shrink–swell clays), potential for pollutant attenuation and the Environment Agency’s source protection zones.
The BGS Infiltration SuDS map is available as a suite of licensed data layers in GIS format. The data is packaged as a high-level summary dataset, containing four layers, and as a detailed data suite containing layers for all 24 contributing factors and constraints. Data for specific sites is available through the BGS GeoReport service and can be found in the ‘Infiltration SuDS’ report. Subscription based web services containing this data (WMS and online map viewers) are also available.

The BGS Infiltration SuDS map is also supplied through BGS’ network of data resellers.

http://www.bgs.ac.uk/products/home.html

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