Liverpool City Council: Newsham Park

Case Study

Key Outcomes

- Flooding eliminated through winter 2025 — no pooling observed post-installation
- Improved access for surrounding neighbourhoods including Anfield, Fairfield, Tuebrook and Kensington
- Positive early feedback from the community and residents' groups
- Scalable solution that supports citywide sustainable drainage and active travel goals

Project Overview

As part of the Liverpool City Council Live Labs 2 programme, a flood-prone pedestrian and cycle route near Newsham Park was upgraded using the modular drainage system Drainage Mat and Grip / Spur units, a low-carbon, recycled rubber drainage system engineered for fast installation and year-round performance.

Delivered by DOWHIGH Ltd in collaboration with Civil Water Management Ltd and Rosehill Group, the solution restored access to a vital off-road connection used by residents, schoolchildren and commuters.

The Challenge

- **Severe surface flooding** made the path unusable in wet weather and winter periods.
- **High footfall** from residents, cyclists and students.
- **Environmental constraints** due to the Conservation Area status.
- **Limited excavation permitted**, ruling out deep trench or pipe systems
- **Live weather conditions** during installation, including heavy rainfall from Storm Chandra

The Solution

- **Modular system** laid quickly on site despite persistent wet weather.
- **Drainage Mat** units installed beneath gravel surfacing to absorb and disperse water.
- **Drainage Grip/Spur** units used to create a shallow channel directing water to an existing outfall.
- **No major trenching or pipework**, minimising disruption and environmental impact.
- **Filtration layer added** to protect drainage function and improve lifespan.

Project Details

Client:	Liverpool City Council - Live Labs 2
Contractor:	DOWHIGH Ltd
Partners:	Rosehill Group, Local Residents Association
System:	Drainage Mats, Drainage Grip/Spurs
Location:	Newsham Park, Liverpool

Before and After

Before / during works: waterlogged conditions

After: accessible, drained route

Why It Matters

The upgraded route connects local homes with schools, shops, green space and transport links - including St Francis of Assisi Secondary School and Edge Lane Innovation Park - while avoiding a dangerous 2-mile detour through heavy traffic.

With no standing water and safer surfaces, the path now offers a year-round, low-carbon alternative to car travel for short local trips.

Benefits for Highway, Parks and Active Travel Teams

Flood resilience	Eliminates persistent waterlogged pathway and supports year-round route performance.
Low impact construction	No major trenching or pipework, reducing disruption in sensitive public spaces.
Sustainable materials	Uses recycled rubber drainage components with a low-carbon design approach.
Scalable application	A repeatable solution for local authority footpaths, cycleways, parks and public realm routes.

Discuss Your Project

Let our team help you find the right drainage solution for your project.

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Modular Drainage Units are manufactured by Rosehill Group.