
Water Pollution Policy



This briefing note sets out the standard inspection and maintenance regimen followed for the care of our Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) ponds. It then describes Betts' policy in the case of water pollution being found to occur on our Estates sites. Please also refer to our Water and Aquatic Habitats Policy.

SuDS maintenance

Several of our sites have retention/attenuation sustainable drainage ponds. As well as their positive drainage function, they make excellent wildlife habitat, so we take particular care in their management. The baseline inspection and maintenance programme we follow is summarised below. Inspections are made whenever our relevant personnel are on site, usually at least once per month, and after major storms. Please note that there may be variations applicable to individual SuDS facilities for optimum and efficient operation. We also ask, please, that residents notify us immediately if they observe anything untoward.

- Removal of invasive weeds and litter. Please do not tip garden or other waste into SuDS ponds or anywhere else on site. We have zero tolerance of this and will prosecute offenders.
- Check water quality (see below) and aquatic/mesic communities of SuDS areas
- Keep hydrosereal succession/siltation in check by removing 25% of epigeal biomass as needed, commonly over a four-year cycle (winter) depending on aquatic, mesic and riparian vegetation growth rates.
- Inspect SuDS for pollution. If found, take actions described below.
- Remove any obstructing debris and clear screens and traps to ensure free water flow.
- Carry out post-storm checks after excessive precipitation to ensure free flow.
- De-silt SuDS ponds if required. This is not expected more than every twenty years and then only if the hydrosereal succession control above is insufficiently effective. (Ensure any desilting process does not adversely affect biodiversity and favourable conservation status.)

Occurrence of Water Pollution

If you observe any water pollution, please inform us immediately using our residents' ticketing system on the web site or by emailing residents@bettsecology.co.uk.

In principle, all waterbodies and surface drainage on our sites arise from unpolluted sources and only roof and other clean surface run-off enters SuDS. Should water pollution be observed, either in the SuDS ponds or in other aquatic habitat on site, our standard procedure is as follows:

1. Collect data (witness reports, photographs, samples, Betts own observations such as colour, odour, viscosity, apparent solubility).
2. Containment (sand bags, boom, exit block – as appropriate).
3. Identification (common sources are oil/fuel spills, discarded herbicides, leachates from adjacent sites or improper connection of household appliances such as dishwashers or washing machines to surface water drains). We may send samples for laboratory analysis.
4. Trace source, terminate if still active and take action to prevent recurrence. Serious or persistent cases will be reported to the relevant authority. *NB.* “Polluter pays” principle.
5. Clean-up (we will appoint specialist contractor if pollution is significant) and removal of containment once all clear.



© Betts 2021

Professional service
Sustainable land management
Better planning results
Enhanced biodiversity

Head Office:
Bank House Martley
Worcester WR6 6PB UK
T: +44 (0)1886 888445
E: nature@bettsestates.com
W: www.bettsestates.com
and at local offices