
Land North of High Bar Lane West Sussex

SUDS Drainage Maintenance Strategy

Prepared by:	Anjli Sharma MEng
Reviewed by:	Dimitris Linardatos BEng MSc CEng MICE FIHE
Job Number:	30005

Date	Revision	Notes/Amendments/Issue Purpose
April 2026	00	Draft issue to design team

1. Surface Water Maintenance Strategy

The successful implementation and operation of a SuDS system depend on a robust and clear maintenance strategy being implemented. The following measures should form part of the site's proposed management plan. The drainage system will be maintained by a private management company and will form part of the overall maintenance regime for the site.

The drainage layout drawing shows that SuDS are provided for all vehicular trafficked areas.

Maintenance and cleaning of gullies, gutters, rainwater pipes and stormwater manholes will ensure adequate performance. This maintenance program is outlined below;

Regular maintenance should include:

1. Inspect channel drains, gutters and gully inlet grates and remove any debris every 3 months or as determined to be reasonable based on experience with the installed systems to ensure that all drainage components are working in their intended fashion and that they are free of debris; quarterly, inspect gully sumps and bottom of drain manholes; if the depth of sediment in sumps exceeds 50% capacity, the sediment must be removed. Excessive sediment shall be removed and properly disposed of by a licensed drainage cleaning company.
2. Inspect all vegetated areas and remove litter and debris as necessary. Replant bare areas or areas with sparse growth.
3. Inspection of external bin stores for spillage and scattered litter must be performed on a regular basis to prevent the spread of pollutants into the stormwater management system.
4. The porous surfacing must be brushed three times a year with a mechanical suction brush. It is recommended that this should be carried in the spring, mid-summer and after leaf fall in autumn.

Winter Maintenance Program:

Ensure that drainage structures are not blocked by ice, snow, debris, or rubbish during the winter months.

Fertiliser Use

Only slow-release organic low-phosphorous fertilisers will be used in any landscaped areas in order to limit the amount of nutrients that could enter the stormwater system.

The site owner is the watercourse's riparian owner and therefore, is responsible for inspecting and maintaining the section of the watercourse that runs within their land. The management plan should include measures for maintaining the vegetation on the banks, removing debris from the watercourse and cleaning any debris from the main channel. Furthermore, the details for the new drainage connection to the watercourse must be agreed with the LLFA.

SUDS Element	Maintenance		
	Activity	Required Action	Typical Frequency
Permeable Paving	Monitoring / Inspections	Initial inspection	Monthly for three months after installation
		Inspect for evidence of poor operation and/or weed growth – if required, take remedial action	Three-monthly, 48 hours after large storms in first six months
		Inspect silt accumulation rates and establish appropriate brushing frequencies	Annually
		Monitor inspection chambers	Annually
	Regular Maintenance	Brushing and vacuuming -standard cosmetic sweep over whole surface	Once a year after autumn leaf fall
		Rubbish and litter removal	As required
	Remedial Actions	Remediate any landscaping which through vegetation maintenance or soil slip, has been raised to within 50mm of the level of the paving.	As required
		Remedial work to any depressions, rutting and cracked or broken blocks considered detrimental to the structural performance or a hazard to users, and replace lost jointing material	
		Rehabilitation of surface and upper substructure by remedial sweeping	Every 10 to 15 years or as required
Detention Basin	Regular Maintenance	Remove litter and debris	Monthly, or as required
		Cut the grass – public areas	Monthly during growing season
		Cut the meadow grass	Half yearly – before nesting season in spring and in autumn
		Inspect marginal and bankside vegetation and remove nuisance plants (for first 3 years)	Monthly, at start, then as required
		Inspect inlets, outlets, banksides, structures, pipework etc. for evidence of blockage and/or physical damage	Monthly
		Inspect water body for signs of poor water quality	Monthly from May – October
		Inspect silt accumulation rates in any forebay and in main body of the pond and establish appropriate removal frequencies; undertake contamination testing once some build-up has occurred, to inform management and disposal options	Half yearly
		Check any mechanical devices, e.g. penstocks	

SUDS Element	Maintenance		
	Activity	Required Action	Typical Frequency
		Hand cut submerged and emergent aquatic plants (at minimum of 0.1 m above pond base; include max 25% of pond surface)	Annually
		Remove 25% of bank vegetation from water's edge to a minimum of 1 m above water level	
		Tidy all dead growth before start of growing season	
		Remove sediment from any forebay.	Every 1–5 years, or as required
		Remove sediment and planting from one quadrant of the main body of ponds without sediment forebays.	Every 5 years, or as required
	Occasional Maintenance	Remove sediment from the main body of big ponds when pool volume is reduced by 20%.	With effective pre-treatment, this will only be required rarely, e.g. every 25–50 years
	Remedial Actions	Repair erosion or other damage	As required
		Replant, where necessary	
		Aerate pond when signs of eutrophication are detected	
		Realign rip-rap or repair other damage	
		Repair / rehabilitate inlets, outlets and overflows.	
Attenuation Tank	Monitoring / Inspections	Inspect all inlets, outlets, vents, overflows and control structures to ensure they are working as they should	Annually or after severe storms
		Inspect and identify any elements that are not operating correctly.	Monthly for three months, then half yearly or as required.
	Regular Maintenance	Remove sediments / debris from catch pits / gullies and control structures	Annually, after severe storms or as required
	Remedial Actions	Repair inlets, outlets, vents, overflows and control structures.	As required

Table 1.0 SuDS Maintenance Strategy as taken from the CIRIA SUDS Manual

Effective SuDS design must assess all foreseeable risks during construction and maintenance. These must be mitigated during the detailed design stages where effective design will aim to avoid, reduce and mitigate risks. This process will also require input from the principal contractor who will ensure the construction of SuDS components are carried out in a safe and sustainable manner.

1.1 Maintenance Record

A drainage maintenance log will be kept up to date and record any actions undertaken. It will be the responsibility of the site owner to keep this record. Table 1.1 shows the information that the log will include.

Drainage Maintenance Log		
Date	Action Taken/Comments	Initials
xx/xx/xx	xxx	xx

Table 1.1 SuDS Maintenance Strategy as taken from the CIRIA SUDS Manual