

Technical Bulletin Ref: DOTB001 v2

Publication Date: 01/07/2026

Author: Development Operations

Approver: TSA (MgF)

For further information contact: developmentoperations@scottishwater.co.uk

Brief Description of Issue

Due to a lack of guidance on SUDs access requirements, this bulletin is to provide clarity on Scottish Water requirements regarding access to Ponds and Basins with particular reference the following points in Sewers for Scotland 4 clauses:

- 2.7(4), 2.9.1(2a) and 2.10.1(3a) – Apply to both SUDS Ponds and Basins
- 2.9.2(3), 2.9.8(1) and 2.9.8(6) – under the section on Ponds
- 2.10.7(1) and 2.10.7(3) – under the section on Basins

Clarification and Changes to be applied to existing clauses within SfSv4 – Access for SUDS Ponds and Basins

A dedicated access track shall be provided for maintenance and tanker/vehicle access to SUDS Ponds and Basins (2.9.1(2a), 2.9.8(1)(6), 2.10.1(3a) & 2.10.7(3))

- The track must be sized to accommodate a 32-tonne tanker.
- Minimum width: 3.5 metres.
- A SUDS access track cannot form part of a private/shared driveway. Where it is proposed for the SUDS access track to form part of a public access/travel route then this will be reviewed on a site-by-site basis. A track should not form part of an adoptable footpath or cycleway.
- Tankers must not park on the roadside to access any SUDs.
- The SUDS access track cannot be utilised as a designated public footpath or cycle track.

Vehicle Movement Requirements (2.7(4), 2.9.8(1) and 2.10.7(1))

- The tanker must enter and exit the SUDS access head-on.
- Reversing may be permitted only after entering the access track, and solely for parking or turning.
- The reversing distance must be no longer than required to park in a straight line.
- A full swept path analysis must be submitted demonstrating the complete movement and manoeuvring path of the tanker.

Access Provisions (2.7(4), 2.9.2(3), 2.9.8(1) and 2.10.7(1))

- Access must be provided to the inlet/silt trap manhole, inlet headwall, outlet headwall and control manholes. The access track must position the maintenance vehicle within 20m of the maintainable asset.
- The access track must be designed to allow maintenance and emergency machinery to reach the low flow channel along the full basin length or the forebay of the pond. The access track must position the maintenance vehicle within 20m of the maintainable asset. Aim to provide access around the SUDS whenever possible, as per and 2.7(4) and 2.9.3(1)

Surface Finish (2.9.8(1) and 2.10.7(1))

- Access tracks should be constructed using a cellular paving system designed for high-load applications (up to 40 tonnes) while allowing for vegetation growth and water permeability. Solid surface finishes will be accepted provided they have been agreed with the local authority (i.e. Tar, Asphalt etc).
- Granular stone finishes and whin dust are not permitted.

Maintenance Lay-by (where applicable)

- A dedicated maintenance lay-by may be considered on a site-by-site basis, provided the following criteria are met:
 - Located within 20 metres of inlet and outlet headwalls.
 - Located within 20 metres of any control manholes or silt traps.
 - Clearly designated for maintenance vehicles and marked with:

- Appropriate signage
- Painted hatching “24-hour access” indication

New Requirements

- No WWPS assets are to be located beneath any SUDS access track.
- Manholes should not be located within the access track, if unavoidable the MH should have a slab of reinforced concrete the full width of the track and 1.5m either side of the MH cover as a minimum (unless tarred/asphalt). If a foul MH needs to be located within the access track the hard standing area must slope away from the SUDS asset.
- If a PS is located within the vicinity of a SUDS, ground levels must be set to ensure that a spill at the PS is directed away from the SUDS including the access track. (as per 2.26.3(1f) There must be a definitive flood route plan and containment plan. If unachievable other Mitigations may be considered on a Site-by-site basis.

Submissions effected

- ✓ All new Applications received after the date of this Bulletin
- Applications awaiting Technical Approval and all new submissions
- Applications with Technical Approval but not on site
- All Developments including those on site *e.g. H&S or WQ issues*

Circulation List

- ✓ Dev Serv Team
- ✓ Housing Developers
- ✓ Design Associates
- ✓ SLO's