

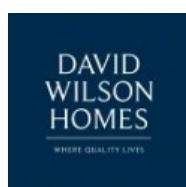


Ponds & streams

Information for Kingsbrook residents



This is how we expect some of the storage ponds will look at Kingsbrook in the future



As part of our work to help give nature a home at Kingsbrook, we are creating what are called Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).

In simple terms, we are creating a network of new ponds and streams, which is the best and natural way to deal with heavy rainfall. (To be clear, your household drainage still goes into the separate mains sewerage system).



How a small storage pond might look at Kingsbrook in future.

SuDS are better for you as homeowners, and better for wildlife. This leaflet explains all about SuDS.

How does it work?

The old way of dealing with rainwater was to send it all down underground drains and pipes. During storms, these systems are often unable to cope.

The answer is to temporarily hold large amounts of rainfall in 'basins' above ground, so that it can gradually soak into the earth below or can drain away more slowly.

So at Kingsbrook, our SuDS is based around a system of **swales** and **storage ponds**.

Swales are long, shallow, grassy hollows. They are dry most of the time, but in a storm the rainwater runs away from your houses into them.



A grassy swale

The swales then flow into **storage ponds**, which can hold lots of water and gradually release it after the storms. We have designed some of the ponds to have water in them at all times.

It is a great way of keeping houses safer from flooding, and it gives you something pleasant to look at, walk along and sit beside.

What can you expect to see?

The ponds are being planted with native wildflowers that are found in the local countryside, many of which are beautiful in flower.

It only takes a couple of growing seasons for them to begin to make the area look natural, and they help keep the water clean and fresh.

We expect ponds to develop some green algae at first, but nature then finds a balance. Less than a year after the first ponds were made, the RSPB recorded several

species of dragonflies, plus little egrets, which are like small, all-white herons.

How you can help

Why not create a pond in your garden? It is easier than you might think, and is a magnet for wildlife. The RSPB has instructions for making small and large ponds at rspb.org.uk/homes, including how to make them safe for young children.

Other than that, do get out and enjoy watching the wetlands from the paths. It will be fascinating to see them develop and the wildlife move in and thrive.

Please don't pour anything toxic into street gutters as that will poison your wetlands.

As we develop the park areas, we will put in more paths, benches and viewing platforms to help you make the most of your wetlands.



Little egret

Across Britain, all sorts of wildlife is in serious decline, from hedgehogs to house sparrows.

At Kingsbrook, Barratt Homes and David Wilson Homes are working with the RSPB and Aylesbury Vale District Council to set a new standard, creating a rich environment where wildlife can thrive, and which helps improve your quality of life as well.

Further information

If you have any further questions about ponds and streams at Kingsbrook, please speak to the sales team in the Show Home offices. If they don't know the answer, they will find out for you!

For all information about Kingsbrook, go to www.kingsbrook-aylesbury.co.uk