

Nominee: David O'Brien, NatureScot



Category	2. Established Professional
Nominators	Brian D'Arcy, Independent Consultant Jennifer Carfrae, Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), Edinburgh campus Sally McKenzie, Conservation Officer, Cairngorms National Park

David is a professional ecologist and nature conservationist working with Nature Scot (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage) and has been a leading researcher and enthusiast for SUDS for several years since discovering the high quality of SUDS ponds around Inverness and more recently along the A9 improvement works where new SUDS features have been provided.

Biodiversity value is often mentioned when speaking or writing about benefits of sustainable drainage technology, but it is rarely assessed. David O'Brien is the exception to that. He has published papers and given presentations on amphibian populations associated with SUDS, and also supervised research investigations finding rare damsel flies as well as other indications of nature conservation value for these multi-purpose landscape features.

A regular supporter of the Scottish Universities Green Infrastructure group, David gave a thought provoking and important presentation at this year's spring conference in Perth addressing the issues around ecological succession and optimising maintenance for multi-interest functionality of SUDS – much needed leadership on this issue.

Last but not least, David has an effective engaging style in person and as a speaker; combining scientific expertise and skills, with humour and enthusiasm. With his national role now, SUDS practice and design is going to benefit and we can really begin to see more active interest in biodiversity and the gains which can be achieved.