

Dairy Farm Hydrocarbon Contamination Response

CASE STUDY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE CHALLENGE 2

THE IDEAL SOLUTION 2

THE RESULT 3



Chainhurst, United Kingdom

Dairy Farm Hydrocarbon Contamination Response

CASE STUDY

THE CHALLENGE

The owners of Dairy Farm, a residential property, first spotted a significant oily sheen in an ornamental pond within their property grounds. The source of the hydrocarbon contamination was not immediately obvious, and the owners turned to Ideal Response for a solution.

Our challenge was to quickly limit the impact of contamination in the pond and surrounding grounds, identify the hydrocarbon source, and prevent any ongoing risk to the property owners and local environment.



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THE IDEAL SOLUTION

The Ideal Response team undertook work in four stages to successfully solve the contamination issue at Dairy Farm:

Stage 1: Damage limitation

Quick action was needed to prevent the unnecessary spread of damaging hydrocarbons. Ideal Response deployed absorbent pads and booms on the surface of the pond adjacent to the spill area, and removed vegetation that was clearly impacted by the spill from the adjoining bank.

Stage 2: Exploratory works

After a detailed inspection and digging, the Ideal Response team identified the source of the hydrocarbon contamination as a leaking section of redundant pipework connected to a heating oil tank. The pipe failure had resulted in a spill of heating oil into the surrounding ground, which acted as a pathway for hydrocarbons to migrate into the adjacent pond.

Dairy Farm Hydrocarbon Contamination Response

CASE STUDY

This section of pipe was isolated from the heating oil tank by Ideal to stop the release of hydrocarbons.

Stage 3: Remedial works

Ideal Response decided that soil which was clearly impacted by hydrocarbons should be excavated, to sever the pollutant from the remaining land. Since the hydrocarbon contamination had migrated beneath an outbuilding, this was also temporarily removed. Soil samples of the exposed excavation were removed for generic human health risk assessment testing. From the results, it was judged that contamination had not penetrated the underlying, relatively impermeable Weald Clay Formation to a significant depth.

Stage 4: Future protection

Ideal has proposed that the ponds and ditches on and adjacent to the site are regularly inspected for evidence of hydrocarbon contamination such as an oily sheen.

THE RESULT

Ideal Response were confronted with a spillage beneath ground of some 700-1,000 litres of heating oil at Dairy Farm. After containing the visible damage, an area of around 4.5m x 9m was excavated to depths of between 0.6m and 1.4m.

Following excavation and testing of the contaminated soil, concentrations of speciated petroleum hydrocarbons and BTEX compounds were generally low in the tested samples and were less than the corresponding Generic Assessment Criteria (GAC). In light of these tests, remediation works were effective in removing the large majority of the impacted soils and therefore the source of the hydrocarbon contamination. Dairy Farm is once again a quiet and safe residential property.



Dairy Farm Hydrocarbon Contamination Response

CASE STUDY

Spills won't become disasters with Ideal Response

Our British Disaster Management Association (BDMA) trained technicians are well versed in risk management, and give effective response to spills of oil and chemicals – whether in residential or industrial settings.

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Ideal Response
Disaster Recovery & Hygiene Experts

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