



Reed Bed Information

The Dartmouth Hotel, Golf and Spa is a large operation, and we understand the responsibility we have in minimising our impact on the environment and reducing our carbon footprint. As part of this ongoing commitment, we have a reed bed system on our site, that is managed by our superb Greenkeeping team, to treat used water and sewage from both the hotel and lodges. We have three reed beds here in total, and the principle of the treatment of sewage by reed beds is relatively simple. The Common Reed (*Phragmites Australis*) has the ability to transfer oxygen from its leaves, down through its stem, porous speta and rhizomes, and out via its root system into the rhizosphere (root system). As a result of this action, a very high population of micro-organisms occurs in the rhizosphere, with zones of aerobic, anoxic, and anaerobic conditions. Therefore, with the wastewater moving very slowly and carefully through the mass of reed roots, this liquid can be successfully treated, in a manner somewhat similar to the conventional biological filter bed systems of sewage treatment plants. To ensure that the reed beds can operate as effectively as possible, and the process is not disturbed, we ensure that products we use onsite are disposed of correctly.

Please could we ask for your support and understanding in not flushing any items except for toilet tissue in the toilets, and dispose of any sanitary products, cotton wool products and wipes in the bins provided.

Your cooperation with this is very much appreciated. Thank you.