



Cotswold Water Park SSSI
Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Wiltshire

*Notifications under sections 28C and 28D
of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981*

Contact points and further information

This notification document is issued by Natural England's West Midlands Team. During the current coronavirus situation, Natural England staff are working remotely, and a limited number of our offices are open. Please send any correspondence relating to this notification by email or contact us by telephone using the information below. Alternatively, you can send a response online using the link below.

Your contact point for specific enquiries relating to this notification is **Peter Holmes**.

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Email: peter.holmes@naturalengland.org.uk

Online: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/natural-england/cotswold-water-park>

A second document (Cotswold Water Park SSSI - Supporting information) is available online and on request, using the contact details above. This contains information and extracts from relevant documents that have been used in the decision to notify this SSSI under Section 28C, and to propose the removal of notifications from parts of the previously notified Cotswold Water Park SSSI under Section 28D.

The date of notification of Cotswold Water Park SSSI is: **7 January 2021**

The date of proposed denotification of parts of the previously notified Cotswold Water Park SSSI is: **7 January 2021**

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1. Summary

- 1.1 This document explains why the Cotswold Water Park is notified by Natural England as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It also explains why Natural England is of the opinion that parts of the previously notified Cotswold Water Park SSSI are no longer of special interest and, therefore, why Natural England is proposing to remove the SSSI notifications (a process known as 'denotification') from parts of it.
- 1.2 The Cotswold Water Park is a large complex of former and current gravel workings, straddling the Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Oxfordshire borders. It is of special interest for its nationally important numbers and assemblages of breeding and non-breeding birds and populations of four species of aquatic plant.
- 1.3 The site is important for both formal and informal recreation and attracts people from a wide area. This is supported by a substantial tourism industry, hotel and second home developments. A significant part of the Water Park's attraction for visitors is its nationally important wildlife interest.
- 1.4 The Cotswold Water Park SSSI was previously notified on 28 June 1994. It comprised a series of ten lakes, covering an area of 135 ha, of special interest for standing water habitats. The enlarged SSSI includes most of the land notified in 1994 and extensions totalling 1,942 ha. It encompasses the full extent of open water and associated habitats necessary for maintenance of the features of special interest. The total area of the enlarged SSSI is 2,074.81 ha.
- 1.5 Parts (2.27 ha) of the previously notified Cotswold Water Park SSSI are not considered to be of special interest and are proposed for de-notification.
- 1.6 The annexes to this document comprise the legal papers that detail the scientific interest of the enlarged Cotswold Water Park SSSI and the management required to maintain this interest, as well as maps of the site and areas proposed for de-notification. You have a right to make representations or objections about the notification of the enlarged SSSI and to the proposed denotification of parts of the previously notified SSSI. Part 3 of this document explains how to do this.
- 1.7 Natural England's consent is required by owners and occupiers before any of the operations listed in *Annex 3* can be carried out. We will work closely with owners and managers, as well as other bodies, to ensure that existing operations and new works that are not likely to damage the special features of the SSSI can be carried out.

2. The legal background

- 2.1 The Cotswold Water Park SSSI is enlarged under section 28C of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The enlarged Cotswold Water Park SSSI includes land within and extending beyond the previously notified Cotswold Water Park SSSI (as previously notified in 1994).
- 2.2 With effect from the date of this notification under section 28C of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the previous notification of Cotswold Water Park SSSI dated 1994 ceases to have effect (section 28C(5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981), insofar as it overlaps with this notification under section 28C.
- 2.3 Parts of the previously notified Cotswold Water Park SSSI are not within the land subject to the notification under section 28C. In the opinion of Natural England these areas are not of special interest and they are notified as such under section 28D of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Removal of these areas from this SSSI is not effective until the date of confirmation of the notification under section 28D(5).

- 2.4 Part 8 of this notification document contains the following legal papers required by sections 28C and 28D of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981:
- A citation detailing the reasons for notification (*Annex 1*).
 - A statement of Natural England's views on the management of the SSSI (*Annex 2*).
 - A list of operations requiring Natural England's consent (*Annex 3*).
 - Maps identifying the land subject to the notifications under sections 28C and 28D (*Annex 4*).
- 2.5 The notification of the SSSI under section 28C has several effects. The key ones can be summarised as follows:
- Owners and occupiers must give Natural England notice before carrying out, causing or permitting to be carried out any of the activities in the list of operations at *Annex 3*.
 - Owners of land included in the SSSI have a legal obligation to notify Natural England within 28 days if the ownership or occupancy of the land changes.
 - It is an offence for any person intentionally or recklessly to destroy or damage the special features of the SSSI or to disturb any of the fauna.
 - Other public bodies must consult Natural England before carrying out or authorising any works that may damage the SSSI.
 - It gives Natural England the ability to require the management of the SSSI by way of management schemes and notices.
- 2.6 The notification, under section 28D, of parts of the previously notified Cotswold Water Park SSSI, which in the opinion of Natural England are not of special interest, has several effects. The key ones can be summarised as:
- It provides the opportunity for you to make representations or objections to the proposed removal of the SSSI notification from these parts.
 - It does not take effect unless and until it is confirmed by Natural England (with or without modification), and until such time these parts of the site remain subject to the effects of the previous notification (the same effects as set out in 2.5 above).
 - If confirmed (with or without modification), the land subject to the notification under section 28D shall no longer be part of the previously notified SSSI and therefore shall no longer be subject to the effects set out in 2.5 above.
- 2.7 If you require any further information or advice on how this notification affects you, please do not hesitate to contact Natural England using the information at the beginning of this document.

3. Making representations

- 3.1 You have a legal right to make objections and representations about these notifications. Any representations, including those supporting the notification and proposed de-notification, or objections should be made in writing to Natural England's West Midlands Team by **7 May 2021**. Representations can be sent by e-mail or online using the details on page 2. You may wish to seek legal or independent advice and your representative may wish to write to us on your behalf.
- 3.2 Natural England's West Midlands Team will consider your objections or representations and will try to resolve them. If there are no unresolved objections, approval to confirm the notifications will be considered by an appropriate Natural England Director within nine months of these notifications.
- 3.3 Any unresolved objections or representations will be considered by the Board of Natural England within nine months of these notifications. Following consideration of objections and representations, the Board of Natural England may confirm or withdraw all or part of these

notifications. In reaching its decision the Board will consider whether, in light of the objections and representations received, Natural England remains of the opinion that the site is of special scientific interest. The desirability of the notifications, for instance, for socio-economic reasons, will not form part of the Board's decision.

- 3.4 If you wish to emphasise any of your objections or representations to the Board in person, you should tell us when you write to us. You will then be advised of the date and location of the Board meeting.
- 3.5 Natural England will accept correspondence relating to unresolved objections up to seven days prior to the Board meeting at which the confirmation is due to be considered. Correspondence received after this date will only be presented to the Board in very exceptional circumstances and you will be expected to provide justification as to why there has been a delay in providing the information. The decision whether this information will be submitted to the Board is entirely at Natural England's discretion. The reason that there is a seven day cut off is to allow Board members sufficient opportunity to consider all of the issues and read all the relevant paperwork before they meet to take their decision.
- 3.6 Natural England has a policy of openness, which reflects our obligations under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This legislation provides a legal right of access to information held by public bodies. This means that we will provide information on how we make our decisions on SSSIs to any person on request. This includes details of objections and representations received. We will assume, therefore, that your representation or objection can be made publicly available unless you indicate with clear and valid reasons which (if any) part(s) of these you wish to be excluded from this arrangement. However, you should be aware that the requirements of the legislation may mean that we cannot comply with your request that this information be withheld. We do, however, respect people's privacy and will take all reasonable steps to consult you before reaching a decision on disclosure of the information.
- 3.7 As an individual or organisation with an interest in the Cotswold Water Park SSSI, your information will be stored and processed on a computer database that will be operated within the General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018. For the purposes of the Data Protection Act, the data controller is Natural England, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York YO1 7PX. For more information, please see the *SSSI notifications privacy notice* at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/natural-england-privacy-notice/site-of-special-scientific-interest-notification-privacy-notice> or request a copy using the details on page 2 of this document.

4. Reasons for notification

- 4.1 The Cotswold Water Park SSSI is of special interest for the following nationally important features:

- **Breeding birds**

The open water, reedbed, wet grassland and scrub within the site support a nationally important assemblage of breeding birds of lowland open waters, their margins and scrub. Three breeding species are present in nationally important numbers: great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus*; little egret *Egretta garzetta* and little ringed plover *Charadrius dubius*.

- **Non-breeding birds**

The range of open water sizes, depths, structures, aquatic life and marginal vegetation within the site supports a nationally important number and diversity of waterbird species. The site is of special interest for its non-breeding populations of eight species: shoveler *Spatula clypeata*; gadwall *Mareca strepera*; pochard *Aythya ferina*; tufted duck *A. fuligula*; great crested grebe; coot *Fulica atra*; green sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*; lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus* and an assemblage of over 20,000 non-breeding waterbirds. The assemblage comprises a wide variety of waterbirds,

including (in addition to the aforementioned species that are reasons for notification in their own right), large numbers of wigeon *Mareca penelope*, mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, teal *A. crecca*, black-headed gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, herring gull *Larus argentatus* and common gull *L. canus*.

- **Charophytes (stoneworts)**

The base-rich chemistry of the lakes supports nationally important populations of the Nationally Rare¹ and Vulnerable² starry stonewort *Nitellopsis obtusa* and Nationally Scare³ lesser bearded stonewort *Chara curta*, pointed stonewort *Nitella mucronata* and clustered stonewort *Tolypella glomerata*. Stoneworts are complex, multicellular algae with a branched structure that occur in temporary or permanent lakes, ponds and ditches including seasonally flooded habitats and in brackish conditions.

5. Reasons for notifications under section 28D (de-notifications)

- 5.1 In the opinion of Natural England, small parts of the previously notified SSSI are not of special interest. These are mainly areas subject to mapping error i.e. habitat and built structures which do not support the interest features. They also include structures which have been built with planning permission since notification.
- 5.2 These areas are proposed for 'de-notification', the effects of which are described in section 2.6. There are 11 areas totalling 2.27 ha, as shown on the maps at *Annex 4*.

6. Site boundaries and relationships with other SSSIs

- 6.1 The boundary has been drawn to include land supporting the features of special interest and required to ensure their long-term sustainability.
- 6.2 The Cotswold Water Park SSSI consists of a series of gravel pits and workings including surrounding land in most cases up to an appropriate physical boundary e.g. hedgerows, ditches, fence lines, tracks and buildings.
- 6.3 In some areas the SSSI boundary has been drawn inside fenced boundaries to exclude blocks of unsuitable habitat, built structures, gardens, mown amenity grassland of high recreational usage, major tracks and areas of hard standing. Where built developments such as blocks of holiday lodges are present on the lake edge, with overhanging structures, the boundary has been taken as the lake edge, but with overhanging structures (jetties, decking etc) excluded.
- 6.4 In places no Ordnance Survey boundary feature is present. Where there is a clear current habitat divide this has been used as the boundary, but in a few places straight lines between fixed points or specified co-ordinates have been drawn to exclude unsuitable areas. See *Annex 4* for detail of the SSSI boundary. Further clarification of the precise location of the boundary of the SSSI can be obtained from Natural England's West Midlands Team using the contact details on page 2 of this document.
- 6.5 There are eight neutral grassland SSSIs in and around the Cotswold Water Park SSSI. These have not been included in this notification because they are a different habitat and not required to support the interest features of Cotswold Water Park SSSI. The nearest large-scale SSSIs with non-breeding waterbird assemblages are the Severn Estuary SSSI and the Upper Severn Estuary SSSI which are 30km to the west of the Cotswold Water Park.

¹ At the GB level, Rare species are those occurring in 1 to 15 hectads.

² Vulnerable refers to a species which has been categorised by the IUCN as likely to become endangered unless the circumstances threatening its survival and reproduction improve. It is therefore considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.

³ At the GB level, Scarce species are those occurring in 16 to 100 hectads.

7. Management of the SSSI

- 7.1 This notification includes at *Annex 2* a statement of the management that Natural England considers is needed to conserve and enhance the features of special interest. Different management will be appropriate in different parts of the site and this statement is not intended to detail the exact requirements at specific locations. The statement is intended to explain how we can work with and support owners and managers in continuing to achieve positive management of the SSSI.
- 7.2 This notification also includes a list of the operations requiring Natural England's consent at *Annex 3*. The basis for the selection of these operations is set out in the supporting information document. Some of the operations may already be taking place. Where they do not cause any damage, they will be given consent. We will work with landowners and managers to agree lists of such existing and planned activities, which can be approved.
- 7.3 Where an operation has been granted a consent, licence or permission from another public body a separate consent will not generally be required from Natural England. However, other public bodies are required to consult Natural England before such consents, licences or permissions are issued.
- 7.4 In particular, we recognise the important roles of the owners and managers of the land in managing this site. We will continue to work with them to develop means to secure the sustainable management of Cotswold Water Park SSSI.

8. Supporting information

- 8.1 The detailed information, which has been used to assess the importance of this SSSI, is available on request using the contact details on page 2 of this document.

9. Legal documents

- 9.1 Attached at *Annexes 1 - 4* are the legal documents, which are required by sections 28C and 28D of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Annex 1

Citation

This is a legal document on which you have a right to make objections or representations, as explained in part 3 of this notification document.

Site name: Cotswold Water Park **Unitary Authority/County:** Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Wiltshire

District: Cotswold, West Oxfordshire

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under section 28C of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Local Planning Authority: Cotswold District Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Oxfordshire County Council, West Oxfordshire District Council, Wiltshire Unitary Authority.

Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 sheet: 163 **National Grid reference:** SU029942

Notification date: 7 January 2021 **Area:** 2,074.81 ha

Reasons for notification:

The Cotswold Water Park SSSI is of special interest for the following nationally important features:

- breeding great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus*; little egret *Egretta garzetta* and little ringed plover *Charadrius dubius*;
- a diverse assemblage of breeding birds of lowland open waters, their margins and scrub;
- non-breeding shoveler *Spatula clypeata*; gadwall *Mareca strepera*; pochard *Aythya ferina*; tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*; great crested grebe; coot *Fulica atra*; green sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* and lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus*;
- an assemblage of over 20,000 waterbirds during the non-breeding season; and
- populations of the aquatic plants starry stonewort *Nitellopsis obtusa*, lesser bearded stonewort *Chara curta*; pointed stonewort *Nitella mucronata* and clustered stonewort *Tolypella glomerata*.

General description:

The Cotswold Water Park consists of 177 current and former gravel workings straddling the borders of Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Oxfordshire. It is the UK's largest marl (lime-rich) lake system. The gravel deposits were laid down during the last Ice Ages 350,000 and 45,000 years ago. They lie just beneath the surface, at a depth of 0.5-6m, within which can be found the remains of woolly mammoth, rhino, deer and bison. The lakes are mostly in two blocks. A larger grouping to the west is centred on the village of Ashton Keynes. A smaller block extends south and south-east of Fairford. More recently pits have been excavated in the central area, linking the two blocks.

The lakes form an extensive series of shallow and deep open waters which occur in association with a range of marginal habitats including sparsely-vegetated islands, gravel bars and shorelines, reedbed, marsh, wet ditches, rush pasture, semi-natural and improved grasslands, woodland and scattered scrub including a reproductively active population of native black poplar *Populus nigra*. This range of habitats provides valuable nesting, resting and feeding conditions which support nationally important numbers and assemblages of birds in the breeding and non-breeding seasons. Some of the lakes support a roost of gull species in nationally important numbers.

The site is of special interest for its non-breeding populations of eight species: shoveler *Spatula clypeata*; gadwall *Mareca strepera*; pochard *Aythya ferina*; tufted duck *A. fuligula*; great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus*; coot *Fulica atra*; green sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*; lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus* and an assemblage of over 20,000 non-breeding waterbirds. The assemblage comprises a wide variety of waterbirds, including (in addition to the aforementioned species that

are reasons for notification in their own right), large numbers of wigeon *Mareca penelope*, mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, teal *A. crecca*, black-headed gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, common gull *Larus canus* and herring gull *L. argentatus*.

The wet habitats and adjacent scrub support a diverse assemblage of breeding birds of lowland open waters, their margins and scrub. On open shingle, especially where sites are currently being worked, little ringed plovers *Charadrius dubius* breed in nationally important numbers. Shingle bars and islands support colonies of common terns *Sterna hirundo*. The open waters and their margins support great crested grebes, which breed in nationally important numbers, and large numbers of mute swans *Cygnus olor*, greylag geese *Anser anser* and tufted ducks. Heronries within the Cotswold Water Park hold grey herons *Ardea cinerea* and a nationally important population of little egrets *Egretta garzetta*. Gadwall, shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* and water rail *Rallus aquaticus* are widely distributed. Pochard, garganey *Spatula querquedula* and shoveler breed in small numbers. Large numbers of reed warblers *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*, sedge warblers *A. schoenobaenus*, Cetti's warblers *Cettia cetti* and reed buntings *Emberiza schoeniclus* breed in the reeds and scrub, and cuckoos *Cuculus canorus* are common. Kingfishers *Alcedo atthis* nest in exposed banks. Yellow wagtails *Motacilla flava* nest in small numbers, with others breeding nearby and feeding within the site. Scrub in a mosaic with open grassland supports large populations of breeding garden warbler *Sylvia borin*, long-tailed tit *Aegithalos caudatus* and bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* together with smaller numbers of grasshopper warblers *Locustella naevia* lesser whitethroat *S. curruca*, linnet *Linaria cannabina* and yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*. There is a strong population of nightingales *Luscinia megarhynchos*.

In recent years several rare wetland bird species have summered in the Cotswold Water Park, with some now breeding. Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* is now established as a breeding species, and great white egret *Ardea alba* bred successfully for the first time in 2020. Other species now regular visitors in summer include cattle egret *Bubulcus ibis*, crane *Grus grus* and marsh harrier *Circus aeruginosus*.

Eleven species of stonewort (charophyte) are present within the lakes of the Cotswold Water Park. One of these starry stonewort *Nitellopsis obtusa* is Vulnerable and Nationally Rare. Three of the remaining species, lesser bearded stonewort *Chara curta*, pointed stonewort *Nitella mucronata* and clustered stonewort *Tolypella glomerata* are Nationally Scarce. Britain and Ireland represent the world stronghold for lesser bearded stonewort and the population within the Cotswold Water Park is the largest in Britain. *Tolypella glomerata* is an early succession species which requires a constant turnover of waterbodies as occurs at the Cotswold Water Park. As a result, the population within the site is one of the strongest in Britain. Although more nutrient-rich lakes are often dominated by the non-native Nuttall's waterweed *Elodea nuttallii* there are others that still hold various native pondweeds including the Nationally Scarce and declining flat-stalked pondweed *Potamogeton friesii*.

Annex 2

Views about Management

This is a legal document on which you have a right to make objections or representations, as explained in part 3 of this notification document.



Views About Management

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 28(4)

A statement of Natural England's views about the management of Cotswold Water Park Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

This statement represents Natural England's views about the management of Cotswold Water Park SSSI for nature conservation. It sets out, in principle, our views on how the site's special conservation interest can be conserved and enhanced. Natural England has a duty to notify the owners and occupiers of SSSIs of its views about the management of the site.

Not all of the management principles will necessarily be equally appropriate to all parts of the SSSI. Also, there may be other management activities, additional to our current views, which can be beneficial to the conservation and enhancement of the features of interest.

This Statement does not constitute consent for any of the 'operations requiring Natural England's consent'. The written consent of Natural England is required before carrying out any of those operations. Natural England welcomes consultation with owners, occupiers and users of the SSSI to ensure that management of this site conserves and enhances the features of interest, and to ensure that all necessary prior consents are obtained.

Background

Gravel pits, despite their origins, may support wildlife equal in value to that of natural lakes, and can be important habitats for a range of specialised aquatic plant and animal species. The rich variety of wetland habitats associated with flooded gravel pits include extensive shallow and deep open water, vegetated margins, reedbed, fen, damp grassland, surface pools, ditches, scrub and wet woodland, all of which can add considerably to the diversity of the habitats and species present. For example, they often support important populations of wintering waterbirds and breeding bird assemblages typical of lowland open waters and their margins plus associated scrub habitats, as well as important populations of aquatic plants.

Management principles

A variety of water levels and chemistry within the main water bodies is necessary for the maintenance of both the bird species assemblages and charophytes. Charophytes (stoneworts) are aquatic plants which vary in size from a few centimetres to over a metre in length. They are often associated with the early stages of succession in newly dug or cleared waterbodies which have very clear, good quality water which is low in nutrients. They are particularly abundant in calcareous or brackish habitats. In some cases, the more robust species can develop perennial charophyte communities which can last for several decades. For the more sensitive pioneer species suitable habitat conditions require regular management of the early successional stage, so that they will not eventually be 'squeezed out' by more competitive aquatic and emergent vegetation. Such management can often be achieved by periodic and regulated re-disturbance of habitat.

The lateral movement of groundwater through the Cotswold Water Park is important in maintaining water quality, but where pollution occurs in one lake this means that further lakes may be affected in due course. All efforts should be made to eliminate point sources of pollution or prevent them developing. Management actions on the surrounding land should be carried out in ways that do not contribute to diffuse water pollution.

The presence of extensive shallow water and wet marginal substrates will provide the feeding conditions required by a variety of wintering, passage and breeding waterbirds, such as dabbling

ducks and waders, whilst other species may require larger areas of open deep water. Structural diversity within and between stands of aquatic vegetation (including emergent, floating and submerged vegetation) can provide important habitat for the immature stages of many fish, and invertebrates including different dragonfly and damselfly species that require a wide variety of vegetation types. All of these features are essential in supporting large populations of waterbirds. In common with other freshwater systems, artificial water bodies are susceptible to the introduction of invasive species such as non-native crayfish and Nuttall's waterweed *Elodea nuttallii*. Some management may be necessary to control these where they occur.

Standing waters and their surroundings are also popular for recreational activities such as angling and boating, which in many cases can be managed sustainably in a manner which takes account of the management of the water body for nature conservation. This will depend on the size and location of the water body and the nature of its special wildlife interest. Sustainable management can often be achieved through spatial and temporal zoning of activities to minimise disturbance to the breeding and wintering waterbirds in key areas and at sensitive times, such as the nesting season or during periods of severe weather.

Surrounding habitats such as scrub, wet and dry woodland and open grassland are important feeding habitat for several waterbird species, and scrub is important for breeding birds. These habitats may require some active management. Management should ensure that appropriate nesting and feeding conditions are maintained across the site for breeding, wintering and passage birds. This might include the maintenance of some open areas with unrestricted views and ensuring any sparsely vegetated islands, bars and margins retain an open character and are kept free of invading vegetation. Exposed areas of bare ground on islands should be maintained to provide nesting sites for breeding terns and little ringed plover, where present. Areas of lush, dense marginal and emergent vegetation should be retained where they are important for nesting birds. Large areas of wetland habitat such as reedbeds should be kept free from disturbance during both the breeding season and winter months. Where nesting grey herons *Ardea cinerea* and/or little egrets *Egretta garzetta* are present, management should aim to keep areas around the heronry quiet and undisturbed to maintain suitable roosting and nesting sites for the species. Whilst some specific management of these habitats may be necessary, with a site as large as the Cotswold Water Park habitat change over time in one lake may not be an issue in the wider context.

Date notified: 7 January 2021

Annex 3

List of operations requiring Natural England's consent

This is a legal document on which you have a right to make objections or representations, as explained in part 3 of this notification document.

Operations requiring Natural England's consent

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 28 (4)(b)

The operations listed below may damage the features of interest of Cotswold Water Park SSSI. Before any of these operations are undertaken you must consult Natural England and may require consent.

It is usually possible to carry out some of these operations in certain ways, or at specific times of year, or on certain parts of the SSSI, without damaging the features of interest. If you wish to carry out any of these activities, please contact a Natural England Adviser who will give you advice and where appropriate issue you with a consent. Please help us by using the form sent to you with the notification documents to ask us for consent to carry out these operations.

In certain circumstances it will not be possible to consent these operations, because they would damage the features of interest. Where possible your Natural England Adviser will suggest alternative ways in which you may proceed, which would enable a consent to be issued. To proceed without Natural England's consent may constitute an offence. If consent is refused, or conditions attached to it, which are not acceptable to you, you will be provided with details of how you may appeal to the Secretary of State.

Standard reference number	Type of operation
1.	Cultivation, including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing and re-seeding.
2.	Grazing and alterations to the grazing regime (including type of stock, intensity or seasonal pattern of grazing).
3.	Stock feeding and alterations to stock feeding practice.
4.	Mowing or cutting vegetation and alterations to the mowing or cutting regime (such as from haymaking to silage).
5.	Application of manure, slurry, silage liquor, fertilisers and lime.
6.	Application of pesticides, including herbicides (weedkillers) whether terrestrial or aquatic, and veterinary products.
7.	Dumping, spreading or discharging of any materials.
8.	Burning.
9.	Release into the site of any wild, feral, captive-bred or domestic animal, plant, seed or micro-organism (including genetically modified organisms).
10.	Killing, injuring, taking or removal of any wild animal (including dead animals or parts thereof), or their eggs and nests, including pest control and disturbing them in their places of shelter.
11.	Destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant or plant remains, including tree, shrub, herb, hedge, dead or decaying wood, moss, lichen, fungus, leaf-mould or turf.
12.	Tree and/or woodland management and alterations to tree and/or woodland management (including planting, felling, pruning and tree surgery, thinning, coppicing, changes in species composition, removal of fallen timber).
13a.	Draining (including the use of mole, tile, tunnel or other artificial drains).
13b.	Modification to the structure of water courses e.g. streams, springs, ditches including their banks and beds, as by re-alignment, regrading, damming or dredging.
13c.	Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes.

Standard reference number	Type of operation
14.	Alterations to water levels and tables and water utilisation (including irrigation, storage and abstraction from existing water bodies and through boreholes). Also the modification of current drainage operations.
15.	Infilling or digging of ditches, drains, ponds, pools, marshes or pits.
16a.	Freshwater fishery production and/or management, including sporting fishing and angling, and alterations to freshwater fishery production and/or management.
20.	Extraction of minerals including sand, gravel, hard rock, topsoil, subsoil and spoil.
21.	Destruction, construction, removal, rerouting, or regrading of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks, including soil and soft rock exposures or the laying, maintenance or removal of pipelines and cables, above or below ground.
22.	Storage of materials.
23.	Erection of permanent or temporary structures or the undertaking of engineering works, including drilling.
26.	Use of vehicles or craft.
27.	Recreational or other activities likely to damage or disturb the features of special interest.
28a.	Game and waterfowl management and hunting practices and alterations to game and waterfowl management and hunting practice.
28b.	Use of lead shot.

Notes

- i. This is a list of operations appearing to Natural England to be likely to damage the special features of this SSSI, as required under section 28 (4) (b) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
- ii. Where an operation has been granted a consent, license or permission from another authority separate consent will not be required from Natural England. However, other authorities are required to consult Natural England before such consents, licenses or permissions are issued.
- iii. Any reference to 'animal' in this list shall be taken to include any mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish or invertebrate.

Date notified: 7 January 2021

National Grid Reference: SU029942

Annex 4

Map(s) showing the land notified

This is a legal document on which you have a legal right to make objections or representations, as explained in part 3 of this notification document

