Cotswold Water Park Site of Special Scientific Interest
Gloucestershire
("the SSSI")

CONSENT OF NATURAL ENGLAND

Section 28E(3)(a) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

To:

Whitefriars Sailing Club

Of:

Lake 26

Whitefriars Lane, Ashton Keynes, Wiltshire SN6 6FW

You have Natural England's consent to carry out, cause or permit to be carried out the operations specified in your notice dated 1 October 2021 as attached at Annex 1 (the "Notice").

For the avoidance of doubt, this consent covers the period 1 February 2022 to 31 January 2027.

Signed for Natural England: [redacted]

Print name: Rosemary Orme **Date: 1 February 2022**

Important information about this consent

If you wish to change the proposed operations or their location or to carry out additional operations for which consent has not yet been given, or if a time period set out above has expired, you must give further written notice to Natural England. Before doing so, you can seek advice from Natural England.

You may face enforcement action if you carry out or permit unauthorised operations which destroy, damage or disturb the notified features of special scientific interest.

Before undertaking or permitting the operations specified in this consent, you may also need to get additional permissions from other authorities. For example, the consented operations might also require planning permission from the Local Planning Authority, a permit from the Environment Agency or a licence from the Forestry Commission. It is your responsibility, as the grantee of this consent, to ensure that no other permissions or consents, whether of a public or a private nature, are needed and, if any are needed, to acquire them before you exercise this consent.

This is Natural England's consent only, and it does not allow you to undertake or permit the specified operations without first having obtained all of the necessary permissions needed to undertake the operation lawfully. If you do not obtain all of the permissions you require, and carry out the work anyway, you may face enforcement action from other authorities or parties.

As the grantee of this Consent, you are responsible for carrying out the consented operation(s) safely and in all ways according to the law.

NATURAL ENGLAND

If you have any queries or concerns over this consent, please contact:

Paul Candlin a [redacted]

or

Bryony Paul at [redacted]

Reference number of operations from SSSI notification documents, for Natural England's use only:
4, 10, 11, 12, 14, 26, 27

Annex 1 – the Notice

Land Management Activities within Cotswold Water Park Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Lake 26 Cotswold Water Park

About this Notice

This document is to capture the land management operations that you wish to carry out (or allow to be carried out) which are likely to need Natural England's consent.

Please complete the following sections to provide information about the operations you undertake on your land. The form is laid out to relate to the operations listed in Annex 3 of the SSSI notification documents (the 'ORNEC' list). Where possible, please annotate locations of your listed activities on the map provided (you may use more than one copy if needed).

If you are including activities that are undertaken on a regular basis then please confirm the timing and frequency of these operations (e.g., annually/biennially in September) and describe how the work is undertaken. Please provide enough information so that Natural England can understand **what** activities you wish to undertake, **how** you wish to undertake the activities, **when** you wish to undertake the activities and **where** you wish to undertake the activities.

Natural England strongly advise that on completion of this form you review the ORNEC list to verify that **all** operations carried out on your land requiring Natural England's consent are detailed below.

Please provide full details (including frequency, timings, methodology and equipment) below about:

Is any of the holding used for arable farming? If yes please provide details on timings, frequency, location (indicate on map), methodology and equipment used, plus crops grown and associated activities such as physical and chemical cultivation.
No

Is any of the land grazed? If yes please include type of stock, intensity, and seasonal pattern of grazing. If the stock are fed include type of feed, amount, presentation, and frequency.
No

If you own any open grassland areas, what is the mowing or cutting regime that you wish to undertake going forwards? Do you apply any manure, slurry, silage liquor, fertilisers, or lime? If yes please provide details on timings, frequency, location (indicate on map), methodology and products used.
To maintain the camping field to facilitate the camping activities by cutting the grass, when necessary, without the use of herbicides selective weed killers or fertilisers or any manure, slurry, silage liquor, fertilisers, or lime.

Do you apply pesticides or other chemicals, either to terrestrial or aquatic habitats? If yes please provide details on timings, frequency, location (indicate on map), methodology and products used.
No pesticides or chemicals are applied to terrestrial or aquatic habitats

Do you burn material on site? If yes please provide details on timings, frequency, location (indicate on map).
No

Do you release into the site any animals or plants? If yes please provide details on timings, frequency, location (indicate on map), methodology and species released.
No

Do you carry out any pest control or game shooting? If yes please provide details on timings, frequency, and location (indicate on map). [Please note that the use of lead shot is illegal on this site.]

No game shooting is carried on at WSC.

WSC uses a professional pest control officer to control rats, mice, and rabbits in and around the buildings within the Club Compound (which is not in the proposed SSSI).

The Club uses a device that emits an audible distress call that discourages the Geese from grazing and fouling the grassed area around the Clubhouse and the jetties. The device is attached to the Race Hut and its range covers the grassed are and some of the jetties. The intention is to discourage the Geese from using this area and to stay on the grass and woodland to the north-east of the Lake. The device has some effect but is only used intermittently because the Geese get used to the noise after a while and ignore it.

The flock of Canada Geese at the site is steadily growing and their activities around the Clubhouse and the jetties cause a nuisance and a danger to health, particularly to children who may touch droppings on the grass or the jetties as they rig boats or enter or leave the boats and ingest the bacteria that the droppings carry. The Club may seek to limit their numbers under the provisions of GL41.

The Club grants a licence to trap Crayfish to Mr Sam Mitchell who trades as Continental Crayfish LTD Mr Mitchell holds a licence granted by Natural England to trap and transport Signal Crayfish (Pacifastacus leniusculus) in the Cotswold Water Park. Mr Mitchel sets traps about nine times per year. He advises that there are relatively few Signal Crayfish in the Lake. Details of his licence are given in the Existing permissions template.

Do you manage areas of woodland and/or scrub? If yes please provide details on timings, frequency, location (indicate on map), methodology and equipment used.

The hedges along Whitefriars Lane are trimmed between 2nd September and 28th February using a variety of electrical/mechanical cutters.

Trees and shrubs at the shoreline of the lake and the extended woodland are trimmed at intervals between 2nd September and 28th February using a variety of electrical/mechanical hand-held cutters to ensure the safe removal of decayed and dangerous branches and to reduce the encroachment of shrub growth on the lake shoreline and the designated angling swims.

Do you carry out any routine management of drains, ditches, or streams? If yes please provide details on timings, frequency, location (indicate on map), methodology and equipment used.

The sluice located on the south -east bank discharges into watercourses managed by the CWP and to set the water level of the lake to a known datum. The flow of water through the lake depends on prevailing conditions; heavy rainfall can and swell the lake considerably and overcome the sluice.

Do you routinely adjust the water levels in your lake(s)? If yes please provide details on timings, frequency, location (indicate on map), methodology and equipment used.
The water level is regulated by the sluice to a known datum. The consistent steady state water level seems to be around 86.40m, taken from the Environment Agency Gauge board near the sluice; readings taken since 2007 that bear this out. The Gauge board E.A site reference is GP01/92 if N.E need to ask E.A for further information. Currently the reading is 86.38m and the water level is about 20mm below the top edge of the sluice weir. Natural evaporation reduces the level in the summer. Intense rainfall can produce run-off from surrounding land which overwhelms the sluice (e.g., July 2007 and December 2020).

Do you routinely or regularly stock fish? If yes please provide details on timings, frequency, location (indicate on map), methodology and species released.

South Cerney Anglers Club stock fish at intervals. Full details are given in the Permissions Template.

Do you store materials on site? If yes please provide details on timings, frequency, location (indicate on map), methodology and equipment used.

No materials are stored on the SSSI designated land.

The land to the east of 'The Barn which contains the discharge pipe for the Klargester Sewage Treatment Plant and the land to the West which is used for a variety of club purposes including the temporary storage of abandoned boats is to be excluded from the SSSI.

Do you regularly use or permit others to use mobile homes, tents or similar on the site? If yes please provide details on timings, frequency, and location (indicate on map).

The only camping/mobile home use takes place on the camping field which is to be excluded from the SSSI.

Do you use or allow others to use the lake for any recreational activities using craft such as kayaks, canoes, dinghies, jet skis etc.? If yes please provide details on the type of craft, location of use and storage (indicate on map), timings and frequency of use.

The Club grants an annual licence to the Stroud Sea Cadets Corps to use kayaks on the lake. The kayaks are stored on site. The activity takes place during June to August, mostly in the evenings, on the whole of the lake (subject to compatibility with Club Use).

The Club rules prohibit the use of Jet skis or any powered craft other than the safety craft used by the Club.

Do you undertake any other recreational activities likely to disturb the wildlife of the site? If yes please provide details on timings, frequency, location (indicate on map), methodology and equipment used.

The water, shoreline and woods are hosts to a wide variety of birds which the Club's activities do not disturb. Swan numbers fluctuate but a few family groups are regular habitants of the lake. Excrement on the slipways is a noticeable hazard but is dealt with by scrubbing.

WSC usually operates an 'Adventure week' for junior sailors during July, which involve some activities on the grassland owned by WSC adjacent to the bridleway to the north-east of the Lake.

The activities on the grassland mostly involve games and small projects which cause no disturbance to wildlife. On occasions, the juniors may be supervised to collect some fallen brushwood to make a temporary shelter.

The Sea Cadets are usually granted permission to undertake the same kind of activities for a few days during July or August Neither of these activities is likely to create any measurable disturbance to the wildlife of the Lake or its surrounding land.

Appendix A	**SSI Notification Plan**
Appendix B	**Plan of WSC freehold land ownership at Lake 26**
Appendix C	**Plan of land known as 'The Cut' leased from Camus Ltd.**
Appendix D	**Outline plan of Club Compound**
Appendix E	**Information in response to Appendix 3 of the Notification**

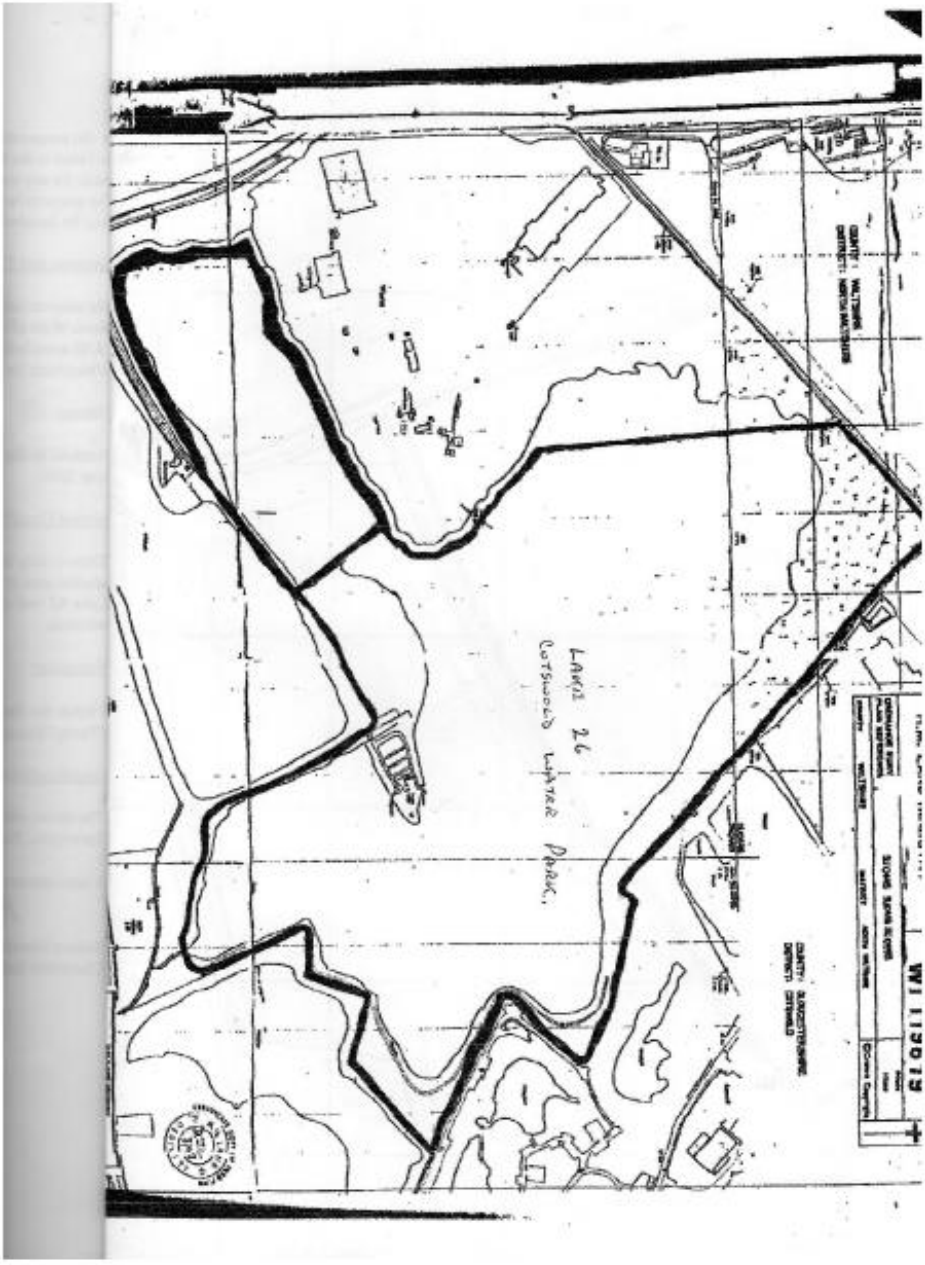
Signed as a true statement 01 10 2021

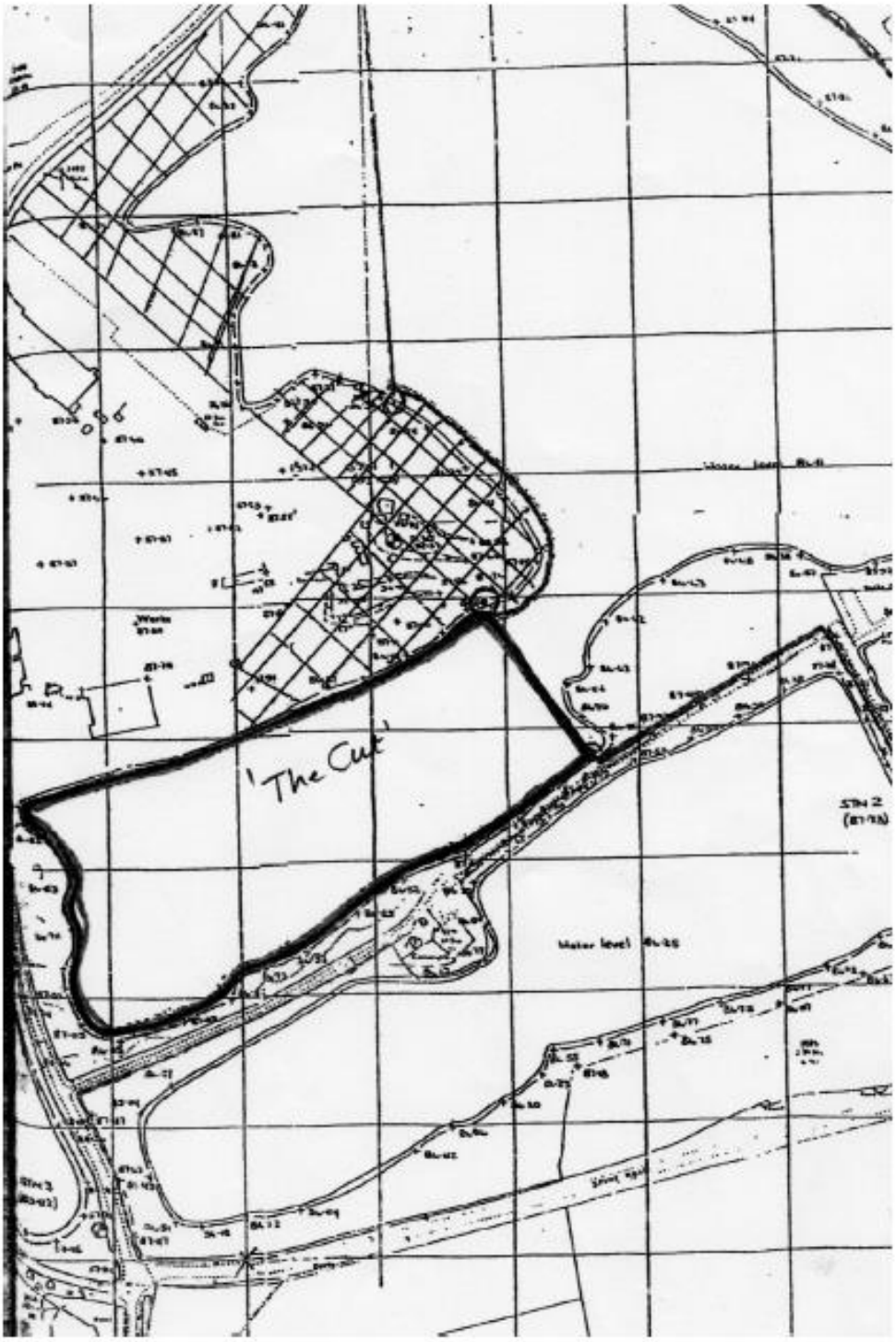
On behalf of Whitefriars Sailing Club

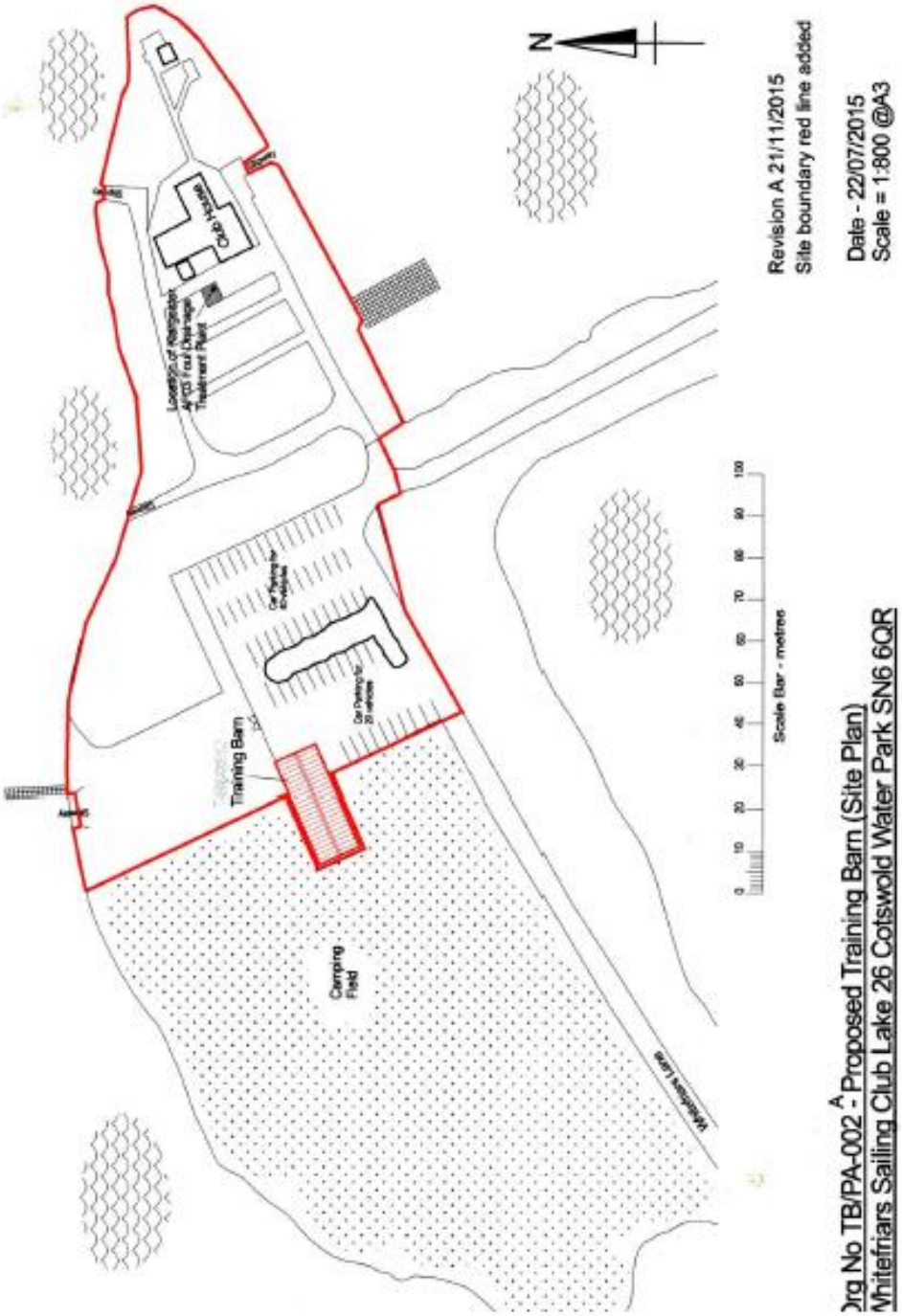


Club Risk Assessment Officer




LAND AT
COTSWOLD WATER
PARK.


The Cut



Drg No TB/PA-002 A Proposed Training Barn (Site Plan)
Whitefriars Sailing Club Lake 26 Cotswold Water Park SN6 6QR

Appendix 3 of Notification

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.

Type of operation

1. Cultivation, including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing and re-seeding.	None
2. Grazing and alterations to the grazing regime (including type of stock, intensity, or seasonal pattern of grazing).	None
3. Stock feeding and alterations to stock feeding practice.	None
4. Mowing or cutting vegetation and alterations to the mowing or cutting regime (such as from haymaking to silage).	The hedges along Whitefriars Lane are trimmed between 2nd September and 28th February using a variety of electrical/mechanical cutters. Trees and shrubs at the shoreline of the lake and the extended woodland are trimmed at intervals between 2nd September and 28th February using a variety of electrical/mechanical hand-held cutters to ensure the safe removal of decayed and dangerous branches and to reduce the encroachment of shrub growth on the lake shoreline and the designated angling swims.
5. Application of manure, slurry,	None

silage liquor, fertilisers, and lime.	
6. Application of pesticides, including herbicides (weedkillers) whether terrestrial or aquatic, and veterinary products	None
7. Dumping, spreading, or discharging of any materials.	None
8. Burning.	None
9. Release into the site of any wild, feral, captive-bred, or domestic animal, plant, seed, or micro-organism (including genetically modified organisms).	None except for occasional re-stocking of the fish in the Lake from reputable suppliers carried out by South Cerney Angling Club
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	Pest control in the buildings located in the Compound area (which is excluded from the SSSI) and measures to control the activities of Canada Geese within the Compound area. The lake is a habitat for Signal Crayfish which WSC treats as an invasive species which can cause erosion and harm to the lake shoreline. WSC grants permission to a contractor who holds a trapping licence from the Environment Agency to trap around 100kg per year for the restaurant trade.
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.	None except for minor works on the shoreline to control the spread of shrub willows and other scrub.

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).	1. Outside the bird nesting season, the Club clears shrub vegetation from the shoreline within the club Compound to reduce trip hazards for Radio controlled Group Members operating from the shoreline. At intervals, the Club clears scrub vegetation from the lake shoreline outside the Club Compound to maintain a reasonably clear movement of wind across the lake. 2. The Club wishes to continue to use appropriate materials to repair the lake shoreline outside the Club compound to prevent erosion which could damage the access path or fishing stands or cause a breach of the lake boundaries'
13a. Draining (including the use of mole, tile, tunnel, or other artificial drains).	The area of grassland know as 'the Field' has agricultural land drains which drain into the Lake
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.	None
13c Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes.	None for drainage purposes (see above for shrub clearance).
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.	None. The water level in the Lake is regulated by the prevailing weather conditions and in normal circumstances the level is maintained at a datum by the sluice. In times of flooding, the water level can rise above the sluice.
15. Infilling or digging of ditches, drains, ponds, pools, marshes, or pits.	None
16a. Freshwater fishery	South Cerney Angling Club have a licence to fish using rod and line from 'pegs'

production and/or management, including sporting fishing and angling, and alterations to freshwater fishery production and/or management.	along the shoreline. The Angling club occasionally re-stocks the lake with fish from reputable suppliers.
20. Extraction of minerals including sand, gravel, hard rock, topsoil, subsoil, and spoil.	None
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.	None except for the maintenance of agricultural drainage channels in 'The Field' and maintenance of the Klargester outfall pipe which runs in land to the east side of 'The Barn' which the Club proposes should be excluded from the SSSI
22. Storage of materials.	None outside the operational land of the Club which will be excluded from the SSSI.
23. Erection of permanent or temporary structures or the undertaking of engineering works, including drilling.	None
26. Use of vehicles or craft.	WSC uses Powered Craft for training purposes or to ensure the safety of those participating in water sports and for occasional maintenance tasks on the lake. The number and types of Powered Craft used on the Lake varies, depending on the number of users on the water and the prevailing conditions. For example, it may be appropriate to increase the number of Powered Craft available for Sailability sessions.
27. Recreational or other activities likely to damage or disturb the features of special interest	The feature of special interest are not disturbed by the recreational activities of the Club
28a. Game and waterfowl	None

management and hunting practices and alterations to game and waterfowl management and hunting practice.	
28b. Use of lead shot.	No lead shot is allowed to be put into the Lake. South Cerney Angling Club have strict rules against the 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: SU0299

Land Management Activities within Cotswold Water Park Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Declaration

In providing this information and signing this form, I hereby give notice to Natural England under Section 28E (1a) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) of my proposal to carry out, cause or permit the operations stated above within this SSSI **for the next 5 years following the date of this notice.**

Name of SSSI owner/occupier:	Whitefriars Sailing Club
Address:	Lake 26 Cotswold Water Park, Whitefriars Lane, Ashton Keynes Wiltshire SN6 6FW
Email:	[redacted]
Telephone:	
Signed:	D Buffham, Commodore
Date:	
Name (if representing an SSSI owner or occupier):	
Position:	
Address:	
Email	
Telephone:	
Signed:	
Date:	

Using and sharing your information: The Data Controller is Natural England. For further information on how we process your personal information please see our Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Privacy Notice at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/natural-england-privacy-notices.

Thank you for completing this Notice.

Please ensure you complete the Declaration above and send this Notice, along with any accompanying information and the existing permissions form, to ProtectedSites@naturalengland.org.uk.

We will respond as soon as possible, no later than 28 days of receipt of this notice.