

Nationally designated sites - Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Four Ashes Pit

- **Site map**
- **Citation**
- **List of operations likely to damage the interest features**

Belvide Reservoir

- **Site map**
- **Citation**
- **List of operations likely to damage the interest features**

Doxey & Tillington Marshes

- **Site map**
- **Citation**
- **List of operations likely to damage the interest features**

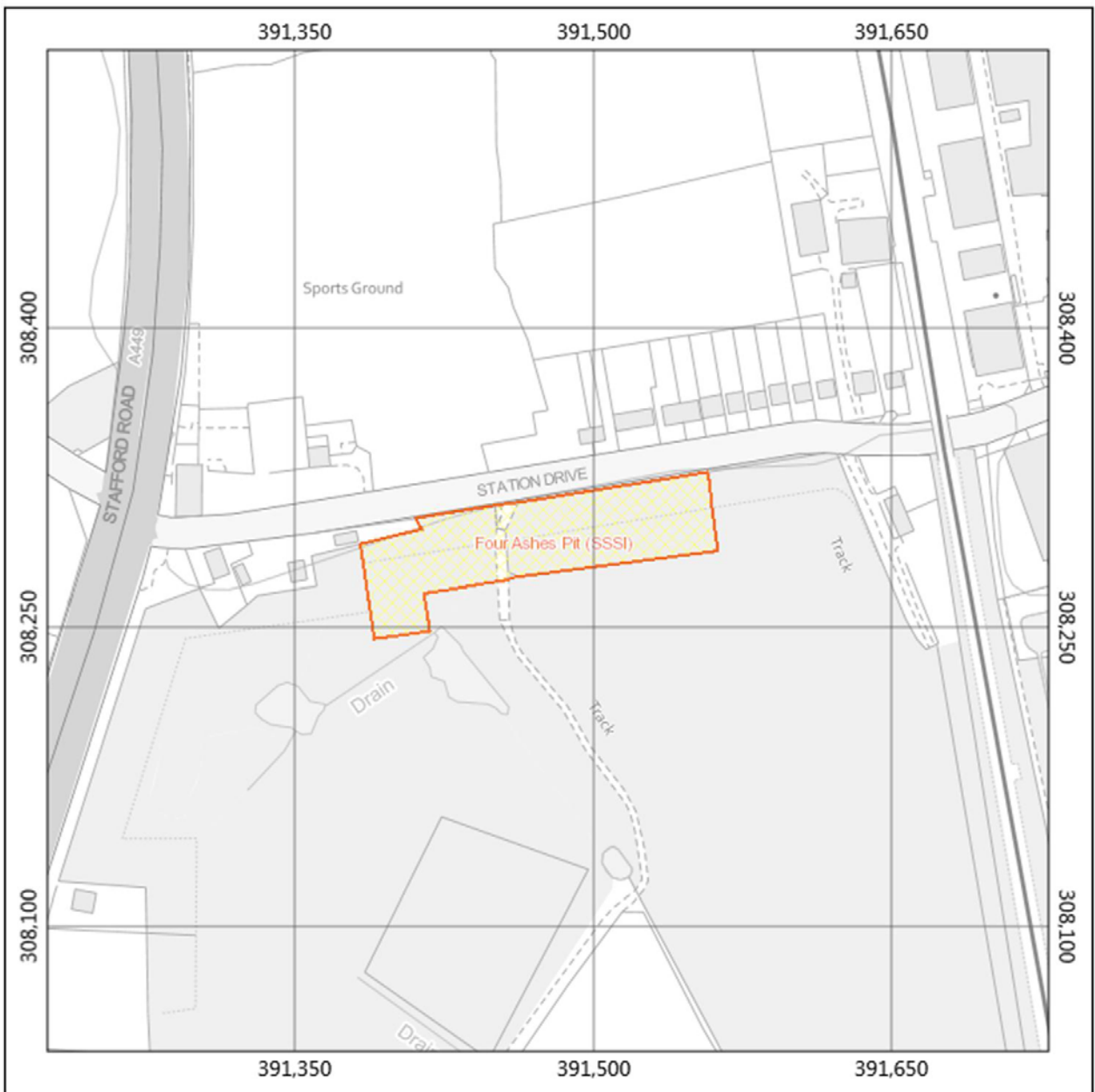
Chasewater and the Southern Staffordshire Coalfield Heaths

- **Site map**
- **Citation**
- **List of operations likely to damage the interest features**

Stowe Pool & Walkmill Claypit (Walkmill Claypit unit)

- **Site map**
- **Citation**
- **List of operations likely to damage the interest features**

Four Ashes Pit SSSI



Key

- SSSI England Detailed © Natural England
- Ordnance Survey (Greyscale) © Ordnance Survey



Map Produced from WebMap2 on 24/10/18

Map Projection: British National Grid

Map Scale at A4: 1:2,899

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COUNTY: STAFFORDSHIRE SITE NAME: FOUR ASHES PIT

DISTRICT: South Staffordshire SITE REF: 15WN3

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended

Local Planning Authority: STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, South Staffordshire District Council

National Grid Ref: SJ 914083 Area: 0.7 (ha.) 1.7 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 127 1:10,000: SJ 90 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): – Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

New site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Four Ashes Pit is the type site for the Devensian Stage of the Quaternary Period ca. 50,000 years ago. It consists of a sequence of sands and gravels, overlain by till lying on top of Triassic Sandstone bed rock. Organic deposits and periglacial features, both within and below the gravels, have provided a substantial body of information on environmental conditions during the last (Ipswichian) interglacial phase and the early and middle Devensian Stage of the Ice Ages, while periglacial features and the till in the upper part of the succession record the late Devensian cold episode. Although only part of the original interest now survives, Four Ashes Pit remains an important Quaternary site and a key reference locality.

Operations likely to damage the special interest

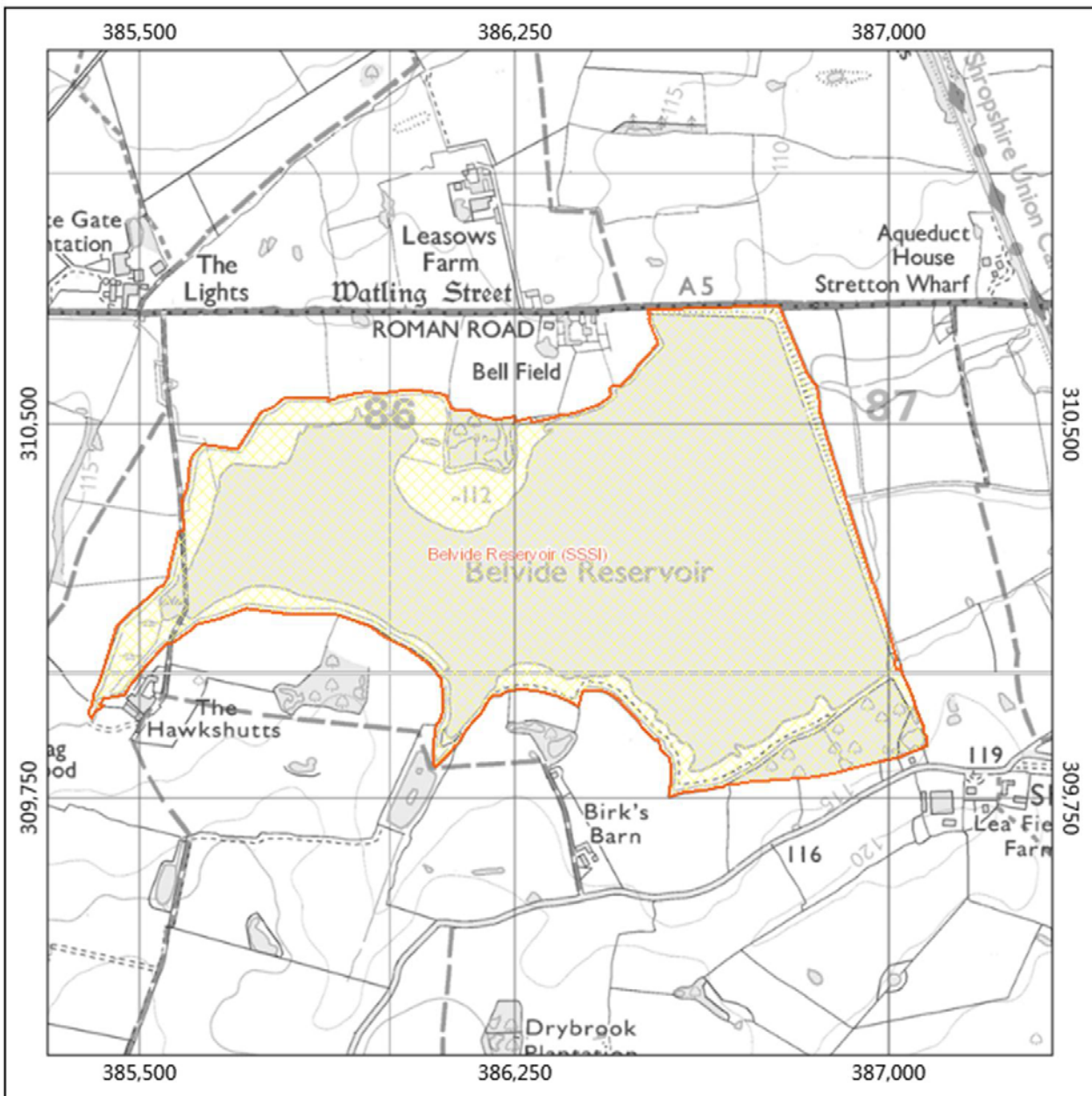
Site name: Four Ashes Pit

OLD1000962



Ref. No.	Type of Operation
1	Cultivation, including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing, and re-seeding.
2	Changes in the grazing regime.
7	Dumping, spreading or discharge of any materials.
12	Changes in tree and/or woodland management+.
14	The changing of water levels and tables and water utilisation (including irrigation, storage and abstraction from existing water bodies and through boreholes).
20	Extraction of minerals, including sand and gravel, topsoil and subsoil.
21	Construction, removal or destruction of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks, 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.
24	Modification of natural or man-made features including clearance of loose rock, scree or spoil and battering, buttressing, grading or seeding rock-faces or outcrops, infilling of pits.
26	Use of vehicles likely to damage or disturb features of interest.

+ including afforestation, planting, clear and selective felling, thinning.

Belvide Reservoir SSSI



Key

-  SSSI England Detailed © Natural England
-  Ordnance Survey (Greyscale) © Ordnance Survey



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COUNTY: STAFFORDSHIRE

SITE NAME: BELVIDE RESERVOIR

DISTRICT: South Staffordshire

SITE REF: 15WCW

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended

Local Planning Authority: STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, South Staffordshire District Council

National Grid Reference: SJ 862102

Area: 88.7 (ha.) 219.2 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet: 1:50,000: 127

1:10,000: SJ 81 SE, SJ 80 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1951

Date of Last Revision: 1968

Date Notified (Under 1961 Act): 1987

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Part of the site is managed as a nature reserve by the West Midland Bird Club. Site boundary alteration (extension & reduction).

Description and Reasons for Notification:

This canal feeder reservoir is situated in undulating, open, agricultural countryside to the north-west of Wolverhampton. It lies on heavy neutral soils overlying Keuper Marl. The relatively undisturbed character of the site provides a secluded refuge for many species of water birds. It is particularly important as a wintering site for shoveler *Anas clypeata*, and of regional importance for large numbers of moulting and wintering water-birds. It is also noted for its breeding birds and ability to attract a great variety of migrants and rare vagrants.

The open water has a gently sloping, well vegetated, margin with areas of mud which are exposed by periodic drawdown to provide an attractive feeding zone for passage waders. On three sides this grades into semi-improved neutral grassland. While much of the grassland is dry, there are small areas of fen dominated by rushes *Juncus* spp. or reed sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima*. A small basic flush has a large stand of common fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica*. Emergent vegetation is virtually absent but stands of common clubrush *Schoenoplectus lacustris* and reed sweet-grass occupy shallows in the south east corner. An artificial gravel mound has been constructed at the western end of the reservoir to encourage nesting of little ringed plover *Charadrius dubius*. Two small woodlands of pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* and ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and a well-developed boundary hedgerow provide shelter, food, and nest-sites.

The ornithological interest of the site has been recognised since the 1920s and regular wildfowl counts have been maintained over the past 40 years. Overwintering and migratory birds using the site include waterfowl, waders and passerines. The site supports nationally important numbers of passage and wintering shoveler and is of regional importance for the wintering goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*. There is a large winter roost of gulls with occasional Iceland and glaucous gulls *Larus glaucoides* and *L. hyperboreus*. The large area of water and the exposed shoreline are attractive to waders which include black-tailed and bar-tailed godwits *Limosa limosa* and *L. lapponica* and knot *Calidris canutus*. Other passage migrants include black-necked grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*, garganey *Anas querquedula*, hobby *Falco subbuteo* and arctic tern *Sterna paradisaea*. Over the last decade the site has also attracted a number of rare vagrants including white-winged black tern *Chiladonias leucopterus*, crane *Grus grus*, spotted sandpiper *Actitis macularia* and marsh sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*.

In recent years, 71 species of birds have bred here including shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus* mute swan *Cygnus olor*, shoveler, little ringed plover, redshank *Tringa totanus*, snipe *Gallinago gallinago*, kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* and seven species of warblers.

Operations likely to damage the special interest

Site name: Belvide Reservoir

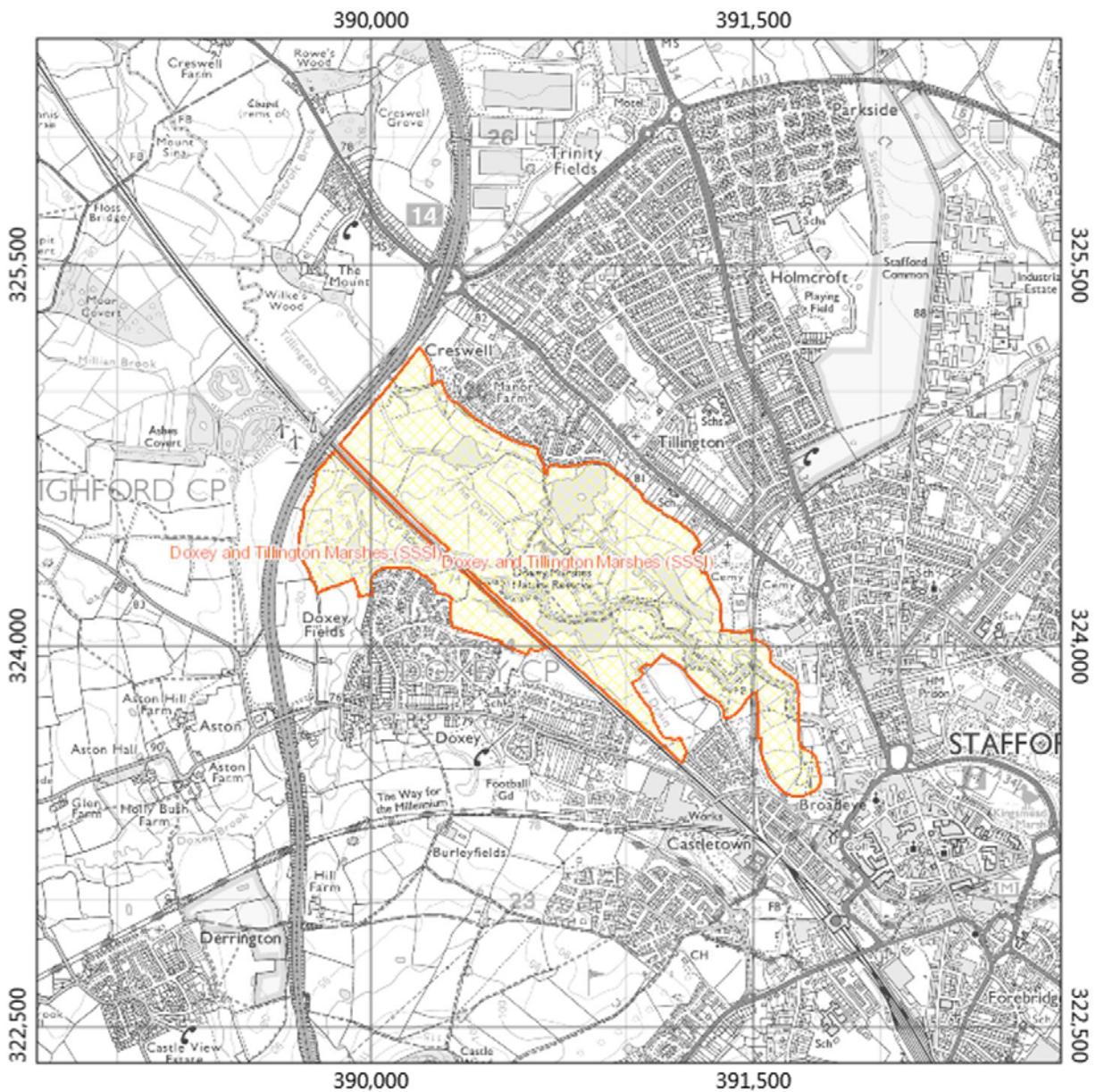
OLD1003826

Ref. No.	Type of Operation
1	Cultivation, including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing, and re-seeding.
2	Grazing.
3	Stock feeding.
4	Mowing or other methods of cutting vegetation.
5	Application of manure, fertilisers and lime.
6	Application of pesticides, including herbicides (weedkillers).
7	Dumping, spreading or discharge of any materials.
8	Burning.
9	The release into the site of any wild, feral or domestic animal*, plant or seed.
10	The killing or removal of any wild animal*, including pest control.
11	The 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 and turf.
12	Tree and/or woodland management+.
13a	Drainage (including the use of mole, tile, tunnel or other artificial drains).
13b	Modification of the structure of watercourses (eg streams, springs, ditches, drains), including their banks and beds, as by re-alignment, re-grading and dredging.
13c	Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes.
14	The changing of water levels and tables and water utilisation (including irrigation, storage and abstraction from existing water bodies and through boreholes).
15	Infilling of ditches, drains, ponds or marshes.
16a	Freshwater fishery production and/or management, including sporting fishing and angling.
20	Extraction of minerals, including sand and gravel, topsoil, subsoil and spoil.
21	Construction, removal or destruction of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks, 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 likely to damage or disturb features of interest.
27	Recreational or other activities likely to disturb birds or damage vegetation.
28	Game and waterfowl management and hunting practice.



* 'animal' includes any mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish or invertebrate.

+ including afforestation, planting, clear and selective felling, thinning, coppicing, modification of the stand or underwood, changes in species composition, cessation of management.

Doxey & Tillington Marshes SSSI



Key

-  SSSI England Detailed © Natural England
-  Ordnance Survey (Greyscale) © Ordnance Survey



Map Produced from WebMap2 on 24/10/18

Map Projection: British National Grid

Map Scale at A4: 1:23,189

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NOTIFICATION DATE: 6 MARCH 1989

COUNTY: STAFFORDSHIRE SITE NAME: DOXEY AND TILLINGTON
MARSHEs

DISTRICT: Stafford SITE REF: 15WED

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended

Local Planning Authority: STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL,
Stafford Borough Council

National Grid Reference: SJ 906245 Area: 123.9 (ha.) 306.2 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 127 1:10,000: SJ 82 SE
SJ 92 SW & SJ 92 NW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1977 Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1989 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Site boundary alteration (extension and reduction).

Part of the site is managed as a nature reserve by the Staffordshire Nature
Conservation Trust.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

An extensive area of low-lying damp grassland, marsh, swamp and pools in the
flood plain of the River Sow, reaching almost into the centre of Stafford. The site
is of ornithological importance all year round and has special significance for the
numbers of breeding snipe *Gallinago gallinago*. This species has seriously
declined in lowland Britain through land drainage and the population at Doxey and
Tillington Marshes is the largest in lowland Staffordshire. There is also one of the
largest areas of reed sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima* swamp in the county.

The frequent flooding (less so in recent years) and raised water table through land
subsidence, has served to maintain or create a variety of wetland habitats. Drier
parts of the site are cattle grazed producing short, open pastures. The ill-drained
ground is dominated by soft rush *Juncus effusus* and hard rush *Juncus inflexus*
with a range of plants characteristic of marshy conditions including gypsywort
Lycopus europaeus, creeping-jenny *Lysimachia nummularia*, marsh-marigold
Caltha palustris, marsh pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, tubular water-dropwort
Oenanthe fistulosa, lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula* and marsh arrowgrass
Triglochin palustris. The many shallow ditches dividing the pastures contain
additional species such as water-plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica*, lesser water-
parsnip *Berula erecta*, celery-leaved buttercup *Ranunculus sceleratus* and
brooklime *Veronica beccabunga*. Those ditches that are regularly cleaned and
retain open water are attractive to freshwater invertebrates and birds.

Tall fen and swamp has developed over much of the area where the water table is at or near the surface and grazing light is absent. Here the dominant plants are reed sweet-grass, common reed *Phragmites australis* and greater reed-mace *Typha latifolia*. Other robust species associated with these plant communities are common club-rush *Schoenoplectus lacustris*, lesser pond-sedge *Carex acutiformis*, branched bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* and great willow-herb *Epilobium hirsutum*. More locally, on the margins of subsidence pools or river cut-offs, the fen flora may include plants such as yellow iris *Iris pseudacorus*, skullcap *Scutellaria galericulata*, water dock *Rumex hydrolapathum* and water chickweed *Myosoton aquaticum*.

The River Sow and its tributaries, the man-made lagoons with their inundation zones and overgrown hedges, trees and scrub complete the range of habitats represented on the site. All contribute substantially to the ornithological interest.

Doxey and Tillington Marshes are particularly important as a habitat for breeding and wintering birds. Regular breeding species include great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus* and little grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*, reed and sedge warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* and *A. schoenobaenus* and, as well as snipe, two further waders – redshank *Tringa totanus* and lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*. Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*, teal *Anas crecca*, grasshopper warbler *Locustella naevia* and whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* are occasional breeders and water rails *Rallus aquaticus* are present all year round. The site supports a diverse wintering bird community; 80 or more species are present in most winters. There are locally important concentrations of wintering snipe and lapwing. From late August to October roosts of swallows *Hirundo rustica* and martins *Hirundo* spp. can build up to several thousand birds. Also in late summer yellow wagtails *Motacilla flava* may congregate in large numbers prior to migrating.

Operations likely to damage the special interest

Site name: **Doxey & Tillington Marshes**

OLD1001006

Ref. No.	Type of Operation
1	Cultivation, including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing, and re-seeding.
2	Grazing and changes in the grazing regime (including type of stock, intensity or seasonal pattern of grazing and cessation of grazing).
3	Stock feeding and changes in stock feeding practice.
4	Mowing or other methods of cutting vegetation and changes in the mowing or cutting regime (including hay making to silage and cessation).
5	Application of manure, fertilisers and lime.
6	Application of pesticides, including herbicides (weedkillers).
7	Dumping, spreading or discharge of any materials.
8	Burning and changes in the pattern or frequency of burning.
9	The release into the site of any wild, feral or domestic animal*, plant or seed.
10	The killing or removal of any wild animal*, including pest control.
11	The destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant or plant remains, including tree, shrub, herb, hedge, dead or decaying wood, moss and turf.
12	Tree and/or woodland management+ and changes in tree and/or woodland management+.
13a	Drainage (including the use of mole, tile, tunnel or other artificial drains).
13b	Modification of the structure of watercourses (eg rivers, streams, springs, ditches, dykes and drains), including their banks and beds, as by re-alignment, re-grading and dredging.
13c	Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes.
14	The changing of water levels and tables and water utilisation (including irrigation, storage and abstraction from existing water bodies and through boreholes).
15	Infilling of ditches, dykes, drains, ponds, pools, marshes or pits.
16a	Freshwater fishery production and/or management and changes in freshwater fishery production and/or management, including sporting fishing and angling.
20	Extraction of minerals, including peat, sand and gravel, topsoil, subsoil and spoil.
21	Construction, removal or destruction of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks, 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 likely to damage or disturb features of interest.
27	Recreational or other activities likely to damage features of interest eg birdlife and wetland vegetation.
28	Game and waterfowl management and hunting practices and changes in game and waterfowl management and hunting practice.

* 'animal' includes any mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish or invertebrate.

+ including afforestation, planting, felling, thinning, coppicing, changes in species composition, cessation of management.

Chasewater & Sth Staffordshire Coalfield Heaths SSSI



Key

- SSSI England Simplified © Natural England
- SSSI England Detailed © Natural England
- Ordnance Survey (Greyscale) © Ordnance Survey



Map Produced from WebMap2 on 29/10/18

Map Projection: British National Grid

Map Scale at A4: 1:51,001

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Site name: Chasewater and the Southern Staffordshire Coalfield Heaths **Unitary authority/county:** Staffordshire, Walsall

District: Cannock Chase, Lichfield

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under section 28C of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as inserted by Schedule 9 to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

Local Planning Authority: Staffordshire County Council, Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council, Lichfield District Council, Cannock Chase District Council

National Grid reference: SK035079 **Area:** 530.23 ha

Ordnance Survey Sheet: **1:50,000:** 128, 139 **1:10,000:** SK 00 NW, SK00NE, SK 01 SW

Notification date: 16 December 2010

Reasons for notification:

Chasewater and the Southern Staffordshire Coalfield Heaths SSSI is nationally important for its wet and dry lowland heath, fens (including habitats often referred to as mires and swamps) and oligotrophic (nutrient-poor) standing open water habitats, and for its populations of two nationally scarce vascular plant species: floating water-plantain *Luronium natans* (listed in Schedule 8 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended) and round-leaved wintergreen *Pyrola rotundifolia* (a regional rarity).

General description:

Chasewater and the Southern Staffordshire Coalfield Heaths SSSI is located in southern Staffordshire between Norton Canes and Burntwood, and extends into Walsall. The SSSI stretches for seven kilometres, from Hednesford Hills in the north to Brownhills Common in the south and lies on unstratified, pebbly or gravelly boulder clay overlying Carboniferous Middle Coal Measures. Whilst the underlying geology has had some influence on the habitats found within the SSSI, the impact of human activity in the form of coal mining, the construction of Chasewater as a canal feeder reservoir and, more recently, the building of the M6 Toll motorway have had a far greater impact in shaping what is present today.

The construction of Chasewater and the operation of the Cannock Chase Collieries would have undoubtedly been highly destructive to the natural environment, but they also safeguarded areas of semi-natural habitat from other damaging influences such as intensive agriculture, forestry and development. Once the reservoir was completed and the collieries ceased to operate, plants and animals were able to recolonise the site. Recent developments have subsequently recognised the high wildlife value of the area and, through various habitat translocation and creation techniques, have minimised their impact by contributing to the restoration and enhancement of the local environment.

At various points the continuity of semi-natural habitats is interrupted by housing, roads and improved farmland. Nevertheless, the site's importance is enhanced by its strategic location in providing an ecological link between the nationally important heaths of Sutton Park, located nine kilometres to the south, and those of Cannock Chase, lying one kilometre to the north.

Wet and dry lowland heath

The lowland heathland has largely developed on land heavily influenced by past and more recent coal mining activities and, as a consequence, varies considerably in both age and origin. Whilst some of the heathland has been associated with the site for a considerable time, some is relatively recent in origin with the youngest having been established in the last twenty years as part of a derelict land reclamation scheme, a restoration scheme on an exhausted open-cast mine and a translocation associated with the construction of the M6 Toll motorway.

The dry heathland is dominated by heather *Calluna vulgaris* and wavy hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*, with occasional or frequent bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*, cowberry *V. vitis-idaea*, crowberry *Empetrum nigrum*, Western gorse *Ulex gallii*, purple moor-grass *Molina caerulea* and bell heather *Erica cinerea*. Wetter areas, particularly to the north-west of Biddulph's Pool and on the north shore of Chasewater, support wet heathland communities. These are dominated by purple moor-grass, cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* and heather, with cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccos*, cottongrasses *Eriophorum* spp. and various bog-mosses including *Sphagnum fallax*, *S. palustre*, *S. papillosum* and *S. capillifolium* occurring at lower frequencies.

Fens (including habitats often referred to as mires and swamps)

A number of fens have developed on the margins of the various water bodies, below Chasewater's main dam and within the lowland heathland. They include habitats often referred to as mires and swamps and vary in both size, from a few square metres to one hectare, and their water chemistry, from base-poor to base-rich. The water supply for some of these fens appears to be influenced by the chemistry of the spoil derived from abandoned coal workings. These fens contain a number of nationally and regionally scarce vascular plants and bryophytes.

The fens are numerous and scattered across the site. In the valley below the main (eastern) dam of Chasewater a complex of different fen types has developed. A small mire on the upper slopes dominated by lawns of *Sphagnum fallax* with cross-leaved heath, cranberry, common cottongrass and occasional round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia* merges into a community with water horsetail *Equisetum fluviatile*, marsh pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris* and hemp agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum* indicative of a more nutrient-rich water supply. As the valley broadens out into a basin and the soils are wetter, great willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum* and common reedmace *Typha latifolia* become dominant, water horsetail, marsh pennywort and hemp agrimony are still abundant, and species such as wild angelica *Angelica sylvestris*, marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*, marsh cinquefoil *Comarum palustre*, bottle sedge *Carex rostrata* and early marsh orchid *Dactylorhiza incarnata* are occasional.

A large, highly alkaline, spring-fed fen, fed largely from spring mounds built from concretions of deposited minerals, has developed on the north shore of Chasewater. This supports a remarkable flora containing sea club-rush *Bolboschoenus maritimus*, marsh arrow-grass *Triglochin palustris*, early marsh orchid and the nationally scarce round-leaved wintergreen *Pyrola rotundifolia*, within a matrix of common cottongrass, common sedge *Carex nigra* and common reedmace. Charophytes (stoneworts) and calcicolous bryophytes such as *Campylium stellatum*, *Drepanocladus polygamum*, *Riccardia* sp. and *Didymodon tophaceus* are associated with the spring mounds.

Open-water transition fens are located on the south side of the Wyrley and Essington Canal and on the north side of Biddulph's Pool. The former supports tubular water-dropwort *Oenanthe fistulosa*, star sedge *Carex echinata* and white sedge *Carex curta*. The latter site contains abundant bottle sedge, bog pondweed *Potamogeton polygonifolius* and *Sphagnum inundatum*.

A swamp on No Man's Bank is dominated by common sedge, marsh cinquefoil and common cottongrass, with bog pondweed, water horsetail and jointed rush *Juncus articulatus*. A small acidic basin mire dominated by common cottongrass *Eriophorum angustifolium* occurs

on Norton Bog. This is perhaps the only remnant of a more extensive area of bog that was destroyed by the tipping of mining waste.

Oligotrophic (nutrient-poor) standing open water

The oligotrophic open water habitat represented by the four main water bodies, Biddulph's Pool, Chasewater (including Jeffrey's Swag), the Slurry Pool and the Anglesey Branch of the Wyrley and Essington Canal, is rare elsewhere in Staffordshire and the wider West Midlands Region. Those that do exist are generally degraded. The characteristic flora is dependent on water that is low in nutrients and this has been maintained because the soils of the catchment are of low fertility, derived from the underlying pebbly or gravelly boulder clay, albeit heavily influenced by coal mining. Also, much of the catchment lies within the SSSI and is occupied by semi-natural vegetation managed under a low intensity agricultural regime. The four main water bodies still retain a flora, albeit slightly species-poor, typical of water bodies with a low nutrient status. Taken together, these water bodies have a good selection of characteristic species, including several that are nationally or regionally scarce.

The characteristic flora of Biddulph's Pool is dependent on acidic water, low in nutrients. Beds of broad-leaved pondweed *Potamogeton natans* occupy the deeper water and there is a natural transition from the open water through a marginal fen community into mature carr woodland.

Chasewater is a large lake with gently shelving margins on a semi-natural substrate of sand, gravels and pebbles. The transition from the surrounding heathland into the emergent and draw-down vegetation communities passes through thin and sporadic stands of water horsetail *Equisetum fluviatile*, common spike-rush *Eleocharis palustris*, common cottongrass, bog pimpernel *Anagallis tenella* and floating club-rush *Eleogiton fluitans*, before giving way to an almost continuous stand of shoreweed *Littorella uniflora* and small-fruited yellow-sedge *Carex oederi*. These are joined in places by occasional needle spike-rush *Eleocharis acicularis* and the nationally scarce floating water-plantain *Luronium natans*. Generally, tall marginal emergents are scarce, but siltier parts of the drawdown zone are dominated, seasonally, by marsh yellow-cress *Rorippa palustris* and marsh cudweed *Filaginella uliginosa*, along with scarce species such as orange foxtail *Alopecurus aequalis* and golden dock *Rumex maritimus*.

Unlike Biddulph's Pool, the Slurry Pool is quite unusual in that it is oligotrophic, but with moderate alkalinity and levels of calcium carbonate. This has allowed lawns of the charophyte (stonewort) *Chara virgata* to develop across the bottom of the pool. Aquatic plants include shining pondweed *Potamogeton lucens*, lesser pondweed *Potamogeton pusillus*, broad-leaved pondweed, spiked water-milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum* and mare's-tail *Hippuris vulgaris*. Significant stands of lesser reedmace *Typha angustifolia* and common reed *Phragmites australis* can be found around the margins of the pool.

The Anglesey Branch canal is perhaps the most botanically diverse water body within the site. Aquatic plants are abundant with large beds of fan-leaved water-crowfoot *Ranunculus circinatus* and shining pondweed throughout. Other species include the nationally scarce flat-stalked pondweed *Potamogeton friesii*, curled pondweed *Potamogeton crispus*, spiked water-milfoil and amphibious bistort *Persicaria amphibian*. Shoreweed and the nationally scarce floating water-plantain both occur along the margins.

Vascular plants

Populations of floating water-plantain occur in both Jeffrey's Swag and the Anglesey Branch of the Wyrley and Essington Canal. Round-leaved wintergreen *Pyrola rotundifolia* can be found in the heathlands and on the edge of the fen vegetation on the north shore of Chasewater.

The mosaic of habitats present on the site supports a diverse range of birds. Over 140 species are regularly recorded in any year. A large roost of gulls *Larus* spp. assembles during the winter and the number of lesser black-backed gulls *Larus fuscus* can exceed 4,000 individuals. A range of other wintering waterfowl are also present with tufted duck *Aythya fuligula* often approaching nationally important numbers on Chasewater.

Operations requiring Natural England's consent

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 28 (4)(b) substituted by Schedule 9 to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

The operations listed below may damage the features of interest of Chasewater and the Southern Staffordshire Coalfield Heaths SSSI. Before any of these operations are undertaken you must consult Natural England, and may require our 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 your Natural England Area Team who will give you advice and where appropriate issue a consent. Please help us by using the 'notice form' (provided at notification and available on request) 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 the Area Team 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
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| 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 or any materials. |
| 8. | Burning and alterations to the pattern or frequency of 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, 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, turf or peat. |
| 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 and removal of fallen timber. |
| 13a. | Draining including the use of mole, tile, tunnel or other artificial drains. |

Standard reference number	Type of operation
13b.	Modification to the structure of water courses including streams, springs, ditches, dykes, drains and their banks and beds, as by re-alignment, re-grading, damming or dredging.
13c.	Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes.
14.	Alterations to water levels and tables and water utilisation including irrigation, storage and abstraction from existing water bodies and through boreholes.
15.	Infilling or digging of ditches, dykes, 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 peat, shingle, hard rock, sand and gravel, 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, including sailing and water skiing.
28.	Game and waterfowl management and hunting practices and alterations to game and waterfowl management and hunting practice.

Notes

- i. This is a list of operations appearing to Natural England to be likely to damage the special features of the SSSI, as required under section 28 (4) (b) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as substituted by Schedule 9 to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.
- ii. Where an operation has been granted a consent, licence 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, licences 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: 16 December 2010
National Grid reference: SK035079

Stowe Pool & Walkmill Claypit SSSI



Key

- SSSI England Detailed © Natural England
- Ordnance Survey (Greyscale) © Ordnance Survey



Map Produced from WebMap2 on 29/10/18

Map Projection: British National Grid

Map Scale at A4: 1:6,375

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COUNTY: STAFFORDSHIRE SITE NAME: STOWE POOL AND WALK MILL
CLAY PIT

DISTRICT: LICHFIELD, SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

Local Planning Authority: STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, Lichfield District Council, South Staffordshire District Council

National Grid Reference: SK 120100, SJ 974082 Area: 8.38 (ha.) 20.7 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheets 1:50,000: 128, 127 1:10,000: SK 11 SW,
SK 10 NW, SJ 90 NE

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 10 November 1998 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:
New site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Stowe Pool and Walk Mill Clay Pit are two water bodies which support large and healthy populations of native white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*. Stowe Pool lies in the centre of Lichfield in an area of public open space. Formerly a water supply reservoir, it receives water from the Leamonsley Brook, via Minster Pool. The level of the pool is maintained below that of the outflow due to water being lost to ground water or through evaporation. Walk Mill Clay Pit is a flooded, disused clay pit in Cheslyn Hay. It receives no significant surface water inflows and there is no definite outfall. Both water bodies are isolated from any downstream river systems.

The native crayfish population has declined in both Britain and elsewhere in Europe in recent years. Crayfish, particularly those in river systems, have been killed off by a fungal disease to which they have no immunity. This disease is thought to be carried and spread by an American species, the Signal crayfish *Pacifastacus leniusculus*, which has escaped from commercial crayfish farms in Britain. Isolated water bodies, such as lakes and flooded quarries, act as refuges for the native species. Large, isolated populations such as those at Stowe Pool and Walk Mill Clay Pit are, therefore, particularly important in both regional and national contexts.

Stowe Pool has limited marginal vegetation, but its water plants include amphibious bistort *Polygonum amphibium* and spiked water-milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum*. The shallow margins of the pool are dominated by extensive low-growing blankets of the water plant *Chara aspera* var. *curta* a nationally scarce stonewort (Charophyte).

The marginal vegetation at Walk Mill Clay Pit is dominated by stands of common club-rush *Schoenoplectus lacustris* with smaller amounts of branched bur-reed *Sparganium erectum* and great bulrush *Typha latifolia*. Water plants include yellow water-lily *Nuphar*

lutea, spiked water-milfoil, broad-leaved pondweed *Potamogeton natans* and shining pondweed *P. lucens*. The Pit is surrounded by areas of scrub and grassland.

Operations likely to damage the special interest

Site name: Stow Pool and Walk Mill Clay Pit, Staffordshire

OLD2000245

Ref. No.	Type of Operation
6	Application of pesticides, including terrestrial and aquatic herbicides (weedkillers).
7	Dumping, spreading or discharge of any materials.
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 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 and water plants.
12	The introduction of tree or woodland management and alterations to tree or woodland management including planting.
13b	Modification of the structure of pools, pits, ditches and drains, including their banks and beds, as by re-alignment, re-grading and dredging.
13c	Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes.
14	Alterations to water levels and tables and water utilisation (including irrigation, storage and abstraction from existing water bodies and through boreholes and through modifications to outfall structures).
15	Infilling or digging of ditches, drains or pools.
16a	Freshwater fishery production and management alterations to freshwater fishery production and management, including sporting fishing and angling.
20	Extraction of minerals, including topsoil, subsoil, silt and clay.
21	Destruction, construction, removal or re-routing of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks, 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.
24a	Modification of natural or man-made features and clearance of boulders or large stones.
26	Use of vehicles or craft likely to disturb either water body.
27	Recreational or other activities likely to disturb either water body.
28	The introduction of game or waterfowl management and alterations to game and waterfowl management.

* 'animal' includes any mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish or invertebrate.