



**North East
Derbyshire**
District Council

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Date: Friday, 28 November 2025

To: **Members of the Environment Scrutiny Committee**

Please attend a meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Committee to be held on Monday, 8 December 2025, at 1.30 pm in Meeting Rooms 1 & 2, District Council Offices, 2013 Mill Lane, Chesterfield S42 6NG.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Skeneberg".

Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

<u>Members of The Committee</u>	
Councillor C Smith (Chair) Councillor R Beech Councillor A Dale Councillor T Lacey Councillor C Renwick	Councillor F Adlington-Stringer (Vice-Chair) Councillor K Clegg Councillor L Deighton Councillor F Petersen

Any substitutions must be notified to the [Governance Manager](#) in advance by midday the working day before the meeting.

A G E N D A

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Declarations of Interest

Members are requested to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or other interests, not already on their register of interests, in any item on the agenda and withdraw from the meeting at the appropriate time.

3 Wingerworth Lido (Pages 4 - 166)

For Committee to review evidence on the Wingerworth Lido and propose recommendations on its future use, and to review the decision making process of the Asset Management Board and propose recommendations for the future.

- Council Officer Submission
- Wingerworth Lido Evidence
 - Survey Response Report
 - Written Representations
 - Online Petition
 - Countryside Alliance Correspondence with the Council
- Asset Management Board (AMB)
 - Decision-making Route of the Board
 - AMB Evidence

Redaction of certain information has been done so as not to disclose exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) and also in line with the Local Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees (England) Regulations 2012.

Access for All statement

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- **Email** - connectne@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk
- **Text** - 07800 00 24 25
- **[BSL Video Call](#)** – a three way video call with us and a BSL interpreter. It is free to call North East Derbyshire District Council with [Sign Solutions](#) or call into the offices at Wingerworth.
- Call with [Relay UK](#) via textphone or app on 0800 500 888 a free phone service
- **Visiting** our offices at 2013 Mill Lane, Wingerworth, S42 6NG

WINGERWORTH LIDO COUNCIL OFFICER SUBMISSION

Wingerworth Lido: Scrutiny Briefing Report
Prepared by: Matthew Broughton, Director of Growth and Assets
Date: 22 November 2025

Purpose

This purpose of the report is to:

- Provide a brief history of the series of events pre and post the decision
- Summarise the current position from an officer perspective following consultation with the Angling Trust, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT), and local environmental interest groups.

Pre-decision

For many months prior to the Council considering ending the lease with Clay Cross Angling Association (CCAA), the Council regularly received accusations from the public of poor management by CCAA especially relating to negative environmental impacts.

A particular issue, that is contested by the Angling Community is their continued use of Blue Dye (Dyofix), a UV suppressant and the consequences on the wider biodiversity. The Council does not employ ecologists and in general, obtains professional advice from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, who also, amongst other things, raised the use of the Blue Dye as a concern.

A few months prior to the Council acting (July-24), were the deaths of some new-born cygnets which appeared to be caused by discarded fishing line and hooks. These matters were reported to the Police. This incident led to the Council receiving a number of formal complaints from residents, emails raising concerns about the CCAA and further letters complaining about the club's management of the fishing rights at the site.

Discussions with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and their most recent surveys had also raised concerns regarding the decline in biodiversity and brought into question the Councils Statutory Duties.

A council's statutory duties are the legal obligations placed on it by legislation, requiring it to act in areas such as environmental protection, public safety, and governance; these duties guide and constrain officer decision-making to ensure compliance with the law and the delivery of services in the public interest.

In line with the constitution and prior to the decision, officers consulted with Portfolio Holder, Finance and Legal colleagues through the August 2024 Asset Management Board (an advisory body as set out in the Constitution), along with consultation with local elected members.

In September 2024, CCAA association were also contacted to make them aware of our intention to end the Lease.

The Decision (17 December 2024)

The decision to end the agreement was taken on the 17 December 2024 by serving the relevant notice. At that time, concerns had been raised with regards the environmental decline of the pond, supported by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and through consultation with elected members, no concerns or objections were raised with regards the loss of fishing and support for the decision was received.

The decision was taken by the Assistant Director – Property, Estates & Assets, utilising delegated powers from the Executive. The Council manages hundreds of lease agreements across the council estate and thousands of land and HRA assets are included. The decision taken was not considered anything outside of the ordinary or politically contentious, this view was supported by no challenge from CCAA and no objection through the consultation process.

Post-decision

January 2025 - CCAA acknowledged the decision, didn't challenge the decision and immediately started discussions with regards removal of their fish stocks, signage and fishing pegs.

January 2025 - CCAA informed their club through their Facebook group on the 6 January notifying club members from 30 June 2025, they will no longer be able to fish the Lido.

February 2025 – CCAA commission company to remove the fish from the Lido

February – July 2025 - Dialogue with the Friends of Wingerworth Lido and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

30 June 2025 – CCAA lease comes to an end

August 2025 – Draft licence agreement and example constitution for the group were shared with the 'Friends of Wingerworth Lido' representatives for consideration.

August 2025 – NEDDC asked the community to 'express an interest' if they wanted to participate and be part of 'Friends of Wingerworth Lido' through a social media campaign.

August 2025 – First media enquiry received regarding Wingerworth Lido

August 2025 – First contact from Countryside Alliance and other such groups

September 2025 – Engagement with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust with regards the scope of a Biodiversity Improvement Plan

September 2025 – Council motion to review the decision at Environment Scrutiny.

October 2025 – Met with Cllrs Shipman & Hancock and a member of the public Domonic Webb to discuss the Lido and potential legal proceedings.

October 2025 – Following the above meeting and a suggestion that Wingerworth Parish Council were considering taking on the management of fishing at the Lido, the Parish Council was contacted to seek their proposal. In response, the Parish Council suggested to wait for the Environment Scrutiny to complete its work and then discuss matters further.

October 2025 – The Leader and Director of Growth and Assets met with the Angling Trust to hear their proposals and through their representation, that of CCAA.

November 2025 – Derbyshire Wildlife Trust were commissioned to create the Biodiversity Improvement Plan with works starting in April 2026 due to seasonality of the required surveys.

November 2025 – Derbyshire Wildlife Trust indicate a potential temporary arrangement which includes fishing but requires much tighter management, no further water treatment and no further artificially restocking, amongst other things.

November 2025 – A meeting took place between the Council, Angling Trust and Wingerworth Wildlife (A prospective friends group participant) to seek common ground and a potential way forward preparing for all eventualities from the Scrutiny review.

November 2025 – Both the Angling Trust and environmental interest groups have their differences of opinion and are sore from the recent social media abuse perceived by both 'sides'. However, they both agree angling and environment enhancement can exist together on the Lido and suggest the potential of non-exclusive use for an angling club and 'Friends of' group prior to the Biodiversity Improvement Plan and action Plan is complete.

In Conclusion:

The above should be seen as an indicative timeline to provide Scrutiny Committee an overview of the series of events. There have been many officers involved in Wingerworth Lido since August 2025 from teams across the Council including Estates, Legal, Governance, Performance and Engagement, Communications and Senior Management Team. There has also been a vast amount of correspondence on the matter both internal and external. Naturally, the timeline above does not consider all the correspondence and is a summarised view.

As this paper is to inform the Scrutiny Committee, it doesn't include any steps the scrutiny have taken or taking to support their review (Consultation, stakeholder submissions, etc).

I'm aware that Scrutiny has invited written representations from all stakeholders. Again, for the avoidance of doubt, any summarising of the stakeholder position in this

paper only summarises the position as I understand it. The direct submissions to the scrutiny committee from stakeholders should be considered their definitive position.

The decision was taken under the correct constitutional authority, by the appropriate officer, and within delegated powers. All required consultations were completed and documented.

Along the way, council officers have engaged with all stakeholders to achieve the best outcome for residents whilst meeting our statutory duties. Officers recognise and support the review process, and welcome the recommendations from Scrutiny, whatever they may be, informed by public consultation and stakeholder input.

Finally, in making your recommendations please consider the councils statutory duties and take advice as necessary. The council cannot lawfully make a decision that goes against its statutory duties.



**North East
Derbyshire**
District Council

**Wingerworth Lido Consultation
SUMMARY REPORT (FINAL)
November 2025**

Information and Improvement (RS)
November 2025

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Distribution

Recipient	Issue	Date
Matt Broughton	Final Report	28/11/25
Steve Lee	Final Report	28/11/25
Kath Drury	Final Report	28/11/25
Joe Hayden	Final Report	28/11/25
Dave Vickers	Final Report	28/11/25

Background

Wingerworth Lido (Smithy Pond) has been a cherished community asset in North East Derbyshire for generations, valued for its unique blend of recreation, natural beauty, and social connection. In 2025, North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDDC) launched a public consultation to gather a comprehensive range of views on the Lido's current and future use. The Environmental Scrutiny Committee commissioned the consultation to inform their review of the decision to terminate a lease agreement with Clay Cross Angling Association. This initiative was prompted by significant local debate—particularly around the future of angling at the site—and a recognition that decisions about the Lido should be shaped by the voices of those who use and care for it most.

Notably, the consultation attracted considerable attention both locally and nationally, with coverage on BBC News online and engagement from organisations such as the Countryside Alliance and The Angling Trust.

Survey Methodology

The consultation was conducted through an accessible online survey, hosted on Snap Surveys, and promoted widely via the Council website, social media, community groups, and local posters. The survey was open to all, with targeted outreach to ensure both local residents and wider stakeholders had the opportunity to participate. A drop-in session was held at Mill Lane offices too, where residents had the opportunity to complete a paper copy of the survey questionnaire.

Respondents were invited to answer a mix of closed and open-ended questions, exploring their use of the Lido, the features they value, desired improvements, and any concerns or suggestions for the future. Open-ended responses were systematically coded and thematically analysed to identify key trends and representative viewpoints, while quantitative data was summarised using descriptive statistics. This approach ensured both statistical rigour and the inclusion of nuanced, qualitative insights, providing a robust evidence base for decision-making.

Sample Size and Response Rate

- **Total respondents:** 1,174 (online 1,161 and paper 13)
- **Survey period:** 3 weeks (Monday 3/11/25 to Sunday 23/11/25)
- **Response rate:** Not applicable (open public survey)
- **Data filter:** All respondents included, no exclusions applied.

The consultation generated an exceptionally high level of engagement, with 1,174 responses received over a three-week period. This strong response demonstrates the depth of community interest and interest from the wider angling community, in the future of Wingerworth Lido. While the population of Wingerworth itself is around 6,500 residents, the consultation's reach extended much further, with interested parties from across the

district and beyond contributing their views.

Demographic information was recorded to ensure a comprehensive understanding of public opinion, and the diversity of responses will be invaluable in guiding the decision-making process. It is worth noting that the consultation's prominence in local and national media further encouraged participation and broadened the range of perspectives captured.

The percentages throughout the report may not always add exactly to 100% due to rounding.

A Snap surveys standard report containing a full list of comments added by respondents has also been forwarded to the stakeholder distribution list (the appendices within this report provide an overview of respondent comments).

Executive Summary

Wingerworth Lido Consultation

Introduction

Wingerworth Lido stands at the heart of a vibrant and passionate community, serving as both a tranquil retreat and a lively hub for recreation, nature, and social connection. The 2025 consultation was launched in response to a Council motion requesting Environment Scrutiny Committee review a decision to end a lease agreement with Clay Cross Angling Association. From the outset, it was clear that the Lido's interest extends far beyond its immediate surroundings. The consultation quickly attracted widespread attention, with articles appearing on BBC News online and engagement from national organisations such as the Countryside Alliance and The Angling Trust.

Against this backdrop, the Wingerworth Lido consultation has provided a rich and detailed picture of community sentiment, attracting 1,174 responses and generating significant local and national interest. The consultation revealed a strong sense of attachment to the Lido, with many respondents visiting regularly and expressing passionate views about its management—particularly in relation to fishing.

Key Findings

Local Engagement: 68.7% of respondents were North East Derbyshire residents, with Wingerworth itself accounting for the largest share (48.5% of local respondents).

Frequency of Use: The Lido is well-used, with 13.8% visiting daily, 23.8% weekly, 17.1% monthly, and 35.9% occasionally. Only 9.4% reported never visiting.

Activities Enjoyed: Top 5 Activities:

- Walking: 687 (58.5%)
- Nature appreciation: 577 (49.1%)
- Fishing: 555 (47.3%)
- Wildlife watching: 49 (42.3%)
- Dog walking: 369 (31.4%)

Aspects: Natural beauty, recreation/leisure, wildlife/biodiversity, and peace/quiet were most frequently cited.

Importance Ratings:

- Fishing: 70.1% of respondents rated as 'very important'
- Community access: 69.1% 'very important'
- Wildlife / biodiversity: 66.1% 'very important'
- Opportunities for recreation: 56.0% rated as 'very important'.

Desired Improvements: The most common suggestions were reinstating fishing, improving maintenance, enhancing biodiversity, and providing more seating and accessible paths.

Concerns: The most frequently raised concerns related to the management of fishing (both positive and negative), maintenance of the site, impact on wildlife, and the need for balanced access for all users.

Open-Ended Responses: These revealed a wide range of views, with strong support for both angling and wildlife conservation, and calls for collaborative management and transparent decision-making.

Key Themes

- **Fishing:** Fishing emerged as the most divisive issue. Many respondents credited anglers and angling clubs with maintaining the Lido, supporting biodiversity, and providing social and mental health benefits. Others raised concerns about the impact of fishing on wildlife (especially birds and amphibians), litter (hooks/lines), and the use of blue dye in the water. There were also calls for the Lido to be managed primarily as a wildlife reserve, with some advocating for a compromise or shared management approach.
- **Community Cohesion:** Many respondents expressed concern about division within the community and called for inclusive, transparent decision-making.
- **Maintenance and Facilities:** Calls for improved maintenance, more seating, better paths, and accessible facilities were common.
- **Wildlife and Biodiversity:** Many valued the Lido as a haven for wildlife and supported actions to enhance biodiversity, sometimes alongside fishing, sometimes instead of it.
- **Mental Health and Wellbeing:** The importance of the Lido for mental health, relaxation, and social connection was frequently mentioned.

Conclusion

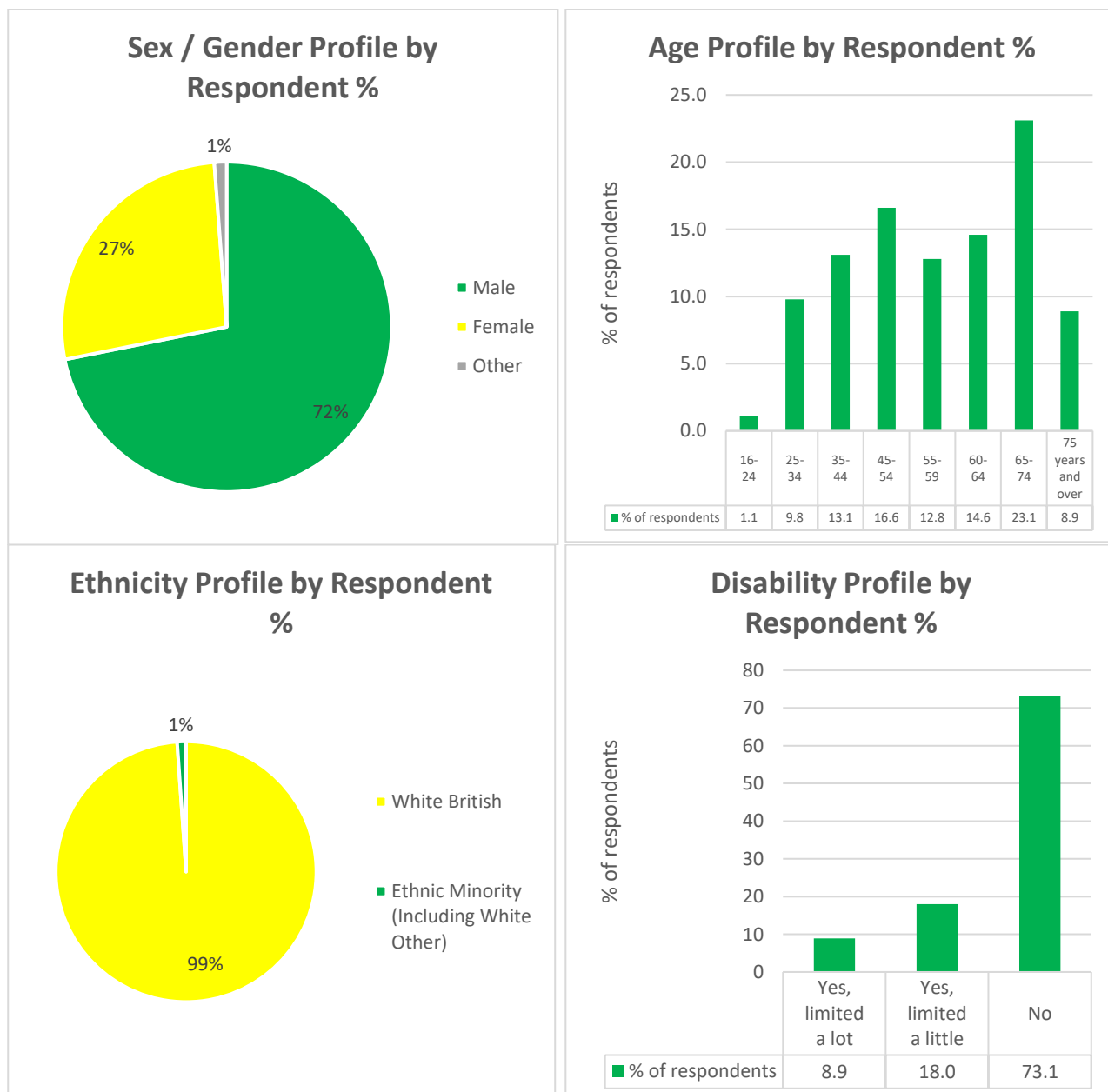
The consultation's high profile reflected in coverage by BBC News online and interest from national organisations demonstrates the significant interest in the future of the Lido. This level of engagement has ensured that a broad spectrum of voices has been heard, providing a robust foundation for future decision-making.

The consultation has surfaced a rich tapestry of views, blending passion for tradition with calls for modernisation and environmental care. While fishing remains the most divisive issue, the dialogue has also revealed shared priorities—such as maintaining the Lido's natural character, improving facilities, and fostering inclusivity. These common threads offer a starting point for constructive engagement and supported further with comments around collaborative management.

Respondent Profiling Information

Key demographic information was captured in the survey to help build a respondent profile and assist with equalities monitoring. A table of results is included below together with the summary of key points below which compares this information to the district's profile taken from the 2021 Population Census.

Respondent Characteristic	Overall Respondent Profile %	% Population Figures (2021 Census)
<i>Gender</i>		
Male	72	49
Female	27	51
Other	1	0
<i>Age Group</i>		
		(age % as proportion of 2021 population aged 16+)
16-24 years	1	10
25-34	9	13
35-44	13	13
45-54	17	17
55-59	13	9
60-64	15	8
65-74	23	16
75 & over	9	14
<i>Ethnicity</i>		
White British or Irish	99	96
Ethnic Minority (including white-other)	1	4
<i>Disability</i>		
Yes, limited a lot.	9	11
Yes, limited a little	18	11
No	73	78



The demographic profile of survey respondents reveals some notable differences compared to the 2021 census data. Males are overrepresented, while females are underrepresented in the survey sample. There is also an overrepresentation of respondents in the 55–59, 60–64, and 65–74 age groups, whereas those aged 16–24, 25–34, and 75 and over are underrepresented. The proportions of respondents aged 35–44 and 45–54 closely match the census population profile. Ethnic minorities are underrepresented among survey participants. Additionally, individuals reporting a disability that limits them a little are overrepresented, while those with more significant disabilities or no disability are underrepresented.

Wingerworth Lido Consultation - Survey Results

Introduction

This section presents the detailed findings from both quantitative and qualitative questions. For each result, a brief explanation is provided to highlight its significance for understanding community views and informing future decisions.

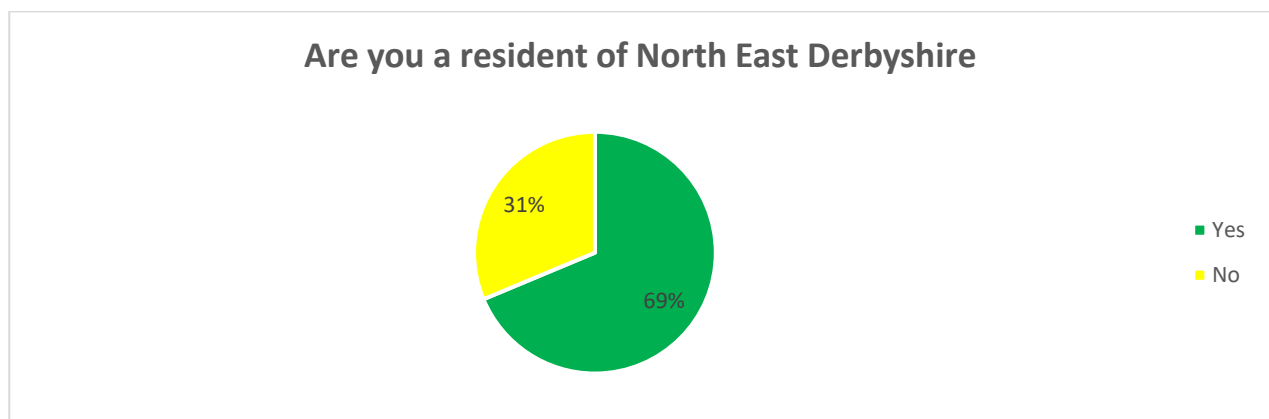
Quantitative Results

Resident Status

Respondents were asked whether they live within North East Derbyshire to establish the geographical context of the feedback.

Results:

- Yes: 806 respondents (68.7%)
- No: 368 respondents (31.3%)



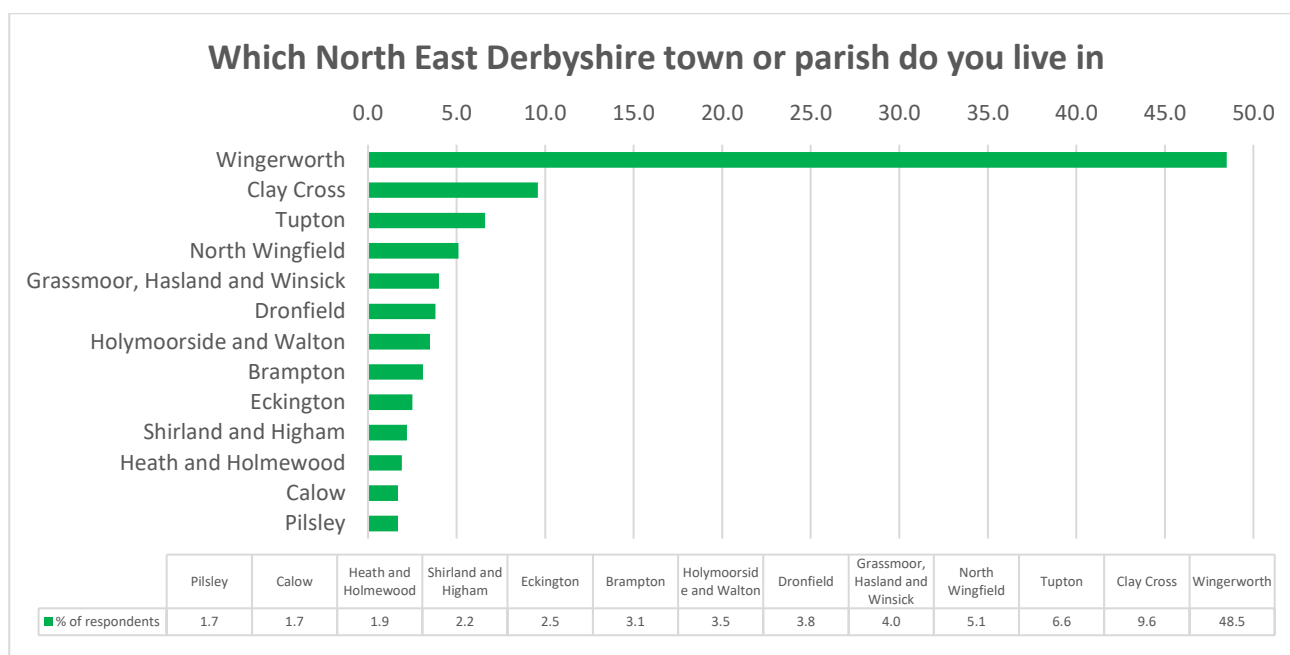
The majority of respondents stated they are local to North East Derbyshire, indicating that the consultation reflects the views of those most directly affected by decisions about the Lido. However, the substantial number of responses from outside the district demonstrates the interest it generates beyond the immediate area.

Location of Respondents

To understand which communities are most invested in the Lido, respondents were asked to identify their town or parish.

Results:

- Wingerworth: 48.5%
- Clay Cross: 9.6%
- Tupton: 6.6%
- North Wingfield: 5.1%
- Grassmoor, Hasland and Winsick: 4.0%
- Dronfield: 3.8%
- Others: see graph below for further information.



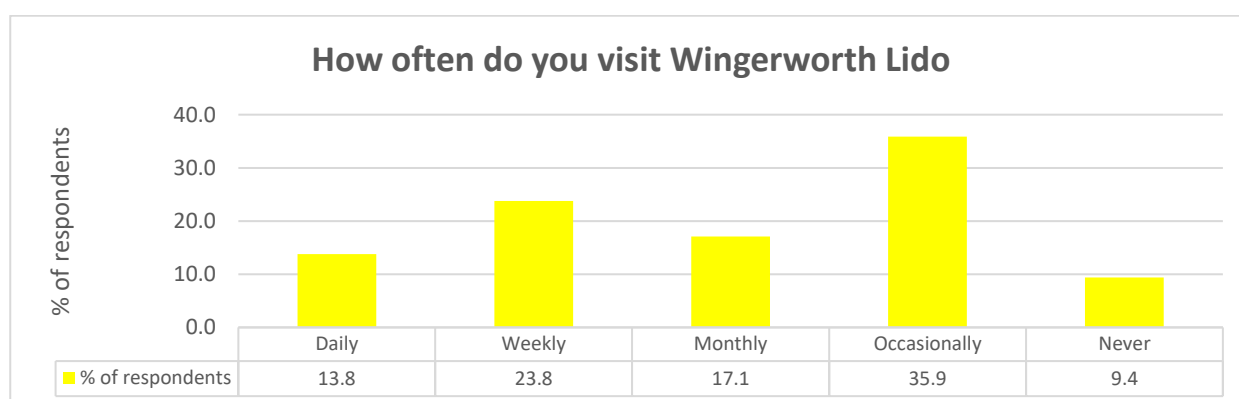
Nearly half of local respondents stated they were from Wingerworth itself, indicating that the consultation has successfully engaged the community most closely connected to the Lido. The spread of responses from neighbouring towns and parishes also highlights the Lido's role as a district amenity.

Frequency of Visits

Respondents were asked how often they visit Wingerworth Lido to gauge its importance in daily life and recreation.

Results:

- Daily: 162 (13.8%)
- Weekly: 279 (23.8%)
- Monthly: 201 (17.1%)
- Occasionally: 422 (35.9%)
- Never: 110 (9.4%)



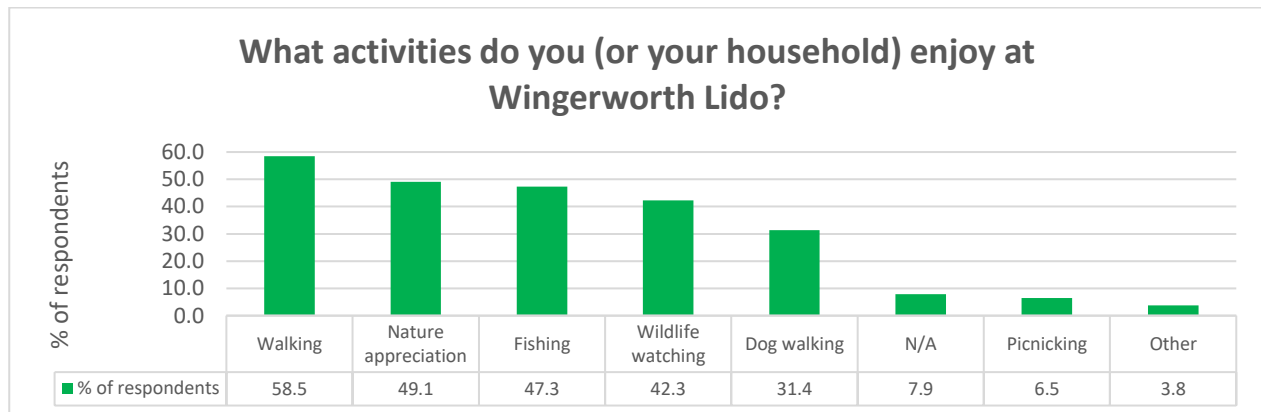
The Lido is a well-used community asset, with a significant proportion of respondents visiting regularly. This high frequency of use underlines the importance of the site for recreation, wellbeing, and social interaction, and suggests that changes to its management or facilities will have a broad impact.

Activities Enjoyed

To explore how the Lido is used, respondents were asked which activities they or their household enjoy most.

Top 5 Activities:

1. Walking: 687 (58.5%)
2. Nature appreciation: 577 (49.1%)
3. Fishing: 555 (47.3%)
4. Wildlife watching: 49 (42.3%)
5. Dog walking: 369 (31.4%)



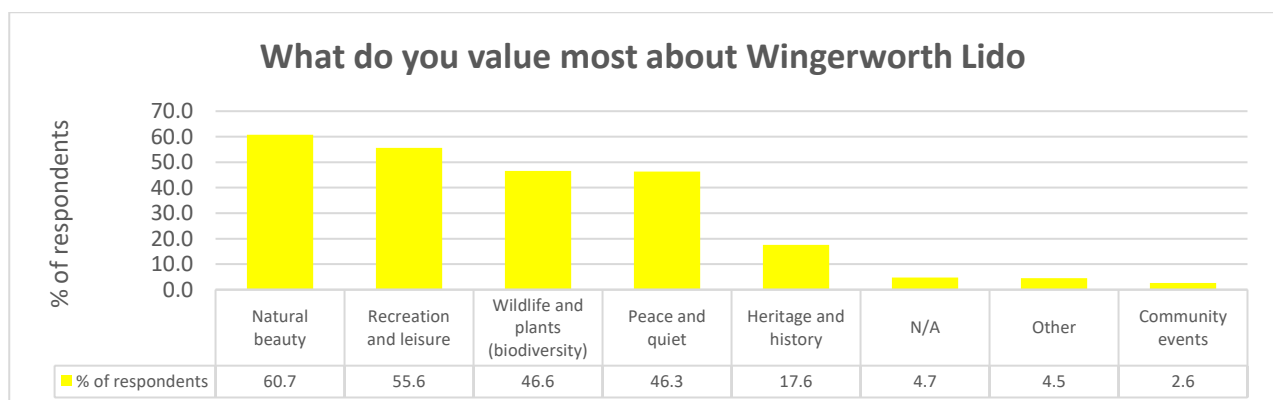
The range of activities enjoyed at the Lido demonstrates its multifunctional value. Walking, and nature appreciation, are the most popular, with fishing also a major activity.

Valued Aspects

Respondents were asked what they value most about Wingerworth Lido to identify the qualities that should be preserved or enhanced.

Top 5 Values:

1. Natural beauty: 713 (60.7%)
2. Recreation and leisure: 653 (55.6%)
3. Wildlife and plants/biodiversity: 547 (46.6%)
4. Peace and quiet: 544 (46.3%)
5. Heritage and history: 207 (17.6%)



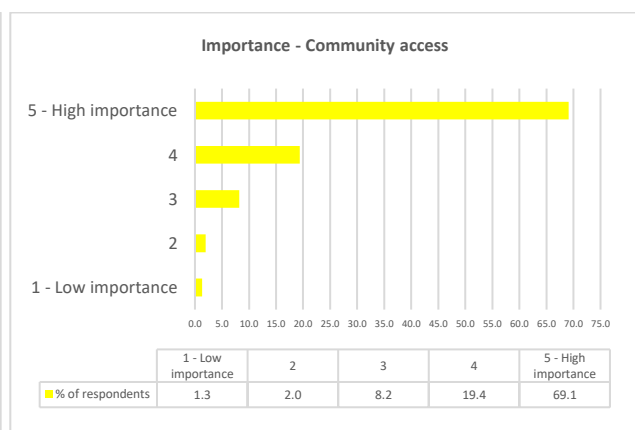
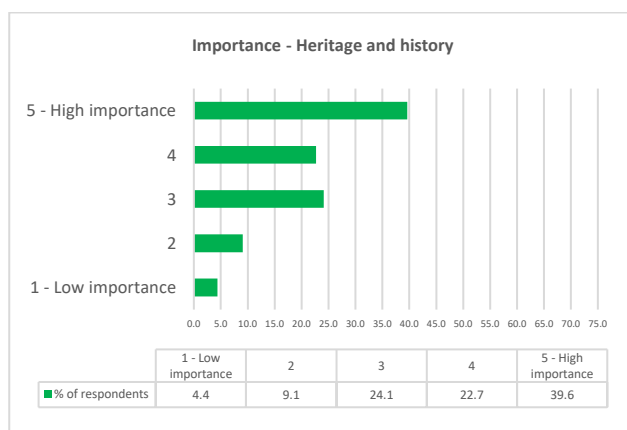
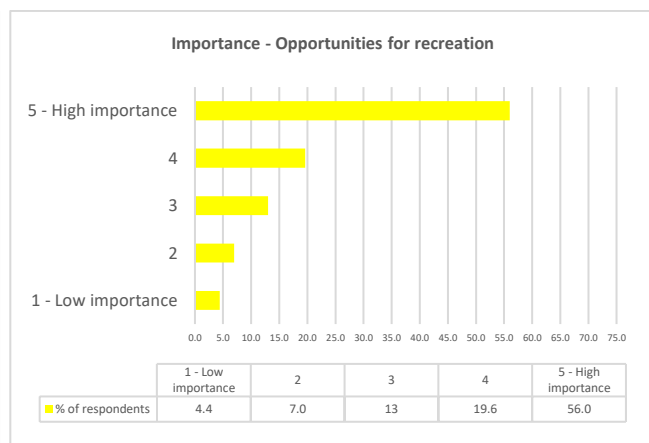
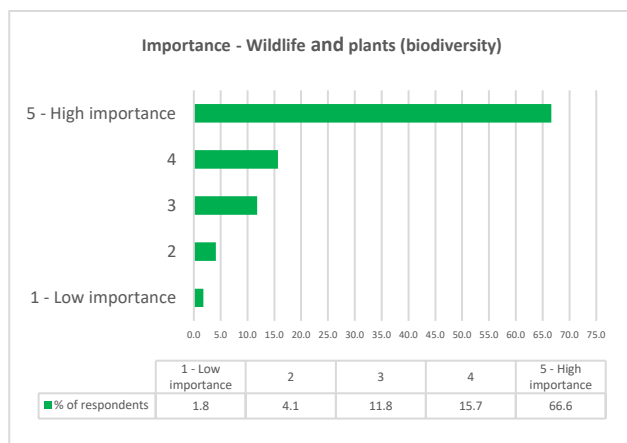
Respondents place high value on the Lido's natural environment, opportunities for recreation, and its role as a peaceful retreat. The emphasis on biodiversity and heritage indicates that any future plans should respect both the ecological and historical character of the site.

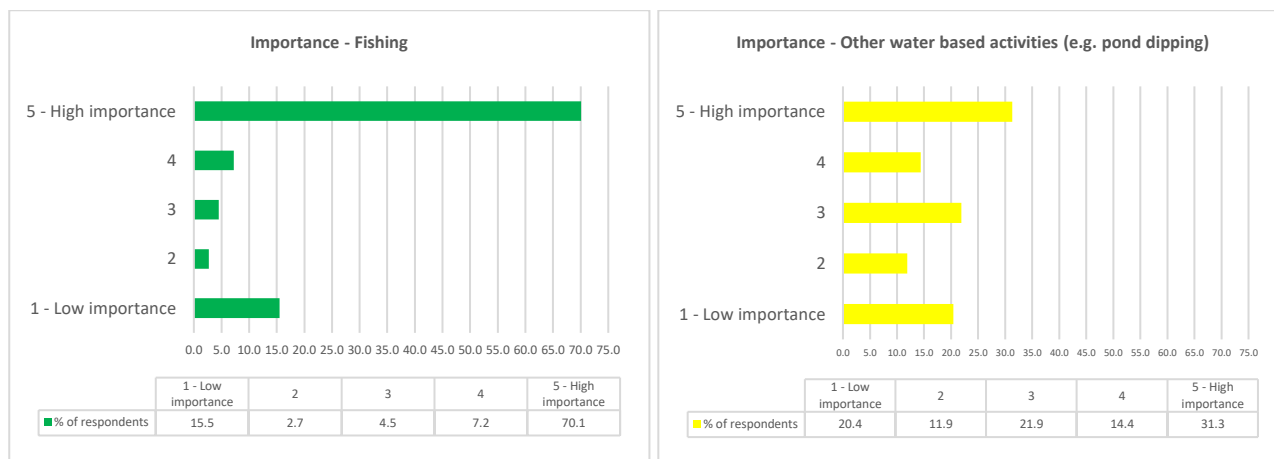
Importance of Key Features

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of the Lido supporting various features and activities, helping to identify priorities for future management.

Importance Ratings:

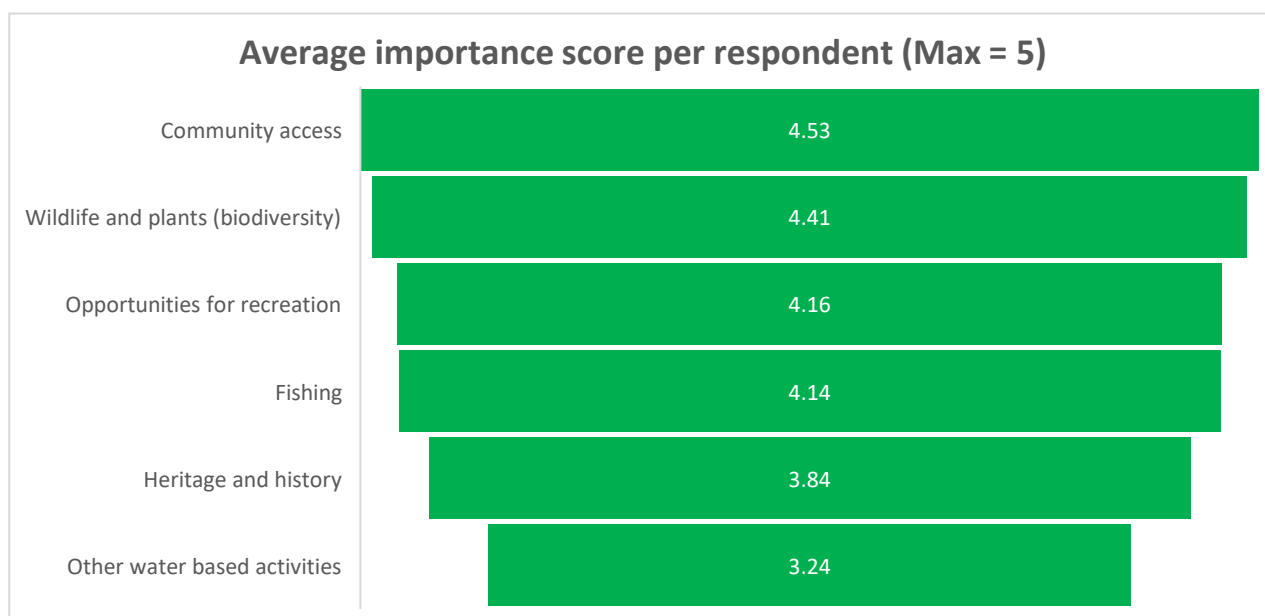
- Fishing: 70.1% of respondents rated as 'very important'
- Community access: 69.1% 'very important'
- Wildlife / biodiversity: 66.1% 'very important'
- Opportunities for recreation: 56.0% rated as 'very important'.
- Heritage/history: 39.6% 'very important'
- Other water-based activities: 31.3% 'very important'





Average importance score per respondent (out of 5)

Average importance	Average importance score (max = 5)
Community access	4.53
Wildlife and plants (biodiversity)	4.41
Opportunities for recreation	4.16
Fishing	4.14
Heritage and history	3.84
Other water-based activities	3.24



Respondents were asked to rate the importance of each key feature on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 indicates low importance and 5 indicates high importance. The table and graph above present the average score for each feature, calculated across all responses.

There is strong support for the Lido to continue supporting biodiversity, recreation, and community access. Fishing is also highly valued, though not universally, reflecting the consultation's most contentious issue.

Open-Ended Questions – Thematic Analysis

For each open-ended question, the top 10 themes are presented with a summary paragraph.

Activities introduced or improved.

Respondents were asked if there are any activities or uses, they would like to see introduced or improved at the Lido, with the top 10 themes being as follows: -

1. Reinstating fishing/angling:

The most prominent theme was a strong desire for the reinstatement of fishing, with many respondents highlighting its historical significance, benefits for mental health, and the role of anglers in maintaining the Lido. Numerous comments referenced the positive impact of angling clubs on site upkeep, community cohesion, and opportunities for young people.

2. Improved maintenance and cleanliness:

Respondents frequently called for better maintenance of the Lido, including regular litter picking, path repairs, and general site cleanliness. Many linked maintenance to the presence of anglers, while others saw it as a Council responsibility.

3. Enhanced biodiversity and wildlife conservation:

A significant number of participants advocated for prioritising biodiversity, with suggestions for habitat restoration, planting, and the creation of a wildlife reserve. Some called for a reduction in fishing activity to support this aim, while others saw fishing and biodiversity as compatible.

4. More seating and accessible paths:

Improved accessibility was a recurring request, with calls for more benches, picnic areas, and better paths for those with limited mobility, families, and older residents.

5. Educational activities (pond dipping, wildlife boards):

Many respondents suggested educational initiatives, such as pond dipping platforms, wildlife information boards, and school visits, to foster environmental awareness and community engagement.

6. Community events and open days:

There was support for more community-based activities, including open days, fairs, and events that bring together different user groups and promote social inclusion.

7. Facilities for children (play areas):

Several comments called for the reinstatement or improvement of play areas and child-friendly amenities, recognising the Lido's role as a family destination.

8. Water-based activities (swimming, paddleboarding):

Some respondents expressed interest in expanding water-based activities, such as wild

swimming, paddleboarding, and canoeing, provided these could be managed safely and sustainably.

9. Better access for disabled users:

Accessibility for disabled visitors was highlighted, with requests for improved paths, fishing platforms, and facilities to ensure the Lido is inclusive for all.

10. Balanced management for all users:

Many respondents called for a balanced approach that accommodates anglers, wildlife enthusiasts, families, and other users, emphasising the need for compromise and shared stewardship.

The responses to this question reveal the breadth of community aspirations for the Lido. While reinstating fishing is the most common request, there is also strong demand for improvements that would benefit all users, such as better maintenance, enhanced biodiversity, and improved accessibility. The diversity of suggestions underscores the Lido's role as a shared space and the importance of finding solutions that reflect the full range of community needs.

[See Appendix 1 for response details.](#)

Concerns

Respondents were asked as to whether they have any concerns about how the Lido is currently used, response themes were as follows: -

1. Impact of fishing (positive and negative):

Views on fishing were polarised. Many credited anglers with maintaining the Lido and deterring anti-social behaviour, while others raised concerns about harm to wildlife from fishing tackle, blue dye, and the presence of large fish species.

2. Site maintenance and management:

Concerns about declining maintenance since the angling club's departure were common, with reports of increased litter, overgrown vegetation, and a general sense of neglect.

3. Wildlife welfare (concerns about fishing tackle, blue dye, predation):

Respondents expressed worries about the impact of fishing on birds and amphibians, particularly through discarded hooks and lines, and the use of blue dye to control weeds. Some noted a decline in certain wildlife populations.

4. Loss of angling club and perceived neglect:

Many linked the perceived deterioration of the site to the loss of the angling club, suggesting that their presence had previously ensured regular upkeep and vigilance.

5. Division and conflict within the community:

The consultation revealed a sense of division, with some respondents concerned about polarisation and the need for more inclusive, respectful dialogue.

6. Litter and anti-social behaviour:

There were reports of increased litter, vandalism, and anti-social behaviour since the cessation of fishing, with some suggesting that anglers had previously acted as informal wardens.

7. Access and inclusivity:

Some respondents felt that the Lido should be accessible to all, with concerns that management decisions could exclude certain groups or prioritise one interest over others.

8. Transparency and decision-making:

Calls for greater transparency, consultation, and evidence-based decision-making were frequent, with some expressing frustration at perceived lack of communication from the Council.

9. Balance between recreation and conservation:

Many respondents emphasised the need to balance recreational use (including fishing) with conservation objectives, recognising the Lido's value for both people and wildlife.

10. Safety and security:

Safety concerns included the need for better lighting, visible management presence, and measures to deter anti-social behaviour.

This question highlights the issues that matter most to the community. The polarised views on fishing, concerns about site maintenance, and the desire for transparent, inclusive management all point to the need for careful stewardship. The responses also reveal a community that is both passionate and, at times, divided—emphasising the importance of dialogue and compromise in future decision-making.

[See Appendix 2 for response details.](#)

Encouragement to visit the Lido.

Respondents were asked what would encourage them to visit Wingerworth Lido more often, with the following themes emerging: -

1. Reinstatement of fishing/angling:

The most common request was for the return of fishing, with many stating that angling was their primary reason for visiting and that its absence had reduced their use of the Lido.

2. Improved maintenance and cleanliness:

Better upkeep, including regular litter collection, path repairs, and general tidiness, was seen as essential to making the Lido more attractive and welcoming.

3. More wildlife and biodiversity:

Some respondents wanted to see increased efforts to support wildlife, such as habitat restoration, planting, and the creation of nature reserves.

4. Better seating and picnic areas:

Additional benches, picnic tables, and sheltered areas were requested to encourage longer visits and make the site more comfortable for all ages.

5. Community and educational events:

Suggestions included open days, wildlife talks, and community clean-up events to foster a sense of ownership and bring people together.

6. Improved access (paths, parking, disabled facilities):

Calls for better paths, improved parking, and accessible facilities for disabled visitors were frequent.

7. Facilities (toilets, café, bins):

Requests for toilets, a café or refreshment kiosk, and more bins were common, reflecting a desire for improved amenities.

8. Child-friendly amenities:

Play areas, safe spaces for children, and family-friendly events were seen as ways to encourage more frequent visits by families.

9. Balanced management for all users:

Many respondents emphasised the importance of a balanced approach that welcomes anglers, wildlife enthusiasts, families, and others.

10. Enhanced safety and security:

Visible management, better lighting, and measures to deter anti-social behaviour were suggested to make the Lido feel safer.

The factors that would encourage more frequent visits are largely practical and inclusive—better maintenance, more facilities, and improved access. The prominence of fishing again reflects its importance to many, but the range of other suggestions demonstrates that improvements can benefit a wide cross-section of the community, potentially increasing the Lido's value as a local asset.

[See Appendix 3 for response details.](#)

Additional comments

Respondents were asked for additional comments or suggestions about the future of Wingerworth Lido, response themes were as follows: -

1. Strong support for angling/fishing:

Many respondents reiterated their support for angling, citing its benefits for mental health, community cohesion, and site maintenance. Some called for the reinstatement of the angling club or a compromise approach.

2. Calls for balanced, inclusive management:

There was widespread support for a management approach that balances the needs of different user groups, with many calling for compromise, collaboration, and shared stewardship.

3. Concerns about division and conflict:

Respondents expressed concern about polarisation and called for respectful, inclusive dialogue to rebuild community trust.

4. Importance of maintenance and funding:

Sustainable funding and regular maintenance were seen as critical to the Lido's future, with some suggesting that angling clubs or community groups could play a role.

5. Wildlife and biodiversity enhancement:

Many valued the Lido as a haven for wildlife and called for actions to enhance biodiversity, sometimes alongside fishing, sometimes instead of it.

6. Community involvement and transparency:

There were calls for ongoing consultation, transparent decision-making, and opportunities for community involvement in management and volunteering.

7. Facilities and access improvements:

Improved paths, seating, parking, and accessible facilities were frequently mentioned as priorities.

8. Heritage and tradition:

The Lido's heritage as a community and angling venue was highlighted, with many expressing a desire to preserve its traditional uses.

9. Mental health and wellbeing:

The role of the Lido in supporting mental health, relaxation, and social connection was emphasised, particularly in relation to angling and nature.

10. Opposition to over-commercialisation or over-development:

Some respondents cautioned against over-commercialisation or excessive development, advocating for a focus on nature, tranquillity, and community use.

The final comments reinforce the main themes of the consultation: the need for balance, the importance of maintenance and biodiversity, and the value of community involvement. The strong feelings expressed—both for and against fishing—highlight the need for ongoing engagement and transparent decision-making. The emphasis on heritage, wellbeing, and inclusivity suggests that the Lido's future should be shaped by a broad and collaborative vision.

[See Appendix 4 for response details.](#)

Conclusions

Themes

- **Fishing:** Fishing remains the most divisive issue, with many respondents crediting anglers with maintaining the Lido and supporting community wellbeing, while others raise concerns about wildlife impacts and advocate for a greater focus on biodiversity. There is evidence of polarisation, but also of a shared desire for the Lido to remain a valued, accessible, and well-managed community asset.
- **Community Attachment:** The Lido is highly valued for its natural beauty, recreational opportunities, and role in supporting mental health and social connection. The consultation demonstrates that it is a focal point for both local residents and visitors from further afield.
- **Diversity of Views:** The consultation has surfaced a wide range of perspectives, particularly regarding fishing. While many see angling as integral to the Lido's heritage and maintenance, others are concerned about its impact on wildlife and advocate for a shift towards conservation and biodiversity.
- **Desire for Balance:** There is a strong call for balanced, inclusive management that accommodates the needs of different user groups. Many respondents expressed a willingness to compromise and collaborate, recognising that the Lido can serve multiple purposes if managed sensitively.
- **Maintenance and Facilities:** Improved maintenance, better paths, more seating, and accessible facilities are widely supported. There is recognition that sustainable funding and regular upkeep are essential to the Lido's future.
- **Wildlife and Biodiversity:** The importance of the Lido as a haven for wildlife is widely acknowledged. Many respondents support actions to enhance biodiversity, such as habitat restoration, planting, and the creation of nature reserves. Some see fishing and biodiversity as compatible, while others believe a greater focus on conservation is needed.
- **Community Cohesion and Division:**
The consultation has revealed both a strong sense of community and significant division, particularly around the issue of fishing. Many respondents expressed concern about polarisation and called for respectful, inclusive dialogue to rebuild trust and ensure that all voices are heard in future decision-making.
- **Mental Health and Wellbeing:**
The role of the Lido in supporting mental health, relaxation, and social connection was emphasised throughout the consultation, particularly in relation to angling and access to nature. Respondents highlighted the therapeutic benefits of spending time at the Lido, both for individuals and families.
- **Transparency and Ongoing Engagement:**
There is a clear desire for ongoing consultation, transparent decision-making, and opportunities for community involvement in management and volunteering. Respondents called for the Council to communicate clearly, listen to all stakeholders, and ensure that decisions are based on robust evidence and broad community input.
- **Facilities and Access Improvements:**
Improved paths, seating, parking, and accessible facilities were frequently mentioned as priorities. Respondents also highlighted the need for child-friendly amenities, better signage, and facilities such as toilets and refreshment kiosks.
- **Heritage and Tradition:**
The Lido's heritage as a community and angling venue was highlighted, with many

expressing a desire to preserve its traditional uses while adapting to changing needs and expectations.

- **Opposition to Over-Commercialisation or Over-Development:**
Some respondents cautioned against over-commercialisation or excessive development, advocating for a focus on nature, tranquillity, and community use.

Summary

This consultation has attracted significant public and media attention, reflecting the strength of feeling within the community and beyond. The Wingerworth Lido consultation has featured in BBC News online and has been the subject of active campaigns by national organisations such as the Countryside Alliance and The Angling Trust. This level of external interest highlights the Lido's importance not only as a local amenity but also as a site of wider significance in debates about access to angling, biodiversity, and community management of public spaces.

The Wingerworth Lido consultation demonstrates a high level of community engagement and passion for the site. The results reveal a complex picture, with strong support for both angling and wildlife conservation, and a clear desire for improved maintenance, facilities, and inclusive management.

The consultation provides a robust and comprehensive evidence base for the Scrutiny Committee and Council as they continue their deliberations on the future of Wingerworth Lido. The breadth and depth of responses—encompassing quantitative data, open-ended feedback, and a wide range of stakeholder perspectives—offer valuable insights into the priorities, concerns, and aspirations of the community. This wealth of information ensures that decision-makers are equipped with a nuanced understanding of both the opportunities and challenges facing the Lido.

A key message emerging from the findings is the importance of adopting a balanced, inclusive, and transparent approach to future management. The diversity of views expressed throughout the consultation highlights the need to respect differing opinions and to seek solutions that accommodate the varied interests of local residents, visitors, and stakeholder groups. By fostering open dialogue and encouraging collaborative problem-solving, the Council can help to bridge divides and build a sense of shared ownership over the Lido's future.

Appendices

Please note: - it is not practical to include every comment within the report appendices, however, the comments below reflect the general feeling of the respondents with positive and negative responses (where applicable) for balance and focus on the more popular response categories (top 8 from each question). A full list of comments has been sent to the stakeholder group and should be read in association with this summary report.

Appendix 1 – Are there any activities or uses you would like to see introduced or improved at the Lido?

1. Reinstating fishing/angling

- “Bring back the fishing for the local club, it was a fair price at £35 for the year.”
- “Fishing should be returned to the Lido.”
- “Reintroduce fishing rights. Anglers play a vital role in maintaining biodiversity and caring for the environment.”
- “I would like fishing to be reinstated.”
- “Angling is an important activity, and it should be reinstated. It does a huge amount for mental health.”

2. Improved maintenance and cleanliness

- “Better maintenance as it was before the fishing stopped.”
- “More bins for litter and dog mess.”
- “Regular rubbish clearance.”
- “The pond itself needs cleaning up. I think sometimes the anglers could have been tidier especially when they lost fishing tackle and that the birds got caught up in discarded items.”
- “Improved maintenance of the site for wildlife, stop using blue dye in the water and restore the health of the site.”

3. Enhanced biodiversity and wildlife conservation

- “Wildlife and biodiversity prioritised.”
- “Would like the Lido to go back to how it was but with improvements on paths and to include fishing and not to look as overgrown and smelly.”

- “A more natural habitat.”
- “Biodiversity after years of decline. Return the islands and reed beds, a more relaxed mowing regime and definitely ban the use of Dyofix.”
- “More natural facilities for wildlife.”

4. More seating and accessible paths

- “More seating. Path maintenance. General upkeep.”
- “A few more benches for people with restricted mobility would be good.”
- “More benches would be nice.”
- “Improved angling access and support.”
- “Better path near the Smithy Pond end.”

5. Educational activities (pond dipping, wildlife boards)

- “Nature information boards highlighting the diversity of nature that can be seen around the area and measures that can be taken to maintain nature and wildlife.”
- “Pond dipping/teaching about wildlife and biodiversity with local schools.”
- “Educational pond dipping and ecology training for children, students and public.”
- “Events organised by the Angling club for youngsters explaining how to fish correctly and the benefits of being in natural surroundings etc.”
- “Angling tuition as part of schools/education.”

6. Community events and open days

- “Community fairs and Xmas markets.”
- “Organised nature-based activities such as pond dipping.”
- “Community activities on a cleared area e.g. brass band recitals, pop up shops, community events.”
- “Waterside events in the summer would be lovely ego outdoor theatre.”
- “More communal use of space should be encouraged.”

7. Facilities for children (play areas)

- “Children's playground or activities as I take my toddler to look at the ducks after we've been to Smithy's pond for lunch.”

- “A small kids play area would be nice.”

- “Bring back the playground.”

- “Play area visible to all not hidden away like old one.”

- “There used to be a park in the woodland which was removed but never replaced. I would like to see that this is re-instated, as children like to play in this area.”

8. Water-based activities (swimming, paddleboarding)

- “Wild swimming.”

- “Open water swimming.”

- “Paddleboarding.”

- “Swimming again and to be used as Lido like it used to be.”

- “Paddle boarding and canoeing.”

9. Better access for disabled users

- “Better access for disabled fishing persons.”

- “Access for mobility scooters.”

- “Disabled access improvements and bring back the fishing.”

- “Improved access for local people who would like to spend time in nature, looking at the birds and dragonflies.”

- “Facilities for disabled anglers flat safe banks lends itself to angler with mobility problems.”

10. Balanced management for all users

- “A symbiotic relationship between all members of society into what activities should be welcome as I believe there is a place for everyone at the lido!”

- “The Lido is for everyone not just the few.”

- “I would like all activities to remain and everyone able to use the lido. It has been a community resource ever since I can remember.”

- “Keep open access and community use.”
- “It needs to be a venue for everyone, not just anglers.”

Appendix 2 - Do you have any concerns about how the Lido is currently used?

1. Impact of fishing (positive and negative)

Positive Quotes about the Impact of Fishing

1. “No fishing club to look after the water and surrounding area.”
2. “Anglers are the eyes and ears of conservation being on the water for long periods of time—they know when something is amiss and also help maintain the ponds and surrounding area for the benefit of everyone.”
3. “Since the anglers have left the place seems to have gone downhill.”
4. “I don’t fish but used to see anglers taking other people’s rubbish away and clearing weeds etc to look after the pond. Since fishing stopped these activities have stopped.”
5. “The angling club maintain the Lido and its environs for both aquatic and terrestrial wildlife at no cost to the council whilst contributing to the council’s budget.”

Negative Quotes about the Impact of Fishing

1. “Fishing causes problems and leads to fishing line wrapped round ducks’ beaks and legs.”
2. “Was concerned about discarded fishing line & hooks injuring or killing wildlife.”
3. “The previous fishing management has been detrimental to the natural habitat and biodiversity in the pond.”
4. “The blue dye which the fishing club put in had a huge detrimental effect on the aquatic species, along with large fish which are artificially stocked and predate on much of the native wildlife.”
5. “I am, and have been for some time, concerned about the fishing club activities on site. Whilst they like to say they care about the wildlife there, they have not shown this with their behaviours and actions and have refused to engage with assorted species protection groups about the continuing harmful practices they engage in.”

2. Site maintenance and management

- “It’s being neglected since angling was banned.”
- “No concerns how it was used prior to the angling clubs lease being terminated, now it’s being left to ruin, and this needs sorting before it’s too late.”
- “Since the anglers have left the place seems to have gone downhill.”
- “I don’t fish but used to see anglers taking other people’s rubbish away and clearing weeds etc to look after the pond. Since fishing stopped these activities have stopped.”
- “The lido is currently neglected.”

3. Wildlife welfare (concerns about fishing tackle, blue dye, predation)

- “Fishing lead & lines causing wildlife fatalities (swans).”
- “I have lived in Wingerworth for 41 years and I notice such a difference that it has obviously been interfered with so that native water species are no longer thriving.”
- “The blue dye which the fishing club put in had a huge detrimental effect on the aquatic species, along with large fish which are artificially stocked and predate on much of the native wildlife.”
- “I am concerned that since June 25 the lido has not had any water management.”
- “I am, and have been for some time, concerned about the fishing club activities on site. Whilst they like to say they care about the wildlife there, they have not shown this with their behaviours and actions and have refused to engage with assorted species protection groups about the continuing harmful practices they engage in.”

4. Loss of angling club and perceived neglect

- “My concern is that without an angling association having input to not the upkeep of the pond its wildlife and state will suffer.”
- “The lido after having the fishing removed has significantly changed, dead fish lying in the water, fish being stolen and all in all not a nice place to walk round.”
- “I am more concerned that lido isn’t being used at the moment. Without an angling association the water will become contaminated, and wildlife will start to perish.”
- “It is not currently being used for fishing.”

-
- “The loss of angling club has, in the eyes of many, led to a decline in site condition.”
-

5. Division and conflict within the community

- “Being left whilst this farce is being unpicked is damaging to all concerned, creating conflict and splitting the village.”
-
- “The consultation has revealed both a strong sense of community and significant division, particularly around the issue of fishing.”
-
- “The banning of fishing and the reasons for it are a joke.”
-
- “None at all. I have concerns that this whole episode with the fishing ban has divided the village.”
-
- “I have major concerns about the lies and mistruths that have been used to ban fishing. We need to hold those responsible for this accountable as they as certainly not working in our interests.”
-

6. Litter and anti-social behaviour

- “Litter and anti-social behaviour have increased since the cessation of fishing.”
-
- “There were reports of increased litter, vandalism, and anti-social behaviour since the cessation of fishing, with some suggesting that anglers had previously acted as informal wardens.”
-
- “Drug taking.”
-
- “The time and money that has been wasted by the council and other parties who simply cannot leave things alone to continue as they were.”
-
- “Since fishing has stopped litter and antisocial behaviour has become more of a problem and deaths of local wildlife have been noticed.”
-

7. Access and inclusivity

- “Some respondents felt that the Lido should be accessible to all, with concerns that management decisions could exclude certain groups or prioritise one interest over others.”
-
- “Should not just be primarily available to one group. It should be a shared resource.”
-
- “The Lido is for everyone, all recreation i.e. walking, fishing etc.”
-

- “Believe that a Wingerworth based group should have a leading role in the development of the pond and surrounding area.”
- “It should be open to all public including angling.”

8. Transparency and decision-making

- “Greater transparency and evidence-based decision-making.”
- “Community decisions shouldn't be taken behind closed doors and based on misinformation.”
- “I feel a public consultation such as this one should have happened prior to any decisions being made.”
- “Much more transparency from the Council about decisions are made, consultation with interested parties and less high-handed manners from the Council.”
- “I am concerned that the pond is not being managed appropriately now the fishing club has gone. This will lead to the pond becoming silted up and fish stocks dying leading to the other wildlife leaving the area.”

9. Balance between recreation and conservation

- “A balanced approach is needed.”
- “It's about reaching a balance without detrimentally impacting the environment.”
- “The Lido should be accessible for all and a centre of recreation and beauty for the village. It should be sympathetically managed to maintain its use for all.”
- “Nature and fishing are compatible, in fact recreational angling promotes practices which encourage protecting fish stocks to ensure its ability to continue. Please don't stop fishing.”
- “Retain the fishing as this is compatible with other objectives of natural habitat improvement and biodiversity.”

10. Safety and security

- “Reduce anti-social behaviour.”
- “Feel less secure walking my dog on dark mornings/nights now there are no fishermen on the lido.”

- “The presence of anglers also deters others from using the site for anti-social behaviours such as littering, drunken behaviour and leaving the place generally in a mess.”
- “I would hate to see it made in to an entertainment area and a source of income.”
- “Safety and security are important for all users.”

Appendix 3 - What would encourage you to visit Wingerworth Lido more often?

1. Reinstatement of fishing/angling

- “If the fishing stays.”
- “Angling coming back not been at all since the ban no reason to go there.”
- “If fishing is allowed and managed properly.”
- “Bring back fishing.”
- “If fishing was reinstated.”

2. Improved maintenance and cleanliness

- “Better paths and cleaner and looking more vibrant.”
- “Paths improved and looking less run down over the past few months it looks pretty bad and not as pleasant.”
- “Improved relaxation spaces. Improved access to dog bins/general waste bins.”
- “Regular maintenance of the area, no dog fouling.”
- “Cleaned up somewhat.”

3. More wildlife and biodiversity

- “More wildlife and nature friendly management.”
- “More biodiversity.”
- “Flourishing wildlife.”
- “Improvements to the biodiversity. A thriving toad population. The recovery of white-clawed crayfish and eel populations that the area is now known to have previously supported.”

-
- “More wildlife in the area.”
-

4. Better seating and picnic areas

- “More benches to sit and enjoy the surroundings.”

-
- “More seating.”

- “Picnic areas.”

-
- “More seats for picnics maybe.”

- “More benches and more incentives for natural wildlife.”
-

5. Community and educational events

- “Events of any kind.”

-
- “Gala days and wildlife tutorials.”

- “Community education and information events based on the lido wildlife and history.”

-
- “Organised groups and activities.”

- “Events for the public.”
-

6. Improved access (paths, parking, disabled facilities)

- “Better parking.”

-
- “Off road parking facility. Since the development of the medical centre parking has become difficult.”

- “Easier access via public transport.”

-
- “If pathway round was wheelchair friendly.”

- “Better access for disabled anglers.”
-

7. Facilities (toilets, café, bins)

- “Toilets and a cafe perhaps with somewhere to sit outside.”

-
- “Cafe or coffee van (not the pub). Seating areas with a view over the pond. Providing wildlife habitats. Dog friendly.”
-

-
- “More bins.”

- “A public toilet.”

- “Ice creams in summer.”
-

8. Child-friendly amenities

- “Definitely a children's area.”

- “Child friendly events.”

- “Children's Park.”

- “More child friendly.”

- “Kids activities.”
-

9. Balanced management for all users

- “A balance between all users. Somewhere welcoming for anglers and non-anglers alike.”

- “A more balanced view.”

- “Consideration for all users.”

- “A space where the wishes of the majority are listened to.”

- “Keep it for all.”
-

10. Enhanced safety and security

- “Security.”

- “Seeing anglers around the pond, it gives a sense of safety and reassurance that they will have your back.”

- “Less arguments over usage.”

- “More lighting.”

- “Safety and security are important for all users.”
-

Appendix 4 - Please share any other comments or suggestions about the future of Wingerworth Lido.

1. Strong support for angling/fishing

- “Please bring fishing back and allow the fishing club to partake.”
- “Reinstate fishing.”
- “Fishing is a great way to get kids outside learning about and appreciating nature and should be free for under 18s from the village.”
- “Keep the fishing open so future generations can enjoy the outdoor aspect of fishing.”
- “Fishing must continue.”

2. Calls for balanced, inclusive management

- “There is room for ALL uses of the lido to interact and nature, mental health, welfare etc will all benefit from this.”
- “The lido can work for everyone. Families, walkers, anglers. I live very close to the lido so it can and did work.”
- “Nature conservation, biodiversity and community engagement are not all mutually exclusive. It's possible for them all to work to the benefit of the lido, the nature it supports and the wider community.”
- “Let the residents have a say.”
- “Let the people decide.”

3. Concerns about division and conflict

- “Less arguing, more action.”
- “The whole saga has been a waste of time and resources.”
- “I have concerns that this whole episode with the fishing ban has divided the village.”
- “I have major concerns about the lies and mistruths that have been used to ban fishing.”
- “Don't let the minority ruin it for the majority. It's been disgraceful the way some people have sought to shape the agenda for the minority.”

4. Importance of maintenance and funding

- “The angling club maintain the Lido and its environs for both aquatic and terrestrial wildlife at no cost to the council whilst contributing to the council’s budget.”
 - “Maintenance of lido itself and pathways so public can enjoy the natural beauty and wildlife is protected.”
 - “If left to its own devices the whole area including the pond and water life will be neglected. It needs the attention and management of an angling club to maintain care and prevent neglect.”
 - “Sustainable funding and regular maintenance are essential to the Lido’s future.”
 - “The loss of angling club has, in the eyes of many, led to a decline in site condition.”
-

5. Wildlife and biodiversity enhancement

- “The importance of the Lido as a haven for wildlife is widely acknowledged.”
 - “Many respondents support actions to enhance biodiversity, such as habitat restoration, planting, and the creation of nature reserves.”
 - “Keep it as a wildlife haven and allow fishing to continue.”
 - “I would like to see it preserved as an area that attracts birds’ other wildlife and managed with that in mind.”
 - “More emphasis on wildlife conservation.”
-

6. Community involvement and transparency

- “The local community must be involved in decisions.”
 - “Open & transparent discussions. Residents of the village should decide.”
 - “Community decisions shouldn’t be taken behind closed doors and based on misinformation.”
 - “Much more transparency from the Council about decisions are made, consultation with interested parties and less high-handed manners from the Council.”
 - “I feel a public consultation such as this one should have happened prior to any decisions being made.”
-

7. Facilities and access improvements

- “Improved paths, seating, parking, and accessible facilities.”
 - “More benches and sitting areas.”
 - “Better path near the Smithy Pond end.”
 - “Facilities for disabled anglers flat safe banks lends itself to angler with mobility problems.”
 - “Improved angling access and support.”
-

8. Heritage and tradition

- “Retain the traditional uses of the Lido.”
 - “I fished it with my dad in the seventies, and again with my son who now lives in Wingerworth. I would like to think he could do the same when he has his own family.”
 - “It has been a fishing venue for years. People keep saying men should talk because of mental health. Sorry women as well fish. It is a known fact that sitting fishing helps mental health.”
 - “The Lido has been part of the local community, for many years, to take that away, would discourage families and friends, enjoying many of the opportunities that the Lido offers.”
 - “Heritage and tradition are important to the community.”
-

9. Mental health and wellbeing

- “Fishing is great for supporting mental health.”
 - “Fishing is the most popular pastime; it was a great relaxing place to fish.”
 - “So important to allow angling to continue, it’s such a valuable asset in terms of mental health.”
 - “I have lived in close proximity to the Lido for over 30 years and have had many conversations with those fishing on it, during that time in several cases being outdoors in nature and such peaceful surroundings is crucial to their mental health, they otherwise suffer from depression and certainly in one case that I know of PTSD, the individual in question being ex-military.”
 - “As someone who was a resident of Wingerworth for many years and still visited on a weekly basis until angling was banned, I would suggest that angling is reinstated not for the few but for the many. Angling has proven to have many
-

mental health benefits and I'm sure you could engage with charities such as 'Tackling Minds' which is a charity to help people from all backgrounds who are suffering some form of mental illness."

10. Opposition to over-commercialisation or over-development

- "Don't build on the site."
 - "I would hate to see it made in to an entertainment area and a source of income."
 - "I would not like it commercialised."
 - "Don't lose the opportunity to give youngsters the chance to participate in angling. It gives them something positive to do."
 - "It should remain accessible by all groups."
-

WINGERWORTH LIDO

WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS

Ward Members

From: Neil Baker [REDACTED]

Sent: 03 November 2025 17:38

To: Governance NEDDC <Governance@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>

Cc: Wingerworth Parish Clerk <clerk@wingerworthparishcouncil.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>

Subject: Wingerworth Lido - Environment Scrutiny Committee Consultaion

Dear Councillor Caroline Smith, Chair of the NEDDC Environment Scrutiny Committee,

As a local Ward member and as a Parish Councillor, I wish to make the following comments, as part of this consultation.

I would recommend that, as the landowner of the Smithy Pond/Wingerworth Lido and the land around the pond itself, NEDDC (the Council) retains functional control and overall responsibility for the whole of the site, going forward.

Given the size of the pond and the location of the dam in relation to nearby housing, the dam must be properly maintained and the Council has the resources to do just that.

The same goes any the water inlets and outlets, not managed by the Local Water Authority or other stakeholders.

The land formerly owned by the Parish Council and which forms part of the site, which was transferred to the Council in 1996 and edged red on the attached plan, is, I understand, subject to a covenant to maintain it as Public Open Space. That covenant should be maintained and nothing should be done to detract from it.

To date, a lot has been made about the formation of a 'friends group' regarding the future of the site as a 'bio-diversity hub', but little or no detail has been provided of what the aims of such a group would be, what a bio-diversity hub would consist of and what funding arrangements would be put in place for the on-going maintenance of the pond and its environs.

I know some people believe in minimal or intervention on land and water bodies, but I am afraid I cannot support that view. Without proper management, such environments will deteriorate. There is, of course, a wide variety of views on what constitutes good management. I presume that many relevant views will be submitted, for consideration, as part of this consultation and the committee's review process.

In my opinion, any 'friends group' which may be established should not be granted overall responsibility or control of the site and/or the Lido/pond, but should, instead, be advisory in nature. The overall responsibility should still rest with the Council.

The Parish Council has a similar situation at one of its parks, where a friends group helps collect funds and does some voluntary work, but the overall control of the Park still rests with the Parish Council.

Councils collect funds for Council Tax payers to maintain parks and facilities they own, so they can be used for and on behalf of all local residents.

In addition, providing adequate on-going the insurance of the site is a very important consideration. The Council should not attempt to divest itself of this liability to a 'friends group'.

Some duties in respect of pond maintenance have, in the past, been successfully delegated to a fishing club under the terms of its lease of the pond with the Council.

So, in my view, in addition to looking after the safety of the pond and the dam etc, the functions of proper on-going maintenance of the grassed areas, trees, paths and other facilities should be retained by the Council, as it has the funds to properly deal with those matters.

Also, being a statutory body, the Council will be in existence (in some form or other) for the foreseeable future to ensure the responsibilities are properly discharged, without exposing volunteers to the risks, I've touched on.

With regard to fishing, it is my opinion that the Lido/pond should be managed for the benefit of all.

I am not an Angler and do not purport to be an expert on fishing, but given the well-recorded benefits of fishing to health, personal well-being and the environment, I would wish to see the Council agree future arrangements whereby some form of fishing can be quickly reinstated at the Lido.

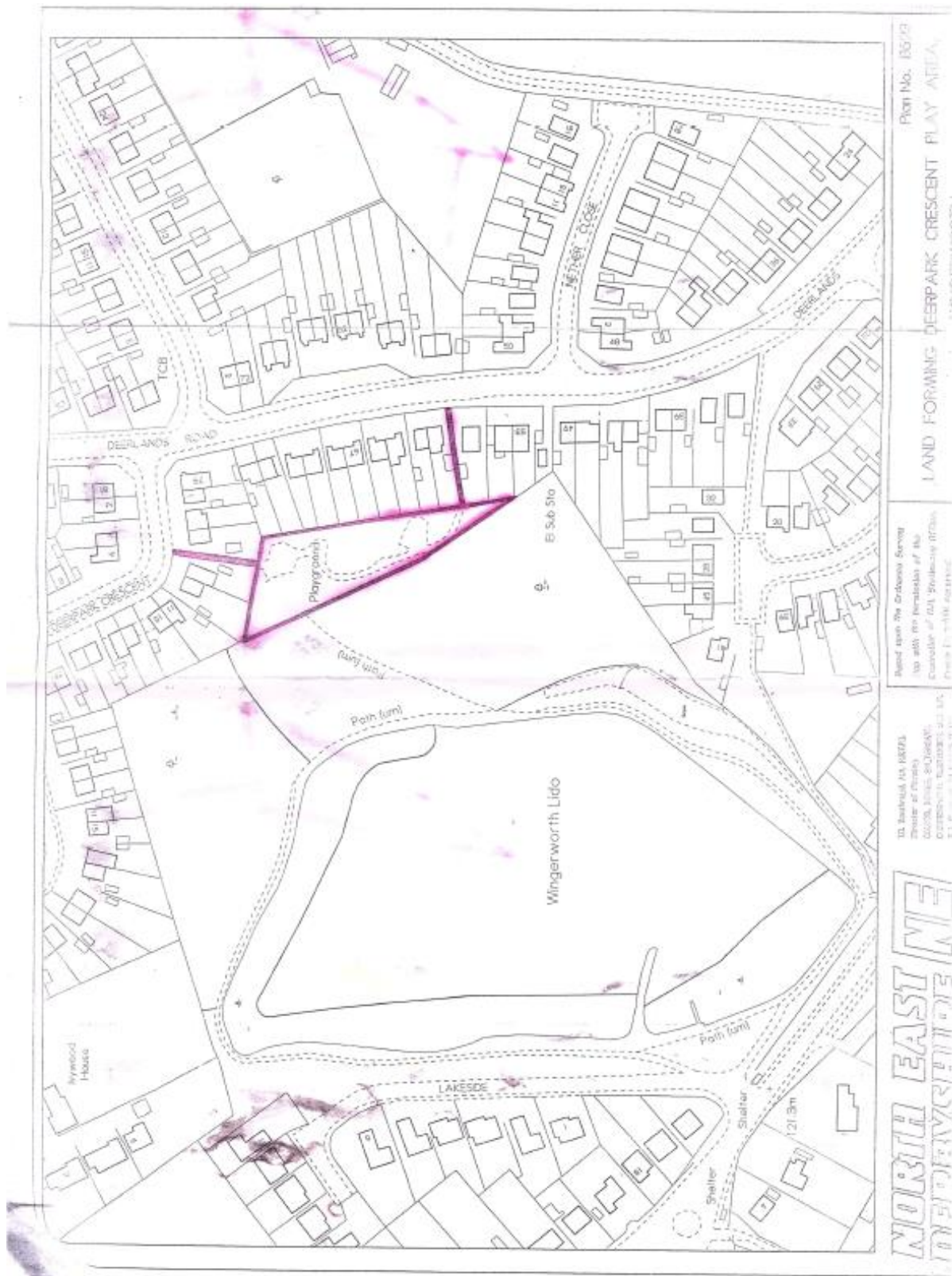
For example, perhaps a certain area or areas of the pond could be designated for other uses, subject to more detailed discussions undertaken, as part of this review.

I would like to see the Angling Trust, the Clay Cross Angling Club, local anglers and representatives of wildlife groups involved in those discussions.

And, in the interim, I would be pleased to support a proposal to reintegrate some form of temporary fishing rights at the Lido until a formal fishing lease can be negotiated and be completed.

I trust these comments are useful.

Kind regards, Cllr Neil Baker
Wingerworth Ward Member and Chair of Wingerworth Parish Council



Parish Council



Wingerworth Parish Council

Email: clerk@wingerworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.wingerworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

Saturday 22nd November 2025

By email to: joe.hayden@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk

Ms Joe Hayden
Senior Scrutiny Officer
North East Derbyshire District Council
Mill Lane
Wingerworth
Chesterfield
S42 6NG

Dear Ms Hayden

Wingerworth Lido Consultation

Thank you for inviting Wingerworth Parish Council to make a representation as part of the consultation relating to the Future of the Wingerworth Lido.

The Parish Council met on Thursday 13th November 2025 to discuss its response, and I have been asked to submit the following comments on behalf of its members.

1. The overall control and responsibility for the Wingerworth Lido and the land which surrounds it, should remain under the overall control and responsibility of North East Derbyshire District Council (the Council).
2. Whatever the future arrangements are for managing the Wingerworth Lido, it is essential that the body of water and the dam is professionally managed. The maintenance, safety, health and inspections of the water should remain the responsibility of the District Council, even if some work is carried out by Council staff or contracted specialists.
3. To date, a lot has been made about the formation of a 'Friends Group' regarding the future of the site as a 'bio-diversity hub', but little or no detail has been provided of what the aims of such a group would be, what a bio-diversity hub would consist of and what funding arrangements would be put in place for the on-going maintenance of the pond and its environs.
4. Any 'Friends Group' which may be established should not be granted overall responsibility or control of the site and/or the Lido/pond, but should, instead, be advisory in nature. The overall responsibility should still rest with the Council.
5. The overall control and maintenance of any water inlets and outlets, which are not the responsibility of a water authority, should remain the responsibility of the Council.

6. The Wingerworth Lido is a community asset and should remain so. Understandably, small areas of land may be designated for certain projects or activities (in agreement with the Council), but the site generally should always remain open to the public.
7. The Parish Council understands that the site contains a parcel of land which was previously owned by the Parish council and transferred to the District Council in 1996. This land is subject to a covenant which requires that it is kept as a Public Open Space. This must be retained and kept for the purpose intended.
8. Subject to the outcome of more detailed discussions between the respective stakeholders and interested groups, the pond should be managed for the benefit of all, whether this be for some form of recreation use, promoting biodiversity, enhancing wildlife or angling. All the above should be capable of existing side-by-side.
9. Some duties, related to basic pond maintenance and the health of fish, could be delegated to a properly constituted angling club in the form of a new fishing lease. The operation of the lease should be monitored by the Council by way of regular reviews and meetings between the Council and the tenant's representatives and following input from the 'Friends Group' (if one is established) and other stakeholders the Council deems it reasonably necessary to consult.
10. Angling has proven to have benefits for mental health and personal wellbeing. Furthermore, fishing encourages young people to take-up outdoor activities and develop an interest in the local environment and wildlife. Taking this into consideration, the Council should arrange for the prompt return of fishing to the Wingerworth Lido.
11. Further to the above, Wingerworth Parish Council has agreed to offer assistance to the Council through its recent experience and understanding of issuing annual fishing permits, documentation and officer time.
12. So, to reiterate, going forward the Council should liaise and meet with all interested parties and stakeholders on a regular and ongoing basis, to discuss the management and plans for the Wingerworth Lido and the land around it,. This should include wildlife groups, the Angling Trust and local angling associations, amongst others.
13. Wingerworth Parish Council would like to formally request that it has a representative present at any future discussions or liaison meetings relating to the Wingerworth Lido and that it be offered a place on any friends group, which may be set up . This will ensure that that the best interests of the Parish Council and the community are presented and heard.

Wingerworth Parish Council hopes that the above comments are helpful and looks forward to hearing outcome of the consultation.

Yours sincerely



Colin Swindell
Clerk and RFO
Wingerworth Parish Council

Clay Cross Angling Association

From: Clay Cross Angling Association [REDACTED]

Sent: 20 November 2025 15:02

To: [REDACTED]@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: FW: Consultation - Wingerworth Lido

I've been a Angler for 60+ years ever since my Grandfather took me from the age of six, we care about the environment and all wildlife. CCAA have had the lease for more then 25 years and worked hard to maintain and look after the Lido with many members giving up their spare time with work parties, the Lido was always a biodiversity lake and fishermen are the first to notice if there is anything wrong with the health of the water and wildlife plus Angling is good for your mental health and to get away from work and stress, thousands of people go every week fishing and to stop it would a travesty for locals and the people of Chesterfield and Derbyshire

Kind regards

[REDACTED] CCAA

Angling Trust

Submission 1

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 20 November 2025 13:41

To: [REDACTED]@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>; Cllr. Smith

<Caroline.Smith@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>

Cc: Broughton, Matthew [REDACTED]@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>; Cllr.Barker

<Nigel.Barker@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>; [REDACTED];

Cllr.Pickering <Stephen.Pickering@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Consultation - Wingerworth Lido

Hi [REDACTED]

Please find attached the Angling Trust's formal response to your consultation. As you can see we have put a lot of time and effort into de-bunking the myths and proposing a constructive way forward with Clay Cross AA which we hope will be adopted at your meeting on December 8

All the best

Martin

[REDACTED]

Head of Policy



Wingerworth Lido - Consultation Response from the Angling Trust

Terms of Reference

"Wingerworth Lido (also known as Smithy Pond) is a valued local heritage site in the north of the village, enjoyed by residents for recreation, nature, and community activities. The Council is considering the future management and use of the Lido to ensure it remains a welcoming and sustainable space for all.

The Council's Environment Scrutiny Committee are seeking your views to help shape the future of Wingerworth Lido. Your feedback will help inform decisions about how the site is managed, what activities are supported, and how we can best balance recreation, heritage, and biodiversity."

(North East Derbyshire District Council - 3.11.25)

Introduction

The Angling Trust is the national governing body for all forms of recreational fishing and works in partnership with Fish Legal to fight for fish and fishing and to hold to account those whose actions threaten the environment for fish and wildlife. Fish Legal, and its predecessor organisation, has been using the law to fight pollution and other damage and threats to the water environment on behalf of anglers since 1948.

Background

We became involved in the Wingerworth Lido situation back in the January of 2025 when local anglers alerted us to the decision of North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDDC) not to renew the lease to Clay Cross Angling Association (CCAA) who had looked after the water for over 25 years. This decision later triggered a national petition organised by local angler James Duffy and a wider campaign in defence of angling by the Countryside Alliance.

It seemed that the Council's objective of creating a 'bio-diversity hub' at Wingerworth led to the false premise that angling could no longer be permitted on the site.

In response to media enquiries a press spokesman for NEDDC said the aim was to create 'a safe space for wildlife to thrive' without any explanation as to why this objective was incompatible with retaining angling on the Lido.

The focus of the Angling Trust has been to support CCAA and to open up at dialogue with NEDDC to explore options for the return of managed angling to Wingerworth Lido.

Angling on wildlife sites

The Angling Trust is an active member of the Wildlife and Countryside Link and the Blueprint for Coalition of Environmental NGOs. At a national level the angling community works closely with our

colleagues in the environmental movement advocating for fish and wildlife. Most sensible people recognise the value of having two million anglers as part of a strong voice for a better environment. However, we do sometimes come across situations where a handful of ideologically driven people try to subvert the majority support for Britain's most popular outdoor pastime.

We have successfully challenged attempts to ban or restrict angling for our member clubs on designated nature reserves including at the Sevenoaks Nature Reserve where the ban was eventually overturned thanks to the support of other wildlife groups.

<https://anglingtrust.net/2021/01/27/wildlife-groups-back-anglers-in-bid-to-save-fishing-at-sevenoaks-wildlife-reserve/>

As the evidence clearly demonstrates, responsible and well managed angling is in no way incompatible with the establishment of a nature reserve.

By way of an example we have produced a list of Wildlife Trusts that actively promote fishing on their sites showing that angling and 'biodiversity hubs' are far from incompatible.

WILDLIFE TRUSTS & FISHING - Some of the fishing available on WLT reserves:

Staffordshire WLT sells permits directly for its water at Doxey Marshes

<https://www.staffs-wildlife.org.uk/support-us/online-shop>

Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northants WLT at Felmersham Gravel Pits

<https://www.wildlifebcn.org/nature-reserves/felmersham-gravel-pits>

Wiltshire WLT at Steeple Langford nature reserve

<https://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/fishing>

Hampshire and IoW WLT - Winnal Moors on the River Itchen and at Swanwick lakes

<https://www.hiwwt.org.uk/nature-reserves/swanwick-lakes-nature-reserve>

Norfolk WLT – Martham Broad

<https://www.visitthebroads.co.uk/things-to-do/wildlife/birdwatching/product-detail?listing=>

Angling at Wingerworth

In subsequent discussions with NEDDC the Angling Trust was reassured to hear that the Council recognises the multiple benefits of angling and is keen to see anglers involved in any community based management arrangements at Wingerworth. However, the termination of the lease to Clay Cross Angling Association after 25 years of caring for the Lido has led to controversy and a lot of bad feeling which is threatening to inhibit the constructive partnership working that will be necessary for these new arrangements to succeed.

The angling club has worked hard to improve biodiversity and water quality, create a healthy and vibrant environment for fish and wildlife, deal with public nuisances including litter, drug taking and anti-social behaviour and provide a much valued recreational fishery where local people can enjoy an important connection with nature.

Years ago the Lido was choked with weed, had problems with algae blooms and unauthorised fishing and littering and was becoming unattractive as a community resource. Over time the Clay Cross Angling Association has assisted in the management of the lake drawing on advice from the Environment Agency and fishery specialists. The stock assemblage has been carefully managed to

create one of the best tench and carp waters in the area with a good head of other species including roach, perch and pike. The Lido can deliver safe, affordable angling for all ages and has, in the past, introduced many young people to both fishing and a broader appreciation of nature.

Myths and Falsehoods

Unfortunately it has become clear that while the majority of the community wish to see the return of angling to the Lido there are few individuals who have an ideological objection and seem to be finding any reason to object. We therefore sought the advice of both the Environment Agency and the Institute of Fisheries Management to debunk some of the myths and falsehoods that have been put forward:

'The angling club have polluted the water with blue dye and killed off the toads'

- The longstanding lease from NEDDC actually requires CCAA to control the weed growth in the Lido
- The dye used was to: a) prevent toxic blue / green algae blooms which are a danger to public health and wildlife, and, b) to control excessive weed growth making angling impossible.
- CCAA used Pro-Blue and Dyofix - vegetable based UV light suppressors - on the advice of the Environment Agency who have trialed and approved this approach.
- The Institute of Fisheries Management have confirmed that there are no known negative impacts on toad or amphibian populations associated with the application of these dyes.
- The lido now has a healthy plant assemblage with prolific lily beds, pond weed and marginal habitat.
- Notwithstanding the above CCAA is happy to switch to using Shadow Pond Dye which leaves a more natural look whilst still suppressing UV light. <https://www.dyofix.co.uk/pond-dyes/>
- Furthermore CCAA accepts that such products **can only** be used with the prior approval of the Council (as stipulated in the lease).

'Angling has destroyed the reedbeds'

- The reduction in the once prolific reedbeds is nothing whatsoever to do with angling but is a result of the increase in the Canada geese population which has destroyed them and increased pollutants in the water. (See note below)

'The Lido has been overstocked with carp and pike'

- CCAA have never stocked the Lido with pike (in fact they removed around 30 a few years back) and they have never 'tipped hundreds of carp' into the water. Their stocking policy is to maintain the current carp population by only replacing fish that have been lost.
- There are only around 60 carp in a 3.5 acre water which is a perfectly sensible stocking density. Carp are a naturalised U.K. species having been in the country since the 14th Century. The healthy numbers of other fish species indicates that their presence is in balance with the fishery as a whole.

'Anglers are responsible for littering the site'

- Angling club volunteers and bailiffs clear up litter from the public, including dog fouling, and without their presence matters will only deteriorate. The club has strict rules against littering.

'Angling is restricting space for wildlife'

- The lido has around 40% of the bank space with no fishing which provides plenty of cover for fish and wildlife and includes a shallow section by part of the dam wall where there could be a risk of birds inadvertently picking up an angler's bait.

Note on Canada Geese Impacts on enclosed waters

A large population of Canada geese can have several damaging ecological, environmental, and health impacts on an enclosed pond and its surroundings. Because enclosed ponds have limited water exchange and small surface areas, these effects can be especially severe.

Water Quality Degradation

Main cause: Goose faeces

- Each adult Canada goose produces 1–1.5 pounds of faeces per day.
- Goose droppings are high in nitrogen and phosphorus, nutrients that lead to:
- Eutrophication — excessive nutrient enrichment.
- Algal blooms, including toxic cyanobacteria (blue-green algae).
- Oxygen depletion, which can cause fish kills.
- Increased turbidity (murky water) due to suspended organic matter and sediment disturbance.
- Result: Decline in water quality, reduced oxygen levels, and loss of aquatic life.

Vegetation and Habitat Damage

- Geese graze heavily on grasses, aquatic plants, and seedlings, often uprooting vegetation.
- This causes:
- Erosion of pond banks (due to loss of stabilizing plants).
- Loss of nesting and cover habitat for other species (frogs, ducks, insects, etc.).
- Reduced biodiversity — both aquatic and terrestrial.

Wildlife Imbalance

- Overabundant geese can outcompete native species for space and food.
- Nesting aggression can drive away smaller birds or prevent them from breeding near the pond.
- Altered nutrient cycles can change the pond's invertebrate and fish populations, leading to long-term ecosystem imbalance.

A facility for everyone

There is no doubt that the Council is looking for an outcome that will see the Lido enjoyed by as many people as possible who value it as a wildlife site and recreational amenity. There have been some concerns expressed about avoiding conflicts with wildlife and ensuring that anti-social behaviour is not tolerated. The Angling Trust has agreed with CCAA the following proposed changes to a future lease or licence regarding fishing at Wingerworth Lido.

- No Day Tickets. Members only to better control access and conduct.
- No unaccompanied Juniors (juniors welcome if properly supervised by a senior member)
- A separate Wingerworth Lido permit to be issued to club members subject to careful vetting to exclude any individuals who might give cause for concern.
- Night fishing permits available at an extra charge, to be capped at 30 with only six allowed to be booked on in any 24hr period.
- A maximum of only two rods to be used per angler to minimise any interaction with wildlife
- No fishing with surface baits to protect bird life
- CCAA will provide a daily bailiffing and enforcement service liaising with the Council and Friends of Wingerworth Lido Group
- CCAA has offered to actively participate in the Friends Group once established if welcome.
- CCAA does not feel the Lido is a suitable place for public swimming as this would conflict with both safe angling and the wider bio-diversity objectives.

These proposals represent the adoption of national best practice for coarse angling on shared public waters and we feel would go a long way to addressing any legitimate concerns and ensuring that the Lido can be enjoyed by all. Removing a properly managed angling presence will only result in poaching, littering, anti-social behaviour and a general decline in the facility. There are numerous examples of where local councils have restored angling club fishing rights for precisely these reasons.

Partnership working in Derbyshire

Standing in marked contrast to the current situation at Wingerworth is the excellent partnership working in Derby where all the city council's lakes are successfully managed by the local Earl of Harrington's Angling Club who have improved the aquatic environment in all the lakes for all wildlife and not just fish.

With careful management there have been improvements in the water quality and the habitat of all the lakes. Hundreds of insect friendly aquatic plants are planted each year. The club is an active member of various city groups including The Friends of Allestree Park and has received praise from across the city and beyond for working with other partners including the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT) and Sustrans. In addition to environmental issues they also work with NHS, charitable trusts involved with a range of health issues, uniformed organisations, schools and the Youth Justice Service.

We asked Club Secretary, Dave Parr, to outline what had been achieved through partnership working with DWT in recent years on the Derby City lakes and ponds:

"Just prior to us taking on the management of the fishing rights for all the Derby City Council Parks lakes around 11 years ago, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust undertook a scientific survey of the "health" of all the lakes / ponds across Derby City, which included two lakes that we privately own, on which we had already delivered significant environmental improvements. The overall score / measure was based on various scientific factors, such as dissolved minerals, invertebrates numbers / species, macrophytes, pH etc, and out of 90+ water bodies surveyed, our two lakes were ranked first and third"

Given the proposed involvement of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust as advisors to inform the Council's biodiversity improvement plan, the partnership between them and the Earl of Harrington's Angling Club is significant. Especially as 'The Earl' have kindly offered to support CCAA in working with them and in improving the bio-diversity of the Lido.

Way Forward

On October 22nd the Angling Trust, on behalf of CCAA, submitted a proposal to the NEDDC Environment Scrutiny Committee for the resumption of angling under revised terms pending the outcome of the DWT review which is not likely to conclude until the autumn of 2026. This review is primarily to advise the Council of its statutory responsibilities in respect of designated wildlife sites. It is highly unlikely to conclude that angling is incompatible at Wingerworth Lido although there may be additional recommendations regarding how fishing, and other activities, are conducted.

Quite clearly if the Council truly wishes to maximise stakeholder engagement going forward, including from anglers, then singling out one activity for early termination is not the way to build trust or partnership working. Imagine the uproar if bird watching or dog walking was banned in a similar fashion.

As we have stated no evidence has been presented that suggests that angling in some form cannot be included in the future plans and we fully expect this to remain the case.

Given that the scrutiny process itself is likely to take several months, and the DWT review even longer, leaving the Lido open to poaching and a free for all, it makes considerable sense in management terms to issue a temporary licence to CCAA in order to bailiff and generally look after the place. This would also help to diffuse the situation and begin to rebuild the trust necessary to engage the angling community in future partnership working. This licence could be for an initial three months or until the scrutiny process and the review are concluded and a final decision made.

The Council is rightly on record as wanting to see the Lido used by everyone who values nature and recreation and wants new management arrangements that reflect this objective. Until these plans are fully formulated there really is no reason to prohibit angling or any other legitimate activity enjoyed by local people.

ENDS

**Angling Trust
20th November 2025**

For more information contact:

[REDACTED]

Submission 2

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 7 October 2025 at 17:55:19 BST
To: [REDACTED]@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Lido!

Cllr. [REDACTED]

A quick one re Environment Scrutiny Committee and Wingerworth Lido. I'm assuming that you will want to have gathered robust evidence before the general oral input at the planned public meeting scheduled for November 17th?

The Earl of Harrington's Angling Club manage all of the fishing for Derby City Council and often lead on environmental improvement work, as they have done for example at Allestree Lake, a water not too dissimilar in both environment and context with Wingerworth Lido. The fishing club work closely with Derby City Parks' Department through both Chief Parks' Officer [REDACTED] and other relevant parks officers. The club also work closely with a wide range of other organisations including rewilding groups and The Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. The Secretary of The Earl AC is [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is an acknowledged expert in environmental improve with a track record of improving water quality and fostering flora and fauna development in Derby's lakes. I have spoken to [REDACTED]. He is more than willing to answer questions and share his experiences and thoughts with your committee either face-to-face or online. [REDACTED] is one of life's enthusiasts. I hope you will take up [REDACTED] offer.

Regards

[REDACTED]

AT Lead Coach (amongst other things!)

Submission 3

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 10 November 2025 09:13

To: Governance NEDDC <Governance@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>

Subject: Wingerworth Lido Consulation

Hi [REDACTED]

Firstly thanks for the email and the opportunity to make a further submission.

As I've sent a fair number of emails already I'll try and prioritise and summarise.

1. The evidentially based case for seeing angling as integral to environmental protection and bio-diversity has been made by The Angling Trust - and NEDDC has their powerful submissions. There is synergy between continued angling activity and partnership working at Smithy Pond, and council policies and desired outcomes.
2. One specific from me that is worth repeating. In nearby Derby, The Earl of Harrington Angling Club successfully manages the fishing on all of the City Council's lakes, and on a large section of the River Derwent. This angling club has a reputation for effective partnership working and aquatic environmental protection and improvement. One example from the many I could provide. The club are currently carrying out improvement work on Mill Dam, a pond near the middle of the city. As well as removing the usual shopping trollies and other dumped items, the water quality is being improved and monitored, and vitally aquatic, insect friendly flora is being planted to enrich the environment for all wildlife. The local MP is visiting this site on Friday 14th to see the impact of this activity, and to hear about the wider environmental improvements the club has and is undertaking across her constituency. I have made the offer before for NEDDC officers or members to attend this walkabout. Just let me know though if anyone is coming!
3. I regret deeply the public image and political damage that Wingerworth Lido/Smithy Pond has generated and continues to generate. I have been involved in the issue before it "went viral" when a former pupil who I'd taken fishing from the now closed Deincourt School in North Wingfield contacted me (I wasn't responsible for the closure of the school by the way!). Whilst not wanting to do the "I told you so" I indicated before any petitions and before the fishing ban/moratorium was weaponised , that the issue was combustible and needed to be grabbed back and dealt with rapidly. I never envisaged how combustible though!

Hopefully The Angling Trust's robust, evidentially case for the continuation of fishing on Smithy Pond provides a way forward both for the promotion and development of the council's environmental policies, and going forward for effective news management of this unhealthy controversy.

Again, thanks and good luck!

[REDACTED]

Angling Trust Lead Coach, Coordinator Derby Young Angler's Project

Derbyshire Amphibian & Reptile Group



DERBYSHIRE AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE GROUP

Chair

Kelvin Lawrence

Treasurer

Jayne Thompson

Secretary

Chris Monk

Committee members:

Garry Dorell, Chris Hallam, James Longley, Christian Murray-Leslie (Vice Chair),
Sheila Stubbs, Ben Wyke

Governance
North East Derbyshire District Council

Hilburn, Chapel Lane
Middleton
Matlock
Derbyshire
DE4 4NF

Via email to governance@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk

23rd November 2025

Wingerworth Lido (Smithy Pond)

Thank you for the opportunity to submit the Group's views for the consultation that the Council is holding for the future uses of the site.

The importance of the Lido for common toads was recognised in the early 1980s when a group of local residents on Lakeside started taking action to move toads across the adjacent roads into the Lido in the breeding season. In 1984 the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust listed the Lido on their Biological Sites Register (now called the Local Wildlife Sites register) with the toad population being a key factor in the listing. By the late 1980s the Lido was registered officially as a toad crossing site by Froglife who maintain the database of toad crossings for the Department of Transport. In 1996 the Wildlife Trust took over organising and supporting the toad crossing volunteers through the Derbyshire Amphibian Group.

Since 2004 we have supported the toad patrol and have kept records of the amphibian data on all the known toad crossings such as Wingerworth Lido. These show that in the late 1990s the numbers of toads varied between 460 and 815. There was a period from 2003 to 2009 with no volunteers so large numbers of toads would have been lost to road traffic. Since 2010 there has been a toad patrol every year except 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. Numbers recovered to several hundreds of toads, peaking in 2018 with one and a half thousand but since 2021 there have been only around 200, with this year being even poorer - only just over 100. In addition the number of smooth newts have declined. Several volunteers have suggested that the fall in the toad population is due to or coincides with the fishing club's regular use of dye to kill off submerged water plants and algae in the past few years.

<http://groups.arguk.org/DARG/>

Our view on the proposed future management of the Lido is that we would want to see it managed in a sympathetic way for wildlife. With some improvements and proper management it could be a valuable resource to demonstrate to local residents that biodiversity restoration is for everyone. It is particularly accessible so it is easy to be visited by the local community rather than having to travel to see nature reserves. Setting up a local volunteer group to assist in managing the site will also help to enforce the feeling of ownership of the site by the local community.

We understand that the Wildlife Trust under its Service Level Agreement with the Council will be able to assist in drawing up plans for biodiversity improvements at the Lido. We are willing to assist with advice on measures that fall within our remit to enhance the site for amphibians and reptiles and I am sure that other local species groups would be pleased to help with advice or practical measures. The removal of large carp and pike would certainly lead to a better environment for the amphibians and restoration of the toad population.

Yours
Chris Monk
Secretary
Derbyshire Amphibian & Reptile Group

Derbyshire Amphibian and Reptile Group is a member of



Amphibian and Reptile Groups of UK (ARG UK) is a registered charity (number 1165504) committed to the conservation of native amphibians and reptiles and their natural environment by supporting the development of a network of independent volunteer amphibian and reptile groups (ARGs)

<http://groups.arguk.org/DARG/>

Wingerworth Wildlife

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 23 November 2025 20:29

To: Governance NEDDC <Governance@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>

Subject: Wingerworth Lido (Smithy Pond)

Please find attached papers for the Scrutiny Committee as per Joe Hayden's email of 19 November 2025 12:40

Regards

[REDACTED]

Chair - Wingerworth Wildlife

Wingerworth Lido - Environmental Scrutiny Committee

The opportunity has now arisen to restore and revive and make good some thirty years of development pressure and mismanagement of the waters. This is imperative and welcomed.

Local Residents hold the Lido dear to them.

The Lido 's decline started with developments around and nearby with no heed being paid to secondary or tertiary collateral harm caused to the ecology.

Similarly, The Fishing Lease that was in force since at least 2006 was weakly drafted and not enforced and the lessee went on to act without due regard for the consequences of their actions. Only when some excellent officers in NEDDC recognised their Statutory duty in recent years has management moved in the right direction. All costs for the remedial actions needed and harm done must be sought from the Lessee or Lessee's insurers. NEDDC and the Taxpayers should not be left with the costs.

The unbelievable and indefensible actions of various pressure groups and activists from the Angling community in the last year have been truly disgraceful.

Many locals have been threatened, abused and subjected to lies and ad hominem attacks by many in and around these groups. Because of this it would not be easy to convince many to engage in any "Friends" group that has these particular groups or individuals or activists in them. Indeed, many have clearly stated that they will not.

Therefore, a way forward is to possibly split the Friends group entirely from the Fishing Licencing Process and rules. Leave that as a matter between NEDDC and any new and differently constituted Angling Club and stricter lease, should circumstances and biodiversity in the Lido improve and permit.

We are concerned with the overall health, naturalness and recovery of the Lido for other non-angling users. If the anglers do nothing to harm or stop all others (Human, Animal or Vegetable etc.) enjoyments then so be it. However, any polluting, dyeing, Barley Straw use, restocking, bad behaviour must be firmly controlled by NEDDC alone.

We noted that an angling led management scheme, primarily for Carp Fishing has caused most, but not all, the issues that Lido's key species and habitats and users have experienced. Incidentally, it was CCAA who wanted their fish (Carp) removed from the Lido. I believe this is correct, subject to the scientists concurring, removing the non-native species and predatory fish. A native coarse fish stock is needed to rebalance the pond.

Full, scientist led, surveys are needed. You can't fix problems when you don't know the extent of all the problems.

In order to improve the quality of pond life present in the Lido it has to be managed in a very different way, which will likely take at least 5 years and probably longer to achieve.

There is significant evidence that the last circa 20 years of management of the Lido has caused significant damage, and so a change to responsible management is needed.

We never called for and neither has there ever been a “Ban” on fishing at the Lido. However, the Council had/has no choice other than to take management in house.

In order to do so CCAA did not have its lease renewed and NEDDC has/had no choice than to seek some kind of Ecological/ Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) before any fishing returns or indeed how to properly manage the Lido. This meant that a short-term moratorium on any waterside activity such as maintenance, dredging, planting, clearing, fishing or removal of fishing detritus etc. is compulsory and necessary until DWT et al. say it is safe to do so or at least will not exacerbate any issues.

The Lido’s status is critical.

Please do not waste this final opportunity.



Chair

Wingerworth Wildlife

23/11/2025

PS. Please see attached PDF that gives some of the background information. E&OE

I have dealt with the matters under the following point headers:

1. Destruction of the Ecosystem in the last three decades or so. Noticeable and quantifiable loss.
2. Causes of Change & Damage to the Ecosystem, especially in the last decade or so.

So:

1. Destruction of the Ecosystem, especially in the last decade or so. Noticeable and quantifiable loss:

- a. Amphibians

- i. See attached Chart called "data collected by local toad patrol and reported to Derbyshire Reptile & Amphibian Group". Note the drastic decline it shows.

It once was the case that there were so many amphibians that DCC Highway placed warning signs on Nethermoor Road as it was a "bloody" slip hazard and villagers did not mow their lawns for about a month as it was a bloodbath of froglets.

Why?

1. Toads spawn around 3feet deep and wrap single string spawn around weeds at that depth. Blue Dye blocks the growth of the same.
 2. Newts lay a single egg at a time and wrap around a leaf of Pond weed it for protection. Again, the dye did its damage.
 3. Frogs will spawn at the surface. But please note due to no cover or plants they fall easy prey to predation (including Carp & Pike).
 4. Great Crested Newts have not been seen since at least 2012. NEDDC initially said they had no record of GCNs however it is documented that when the Smithy Pond was built (late 1980s) building had to be delayed until they had finished spawning and that is in the Planning & Building Records of NEDDC.
- ii. Tadpoles are sparse and rare in surviving to Frog/Toad/Newt-let stage. They eat algae for the first six weeks of their development. There is little or no Algae due to Barley Straw (Last year alone a count of some 24 bales were noticed in the Lido) usage. As it decays it produces Hydrogen Peroxide that destroys algae. The argument given by CCAA is it is to stop "Blue Algae". We are unaware of any Blue Algae blooms ever being present in the pond or even likely. Similarly, the reduced protective fauna (weeds) growth due to Blue Dye usage. Intentional or accidental over-usage will also kill algae.

- b. Wildfowl Change

- i. Swans
 - 1. 2022 - One mating pair, 9 Cygnets Hatched, 8 reached one year maturity,
 - 2. 2023 - One mating pair, 8 Cygnets Hatched, 2 reached one year maturity (but was putdown at Christmas 2023), Lack of food caused the parents to walk all the village waters and increased losses. FYI 1 died soon after birth, 2 lost to fishing tackle injury, 3 disappeared on the walkabouts and one seen taken by pike.
 - 3. 2024 - One mating pair, 6 Cygnets Hatched, 1 lost to Pike, independent witnesses, 2 killed by fishing tackle, two juveniles killed by parents in territorial fight this year (2025) at Lido.
 - 4. 2025 – No nesting pair For the first time in many, many years– The Island Pond pair hatched six and came down with 6 cygnets. One disappeared on a walkabout and 1 lost due to fox, pike or carp. One, in July, was snagged by a couple of illegal fishermen and died the next day.
- ii. Grebes – None seen on the lido in about 13 years. Used to be commonplace but there are now no nesting materials and limited places since reed beds were destroyed. Smaller fish (prey) not obvious and hidden by Blue Dye.
- iii. Coots – two mating pairs noted - Used to be commonplace but there are now no nesting materials and limited places since reed beds were destroyed.
- iv. Moorhens – two mating pairs noted - Used to be commonplace but there are now no nesting materials and limited places since reed beds were destroyed.
- v. Mallards – were not commonplace prior to say 2010. Seen about 4 hatchlings in year (2024) but they have disappeared. As a species they tolerate human interference. They are known as a beacon/indicator of interference.
- vi. Herons – Never nested locally – One seen hunting on summer nights – and seen recently.
- vii. Canada Geese – One territorial overwintered family (two parents and two goslings – one of which known as “Wingy” had wing injured shortly after hatching last year – So family overwintered) – Nesting this year 2025 as no swans. 2 Goslings one disappeared (u/k) and one killed by suspected dog or fox attack. Parents and Wingy still on the Lido though Swans allowing. Some (15 to 20) roosted over night during the Spring but are not an issue as

they moved on daily.

viii. Goosanders – Have started to reappear this year since there are no Anglers.

c. Mammals:

i. Water Voles have disappeared over the last 30 years

ii. Mink are in Trickett's Brook and have been active on The Great Pond of Stubbing this year. They have also appeared by a single report at the Wall/Island ponds but this is not independently verified.

d. Birds – Good diversity in the surrounds.

e. Fish

Clay Cross Angling Club/Association have without any known agreement and in breach of Lease Schedule One Point 19 have done some of the following:

i. Carp – The dominant non-native species to the detriment of all others except Pike. – Noted some have died and found floating on the Lido (2024) since the latest application of Brilliant Blue E133

ii. Pike – One of 2 dominant species and problematic to the other wildlife as out of balance.

iii. Eel –The outflow that goes underground alongside 41 Belfit Drive and flows under Deerlands Road resurfaces North of Spindle Drive and flows down to Trickett's Brook.

This needs special examination as recent planning consents for 180 houses may impact it being an Eel conduit to and from the Lido.

iv. White-clawed Crayfish – As a home to a protected species the Lido has not been recorded in surveys since circa 2021.

f. Invertebrates & Insects Varieties are minimised or lost in the last 10 years or so.

g. Bats – Far fewer than 5 years ago. Link to pond insect loss perhaps. Last year 5 species were noted but in far fewer numbers than 15 years ago. Incidentally since the Management had moved to NEDDC (ie. No dyeing or Barley Straw) 18 species and sub-species were recorded this year. This suggests some insect recovery.

h. Flora:

i. Reeds – There are no Reed Beds of note any more. The Reed beds have been replaced by Water Lillies – Such reed beds existed and are described as existing in the "Fishing leases Ts&Cs and duties and obligations within them", for example, in Point "18. - Fishing from Reed Beds - To only fish in

the area of reed beds from stands built by the Club to the entire satisfaction of the Council's Deputy Chief Executive (Service Delivery) for the time being."

This is due to the repeated over many years use of DYOFIX also known as Food Colourant Brilliant Blue E133 by the Clay Cross Angling Club. The Dye blocks Red Light Waves. Reeds grow by photosynthesis and are stimulated by red light increase in spring.

Water Lillies Grow by temperature increase causing cell elongation, in Spring. Only once the surface is reached does Photosynthesis occur so they are not affected by blue Dye. Hence the massive dominance of Water Lillies in recent years and the detriment to wildlife.

- ii. Oxygenators – They are almost non-existent in comparison to what was there a decade ago. They were food, shelter and protection and spawning areas that are now gone.
- iii. The "Drawdown Zone" – It is in a bad way. It is only noticeable in summer.

A healthy pond will green up and a drawdown zone refers to the area around a pond that is subject to seasonal changes in water levels. During the summer months, water levels typically drop, exposing this zone, which is usually flooded in winter and spring. This fluctuation creates a unique habitat that is rich in biodiversity.

The Lido's was barren this year, especially when compared with other ponds locally.

2. Causes of Change & Damage to the Ecosystem, especially in the last decade or so:

- a. The use, and overuse, of Brilliant Blue E133 (though Dyofix now call it Acid Blue9. This is simply another name for E133 that is a Petrochemical derived Organic Hydrocarbon, no matter that The Angling Trust continue to call it vegetable based.) that:
 - i. Had been banned in several EU Countries for contact with humans but classed in UK as Safe and Non-Toxic IF used properly.
 - ii. Does destroy/harm the food and lifecycle by inhibiting red light.
 - iii. Was used in direct breach of NEDDC instructions this year and last.
 - iv. See the "Fishing leases Ts&Cs and duties and obligations within them" in Schedule One Point "19. Not to permit harm or injury or interference with birds [sic] wildfowl or other wildlife present or resident in the Lido"

- v. Also see Second Schedule point “3. Pollution -To use its best endeavours to prevent the Lido from being drawn off raised lowered or polluted so as to materially affect the proper exercise of the Fishing Rights.” Dye defined as pollution in The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
- i. For the record, Tricketts Brook is home to a protected species, The White-clawed Crayfish. According to the EA it is an additional offence along with “mere” pollution under the: Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

The principal water pollution offences are contained in the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010: regulations 38(1) and 12(1). (and subsequent revisions) Please see an interesting synopsis from these Solicitors “[Environmental Offences - Water Pollution | Slater Heelis](https://www.slaterheelis.co.uk/articles/crime-category/environmental-offences-water-pollution/)”.
<https://www.slaterheelis.co.uk/articles/crime-category/environmental-offences-water-pollution/>

- b. Repeated Use of Barley Straw.
- c. Building – In the last 40-year building has been allowed to the N, NW and South. N & NW has removed the natural water courses and filters that previously existed.

This has also caused/contributed to silting up.

- d. Over-maintenance – When the site was gentrified the “Beach” in the NE corner was removed and the Wall reinstated. Now there are: No easy access and escape points for mammals, invertebrates or Humans, especially children.

Trying to get to the water’s edge to show Natural History to children is nigh on impossible and dangerous. This should be reversed.

If someone falls in it is more difficult to rescue.

E&OE

Wingerworth Lido / Smithy Pond

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Toads										
Rescued	562	812	916	1412	593	Covid	228	198	202	192
Killed	34	45	62	76	Bad	Cancelled	16		25	30
	596	857	978	1488	Weather		244	198	227	222
Frogs										
Rescued	40	48	10	6	Bad	Covid	14		49	19
Killed	4	4	1	2	Weather	Cancelled	0		1	0
	44	52	11	8			14	0	50	19
Newts										
Rescued	21	24	7	22	Bad	Covid	1		5	1
Killed	0	0	0	6	Weather	Cancelled	0		0	1
	21	24	7	28			1	0	5	2
Total	661	933	996	1524	593	N/A	259	198	282	243
Actual	N/A	272	63	528	-931	N/A	-334	-61	84	-39
Change										
%										
Change										
year on										
Year	N/A	41.15%	6.75%	53.01%	-61.09%	N/A	-56.32%	-23.55%	42.42%	-13.83%

Quick Comparison With Stubbing Great Pond over the same Periods

Total	N/A	310	541	455	215	N/A	549	682	1283	733
Actual	N/A	N/A	231	-86	-240	N/A	334	133	601	-550
Change										
%										
Change										
year on										
Year	N/A	N/A	74.52%	-15.90%	-52.75%	N/A	155.35%	24.23%	88.12%	-42.87%

Toad Patrol

Submission 1

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 November 2025 20:19
To: Governance NEDDC <Governance@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>
Subject: Future of the Lido

Dear Sir/ Madam

[REDACTED] would like to express our opinions and concerns regarding the future of the Lido.

We have organised the toad patrol under the control of DARG since 2015. We have noticed a dramatic decline in amphibian numbers, not only toads, but also frogs and smooth newts, which we believe has coincided with CCAA adding blue dye to the water. It is understood that the dye is not detrimental physically to animal life, but its effects on the environment has a serious impact. The dye inhibits the growth of weeds and algae necessary to the life cycle of amphibians and invertebrates which require these plants for food and shelter, a shoal of vulnerable tadpoles is literally sitting targets for predators when they have nowhere to hide. Toads, newts and frogs all eat plant life after they have hatched, and consumed their jelly egg sacks... therefore they have no food or shelter. The amphibians which we assist are all adults which have made their migration for many years back to their spawning ground. We have been so concerned over the last few years, that we decided to count males, females and juveniles, sadly no juveniles have been seen for a while now. I'm am attaching my results which are sent to DARG We also do the toad patrol at Stubbing and the numbers of toads there have steadily increased There is also a thriving population of Great Crested newts there too.

The white clawed crayfish and Great Crested newts have not been seen for many years. This has a knock-on effect on the invertebrates which also need the pond, no water boatman, pond skater, diving beetles or pond snails. There also appears to be a lot of dead swam mussels.

The Reed beds have been removed, and floating rafts which were anchored in mid water for the nesting birds have also mysteriously broken their moorings, and drifted into the edges of the pond ! Since NEDDC took away CCAA right to manage the water we have seen an influx of bat species, five to be precise and dragon/damsel flies

The angling club introduced large non-native carp which are indiscriminate feeders and will consume anything. They also produce lots of nitrates which in turn causes algae blooms. The pond which was once a haven for native fish has now become a carp water.

We feel that the pond should be allowed to return back to its native roots, and this could possibly mean no fishing until it has done so. The native species of fish should be encouraged, with the possible removal of the large carp and pike. The pond and the surrounding area should be made more family friendly and not be specifically for the use of one section of the community.

As part of the biodiversity rejuvenation, we feel that the reed beds which are natural filters should be restored, this will also encourage waterfowl to return to nest. Permanent islands would be very beneficial and should receive the council's consideration.

The anglers are shouting for the residents of Wingerworth to have their say as to whether fishing should be restored or not, yet we believe that most of the residents of the village have absolutely no idea what creatures' dwell beneath the surface of the water, so information boards explaining what to look for would be great. Maybe the area could also be used for village events such as pond dipping for the school children or even wild swimming.

██████████ are not against the reintroduction of coarse fishing in the future, but only after the water has been restored to its former glory, and possibly only from the concrete wall allowing the rest of the banks to return to nature.

Finally, on a more personal note as part of the wildlife group that ██████████ are members of, we feel that we couldn't possibly work with CCAA as the amount of bullying and online abuse that has been levelled at us, is unacceptable.

I am sixty years old and have lived in Wingerworth all my life and now I feel that I dare not walk around the pond by myself. I am not prepared to be abused or threatened as I have been by certain members of the angling community.

I am attaching our finding from the toad patrol

With kindest regards

██████████

DERBYSHIRE AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE GROUP

A member group of ARG-UK

TOAD RESCUE RECORDING FORM 2025

Toad Crossing Site: Stable Smithy Pond, Wingerworth

For all amphibians, please show the number of Male, Female, Juvenile if known. For newts, please show the species if known.

Date	Number of Toads Killed	Number of Toads rescued going to pond	Number of helpers	Time of activity (Start / End)	Weather (e.g. Start / End Temperature, Notable amounts of Cloud / Wind / Rain)	Notes (please include numbers of any Frogs & Newts; any other useful info)
20/12/25	0	0	1	6pm-7pm	12° Damp	2 frogs
21/12/25	0	1 male	1	6pm-7.15pm	13°-10° Damp	
22/12/25	0	1 male	2	6pm-7.30pm	10° Dry	
23/12/25	0	2 males	1	6pm-7.30	9° wet lumpy	9 frogs 1 frog casualty
6/1/26	0	1 male	2	6pm-7.15pm	12° Damp	4 frogs
7/1/26	1	8 males 2 females	3	6.15-7.45	12° Dry	4 frogs 1 frog casualty
8/1/26	0	5 3 males 2 females	3	6.30-7.45	15°-10° Dry	2 frogs
9/1/26	0	0	1	6.30-7.30	12° Dry	
20/1/26	3	15 males	4	6.45-8pm	14° Damp	26 frogs
21/1/26	5	26 males 12 females	8	6.45-8.15	11° Raining	21 frogs, 1 newt casualty
23/1/26	2	11 6 males 5 females	4	6.45-8.30	9° Damp	1 smooth newt
24/1/26	0	2 males	2	7pm-8pm	8° Dry	
25/1/26	0	7 males	3	7pm-8.15pm	8° Dry	68 2 smooth newts from

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TOAD RESCUE RECORDING FORM 2023

Toad Crossing Site: Smithy Pond, Wingerworth

For all amphibians, please show the number of Male, Female, Juvenile if known. For newts, please show the species if known.

Date	Number of Toads Killed	Number of Toads rescued going to pond	Number of helpers	Time of activity (Start / End)	Weather (e.g. Start / End Temperature, Notable amounts of Cloud / Wind / Rain)	Notes (please include numbers of any Frogs & Newts; any other useful info)
26/12/25	0	1 male	3	7pm-8pm	8° Dry	
27/12/25	1	7 males 1 female	2	6.45pm-7.45	8° 11° Dry	
28/12/25	0	0	3	6.45-8pm	8° - felt colder	
29/12/25	0	4 3 male 1 female	2	7pm-8.30pm	9° - felt 14° wind + rain	
30/12/25	0	1 female	2	8pm-9pm	9° - Dry	
31/12/25	0	0	2	8pm-9pm	11° Dry	
1/1/26	0	3 2 males 1 female	3	8pm-9pm	11° Dry	2 returning
2/1/26	1	0	2	8pm-9pm	11° Dry	
3/1/26	0	1 male		8pm-9pm	11° Dry	
	13	110				68 Frogs 2 casualties 1 smart Newt, 1

casualties

Wingerworth Lido / Smithy Pond

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Toads										
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Rescued	21	24	7	22	Bad	Covid	1		5	1
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year on										
Year	N/A	N/A	74.52%	-15.90%	-52.75%	N/A	155.35%	24.23%	88.12%	-42.87%

Submission 2

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 November 2025 12:15
To: Governance NEDDC <Governance@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>
Subject: Smithy Pond - Lido, Wingerworth

Good afternoon,

I would like to express opinion on the future of Wingerworth Lido. I am a member of the local toad patrol and have been since 2019. As such, I have seen the decline in the number of toads over these few years. We used to have over a thousand animals but this has reduced significantly to only over 100 animals this year. This we believe is due to the blue dye that clay cross angling club put in the water. The toads have nowhere to hide or to lay their spawn and this is not acceptable. We should be doing everything possible to protect our wildlife at this critical time. Animals have a hard enough time trying to adjust to our human world and to climate change without us making it even more difficult for them.

I wrote to BBC Wildlife Magazine when I first started volunteering for toad patrol and they publishes my letter and were very impressed with the work we were doing. I wonder what they would think now if [REDACTED] are the priority over saving our wildlife.

I want a future where wildlife can thrive, and in our country, one of the most nature depleted countries on Earth, this is not looking likely. However, even small changes can make a difference and I believe we should not [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and the area should become a wildlife friendly area. The common toad is no longer common. It is in decline across the uk. We can change that if we make the right decision.

I hope that you will listen to my view and the views of my fellow toad patrollers and do the right thing.

Best regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Submission 3

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 November 2025 13:21
To: Governance NEDDC <Governance@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>
Subject: Wingerworth Lido

I have been asked to email my views as a member of the Smithy Pond (Lido) Toad Patrol.

As you will no doubt be aware, the toad population at Smithy Pond has literally crashed in recent years. This has coincided with the use of blue dye by Clay Cross Anglers, and also the physical removal of pond weed by the anglers.

Toad numbers are recorded each year, and there is a very significant difference in population changes between Stubbing Great Pond (where numbers have increased) and Smithy Pond, which as previously stated has had a crash in numbers. [REDACTED] who runs the toad patrol has submitted the numbers to NEDDC, this is factual evidence of the effect that the management of Smithy Pond has had on one species only.

Pond weed is a vital food and habitat resource not only for toads, but also frogs, newts and water birds, and supports micro-organisms and insects that these larger species feed on.

We have also recorded much lower numbers of frogs and newts over recent years, as we also come across these while on toad patrol.

There have also been numerous instances of swans, geese and ducks being killed or injured by discarded fishing line, for many years.

The anglers have been aware of the above concerns for many years, but have either not addressed them or have refused to accept responsibility for their actions. For instance they claim blue dye is not harmful, but the very fact that it prevents the growth of pond weed is harmful to many species.

Similarly, they claim that discarded fishing equipment is the result of non members using the pond, however they have a bailiff who attends regularly to prevent use by non members, and the fact remains that fishing equipment is discarded frequently (by anglers, whether members or not) and injures/kills wildlife. If angling resumes at this pond so will the problem of discarded/snagged equipment.

I am also aware that large pike have been electrically stunned and removed from the Wall pond on Central Drive and relocated into Smithy Pond, this was confirmed to me during the process by [REDACTED] who clearly did not know I was part of the toad patrol. These large pike have been responsible for killing cygnets, goslings and ducklings over a number of years.

Given the above matters, it is clear that angling on Smithy Pond, as managed by the Clay Cross Anglers (and I would suggest angling generally) is entirely incompatible with

maintaining a viable toad population and will clearly result in reduced biodiversity, further upsetting instances of waterfowl being injured and killed, and render the pond a sterile fishing zone with little or no pond creatures other than mosquito larvae; and oversized carp and pike to be caught and photographed by grinning anglers for their social media pages, to be thrown back in, and to have the same thing happen the following day.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Institute of Fisheries Management

** Email trail sent on by Angling Trust from IFM **

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 October 2025 07:16
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Broughton, Matthew <[REDACTED]@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Angling at Wingerworth- A proposal to Environmental Scrutiny

Hi [REDACTED],

To the best of my knowledge, there is no evidence of any direct or indirect impacts on toad populations arising from angling activities, or fishery management practices.

Regards

[REDACTED]

On Fri, 24 Oct 2025 at 19:26, [REDACTED] wrote:

Thanks [REDACTED]

I'm sure that will be helpful for to Matt

Just to confirm, you are not aware of any evidence of angling negatively impacted on toad populations?

Cheers

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

On 24 Oct 2025, at 18:57, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

It was nice to catch up earlier and discuss the angling situation at the Lido.

With regard to the use of pond dyes and their potential impacts on amphibians, I have been unable to find any research or records indicating deleterious effects on frogs, toads or newts resulting from their use.

Pond dyes are applied to thousands of ponds and lakes each year by water managers seeking to control the growth and spread of submerged macrophytes and algae. Given the increasing restrictions on the use of aquatic herbicides, dyes remain one of the few available tools for managing aquatic vegetation in waters used for fisheries, wildlife or

general amenity purposes. As you note, the application of lake dyes is a management technique recommended and routinely employed by the Environment Agency. It is therefore reasonable to assume that, were there significant ecological risks associated with their use, such recommendations would not be made.

In fact, the use of darker pond dyes may offer some ecological benefits. For example, they can reduce avian predation on toads, as the darker water makes it more difficult for birds to locate their prey.

In my view, it would be more productive for the Wildlife Trust to focus its attention on the impacts of other chemicals known to affect amphibians. Numerous studies across Europe have demonstrated negative effects of agricultural pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers on amphibian populations. Additionally, recent research has highlighted the threats posed to aquatic ecosystems, including fish and amphibians, by pollutants such as de-icing salts from roads, chemicals from pet flea treatments, and microplastics.

I hope this is of use and please do come back to me if you would like any further information or references.

Best wishes

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Chief Executive
Institute of Fisheries Management

Countryside Alliance

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 November 2025 17:10
To: Cllr. Smith <Caroline.Smith@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>; Cllr. [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>
Subject: Response to consultation on the management of Wingerworth Lido from the Countryside Alliance

Dear Councillor Smith,

I am writing to you in your capacity as Chair of the Environment Scrutiny Committee, on behalf of Countryside Alliance members and supporters in the North East Derbyshire district area.

Please find below a response to the following consultation: [Have Your Say on the Management of Wingerworth Lido - North East Derbyshire District Council](#)

Our answers correspondent to the questions posed within the online consultation. You will appreciate that some are not applicable to a membership organisation.

We would like our response to the consultation logged and considered by the Environment Scrutiny Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you in advance.

Response to consultation on the management of Wingerworth Lido

Q1: The Countryside Alliance is a campaigning organisation that promotes and protects the rural way of life by representing the interests of the countryside in parliament, local government, the media, and on the ground. We have a significant membership across Derbyshire and the North East Derbyshire district and are responding to this consultation on their behalf.

Q2: No response.

Q3: No response.

Q4: The lido has existed for many years as a space for local people and those afar to enjoy angling. It brings people to the local community and supports the adjacent pub. The angling community plays a vital role in ensuring the ecological health of bodies of water, and these conservation efforts have been proven to have a beneficial impact on biodiversity.

Q5: "Opportunities for recreation", "Heritage and history", and "Fishing" are very important to our members. Angling is an important recreational activity that has been

shown to have significant positive impacts upon mental health and as such, has been promoted by the NHS as part of its growing interest in social prescribing, which an increasing body of research is highlighting for its beneficial impacts on health outcomes. Wingerworth Lido has maintained a long affiliation with angling forming part of the fabric of the local area, and it is important that North East Derbyshire District Council recognises that this heritage should be safeguarded for future generations. The ability for local people, particularly the younger generation, to fish recreationally at an affordable price, is an important opportunity for them to get outdoors and experience the natural world and as such, has huge benefits for the locality as well as wider society.

Q6: Given that angling is currently banned at the Wingerworth Lido, the Countryside Alliance would like to see the council safeguard its future by permitting the activity's reintroduction. The current ban has caused major detrimental effects to the wellbeing and enjoyment of local residents, and may cause significant ecological damage to the lido and its wildlife.

Q7: The Countryside Alliance has major concerns about NEDDC's decision to ban angling at the lido. Not only did this happen without any engagement with local communities, causing damage to relations between locals and the council, the angling ban has negatively affected the wellbeing and mental health of the angling community and local residents, as well as presenting a major ecological threat to the lido and its wildlife. When the ban was originally announced, the council claimed it had done so because of 'complaints'. After the Countryside Alliance queried the 'complaints' using the Freedom of Information Act, the council confirmed that of the three 'formal complaints' made over a period spanning two and a half years, none resulted in any sanctions or warnings to the club; as such we question how they can reasonably have been judged of sufficient severity to warrant banning a longstanding activity. While we do not wish to speculate as to the identity of the person or persons behind these spurious 'complaints', we are aware of examples elsewhere of orchestrated campaigns against fishing and other activities involving animal use, being driven by a small minority of ideologues. To the contrary, it is clear the Clay Cross Angling Club worked hard to maintain a healthy lido and volunteered a huge amount of time to maintaining and enhancing the area around the water, keeping it clean and deterring anti-social behaviour. We urge the council to reverse the angling ban with immediate effect.

Q8: It is clear there is a large population of local people who would visit the Wingerworth Lido much more frequently than they currently are, if the council were to reverse its decision to ban angling at the lido. Angling is beneficial not only to personal wellbeing and mental health, but has the additional benefit of enhancing the ecological health of the lido.

Q9: The Countryside Alliance would, once again, urge the council to immediately reverse its decision to ban angling at the lido. This important and longstanding recreational activity has provided significant benefits to anglers and the local community, and has also ensured that, until now, the lido has been healthy and teeming with wildlife, thanks to the day-to-day work of the Clay Cross Angling Association. Reversing the ban would ensure a positive and healthy future both for the local community and for the lido itself.

Q10: No response.

Q11, Q12, Q13 and Q14 (demographic questions): No response as we are responding as an organisation.

Thank you again.

Yours sincerely,



External Affairs Officer

Representations from those expressing interest in a “Friends” Group

Submission 1

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 November 2025 11:08
To: Governance NEDDC <Governance@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>
Subject: Wingerworth Smithy pond / Lido

I have been asked if I would like to make written representation to the Environmental scrutiny committee with regard to the Wingerworth Lido. Here are my thoughts on the unnecessary debarcal which has played out over this pond.

I am not an angler but I am a resident of nearly 40 yrs in Wingerworth who visits this location at least 5 days a week.

The situation needs to be reset with fishing being reinstated at the location, preferably by Clay Cross Angling club who have managed the welfare of the pond for many years successfully whilst other actions are taken to look at how to manage the pond going forward. There should be a lift to the ban on fishing at Smithy pond. I am aware the council have said there is no ban but threatening a financial fine is by implication a ban.

A full environmental survey of the pond should be undertaken to establish the wealth of aquatic life, fauna , flora and other wild life that are present at the pond throughout the year. When this has been done and only then can a decision be made on how to protect what is already there and possibly enhance it. Any survey should take at least 12 months. To leave the pond for this amount of time unmanaged will undoubtedly damage the eco system and bio diversity which already exists here.

If the council decides not to take this sort of action how are they or an organisation they contract manage the pond? This will be expensive. Testing the oxygen, nitrate, and phosphate levels, checking fish health, making sure there are no fish are diseased , and finding and implementing remedies. This been done by the fishing club in the past . Has this not saved the council money?

I am shocked that none of this was thought through before the fishing club were told to leave the pond and before there was a public consultation.

The council have acted irresponsibly and without thought for the financial cost they will be incurring along with the damage to their corporate and personal reputations. There has also been a total disregard and lack of respect for the residents of Wingerworth and the district.

In the light of eventually asking for the public's opinion I except the results of the survey the council have set out are made public before any final decisions are made to prove there is at least some transparency to the decision making.

Submission 2

From: [REDACTED]

Hi Damien, Thanks for the reply and yes i would like to send in a representation for the scrutiny panel to consider via a e-mail. Also is the meeting open to the general public not just those who are reading out representations?.. Here is my representation.... Well what an unnecessary mess we have here which could have been avoided if the local residents/anglers/wildlife group etc were consulted before a decision was made and proper democracy served via a vote if required. This as lead to division in the community mainly via Facebook which isn't good for the village. I would hope you reconsider and allow the anglers back on the lido with a strong tenancy lease and i with the help of others to work alongside the bailiff to ensure safe practice and keeping the area tidy and litter free. This would not effect a friends of wingerworth lido group being formed where we all join together to enjoy this fantastic part of the village for years to come...

Submission 3

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 November 2025 21:06
To: Governance NEDDC <Governance@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>
Subject: Wingerworth Lido/ Biodiversity Hub

Fao the Environment Scrutiny Committee NEDDC

Dear Committee members,

First of all I should like to make it clear that I feel this whole subject should be non-political. It is all about conserving and nurturing wildlife for the benefit of the planet and for future generations to appreciate.

We are extremely fortunate in Wingerworth to have natural areas which benefit nature. In addition to parkland and woodland we are blessed with four substantial ponds - Stubbing, the Wall and Island Ponds and the Lido/ Smithy Pond. In a world of declining wildlife we have a human obligation to improve and look after biodiversity in all those places.

I should be very grateful if you would kindly read the two items of correspondence I sent to NEDDC on the subject of the Lido (July 2024 and August 2025, see below). This will save me repeating myself too much about my interests and concerns.

In summary of those letters: I have lived in Wingerworth for [REDACTED] and I have always been, and still am, a keen amateur naturalist with probably a better understanding of British Wildlife than the average person, simply because I have pursued the subject as a hobby and interest, and of course spent my formative years learning about insects, plants, fungi, pond life etc. Indeed studying Pond Life has been one of my special interests.

I am a member of the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Entomological Society, Sorby Natural History Society, Derbyshire Amphibian and Reptile Group, Wingerworth Toad Watch, the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and the National Trust. A few years ago I was selected as one of 60 people out of 3000 applicants to take part in a national slug survey over a period of 13 months for the RHS.

As I have stated in my previous correspondence, my concern regarding the Lido is the lack of water weeds, essential algae, marginal plants and reed beds, together with the observed reduction in small aquatic animal life - for example invertebrates and amphibians. Algae and pond weeds are both essential food supplies and physical protection for many submerged creatures such as amphibians, tadpoles, fish, larvae of all kinds, and on the surface act as protection for newly hatched cygnets, coots, moorhens, ducks and other species of water birds from predators such as pike.

Regular application of dye such as Dyofix suppresses photosynthesising plants and upsets the pond's ecosystem and balance as well as preventing oxygenation of the water through plant photosynthesis. I've read comments from anglers on social media

stating that because plants use but don't produce oxygen at night it harms the fish. All plants respire day and night, but the effect at night of reduced oxygen levels in a pond (because no photosynthesis takes place) is negligible and aquatic life adjusts to the changes. It is incorrect to suggest water plants should be suppressed for those reasons!

Another argument members of Clay Cross Angling Association (CCAA) put forward is that the blue dye (Dyofix) suppresses blue/ green algae growth. These bacterial 'blooms' don't occur every year. They are dependant on climate, water movement, pollutants, lack of shade and the state of health of the pond. In a pond with a flourishing ecosystem and good marginal filtration, occasional blue/ green algae is less of a threat and could be controlled in better, less invasive ways.

In addition to aquatic plants, it is vital that marginal native plants are abundant as these help to reduce the amount of pollutants entering the water, particularly after heavy rainfall. If there is a good balance between the zoological and botanical organisms in the pond it will stay healthy and be able to adjust to minor changes without interference from humans! I must emphasise again that use of dye will have seriously upset the natural balance of the Lido.

It is also tragic that there has been loss of bird life due to discarded fishing lines and hooks left in the water and I'm sure you are aware of such incidents. The people who attempt to rescue the birds are usually not members of the angling club and I'm annoyed to read the accusations from anglers on social media that the 'rescuers' have caused the deaths of birds. That is complete misinformation. What has come to light from these rescue attempts is the large amount of fishing line present in the pond. I would have thought that part of the 'management' of the Lido was to make sure waste fishing tackle was cleared up.

There has been a huge amount of commenting about the Lido on social media recently. Sadly many comments from anglers and their supporters have been aggressive, rude and unpleasant. This whole discussion is about conserving, preserving and nurturing wildlife. It is not about personal gain nor about politics.

I have been disappointed to see that one of NEDDC's Councillors has 'taken sides' with the angling community. He maintains that he represents everybody (and so he should) but blatantly supports the anglers who according to him are suffering an 'injustice'. In reality the injustice is being suffered by wildlife. He has made insulting comments about other Councillors and the NEDDC whilst wearing his Councillor's 'hat'. This kind of attitude has not been helping the true aim of the operation - to give wildlife a chance to increase and thrive.

CCAA is adamant that it has managed the pond well and that anglers are in a good, if not better, position than most to look after the pond's biodiversity. I would agree that this ought to be possible and may be true for many fishing sites. However, representatives of this local club don't appear to fully understand what biodiversity really means, judging by their comments on social media. If they did understand it, they wouldn't have used the blue dye year after year, creating a 'barren' pond.

One thing that really puzzles me is the letter posted on social media by [REDACTED], regarding an investigation by PC [REDACTED] regarding the Dyofix (date not visible). PC [REDACTED] claims to have carried out a thorough investigation, over a two month period, conversing and meeting with experts from the 'Environment Agency, Local and National Wildlife Organisations, NEDDC, Ecologists and the manufacturer of Dyo-Fix to name just a few'. He states 'Extensive Ecological surveys on Wingerworth Lido have been completed and results show that it is NOT a protected Great Crested Newt habitat'. He goes on to say he had visited the Lido on numerous occasions during the investigative period (presumably he means the two months) and he 'observed an abundance of happy and healthy wildlife'.

I should like to be enlightened as to who these experts, ecologists and wildlife organisations actually are and to see their own reports. I find it impossible to believe that an extensive ecological investigation could be carried out in a mere eight weeks. There is no way of knowing from the letter what time of year the investigation was carried out. With regard to Great Crested Newts, they were definitely at the Lido - I used to find them in my garden on [REDACTED].

In another statement by [REDACTED] (on social media) he claims that the police investigation was 'year-long' and cost £11,000. If that is the case, I think your committee should request to see the details and costing of the said investigation. Was this the same as the two month investigation?

Regarding the non-renewal of the angling lease by NEDDC I do not believe there was a desire to do anything underhand, but purely to carry out its legal obligation to improve the eco system of the Lido. It is to be hoped the anglers will realise the Council's intentions are altruistic and agree to give the pond chance to recover.

In summary:

The Lido has a damaged eco system and needs to be allowed to recover.

CCAA has mismanaged the Lido by overuse of blue dye, whether intentional or accidental, and has failed to maintain adequate marginal plants and reed beds. By allowing waste fishing tackle to remain in the water there have been injuries to water birds, sometimes causing their death.

I urge the Committee to act in favour of wildlife as soon as possible and suspend angling until expert ecologists give the all clear.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Estates Department
North East Derbyshire District Council
2013 Mill Lane
Wingerworth
Chesterfield S42 6NG

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
18th July 2024

Re Wingerworth Lido/ Smithy Pond Detrimental Environmental Changes

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is [REDACTED] and I have lived in Wingerworth since [REDACTED]. For the first four years I lived at number [REDACTED] and chose the house because it backed onto Wingerworth Lido.

My job was as a [REDACTED], but I was brought up to be a keen amateur naturalist by my father. Being close to the Lido from 1973 to 1977 was lovely and I often used to go and observe the water life. This was abundant in those days – in the Spring I would go out with buckets onto [REDACTED] to rescue emerging adult toads and frogs in danger of being squashed by cars. In the summer our back lawn was so full of tiny new toadlets leaving the water that we couldn't mow the grass! I would find Great Crested Newts hibernating in the garden and there were Great Crested Grebes nesting on the Lido.

Fast forward to 2020 and the limitations of the Pandemic. My husband and I started walking our dogs round the Lido and noticed the water was a rather unnatural blue colour. I asked a fisherman why it was that colour and I was told it was a "harmless dye". I learned from further investigation that the dye was being used to cut out some of the light spectrum and thus reduce the growth of algae by interfering with photosynthesis. I had also observed a lack of water creatures such as tadpoles and normal pond weed and noticed a significant number of empty fresh-water mussel shells at the margins of the lake.

This made me begin to think that negative changes were taking place and we arranged a meeting with [REDACTED], who was at that time on the Parish Council. He was very concerned and helpful, and through him we were put in contact with a few other Wingerworth residents who had similar worries about the changes and whether the blue dye was implicated. We formed an informal group and between us have tried to work out what is happening to cause decline of amphibians, invertebrates, oxygenating pond weed, bird life, and reed beds. The latter not only filter out unwanted nitrates but provide physical cover for water birds and their young. However, reeds need light for their initial growth under the water – it's possible the blue dye has affected that. Water lilies on the other hand don't need sunlight initially and of course once they produce leaves at the surface there is no problem regarding photosynthesis. There is now a large number of lilies which may look pretty but provide no protection to ducklings from predating pike and effectively cut even more light out thus preventing pond weed growth.

Then there is the awful plight of this year's family of swans on the Lido. The adults started out with seven cygnets and now have only one! A few weeks ago a cygnet which had swallowed a fishing hook and line was taken to the vets but sadly couldn't be saved. Last weekend a member of our wildlife group saw another cygnet in distress and with the help of another member went into the water to help it. Sadly this was another case of a swallowed fishing hook and line, but the rest of the line, including float and weights were wrapped round the animal's leg, cutting into the flesh. Such

was the difficulty it was in that it seems it died of drowning. There are photos and film available regarding these two tragedies. These are not the only incidents of fish hooks being swallowed by Lido swans and their young.

I am also very concerned as to what is happening to Wingerworth Lido due to stocking of the lake with non-native carp. I should like to know how the indigenous fish species are faring.

We have the potential for a wonderful village nature reserve for future generations and for students of all ages to visit for scientific ecological studies. I am desperately concerned that we are losing this fabulous spot due to interference of the wrong kind and would love to see it returned to its natural state. I am not against fishing but the natural ecology needs to be respected.

Thank you for your time in reading this and hoping you will be able to help.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED] >
Mon
18
Aug,
09:2
2

Dear Damien,

I'm writing to thank you for your decision to turn Wingerworth Lido into a wildlife safe space. I expect you've seen all the adverse, angry comments made on social media by anglers. Sadly, there is no point in "discussing" the matter with such people online
[REDACTED]

If you look back in your records you'll see that I wrote to you a while ago about my concerns for wildlife at the Lido so I won't repeat myself here! In short, I used to live on [REDACTED], backing onto the Lido. In fact it was my first house and its situation was the reason we chose it. I've always been a keen amateur naturalist and the Lido was teeming with "nature" back then, including great crested newts (I personally saw some).

My own opinion is that the angling club have interfered with the balance of wildlife at the Lido in several ways. By using Dyofix (or similar) to control algae, they have also controlled natural oxygenating plants. Loss of these and algae has removed food sources and protective cover for many creatures. There is of course a complicated interaction between all types of wildlife when major changes are made - water creatures, insects, birdlife, bats etc as I expect your specialists have explained. It's extremely annoying to have to read the arrogant comments from some anglers implying that they are the only ones who know about wildlife, but are also protecting it! No they are not! They have changed the chemistry of the water and they've introduced many non-native species of fish which are voracious omnivores. The dye should not have been used as there is a flow of water through the Lido leading to the Tricket Brook lower down.

Incidentally, I don't have any objection to angling as long as it's done without tampering with the natural state. They used to control excess weed by pulling some out and allowing creatures to return to the water. Obviously, some maintenance is required but not in the fashion of the recent angling club!

I and [REDACTED] will be delighted to join the community group you have suggested. We are members of Wingerworth Wildlife Group and although we are small in number, there are some very knowledgeable people amongst us. I don't include myself as one of those, but I do have contacts through the Sorby Society (a longstanding natural history society based in Sheffield and covering parts of Derbyshire) whose members include those with expertise in many aspects of wildlife, including pond rewilding.

Please do contact me if you'd like further information.

I do hope you will remain steadfast in your decision.
Again, many thanks for what you are doing.

Kind regards, [REDACTED]

Submission 4

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 November 2025 20:37
To: Governance NEDDC <Governance@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>
Subject: Wingerworth Lido written submission

F.A.O. Members of the ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

I have attached my document.

Page1 consists of my letter of 18/7/2024 to the Estates Dept. about my concerns about the State of the LIDO.

Pages 2 - 4 are about my continuing concerns, some suggestions about the progress towards a bio-diversity hub, together with criticisms of Clay Cross Angling Association and their allies.

[REDACTED]



To the Estates Officer
NEDDC

SERIOUS CONCERN OVER THE STATE OF WINGERWORTH LIDO

The distressing incidents involving the deaths by swallowing fishing hooks of two of the remaining three cygnets from the initial brood of six was just the tip of the iceberg in terms of the environmental damage that has been done to the LIDO in recent years.

In 2020 during the pandemic we started doing frequent daily walks there and we were impressed by the abundance of birdlife there. There must have been about 10 breeding pairs of mallards, several pairs of coots and moorhens as well as the pair of swans with their cygnets. Most of the young ones survived until the end of the season.

Over the last 4 years there has been an annual decline in waterbird numbers to this year when there have been no young birds surviving except the 1 cygnet.

During the same period the pond vegetation of reeds, water weeds, algae and water lilies has all gone except the water lilies which have become profuse.

These reeds, algae and water weeds are sources of shelter and food for young birds and amphibians which have all declined too.

Since 2019, the fishing rights on the LIDO have been leased to the CCAA (Clay Cross Angling Association) and in this period it has been changed from a lake with a wide diversity of plant, bird and aquatic life into a carp-fishing pond. They fish for huge carp (which are a non-native species and have been added to the water) and some pike which are also culprits in taking young chicks, mainly because the LIDO is now sterile and has no natural plant based shelter from predators.

The CCAA has also been adding blue DYOFIX dye which blocks light reaching algae thus killing it. It also kills the subsurface weeds.

Legalities.

I am under the impression that the fishing licence prohibits the addition of any material to the LIDO, in which case the CCAA are in serious breach..

DYOFIX is not allowed to be used in water which feeds into natural water courses. The LIDO feeds into Trickett Brook.

I am not an angler myself, but I have no anti-angling agenda. However I feel that it is time that the CCAA be brought in line with their responsibilities and made to undo the damage (it will be a long process) or to relinquish their fishing rights.

Yours faithfully

Response to the request for written submissions by 23/11/24 about Wingerworth Lido re-wilding

23/11/25

To NEDDC - Members of the Environment Scrutiny Committee

I wish to give my response as a follow up to my letter of 18/7/24 (see above).

The situation in the Lido with plant life remains as at last year. There have been no reeds, marginals, water-weed or algae throughout this year in the main part of the lake. The NW and NE corners show very small areas of reeds.

Compare this with the 2 ponds in Allendale Park approximately 500m away, where these are surrounded by flourishing varieties of reeds and marginals. (All algae and most waterweed has now disappeared because of the season.) The waters contain various types of fish and other aquatic life and there are numerous waterfowl. Even the swans and their cygnets have moved to here from the Lido.

It is in beautiful surroundings, tree lined on its North and West boundaries. It was a bright blue which has now disappeared because I do not think that CCAA added as much, or even any, blue dye this year. It is still an excellent place for relaxation, dog walking or just gentle exercise.

THE LIDO HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A LARGE STERILE FISHING POND.

CCAA has put large numbers of a very large carp species whose food supply is fish food fed to them by the club, as there is no natural vegetation other than a dominant water-lily bed, and this is not a food plant.

The Carp and some pike are the over dominant species although there may still be some much smaller species of coarse fish surviving.

THE LAKE CANNOT BE RE-WILDED UNTIL ALL OF THESE CARP AND SOME PIKE ARE REMOVED AND RE-LOCATED.

If not, any attempt to add any weed or algae (both fundamental for food and shelter for the young of all aquatic life) will be devoured by these voracious omnivores.

Any new wildlife introduced would meet the same fate.

THERE CAN BE NO RESUMPTION OF FISHING RIGHTS UNTIL THE POND HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED FULLY INTO ITS NEW BIO-DIVERSE ROLE

Any resumption of rights now would be “kicking the can down the road” and would delay the whole project.

The introduction of fish fry would be one of the last stages in the project and numbers would then need to stabilise. It may be 4/5 years or more before any fishing would be meaningful.

Even then, there will need to be a restrictive covenant reached with any fishing club about water management to stop a similar situation arising in future.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD CCAA BE GIVEN ANY NEW LEASE.

I know that in Dec. '24, CCAA was sent a notice of cessation of lease, expiring 30/6/25.

They apparently acknowledged this in January '25.

They seemed to be accepting this very quietly until 30th June. (I have no idea over any exchanges of views with NEDDC via letters, emails, texts or phone calls or meetings)

They voluntarily gave up their lease with Wingerworth PC for fishing the Wall Pond in January '25.

From the start of July, they then started a tirade of abuse towards the Council, one councillor in particular being blamed for it. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This abuse was very personal, mostly false accusations.

This is now being partly re-directed towards councillor Barker with various insults, including being a liar, which I do not believe.

Various members of Wingerworth Wildlife Group have had exchanges of views with members of CCAA members.

When the anglers are faced with scientific facts about Blue Dye, prevention of photosynthesis and oxygen, food chains and bio-diversity they usually try to give themselves excuses by describing it as twaddle or lies and becoming very abusive to the authors. (look at Wingerworth Village facebook page if you need any evidence)

Throughout this period, they have made a series of claims about the benefits of angling including;

It's good for anglers' mental health

Maybe it is, but it would be better for non-anglers mental health to see more diverse plants, flowers and insects, butterflies and dragonflies and birds.

We do the maintenance and Without us, it would become an overgrown swamp

What maintenance? NEDDC surely do all the mowing, tree care and dam wall/culvert work.

What do anglers do other than add blue dye (saves weeding), introduce unsuitable fish types and then have to pump air to oxygenate the water instead of using algae and weed to do this.

Ecologically balanced ponds are largely self balancing, only needing intervention at times to control any over-dominant plants or aquatic life.

We manage the pond well and it is already bio-diverse

They are deluding themselves if they really believe that.

They have managed to convert the largely natural lake they took over, into a large fishing pond with absolutely no bio-diversity.

More recently (before and since the extraordinary council meeting), they seem to have sought help from national organisations to help their campaign with a series of exaggerated claims, half truths and downright lies

1 Asking The Angling Community for support. They apparently gained 5000 online supporters (Nationwide) for a petition to reinstate angling here. They used this figure as being an overwhelming majority in their favour.

2 The CA (Countryside Alliance) whose national spokesman secured a so called interview on GB News, who managed to put CCAA's claims about unfairness and ignoring public opinion from this Labour council's attitude. (it could only be GB News)

3 A fish has died because of lack of oxygen.

I believe a fish had died, but I have no idea of the cause. Age, disease, lack of oxygen or food?

This appeared in the Daily Express a few days later with 3 different photos (probably of the same fish) with the implication of several deaths. Obviously they took advantage of the opportunity to blame NEDDC for banning fishing.

The Extraordinary Council Meeting

I was one of the minority of observers there who was silent throughout it, and was disgusted by the conduct of most of the others who were there in force from the angling community. Their attitude was at least intimidating and at times seemed to be almost threatening violence.

One councillor's behaviour was totally unacceptable, referring to professional opinions as rubbish, referring to other councillors in derogatory terms and seemed to be playing to the gallery by his actions.

The way forward

The proposed Friends group would seem to be a very good idea.

I would be very willing to join it, although my physical input may not be much.

Its proposed name FOWL needs to be altered as it could so easily be called the FOUL group.

I have already put forward my ideas of what stages of the work will need to take place (via the survey)

Faithfully yours,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the author.

Other Representations

Submission 1

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 24 September 2025 at 09:47:40 BST

To: "Cllr. Adlington-Stringer" <[REDACTED]@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>, "Cllr. Antcliff" <[REDACTED]@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>, "Cllr. Baker" <[REDACTED]@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>

Subject: Smithy Pond Biodiversity Hub – Resident Support Ahead of Tonight's Meeting

Dear Councillors,

I am writing to express my support for the transformation of Smithy Pond into a biodiversity hub, a project that holds immense promise for our village's ecosystem and community. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend tonight's meeting due to [REDACTED], but I feel strongly that my voice, and those of other residents, must still be heard.

It has come to my attention that a vocal minority of anglers, many of whom are not residents of our village, are opposing this initiative. Their aggressive tactics including mobilizing non-local support and dominating online discussions are drowning out the voices of actual residents who support this project. Many locals have expressed fear or reluctance to speak up, citing the intimidating behaviour and tactics of [REDACTED] supporters and anglers from outside of this area. This is deeply troubling and undermines the democratic process.

I urge the Council to prioritise the views of local council taxpayers and residents, and to ensure that decisions reflect the long-term interests of our community, not the loudest external voices.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Submission 2

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 23 May 2025 at 20:49:40 BST
To: "Cllr. Adlington-Stringer" <[REDACTED]@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>
Subject: A Rare tree

Dear [REDACTED], You may be interested that I noticed today what is classed as a rare tree/shrub, today here in Wingerworth. I think there are two in full flower beside Smithy Pond about 30 yards from the pub car park. They are called *Populus nigra* or *wild Black Poplar*. Apparently there are only about **600 are female trees left now in Britain**. I hope I am correct about this as I am not an expert. **Derbyshire Wildlife Trust** may be interested perhaps.

Submission 3

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 13 November 2025 17:35

To: Governance NEDDC <Governance@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>

Subject: Fishing at Wingwoth

Hello my name is [REDACTED] and I am Secretary of St Chad s Fishing Club Draycott Derbys.

St Chads Water is Draycott local Nature reserve and is owned by Draycott Parish Council covering around 10 acres.

The Parish Council and fishing club work really well together we the fishing club are responsible for all matters concerning the fishing rights and allocation of permits, as well on behalf of the Draycott Parish Council for weekly litter picks and emptying the 7 litter bins for weekly council collection. Ensuring the LNR is always kept tidy and free of any obstacles that could harm the wildlife.

I think we are a brilliant example of how a fishing club can work with a local council to create a beautiful friendly Local Nature Reserve for everyone to enjoy.

I would be happy to show anyone around if it would help you support fishing at Wingworth.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Submission 4

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 November 2025 21:48
To: Cllr. Smith <[REDACTED]@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>
Cc: Cllr. Adlington-Stringer <[REDACTED]@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>; Broughton, Matthew <[REDACTED]@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>; Cllr. Dale <[REDACTED]@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>; Cllr. Deighton <[REDACTED]@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>; Cllr. Lacey <[REDACTED]@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>; Cllr. Petersen <[REDACTED]@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>; Cllr. Renwick <[REDACTED]@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]@countryside-alliance.org; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nationalworld.com>; Cllr. Barker <[REDACTED]@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk>
Subject: Wingerworth Lido review submission.

Dear Cllr Smith,

Please find attached our companies submission (with recommendations) to your Environmental Scrutiny committees ongoing review into the future use and previous decisions taken in respect of Wingerworth Lido.

Enclosed with the letter are three attachments.

NB: Appendix A is very large (183 pages, at approx 65MB, collated) so I have uploaded it to our public shared drive for convenience, but obviously it should be read in conjunction with our submission attached.

Appendix A: <https://drive.proton.me/urls/JT6GTGXRN4#bqnQN9lyAyn5>

If you or any of your committee have any questions I will be pleased to answer them at your earliest convenience. We look forward to reviewing your committee's recommendation to the councils Asset Management Board and follow the review process with great interest as it informs what is now part of a wider national debate on the loss of public access to publicly owned water assets.

Faithfully,

[REDACTED]
CEO
The Bigger Fish

FAO COUNCILLOR CAROLINE SMITH

Chair, Environment Scrutiny Committee
North East Derbyshire District Council

By email only

Copied by email to councilors:

Frank Addlington-Stringer (vice-chair)
Richard Beech
Kathy Clegg
Alex Dale
Lilian Deighton
Tony Lacey
Fran Petersen
Carolyn Renwick

Dear Chair & Elected Members of the Environment Scrutiny Committee,

Our company is pleased to submit this representation to your committee (the “**ESC**”) for your consideration in it review, into the future uses of Wingerworth Lido (the “**Lido**”).

There has been significant discussion about the Lido and the councils path to the current situation. While much of this conversation is well-intentioned, it often stems from misunderstandings or inaccurate information.

Based on historical usage, anglers are clearly the most visibly impacted cohort of recreational users, but it is important to recognise the Lidos' wider potential to engage broader community groups, residents, and non-angling, subject-specific cohorts.

To support this letter’s conclusion—that the council should now develop an overarching Habitat Management Plan (“**HMP**”) for Wingerworth Lido—we enclose two documents relevant both to the ESC review process and to the creation of the HMP:

1. Technical Note: Wingerworth Lido Habitat Baseline - sets out the current (publicly known) strategically settled position and known habitat baseline.

Submission to NEDDC Environment Scrutiny Committee: Wingerworth Lido consultation - page 1



the BIGGER FISH

2. Copy police letter to Clay Cross Angling Association - exonerating and commending them re anonymous complaint about blue dye usage.

Additionally, we enclose Appendix A to this letter, comprising approximately 183 pages of internal council and police correspondence relating directly to the events leading up to this review, disclosed to the Countryside Alliance by the council, under a recent Freedom of Information request.

Miss(understanding)/(application) of process and obligations

Having reviewed public misunderstandings, including those among Council members, it is clear that assumptions about certain responsibilities or expected outcomes have often been incorrect. When these anticipated outcomes do not occur, frustration and perceptions of a negative situation arise.

The most prominent (and egregious) example of this is the now-demised lease with Clay Cross Angling Club ("CCAC") that obligated CCAC to take proactive measures to control algae/weed growth.

The Angling Trust's submission to the ESC is the first clear public clarification that the lease required CCAC to carry out the works, with explicit approval from the council itself, and the Environment Agency, the Government's authoritative body for these matters.

In the interim, an (anonymous) police complaint has been raised, council officers have referenced "complaints" in reports, and elected members have raised the issue in Council meetings and in written correspondence regarding the work that CCAC was obligated to undertake.

As the police report concluded: *"I am happy to report that my investigation in this matter is now complete and to the best of my knowledge Clay Cross Angling Association are not committing any offences...I commend the committee of Clay Cross Angling Association...club waters are managed and maintained to high standards, ensuring a tidy, safe environment for all to enjoy."*

Some individuals viewed the use of dye as harming the Lido, believing it caused a loss of wildlife (toads). The ensuing year-long, £11,000 police investigation used public funds and put volunteer CCAC members under scrutiny. Further, the Council's own reports referenced unspecified "complaints" that were known not to be upheld, adding to the unfairness of the process.

The failure here is clearly two-fold:

1. The obligation, the reasons for the obligation, and the agreed work program to manage the algae/weeds were not in the public domain.
2. The current process for the public to report issues regarding the Lido is not robust.

Both are clearly process issues that are eminently within the Council's gift to resolve.

Had an HMP been in place, it would likely have detailed the various water management obligations and who was responsible for them. Crucially, an HMP would have been published in the public domain, thereby negating entirely the need for argumentative discourse about why dye was being applied to the water.

Concerns Arising from Freedom of Information Disclosure

The recent Freedom of Information (FOI) disclosure obtained by the Countryside Alliance provides valuable insight into the internal communications and decision-making processes surrounding the non-renewal of the fishing lease at Wingerworth Lido.

While the materials do not suggest any misconduct on the part of council officers, they do reveal a sense of urgency in pursuing the termination of CCAC's lease to align with broader policy goals, particularly the site's transformation into a biodiversity hub.

This urgency appears to have contributed to challenges in policy interpretation, resulting in procedural issues that have fueled public concern, legal scrutiny and fractious debate amongst elected members and officers in the council chamber on full display for the public to unfortunately observe.

Key points of concern extrapolated from the disclosure include:

- **Urgency in Lease Termination:** The correspondence indicates a focused effort to identify potential lease compliance issues to facilitate the site's redevelopment into a biodiversity hub. Internal council officer emails emphasize the need to "*check the legal agreement and see if there are any clauses they are in breach of*" (page 180).
- **Reactive Handling of Complaints:** Responses to public complaints about angling practices (e.g., use of blue dye and peg installations, pages 175-176), but these appear to have been investigated reactively rather than as part of a proactive baseline assessment. While claims of breaches were not substantiated, the urgency to address them in the context of lease termination may have amplified minor issues, contributing to procedural errors such as inadequate consultation prior to the decision.
- **Impact on Stakeholder Trust:** The disclosure shows a pattern of urgent internal coordination (e.g., pages 136, 149), including preparations for litigation risks, which underscores awareness of potential vulnerabilities. However, this has led to process errors, such as delayed or limited public input, which have eroded trust among stakeholders, including the Clay Cross Angling Association and the wider community.

In summary, the FOI disclosure shows a pattern of urgent internal coordination. This underscores a clear awareness of potential vulnerabilities regarding the councils' then-internal shift to refocus the Lido as a "biodiversity hub". A preponderance of the FOI disclosures, by any reasonable person, would suggest that a policy (a bio-diversity hub) has emanated from an entirely predetermined position by council officers. This leaves any future use of the Lido in question unless addressed head-on by this review process and the ESC.

Recommendations to the Environment Scrutiny Committee

Giving due regard to the publicly available evidence, the Lidos' long-standing recreational uses, and the clear desire to improve the wider habitat, the Council should implement a Habitat Management Plan for Wingerworth Lido.

In addition to the Habitat Management Plan recommendation below, the review process itself should:

- (a) **Publish Supporting Evidence and Ensure Transparency:** To rebuild trust and inform your recommendations, we urge the council to publish all referenced ecological surveys and conduct an Equality Impact Assessment if not already done. This would address procedural concerns raised in pre-action correspondence and ensure decisions are evidence-based.
- (b) **Publish Consultation Responses:** To rebuild trust, after redacting any relevant information (i.e. names, addresses, etc.), all responses to the Council's consultation that closes on 23 November 2025, should be published. Crucially, the Council should not repeat the mistakes of Bolsover District Council in their use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in their Creswell Growth Plan Public Consultation to "summarise" responses. Publishing all submitted responses to the consultation, unedited, negates any future debate over the probity and transparency of the consultation's summation of those responses.

Both items are within the ESC's remit and competencies, and the ESC should instruct council officers to undertake them immediately.

Recommendation: Habitat Management Plan for Wingerworth Lido

1. Adopt an Overarching Habitat Management Plan (HMP)

The committee should recommend that the council develop and implement a comprehensive HMP for the Lido as a priority. This plan would serve as the framework for integrating biodiversity enhancement with compatible recreational activities, ensuring compliance with the council's freestanding biodiversity duty.

Led by the council in partnership with stakeholders such as Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and the Angling Trust, the HMP should include:

- o A baseline ecological survey to assess current conditions, including crayfish population health, water quality, and vegetation.

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the BIGGER FISH

- o Annual management actions, such as silt removal, any identified invasive species control, and refuge creation for white-clawed crayfish.
- o A monitoring framework with key performance indicators (e.g., species abundance and habitat quality).
- o A review cycle every 3-5 years to adapt to emerging needs. This approach mirrors successful models in other counties, where HMPs balance conservation with public access, and would demonstrate "positive steps" under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

2. Re-establish Managed Angling as Phase 1 of the HMP

Recommend granting an interim lease to Clay Cross Angling Association for managed angling, subject to mandatory biosecurity and environmental conditions. This would reinstate organised fishing as a low-impact activity while providing on-site stewardship to support biodiversity goals. The Angling Trust, in their submission to the ESC, set out how this could be done. In addition to the Angling Trust's proposal, we would recommend:

- o Mandatory equipment disinfection (to prevent crayfish plague). This is a practice most anglers already undertake.
- o Annual reporting on site conditions in collaboration with the council. Angling's return would act as a catalyst for the HMP, leveraging the club's expertise to monitor threats and fund improvements, as evidenced by similar partnerships in Derby. This would further enhance the Public Sector Equality Duty by allowing the capture of issues beyond water-based ones, e.g., footpath issues.

3. Implement a Fishing Improvement Plan as Phase 2

Following the interim lease, recommend a phased Fishing Improvement Plan to optimise angling while enhancing the ecosystem. This could commence within 6-12 months and include:

- o A review of existing fishing pegs to reduce environmental impact, using eco-friendly designs and ensuring accessibility for disabled anglers and other recreational users, e.g. pond dipping.
- o A professional fish count via electro-fishing or netting to assess species composition and inform sustainable stocking.
- o Funding from grants, such as those from the Angling Trust and the Environment Agency. This phase would address historical concerns (e.g., siltation) and align with the council's obligations under the Derbyshire County Council's Local Nature Recovery Plan for wetland priority restoration.

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4. Incorporate Community Engagement Options

To promote inclusivity and advance the Public Sector Equality Duty, the ESC should recommend incorporating "Free Fishing Days" (4-6 events per year) targeted at families, beginners, and underrepresented groups. These could include educational sessions on crayfish conservation, fostering community stewardship, and aligning with the Local Nature Recovery Plan's objectives for public involvement.

These recommendations are a proportionate path forward, balancing biodiversity with community benefits without prejudicing the council's duties.

Our company urges your committee to adopt them in your report to the Asset Management Board, preventing further division and delivering a positive legacy for Wingerworth Lido.



22 November 2025

Technical Note: Wingerworth Lido Habitat Baseline

Dated: 19 November 2025

Executive Summary

This technical note compiles publicly available information on the habitat, biodiversity, and ecological baseline for Wingerworth Lido (also known as Smithy Pond), a site managed by North East Derbyshire District Council ("**NEDDC**").

The baseline is derived from statutory designations, regional strategies, and local authority documents, focusing on key features such as its status as a Local Wildlife Site ("**LWS**").

This note is structured into three main sections:

1. Legal obligations governing the site's management.
2. Regional policies, particularly the Derbyshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy ("**LNRS**").
3. Known references from NEDDC committee reports and related documents.

Centred on wetland habitats and priority species, with emphasis on conservation duties that allow for compatible uses, the baseline defines the currently accepted "*settled strategic (and local) context*" ("**SSLC**").

All sources are publicly accessible and fully referenced to ensure transparency and verifiability.

This technical note does not include speculative or non-public data but highlights opportunities for enhanced monitoring to build on the existing baseline.

Introduction

Wingerworth Lido, located in Wingerworth, Chesterfield (grid reference SK 395 670), is a former outdoor swimming pool converted into a pond in the mid-20th century. It spans approximately 3.5 acres and is owned by NEDDC. The site is recognised for its ecological value, particularly as a habitat for native, white-clawed crayfish and associated wetland features.

Publicly available information establishes a baseline through designations, surveys, and policy frameworks, dating back to at least the early 2010s.

This technical note (the “**TC**”) reviews this baseline without introducing new assessments, drawing solely from official sources such as national legislation, the Derbyshire LNRS, and NEDDC reports.

It aims to inform decision-making by providing a consolidated overview, noting that the site's dual role as a recreational and ecological asset requires balanced management.

1. Legal Obligations

The habitat and biodiversity management of Wingerworth Lido is governed by a suite of UK legislation that establishes duties for conservation, protection of species, and enhancement of ecological features.

These obligations form the legal baseline for the site, requiring NEDDC, as the landowner and public authority, to integrate biodiversity considerations into all relevant functions. Key statutes and their implications are detailed below.

1.1 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (as amended)

Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities ("**NERC**") Act 2006¹, amended by the Environment Act 2021, imposes an enhanced biodiversity duty on public authorities like NEDDC. This requires them to *"have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity"* and to *"take steps to further the general biodiversity objective"* (Environment Act 2021, s.102)².

For Wingerworth Lido, this translates to a baseline obligation to assess and mitigate impacts on habitats and species, such as the site's wetland features and crayfish population. Guidance from DEFRA (2023)³ emphasises that this duty is **"freestanding and enduring,"** applying to land management decisions and requiring evidence-based actions like habitat monitoring and enhancement. The duty does not prohibit recreational uses but mandates proportionality, with reporting on actions due every five years.

1.2 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)⁴, white-clawed crayfish are a protected species, making it an offence to intentionally kill, injure, or disturb them, or damage their habitats. Wingerworth Lido's baseline includes confirmed populations of this species, establishing a legal requirement for protection measures such as preventing pollution, habitat disturbance, or introduction of invasives like signal crayfish.

¹ UK Parliament (2006). Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 - <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/section/40>

² UK Parliament (2021). Environment Act 2021 - <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/section/102>

³ Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) (2023). Guidance: Biodiversity duty: public authority duty to have regard to conserving biodiversity - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-duty-public-authority-duty-to-have-regard-to-conserving-biodiversity>.

⁴ UK Parliament (1981). Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 - <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/schedule/5>.



Natural England's standing advice⁵ for local authorities highlights that sites with protected species must incorporate mitigation in management plans, forming part of the ecological baseline. This Act interfaces with planning and land use, requiring assessments for any changes that could affect the species.

1.3 Environment Act 2021 and Biodiversity Net Gain

The Environment Act 2021 introduces mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) for developments (effective from 2024), requiring a 10% net improvement in biodiversity⁶. While not directly applicable to non-development land management at Wingerworth Lido, it sets a broader baseline for ecological enhancement, influencing council policies. For LWS like the Lido, this encourages habitat restoration metrics as part of the baseline.

Additionally, the Act mandates Local Nature Recovery Strategies (see Section 2), integrating them into local decision-making.

1.4 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023

Paragraph 174 of the NPPF requires planning policies to protect and enhance biodiversity, recognising LWS as sites of local importance. For Wingerworth Lido, this establishes a baseline for considering ecological value in any land use changes, with criteria for avoiding harm unless outweighed by benefits.

⁵ Natural England (2022). Protected species: how to review planning applications - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protected-species-how-to-review-planning-applications>.

⁶ UK Parliament (2021). Environment Act 2021 - <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents> & Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) (2024). Biodiversity Net Gain: Guidance for local authorities - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-net-gain>.



2. Regional Engaged Policy: Local Nature Recovery Strategy

The Derbyshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy ("**LNRS**"), published in September 2025, provides the regional policy baseline for biodiversity at Wingerworth Lido.

As a county-wide strategy prepared under the Environment Act 2021, it maps habitats, identifies priorities, and guides local authorities like NEDDC in recovery efforts. The LNRS covers Derbyshire, including North East Derbyshire, and is led by Derbyshire County Council with NEDDC as a supporting authority.

2.1 Overview of the Derbyshire LNRS

Titled "**Thriving with Nature: A Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire – Statement of Biodiversity Priorities**," the LNRS addresses biodiversity declines due to pollution, development, and climate change. It aligns with national targets (e.g., halting species decline by 2030) and applies the Lawton principles (more, bigger, better, joined-up habitats).

For Wingerworth Lido, the strategy establishes a baseline focused on wetlands and priority species in the Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, and Yorkshire Coalfield National Character Area (NCA).

2.2 Habitat Priorities Relevant to Wingerworth Lido

The LNRS prioritises wetlands, including ponds and standing waters, as key habitats. Wingerworth Lido falls under themes such as "Rivers, River Corridors, and Watercourses" and "Wetlands" (fens, mires, ponds, reedbeds)⁷.

Baseline mapping identifies opportunities for restoration in coalfield areas, including habitat connectivity through river corridors and greenspaces. The strategy notes pressures like development but highlights restored sites (e.g., former ponds) as assets.

2.3 Species Priorities: White-Clawed Crayfish

⁷ Ibid., Sections 3.5 (National Character Areas) and Appendix 2 (Habitat Priorities).

The LNRS lists white-clawed crayfish as a priority species in the "Rivers and Wetlands" assemblage. Wingerworth Lido (Smithy Pond) is explicitly referenced as supporting a "healthy population," designated as a crayfish ark site for isolation from invasives and plague⁸. Baseline actions include surveying populations, creating ark sites, and managing threats, establishing the site's ecological value.

2.4 Implementation and Monitoring Baseline

The LNRS requires NEDDC to integrate priorities into local plans, with monitoring through partnerships (e.g., Derbyshire Wildlife Trust)⁹. It provides a baseline for site-specific actions, such as enhancing water quality and connectivity, without precluding compatible uses.

This regional policy reinforces the Lido's baseline as a priority wetland site, guiding NEDDC towards evidence-based management.

⁸ Ibid., Section 4 (Biodiversity Priorities) and Appendix 3 (Species Priorities).

⁹ Ibid., Section 5 (Governance and Implementation).



3. NEDDC References to the Lido: Committee Reports

NEDDC references to Wingerworth Lido's habitat and biodiversity appear in committee reports, minutes, and statements, establishing a local authority baseline. These focus on the site's LWS designation, crayfish population, and transition to a biodiversity hub.

3.1 Environment Scrutiny Committee Report (17 November 2025)

This report¹⁰ confirms the Lido's status as a "designated local wildlife site" with legal biodiversity duties. It notes the site's ecological value but provides no detailed surveys, emphasising balance between recreation and conservation.

3.2 Environment Scrutiny Committee Minutes (17 February 2025)

Minutes discuss the Lido's "*environmental issues*" and biodiversity duty, referencing its LWS designation and crayfish habitat¹¹.

3.3 Council Statements and News Releases

A statement¹² (10 November 2025) reaffirms the Lido as a "designated local wildlife site" with duties to protect biodiversity.

An earlier release¹³ (3 November 2025) highlights balancing recreation and ecology, noting wetland features.

¹⁰ North East Derbyshire District Council (2025). Environment Scrutiny Committee Report: Wingerworth Lido. <https://democracy.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/documents/s24997/Wingerworth%20Lido%20Report.pdf>.

¹¹ North East Derbyshire District Council (2025). Environment Scrutiny Committee Minutes: 17 February 2025. - <https://democracy.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/documents/s22801/ENRS%20Report.pdf>.

¹² North East Derbyshire District Council (2025). Wingerworth Lido – Council Statement 10 November - <https://www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/news-and-media/latest-news/wingerworth-lido-council-statement-10-november>.

¹³ North East Derbyshire District Council (2025). Have Your Say on the Management of Wingerworth Lido - <https://www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/news-and-media/latest-news/have-your-say-on-the-management-of-wingerworth-lido>. Accessed 22 November 2025

3.4 Integration with Lowland Derbyshire BAP

Though regional, NEDDC references align with the Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) 2011-2020¹⁴, noting the Lido's crayfish population as a "healthy" baseline.

¹⁴ Derbyshire County Council (2011). Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2011-2020 - <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/site-elements/documents/pdf/environment/conservation/ecology/lowland-derbyshire-biodiversity-action-plan/lowland-derbyshire-biodiversity-action-plan-lbap-2011-2020.pdf>.



Conclusion

The publicly known baseline for Wingerworth Lido emphasises its role as an LWS with priority wetland habitats and protected crayfish, governed by legal duties for conservation and guided by the LNRS.

Whilst the Lidos status is correctly designated as an LWS, its status as such is entirely rooted in policy designation only.

The absence of underlying habitat data (beyond historic, white-clawed crayfish designations), contemporary wildlife records or published ecology reports, whilst not fatal to the LWS designation, is (a) regrettable, and (b) notable.

Enclosure 2

DE4 3NF

FAO: Clay Cross Angling Association

Reference number: 23000307194

Incident: 01194-180523

I am sending you this letter in relation to the referenced case above.

This relates to a single complaint from a member of the public in May 2023 around the use of 'Blue Dye' in your club waters.

This complaint focussed on the blue dye having a detrimental effect to the wildlife and pond life present, being destructive to a known Great Crested Newt habitat and for causing a population decline in frogs and toads this year.

I have investigated this matter thoroughly over the last two months, this involved conversations and meetings with numerous subject matter experts from the Environment Agency, Local and National Wildlife Organisations, North East Derbyshire District Council, Ecologists and the manufacturer of Dyo-Fix to name just a few.

I am happy to report that my investigation into this matter is now complete and to the best of my knowledge Clay Cross Angling Association are not committing any offences whilst using Dyo-Fix in compliance with the manufacturers recommended quantities in their club waters.

Extensive Ecological surveys on Wingerworth Lido have been completed and results show that it is NOT a protected Great Crested Newt habitat.

I have visited the Wingerworth Lido, along with other waters you manage, on numerous occasions throughout this investigative period and whilst present I have observed an abundance of healthy and happy wildlife.

I commend the committee of Clay Cross Angling Association for their engagement and positive attitude throughout my investigation and their commitment to ensure that club waters are managed and maintained to high standards ensuring a tidy, safe environment for all to enjoy.

Regards,

PC 14505 Daniel Tomlinson
Derbyshire Rural Crime Team

Derbyshire Constabulary Headquarters, Butterley Hall, Ripley, Derbyshire DE5 3RS
Incoming telephonic calls and data communications may be monitored and recorded



DWT



Wingerworth Lido Consultation

Executive Summary

The following is the response from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust following a request for consultation regarding the future management of Wingerworth Lido.

Wingerworth Lido is a Local Wildlife Site currently in unfavourable-declining condition, having been under inappropriate management for a number of years. The site's biodiversity has significantly declined over time due to management factors, exacerbated by the use of blue dye and lack of a suitable management plan. Common toad and white-clawed crayfish have declined in numbers, and local residents are concerned for the state of the Lido. North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDDC) have a legal obligation through the Statutory Biodiversity Duty to protect, restore and enhance this priority site for biodiversity. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust urges NEDDC to take urgent action to halt further decline in the condition of the Lido and take steps to restore the site for wildlife and for people.

Local Wildlife Site Designation

A Local Wildlife Site (LWS) is an area of land that is considered to be especially important for its habitats and value to wildlife within a county, acting as key corridors for wildlife and forming the basis of high value ecological networks.¹ Derbyshire Wildlife Trust manages the Local Wildlife Site system on behalf of Derbyshire's Local Planning Authorities. Through this agreement, the Trust undertakes a programme of surveys and monitoring to assess the condition of Local Wildlife Sites in Derbyshire for the government indicator of positive management (Single Data List Reference 160). The Local Wildlife Site System has been in place since 1984, and the Single Data List monitoring system since 2011. As a result, the Trust has an in depth understanding and dataset on the habitats at these sites, and their condition, across the county. The aim of the Local Wildlife Site system is to ensure that sites of high wildlife value are protected and managed sympathetically.

¹ [Local Wildlife Sites | The Wildlife Trusts](#)

Wingerworth Lido (NE037) was designated as a Local Wildlife Site in 1984 for its reptile/amphibian assemblage (Am2), due to its population of common toad (*Bufo bufo*), common frog (*Rana temporaria*) and smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*). In 2000, exceptionally high numbers were recorded by volunteers running the toad crossing at the site, who counted 815 toads, 596 frogs and 99 smooth newts. Additionally in 1998, 91 clumps of frog spawn were recorded in the north-west corner of the lake.

Value of Ponds

Ponds are bodies of freshwater, natural or man-made, which range in size from 1m² to 2ha - Wingerworth Lido falls at the latter end, measuring 1.8ha in size. Despite their overall small size, ponds can support more biodiversity than larger waterbodies like rivers and lakes.² Two thirds of all freshwater species can live in ponds, including many tiny invertebrates, mayflies, dragonflies, freshwater mussels, toads, frogs and newts, as well as water voles, otters and grass snakes.³ The species which rely on ponds for life then form a key part of the food web, further supporting species of birds, bats and terrestrial mammals.

As stated in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), only 20% of ponds in Derbyshire are in good condition.⁴ More widely, across the UK 500,000 ponds have been lost over the last 100 years,⁵ with 80% of remaining ponds in poor condition.⁶ We know that Derbyshire's native flora has also been severely impacted by habitat loss, with 245 species now extinct, rare or in decline; many of these species depend on sympathetic management of habitats such as wetlands, watercourses and ponds which can support rare and uncommon plant species.⁷

As well as the overall loss of ponds to development, ponds have been lost, or declined in quality, due to neglect and poor management. Those that remain are threatened by drought as a result of climate change, contamination by pollutants through run off from roads and

² [Ponds - Freshwater Habitats Trust](#)

³ [Ponds - Freshwater Habitats Trust](#)

⁴ Derbyshire County Council. 'Thriving with Nature. A Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire: Statement of Biodiversity Priorities.' [Date Accessed: 12/11/25]

⁵ [Ponds | The Wildlife Trusts](#)

⁶ [Ponds - Freshwater Habitats Trust](#)

⁷ Derbyshire County Council. 'Thriving with Nature. A Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire: Statement of Biodiversity Priorities.' [Date Accessed: 12/11/25]

agricultural land, as well as invasive non-native species (INNS) such as Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) and New Zealand pygmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*), among others.

For many habitats that we see in decline in the county, initiatives focussed on enhancing, restoring and maintaining existing sites should be the priority.⁸

⁸ Derbyshire County Council. 'Thriving with Nature. A Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire: Statement of Biodiversity Priorities.' [Date Accessed: 12/11/25]

Decline in Condition

Through more recent monitoring surveys, an amphibian survey was conducted in June 2023 by an ecologist at the Trust to assess the Lido for adult toads, frogs, newts and spawn, as well as terrestrial search of nearby habitats for juveniles of these species. No adults, juveniles or spawn of any of these species were found during this survey. Supporting data that Derbyshire Amphibian and Reptile Group (DARG) supplied to the Trust at the time showed that there were toads using the crossing in 2023. However, the numbers had been sharply decreasing since 2018, where there was a peak of over 1400 toads crossing, following a long steady climb, then a sharp drop to just 200 in 2023. The decline of the common toad population is now critical and in our view the Lido requires sympathetic management to give the toads, one of the key reasons for the site's LWS designation, the best chance of recovery.

The 2023 surveys were sparked by NEDDC staff who had received complaints from the general public about the repeated use of blue dye in the Lido. The dye has reportedly been added to the water by the angling group to control growth of aquatic vegetation to aid fishing at the site. Members of the public expressed concerns regarding the impact of the blue dye on amphibians and although formal research on this topic is limited, there are potential risks to amphibians, particularly if dye is used in higher doses than recommended for managing algal blooms. Our understanding is that the blue dye was used at the Lido to manage vegetation growth, and not to control an algal bloom. This suggests that the blue dye could have been used at a higher dose than is recommended, resulting in a notable impact on vegetation growth, and that this can have further implications for amphibians, such as:

- Through darkening the water, shading out aquatic plants and preventing their growth, this simultaneously darkens the water for amphibians.
- The reduction in aquatic plants may contribute to lower oxygenation levels in the pond, which amphibians rely on to breathe through their skin in developmental stages, and still as adults in frogs.
- Reduction in oxygen availability in the water may impact other freshwater invertebrates, a vital food source for developing and adult amphibians.

- Reduction in aquatic plants as shelter for amphibians, particularly in a pond with a large population of predatory fish.

Due to these concerns, an assessment of the pond's habitat quality was completed by the Trust in August 2023 as requested by NEDDC, through the Predictive System for Multimetrics (PSYM) methodology. A full copy of this report has been provided. The key finding showed that the Lido's condition, measured as a Biotic Integrity Score of 67%, was moderate. This compared to a moderate condition Score of 72% at the previous PSYM survey in 2010, thus confirming a slight decrease in the quality of the habitat at the Lido over this period. Fewer dragonflies (Odonata) and alderflies (Megaloptera) individuals were found in 2023, though there were more beetles (Coleoptera) individuals in 2023. A significant difference in the surveys is also the reported area of shade on the Lido, in 2010 just 1% shade compared to 5% shade in 2023. Though this may seem a small proportion to the rest of the pond, the area of shade that has increased is the northern edge of the pond, which has seen significant shade cover caused by overhanging trees from the bank. This is the area that in 2000 was reported to have 91 clumps of frogspawn. It is possible that the increase in shading in this area has prevented the necessary sunlight and warmth that frogspawn require to develop properly.⁹

Since the 2023 surveys, the LWS Wingerworth Lido is considered to be in 'unfavourable-declining' condition, as the key feature of its reptile and amphibian assemblage is in decline.

We are also concerned that the use of the blue dye is suppressing normal plant growth, reducing the abundance and diversity of plants. Our surveys have highlighted the very low proportion of submerged, emergent, marginal and floating aquatic plants present. The PSYM surveys undertaken indicate that the Lido is not supporting a diverse range of plant species and that this aspect of the site's biodiversity should be a focus for enhancement.

A healthy pond should have 60-85% cover of plants, with a diversity of submerged, floating, emergent and marginal species.¹⁰ However, the 2023 survey recorded just 5% emergent species cover, and just 2% in 2010. A high coverage of plants growing in a pond:

- drives oxygenation of the water;

⁹ [All you need to know about frog spawn | North Wales Wildlife Trust](#)

¹⁰ [Pond restoration and management | Suffolk Wildlife Trust](#)

- absorbs nutrients which can prevent eutrophication;
- prevent erosion;
- traps sediment which can reduce turbidity; and
- provides vital shelter, food and breeding grounds for freshwater invertebrates, amphibians and birds.

There is substantial evidence that the health of the Lido and the species assemblage has been struggling for many years, and that a sympathetic management regime is needed to try and restore and enhance the pond and its associated flora and fauna. The introduction of the blue dye brought this to NEDDC's attention, and though this may not be the only cause of decline at the site, there are concerns over the use of this substance which has led to the pressing demand to step in and restore the site. The period of time for incremental changes has passed, and there is now a requirement for an urgent change in management.

Biodiversity Duty & The Local Nature Recovery Strategy

The Statutory Biodiversity Duty came into force under the Environment Act 2021 and Local Authorities have legal obligations as a result. The Duty means that a public authority must:

- Consider what it can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity;
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on its consideration; and,
- Act to deliver its policies and achieve its objectives.¹¹

In order to comply with the Duty, the local authority must check how the organisation complies with the following strategies:

- Local nature recovery strategies;
- Species conservation strategies (to be published);
- Protected sites strategies (to be published).¹²

¹¹ [Complying with the biodiversity duty - GOV.UK](#)

¹² [Complying with the biodiversity duty - GOV.UK](#)

Although the national species conservation and protected sites strategies are yet to be published by government, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy does present priorities and measures for both species and protected sites which are detailed in the National Planning and Policy Framework and Local Nature Recovery Strategy sections below.

As a result, NEDDC must:

- Understand how and if these strategies are relevant to the organisation;
- Be aware of how these strategies affect land that it owns or manages, or actions that it could take to conserve and enhance biodiversity;
- Consider how it could contribute to the strategy, where appropriate.¹³

National Planning and Policy Framework

The National Planning and Policy Framework details the ways in which NEDDC should be complying with the Local Nature Recovery Strategy:

- Paragraph 192 - To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:
 - Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation.
 - Promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.
- Paragraph 188 - Plans should:
 - distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites;

¹³ [Complying with the biodiversity duty - GOV.UK](#)

- allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in the National Planning and Policy Framework;
- take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and,
- plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.

Wingerworth Lido is formally mapped in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy as 'an area of particular importance to biodiversity (APIBs)' which means that this is an area that must be conserved and protected as a part of the existing 'core network' of sites for biodiversity. This means that NEDDC has an obligation to intervene and take action when a priority site under their ownership is not being conserved and enhanced, and at Wingerworth Lido this is compounded by the threat to Priority species common toad and white-clawed crayfish (also a Protected Species).

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

In addition to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy naming Wingerworth Lido as a priority site for white-clawed crayfish, it sets out its priorities and measures for wetlands, as well as priorities and measures for People and Wildlife. Those priorities relevant to Wingerworth Lido state:

- WL-1 - Safeguard and enhance wetland habitats including ponds, lowland fen, swamp, marsh, reedbed etc.
- WL-2 - Existing wetlands are managed and enhanced to support greater levels of biodiversity, for example for amphibians and invertebrates.
- WL-3 - The wetland resource is increased, connected, and existing sites are extended and buffered through the creation of new semi-natural wetlands.
- PW-2 - People have more opportunities to actively engage with the natural environment, supporting and delivering nature recovery in their area.
- PW-4 - Safeguard high quality and sensitive species by reducing the impact from people and managing visitor pressure.

Measures to be taken to achieve this include:

- 076 - Sites are identified and in positive management to maximise their biodiversity value as wetlands and for their associated species.
- 077 - Existing moderate quality and neglected ponds and wetlands are restored and enhanced through biodiversity-focussed management including dew ponds in the White Peak.
- 078 - Investigate and improve water quality (for example through the sue of buffer strips) where this is having a detrimental effect on the condition of wetlands.
- 079 - Control and eradicate invasive non-native species within wetlands and promote good biosecurity practices to restrict their spread.
- 083 - Buffer and protect existing and new pond and wetland sites, through the creation and enhancement of complementary habitats (grasslands, rough margins, tree planting) to make space for water, improve water quality and help ensure wetlands can function naturally.¹⁴
- 116 - Conservation volunteering opportunities increase, and there are more people engaged with local green spaces.
- 117 - Communities are engaged to support nature recovery in their area, through 'friends of' groups, community tree planting, 'clean up' events, community wildlife gardens and allotments, community farming etc.
- 130 - Where impacts on high quality habitat and sensitive species are known to exist, develop strategies to reduce and mitigate visitor pressure.
- 131 - Promote public access and divert visitor pressure towards more local and less sensitive locations to reduce harm to more valuable habitats and species.

Within the LNRS, the Lido is identified as one of the few sites in the Derbyshire Peak Fringe & Lower Derwent area with a healthy population of white-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*). This is a freshwater crustacean native to the UK is a protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, and listed as Endangered on the global IUCN Red List of

¹⁴ Derbyshire County Council. 'Thriving with Nature. A Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire: Statement of Biodiversity Priorities.' [Date Accessed: 12/11/25]

Threatened Species.¹⁵ The species is threatened by the non-native North American signal crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*) which carries the fungus *Aphanomyces astaci*. This pathogen is fatal to white-clawed crayfish and, as well as being transmitted by the presence of the invasive signal crayfish, is also spread via contaminated equipment, clothing and animals.

As a protected and threatened species in the UK that is present at Wingerworth Lido, there is a duty to ensure that the habitat and management is suitable for the white-clawed crayfish to thrive. Records from the Derbyshire Biological Records Centre show that in 2008 a trapping survey was completed, through which 47 adult white-clawed crayfish were recorded. No further trapping surveys have been completed, however this does confirm that the Lido supported a very strong population of the species in 2008. A torching survey was completed in October 2021 where four individuals were observed, and this year at least five torching surveys have been completed but no individuals have been observed at all. The dry summer in 2025 led to a lower water level in the Lido which may have caused the crayfish to move into the deeper centre of the Lido, less visible from the banks for torching surveys. However, the incredibly low numbers in 2021 and 2025 do suggest that the population could have been impacted in recent years. The Trust believes that the Lido currently presents sub-optimal habitat for white-clawed crayfish, due to a lack of natural refuges, poor water quality and biosecurity risks:

- Refuges - Much of the Lido is very silty with few refuges, which increases white-clawed crayfish vulnerability to predators, particularly fish;
- Water Quality - It is likely that the unnatural balance of predatory fish in the Lido is causing high nutrient levels. The fish also stir up the silt, causing turbid water with silty suspension which makes it poor quality for plants and invertebrates;
- Biosecurity - This is a risk everywhere for white-clawed crayfish but can be minimised. The presence of the angling club can be an additional biosecurity threat for white-clawed crayfish if anglers using the Lido are not strictly following 'check, clean, dry' protocol. Minimising people and equipment in the water is the best way to minimise the threat to white-clawed crayfish.

¹⁵ [White-clawed crayfish | The Wildlife Trusts](#)

The LNRS details the common toad and the white-clawed crayfish as priority species. For the common toad (SP-3), the measures include:

- 013 - Improved signage for toad crossings and support volunteer groups/toad crossing groups;
- 016 - Enhance habitat and connectivity around key ponds;
- 017 - Biosecurity to minimise and address risks of disease.

For the white-clawed crayfish (SP-9) the measures include:

- 036 - Survey watercourses to identify extant populations of white-clawed crayfish and assess threats and options;
- 038 - Protect in-situ populations and prioritise their habitat needs by achieving consistent, steady flows of good or very good water quality;
- 042 - Implement biosecurity measures, particularly for anglers and other people and equipment that enters the water.

The LNRS also details 22 priority threatened wetland flora and fauna (SA-4) for which measure include:

- 093 - Create new wetlands in strategic locations to benefit these species;
- 094 - Improve/protect water quality and habitat to benefit key species.

Conclusion

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust believes that the available evidence strongly supports positive change in the management of the Lido from one that is focused on a single activity to one that takes a holistic approach to resolve the problems the Lido is experiencing and prioritises the recovery of the Lido's key species and habitats.

Urgent action is now needed to arrest and reverse the declines of both common toad and white-clawed crayfish and improve the ecological condition of the Local Wildlife Site.

We feel that there are additional benefits and opportunities for the local community through the restoration and sympathetic management of the Lido that can connect with a broader range of users. Although the Trust is not calling for an outright ban on fishing at the Lido, there is significant evidence that the recent management of the Lido has caused significant damage, and so a change of management driven by nature and evidence is needed.

After a long period of growing concern for the Lido in the community, and within the Trust, it is now time to take decisive action for biodiversity. We must reverse the declines and restore the ecological integrity and diversity of the Lido before it is too late. We urge the council to develop and implement a focussed restoration plan for the Lido.

Interim actions

We recommend taking some interim actions to halt the further decline of the condition of the Lido:

- Halt the use of blue dye in the pond and prevent any future use of the dye;
- Address wildlife welfare concerns, such as injuries to waterfowl that have been associated with fishing gear;
- Removal of fish from the Lido, targeting non-native species and overpopulation of predatory species, to restore natural conditions and restore nutrient levels.

Biodiversity Improvement Plan

Sandy Hill, Main Street, Middleton, Matlock, DE4 4LR

01773 881188 • enquiries@derbyshirewt.co.uk

The Biodiversity Improvement Plan will include a thorough review of the site's habitats, their conditions and set out steps to restore and create appropriate, good condition habitats. We will work collaboratively to create an evidence-led and suitable restoration plan for the Lido, its wildlife and the people who use the space.

Long Term Vision

The Trust's long-term vision for the Lido would be for a thriving biodiversity hub, with wetland habitats restored and in good condition.

The restoration plan actions have been carried out, and the site is now under a wildlife friendly management plan, delivered by local people and the council.

The common toad population, along with other those of other amphibians, has recovered and is stable each year, and the site is reinstated as a key site for common toad in Derbyshire.

The white-clawed crayfish population has recovered, biosecurity threats are minimised and the site is considered to be a safe haven for the species in Derbyshire.

The habitat restoration actions have reinstated lost plant species, and the wetland habitats now support rare and specialist plant species, waterfowl, and many other animals.

The water quality is good, with diverse and abundant freshwater invertebrates that drive the food web and life cycle of a healthy pond. Local people are engaged in the management of the site and feel proud to have played a part in restoring this site for nature.



The Trust welcomes further discussion and engagement with regards to the future of Wingerworth Lido, and we are happy to discuss our concerns. If you wish to discuss any of the comments made, please contact us at wildsolutions@derbyshirewt.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,



Matt Buckler

Executive Director of Strategy and Innovation

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

WINGERWORTH LIDO

ONLINE PETITION

Independent Online Petition to Reinstate Angling

As at 28 November 2025 5,369 had signed the petition – screenshot of site below.

[Petition - Save fishing at the Wingerworth Lido - United Kingdom - Change.org](#)

Save fishing at the Wingerworth Lido



Recent signers:

chelle hollins • 3 weeks ago

Charlie John • 3 weeks ago

Tobie Wells • 3 weeks ago



Decision Maker: North East Derbyshire District Council



14 Supporter Voices



1 Media Mention

The Issue

Petition to Reinstate Fishing at the Wingerworth Lido

After many years of dedicated angling and community involvement, North East Derbyshire District Council has refused to renew the fishing lease at the Wingerworth Lido.

This decision is devastating for countless local anglers, as well as for the angling club that has worked tirelessly to maintain not only the fishing but also the water quality and surrounding land. The Lido has long been more than just a fishing spot – it has been a place of community, friendship, and wellbeing for many people in the area.

The council has announced plans to transform the Lido into a "Biodiversity Hub." While we recognise the importance of environmental protection, fishing and conservation have successfully coexisted here for years, with the club ensuring the site was cared for and respected. Removing angling from the Lido disregards the heritage, enjoyment, and countless hours of stewardship provided by its anglers.

This petition calls for the reinstatement of fishing rights at the Wingerworth Lido so that the community can continue to enjoy and care for this unique and special place.

5,369

Verified signatures ▼

Sign this petition

First name

Last name

Email

Slough, SL2
United Kingdom

- ☐ Yes! Tell me if this petition wins, and how I can help other relevant petitions
- ☐ No. I don't want to hear about this petition's progress or other relevant petitions.

 Sign petition

- ☐ Do not display my name and comment on this petition

We process your information in accordance with our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).

WINGERWORTH LIDO

COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE

CORRESPONDENCE WITH NEDDC

Letter from Countryside Alliance – dated 28 August 2025



Councillor Nigel Barker
Leader
North East Derbyshire District Council
District Council Offices
2013 Mill Lane
Wingerworth
Chesterfield
S42 6NG

28 August 2025

Dear Councillor Barker

I am writing to you to urge North East Derbyshire District Council to strongly reconsider the decision to implement an angling ban at Wingerworth Lido to create 'biodiversity hub'. The Countryside Alliance is a charity that campaigns for the rural way of life, and we have a number of members in the council area who are deeply concerned by this decision.

It is baffling that the council have portrayed angling and biodiversity as two mutually exclusive things. Angling naturally creates "biodiversity hubs" and wildlife thrives thanks to the dedicated efforts of the angling community. Anglers play a vital role in the protection and conservation of aquatic environments. They are often the first to notice and report pollution incidents or other environmental issues, such as non-native invasive species and are on the front line in reporting illegal poaching.

Not only does the ban work completely contrary to the council's aims to enhance local wildlife and protect the environment, it also goes directly against several of the council's other aims set out in the 2023-2027 plan.

The plan states that the council aims to "maximise opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities to participate in physical and social activity" and will "provide and facilitate good quality outdoor spaces for activity and socialising". In implementing an angling ban at Wingerworth Lido, you are not maximising such opportunities; you are actively reducing them.

Similarly, the council's pledge to "promote green social prescribing for mental health and wellbeing" makes the angling ban seem hypocritical. Angling has been proven to have therapeutic benefits, so much so that the NHS have actually prescribed it as a form of therapy. Banning angling at this popular site will have a negative impact on the mental health of some residents, and is a limitation on green social prescribing for mental health and wellbeing.

If the adverse affects of the angling ban and it being directly opposed to many of North East Derbyshire District Council's aims were not enough, the huge outcry that has arisen among the local public is something that we urge the council, as a democratically elected body, to listen to. In just a few days, a petition calling on the council to reverse its decision, set up by local angler James Duffy, has reached over 3,900 signatures. I sincerely hope the council listen to such a

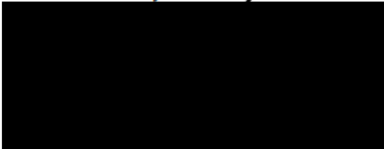
T	020 7840 9200	China Works
E	info@countryside-alliance.org	Black Prince Road
W	www.countryside-alliance.org	London SE1 7SJ

Countryside Alliance, Countryside Alliance Wales, Scottish Countryside Alliance, Countryside Alliance Ireland, Fishing for Schools, and Future Countryside are trading names of The Countryside Alliance Foundation, a registered charity in England and Wales (Charity No. 1121034).

deep-rooted sentiment among locals. I am certain local anglers would be more than happy to meet with you to outline their concerns in person.

The benefits of angling to mental health, local communities, and biodiversity and the environment are proven and well-attested. If the council is serious about its 2023-2027 plan, and cares about the opinion of local communities, it should reverse the decision to ban angling at Wingerworth Lido.

Yours sincerely



Mo Metcalf-Fisher
Director of External Affairs
Countryside Alliance

Letter from Countryside Alliance – dated 17 September 2025



Councillor Nigel Barker
Leader
North East Derbyshire District Council
District Council Offices
2013 Mill Lane
Wingerworth
Chesterfield
S42 6NG

17 September 2025

Dear Councillor Barker,

Thank you for taking the time to respond to my letter about the devastating decision to ban angling at the Wingerworth Lido. While I was pleased to see that the council fully recognises the value of angling to humans and nature, I am troubled by several points you have raised.

Firstly, you maintain that there were concerns 'raised by local residents' about the local angling club's activities. However, responses to Freedom of Information requests covering the period January 2023 to August 2025 have revealed that the council received just three 'formal complaints' and seven 'concerns', which appear to be general observations not deemed serious enough to constitute a 'formal complaint'. Curiously, over this period of 2.5 years, the three 'formal complaints' were recorded within just a few days in July 2024. Little substance has been provided in relation to these 'formal complaints' and from what I could ascertain, no further action was taken against the club by an external agency. Additionally, NEDDC admits that it did not raise these matters with the club or issue any formal warnings in response to these complaints. Apparently, they lacked sufficient evidence or substance to warrant any follow-up or sanction.

While all complaints should be taken seriously, 'concerns raised by local residents' clearly cannot justify implementing a ban, given that the tiny number of complaints that were received were deemed insufficient enough to even raise with the club, let alone result in any formal action being taken against it.

Secondly, while you state that there was a period of engagement with a very narrow range of stakeholders, I can find little to no evidence of the wider council or public being made aware of any discussion about the future of angling at the lido before the extraordinary decision was announced. The subsequent, growing outrage and hurt within the local community underlines the need for full transparency and genuine community engagement in the future of a cherished

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asset. That failure in this case sets a worrying precedent for future discussions about other community assets.

You acknowledge that 'it is regrettable that a campaign has only emerged after the conclusion of the agreement'. Had the public been given the opportunity to participate in discussions, that situation would not have arisen and the council would almost certainly not have taken this unpopular decision.

On 22 September 2025 at full council, a motion submitted by Councillor D. Hancock calls on the council to review the decision and 'undertake a public consultation with residents and local stakeholders on the future use and management of the Lido, including the question of fishing, so that community voices are central to shaping its future.' I implore you, as Leader of the Council, to support this motion, which is unarguably a pragmatic and fair solution. I believe that by doing so, NEDDC can reestablish confidence and trust with the local community in relation to the lido and other community assets whose usage may be subject to review in future.

Thank you once again for taking the time to write to me.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of Mo Metcalf-Fisher.

Mo Metcalf-Fisher
Director of External Affairs
Countryside Alliance

Letter from Countryside Alliance – dated 25 September 2025



Councillor Nigel Barker
Leader
North East Derbyshire District Council
District Council Offices
2013 Mill Lane
Wingerworth
Chesterfield
S42 6NG

25 September 2025

Dear Councillor Barker,

Following my letter dated 17 September 2025, I am writing in relation to the Council's unjustified decision to ban angling at the Wingerworth Lido.

I have been made aware of email communications that show North East Derbyshire District Council has been, as recently as the morning of Monday 22 September 2025 pushing for the removal of fish from the Wingerworth Lido. The significance of that day won't escape you, but for the benefit of doubt, it was the same day the issue of angling at the Wingerworth Lido was to be debated.

That meeting resulted in the Council agreeing to review the decision to ban angling at the Wingerworth Lido, with the Environment Scrutiny Committee seeking the views of stakeholders before a final decision is to be taken by the Council's Asset Management Board.

While I am pleased the Council has taken the decision to review the angling ban which, as you are aware, has caused considerable upset and anger locally, we have a number of important questions about the review process.

It is in the public interest that these questions are answered in full:

1. Will members of the public fishing at the lido still face a fine? Given the decision to ban angling is now under review, can you please clarify what legal basis the Council has to issue any fine?
2. Can you confirm whether the council has any plans to remove fish from the Wingerworth Lido before any final decision has been taken?
3. Please outline the timeframe for the review process. When will the Environment Scrutiny Committee meet and seek stakeholder input? Please confirm how the Council will be publicly promoting this process.

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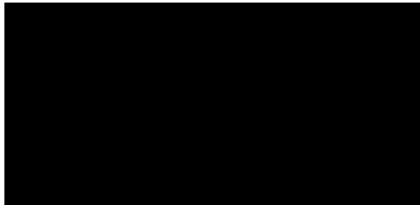
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4. The Council says that views collected by the Environment Scrutiny Committee will be sent to the Asset Management Board for consideration and a final decision. How, in the interest of public transparency, can members of the public and councillors scrutinise this process? In addition, can you confirm who sits on this Board and whether members of the public will be able to attend any meetings? Can you also confirm whether any employees of the council's housing development partner, Rykneld Homes, are members of the Asset Management Board?

You will understand the importance of these questions and the need for answers if the Council is to be fully transparent about how the final decision is to be reached.

Given the timescale, I would appreciate a swift response.

Yours sincerely,



Mo Metcalf-Fisher
Director of External Affairs
Countryside Alliance

Response Letter from Leader, Cllr Nigel Barker to Countryside Alliance – dated 3 September 2025



**North East
Derbyshire
District Council**

Mo Metcalf-Fisher
Director of External Affairs
Countryside Alliance
China Works
Black Prince Road
London SE1 7SJ

Our Ref: NB/AH
Contact: Councillor Barker
Tel: 01246 231111
E-mail: Nigel.barker@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk
Date: 3 September 2025

Dear Mr Metcalf-Fisher

Wingerworth Lido – Countryside Alliance

Thank you for your letter regarding the Council's decision to bring angling activities at Wingerworth Lido to a close.

We fully recognise the value that angling brings to many individuals and communities, including its contributions to wellbeing, environmental stewardship, and social inclusion. We continue to support angling at other Council owned sites across the district, where clubs remain actively involved in their management. The Council's decision was not taken lightly and followed a period of engagement with local elected members, including those from opposition political parties, as well as direct discussions with Clay Cross Angling Club.

We are aware that concerns about the club's activities have been raised by local residents and understand that both the Environment Agency and the police have received similar complaints.

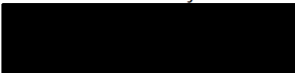
The Council acted in accordance with the terms of the existing agreement, providing six months' notice to allow the club time to explore alternative arrangements. We note that opportunities for engagement during this period were not fully taken up by the club, and it is regrettable that a campaign has only emerged after the conclusion of the agreement.

We understand that this decision has been disappointing for some members of the angling community. However, as a local authority, our responsibility is to act in the best interests of all residents of North East Derbyshire district. In this case, we believe the decision taken reflects that duty, balancing environmental priorities, community feedback, and the long-term future of the Lido. We are currently working with a number of local groups to establish a 'Friends of Wingerworth Lido' group, which will help shape the site's future in a way that reflects the community's aspirations.

We are certainly not opposed to angling as an activity and remain open to exploring opportunities at other suitable locations across the district. We are also aware of a wide range of alternative angling venues in our district in areas such as Barlow, Ashover, Killamarsh, Eckington, Hollymoorside, Clay Cross, Ogston Reservoir, and along the Chesterfield Canal. While the details and operators of these sites may change over time, we would be happy to provide further information on request.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely


Councillor Nigel Barker
Leader

North East Derbyshire District Council, District Council Offices, 2013 Mill Lane,
Wingerworth, Chesterfield, S42 6NG. www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk



WINGERWORTH LIDO

ASSET MANAGEMENT BOARD (AMB) DECISION ROUTE

Wingerworth Lido Decision Route

The purpose of this paper is to provide Scrutiny the decision making route taken for ending the CCAA lease allowing the process to be reviewed and recommendations made as appropriate.

Nature of the decision:

The decision to end the CCAA lease was taken in 17 December 2024 therefore, the [20 May 2024 Constitution](#) is the overarching document.

The decision taken was a non-housing property portfolio decision to determine a lease. The passing rent in the lease was £500 PA therefore, even taken over the life of the lease (19 years), rather than the lease term (5 years), the total value is £9,500, comfortably within the [key decision threshold](#) (at paragraph 6.2) of £100,000 or above.

Council or Cabinet Function:

The functions of Council and Cabinet (the executive) are set out within the constitution in the [Functions Scheme](#). The contents of the Scheme derive from the law – the Local Government Act 2000 and the Functions Regulations as amended.

[Section Seventeen - The Functions Scheme](#)

This determines that property related decisions are a Cabinet Function and more particularly listed as:

- (s) Managing and maintaining the Council's non-housing property portfolio.
- (y) Approving the purchase, sale or appropriation of land and the leasing (or otherwise) of property

These remain the same in the 2025 Constitution.

Decisions delegated to Officers:

The constitution sets out the Cabinet functions and [powers delegated to all Directors and Assistant Directors](#). The relevant delegation in this scenario is:

9.14 - To acquire, dispose of, grant and obtain rights in land and premises on such terms and conditions as considered appropriate where expenditure is within approved budgets and professional valuation advice is obtained confirming best consideration has been obtained.

The Assistant Director – Property, Estates and Assets exercised this delegation when serving the Notice to Quit below:



**North East
Derbyshire**
District Council

NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF FISHING RIGHTS AT SO MUCH OF THE LIDO AS FLOWS THROUGH THE COUNCIL'S PROPERTY BETWEEN POINTS A to B SHOWN COLOURED RED ON THE PLAN INCLUDED IN THE ATTACHED AGREEMENT.

TO: Mr Craig Collins Secretary of Clay Cross and District Angling Association, C/O 6 Linden Avenue, Clay Cross, Chesterfield, S45 9HE and Mr Bill Parkin Chairman of Clay Cross and District Angling Association, C/O 6, Linden Avenue, Clay Cross, Chesterfield, S45 9HE (Tenant)

FROM: NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL, office is at DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES, 2013, MILL LANE, WINGERWORTH, CHESTERFIELD, DERBYSHIRE, S42 6NG (Landlord)

RE: Fishing Rights at The Lido, being so much of the Lido as flows through the Council's property between points A and B, Shown coloured red on the Lease Plan (Premises)

We, NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL GIVE YOU NOTICE in accordance with the Agreement dated 30th August 2006 that we, require you to give vacant possession of the Premises on 30 June 2025 so that the Fishing Right of the Premises will come to an end on that date.

During the Notice Period the Clay Cross and District Angling Association

- Must not use BLUE DYE at the Premises
- The Fishing Pegs are to be left in place until North East Derbyshire District Council notify the Clay Cross and District Angling Association that they can be removed. Removal may be after the 6 month notice period has expired to allow time for the Council to obtain an ecology report with regard to the habitat of the White Clawed Crayfish
- The Clay Cross and District Angling Club notice board must be removed at the end of the Notice Period.

SIGNED:..

Name: **Damien B Johnson** BSc. (Hons) Pg.Dip. MRICS (Registered Valuer)
Position: Assistant Director – Property, Estates and Assets
Authorised Officer of North East Derbyshire District Council

DATED:....17th December 2024

North East Derbyshire District Council, District Council Offices, 2013 Mill Lane,
Wingerworth, Chesterfield, S42 6NG. www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk

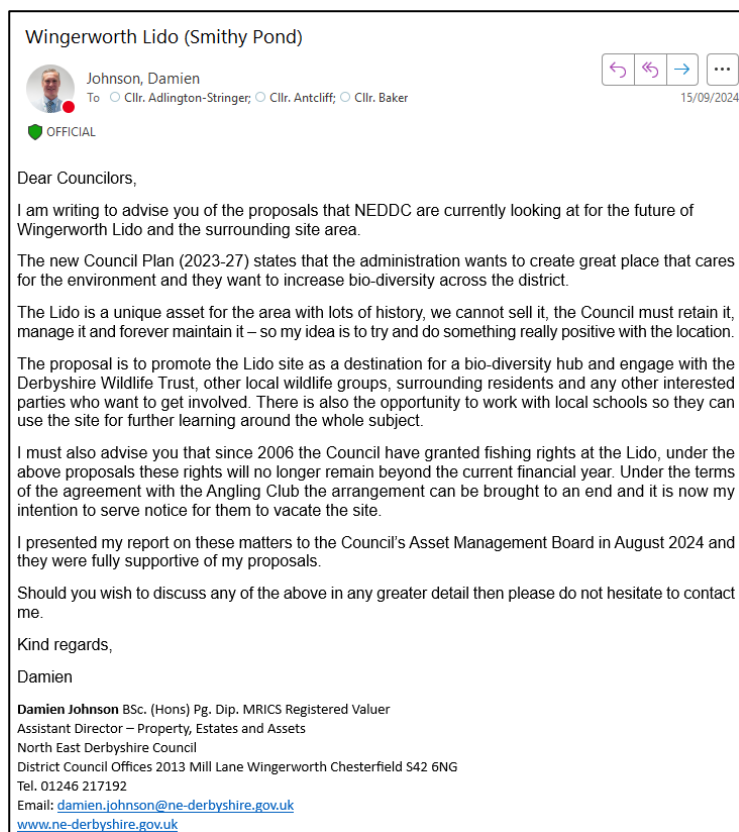


Notice to Quit – 17 December 2024

Ward member consultation (1.4):

In exercising the delegation, Officers shall consult the local Ward Member(s) when they exercise any delegated powers specifically affecting their ward and when the matter is likely to be politically sensitive or contentious unless legal reasons prevent this. Officers must take account of the views of the relevant Ward Member(s) before exercising their delegated power.

In an email on the 15 September (Before the decision), the Assistant Director – Property, Estates and Assets consulted local ward members



Consultation email to local ward members – 15 September 2025

Further Consultation/Informing (Officer & Portfolio Holder)

In addition, under this [scheme of delegation](#) (1.2), officers must keep Members properly informed of action arising within the scope of these delegations. Officers must liaise closely with the relevant Portfolio Holder on Executive Functions and the relevant Chairman of the regulatory committee when the matter falls within the remit of that committee.

Also [under the scheme](#) (5.1) Officers shall consult as appropriate and have due regard to the advice given. If for any reason it is not practical to consult a person required to be consulted in the exercise of a delegation then the person with the delegated power must consult someone else whom they consider to be an appropriate substitute. In particular, consultation must take place with Legal, Finance and Human Resources as appropriate.

[Advisory bodies and working parties](#) (Page 3):

The constitution sets out that advisory bodies or working parties may be established from time to time which include in their membership Councillors and/or Officers and/or representatives from partner organisations or the local community. Working parties or advisory bodies established under this section will not be constituted as committees and are not authorised to make decisions on behalf of the Council.

Asset Management Board

For property related matters, Asset Management Board is the advisory body/working party and the duty to consult/inform with relevant Portfolio Holder and departments such as Legal and Finance, is done through the Asset Management Board.



BRIEFING NOTE

TO:	Asset Management Board (AMB)
DATE:	29 th August 2024
LEAD OFFICER:	Damien Johnson (Assistant Director) Property, Estates and Assets
TITLE:	Wingerworth Lido (Smithy Pond) Clay Cross and District Angling Association

1. Background

- 1.1** Wingerworth Lido (also known as Smithy Pond) is a Council owned general fund asset that is located at the northern end of the village ~~off Nethermoor Road~~. A copy of the site location plan for the lido can be seen in **Appendix (1)** of this report.
- The lido is a local heritage asset and open-air swimming at the location ~~dates back to 1934~~. NEDDC must manage and maintain the lido structure in accordance with the Reservoirs Act 1975 and there is limited scope as to what the Council can do with the asset.
- However, it is a popular destination with ~~local residents~~ and is used frequently for dog walking and is also of place of special interest for nature and wildlife groups.

2. Clay Cross & District Angling Association (CCDAA)

- 2.1** As a way of deriving some revenue income from the asset the Council decided to explore the possibility of letting out the exclusive fishing rights at the lido. The idea being that the location could still be enjoyed by visitors whilst the Council could still receive a small income from the site.
- Following this the CCDAA were granted a 5-year lease on the site (w.e.f. 1st Dec 2005) at an annual rent £400pa. (the rent has not been increased from this date). The CCDAA continue to fish the site under the terms of their expired agreement (which they can legally do) until the arrangement is formally ~~brought to an end~~ by either of the parties serving the appropriate notice (6-months' notice must be given by either party).
- The CCDAA are invoiced for the fishing rights on an annual basis and the current period runs from 4th March 2024 to 3rd March 2025 (which they have paid).
- A copy of the CCDAA lease agreement (dated 30th August 2006) can also be seen at **Appendix (2)** of this report.

AMB Briefing note – 29 August 2024

The board is not a decision making body, any property related decision will be taken by either Cabinet or Officer delegation, but amongst other things, Asset Management Board/Group discharges the requirement to consult on matters such as the decision in question. The Asset Management Board Terms of Reference state the purpose as:

1. To provide a single integrated overview and support officer recommendations made in relation to all Council owned and Rykneld managed land and property assets (General Fund and Housing Revenue Account) including; policy, strategy, usage, change, service delivery need, acquisition, disposal and development.
2. To provide strategy, leadership, direction and support officer recommendations when there are proposals to use the Council's assets for or in conjunction with those of the wider public sector.

3. To provide leadership and oversight in relation to the Council's Corporate Landlord activities (in particular Statutory Compliance requirements) and to set priorities and record performance.
4. To provide oversight on the delivery of the Council's Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) and how the SAMP continues to align with the Council Plan.

The Terms of Reference also state: "*Asset Management Board (AMB) is not responsible as a decision making body and it has no formal powers of approval. AMB will support any officer recommendations made which will then be approved under Officer Delegated Powers (as defined in The Constitution of NEDDC dated 26th April 2021) or at Cabinet/Full Council*" (if outside Budget Policy Framework).

Review of the Disposals & Acquisitions Strategy:

The key documents referenced in this paper to this point are the constitution and the Asset Management Board Terms of Reference. As elected members will know, the constitution is reviewed annually and the Asset Management Board Terms of Reference (TOR) were reviewed in November 2023.

The document that is most in need of review is the Disposals & Acquisitions Strategy, last reviewed in 2017. This document sets out the role of Asset Management Group (referred to as Asset Management Board in the Strategic Asset Management Plan and TOR) and guides asset related decisions to ensure compliance with our Section 123 (best consideration) duties, amongst other things.

At the 11 November 2025 Council, the Portfolio Holder referenced the review of the Disposals and Acquisitions Strategy. This review is underway now following the adoption of the Strategic Asset Management Plan which is the overarching strategic document that informs the Disposals and Acquisitions Strategy.

WINGERWORTH LIDO

ASSET MANAGEMENT BOARD (AMB) DOCUMENTS

Terms of Reference

Asset Management Board/Asset Management Officer Group

TERMS OF REFERENCE

NAME OF GROUP:	Asset Management Board (AMB) Asset Management Officer Group (AMOG)
ACCOUNTABLE TO:	NEDDC Senior Management Team (SMT) Rykneld Homes Senior Leadership Team (SLT)
REPORTING THROUGH:	NEDDC Assistant Director – Property, Estates & Assets Rykneld Homes - Director of Property Services & Development
PRIMARY PURPOSE:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide a single integrated overview and support officer recommendations made in relation to all Council owned and Rykneld managed land and property assets (General Fund and Housing Revenue Account) including; policy, strategy, usage, change, service delivery need, acquisition, disposal and development. 2. To provide strategy, leadership, direction and support officer recommendations when there are proposals to use the Council's assets for or in conjunction with those of the wider public sector. 3. To provide leadership and oversight in relation to the Council's Corporate Landlord activities (in particular Statutory Compliance requirements) and to set priorities and record performance. 4. To provide oversight on the delivery of the Council's Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) and how the SAMP continues to align with the Council Plan.
MAIN COMPOSITION OF GROUPS:	<p>Asset Management Board (AMB) Portfolio Holder – Growth & Assets (Chair) Portfolio Holder – Finance NEDDC Director of Finance & S151 Officer (Jayne Dethick) NEDDC Assistant Director – Property (Damien Johnson) Niall Clark (Rykneld Homes) - Director of Property Services</p> <p>Asset Management Officer Group (AMOG) NEDDC Assistant Director – Property (Damien Johnson) NEDDC Director of Finance & S151 Officer (Jayne Dethick) Niall Clark (Rykneld Homes) - Director of Property Services NEDDC Assistant Director – Planning (David Thompson) NEDDC Assistant Director – Communities (Lee Pepper) NEDDC Property & Estates Manager (Mohammed Mahroof) NEDDC Legal Services – Senior Officer (Louise Roebuck) NEDDC Engineers – Senior Engineers (T Buckland/V Vernon) NEDDC Finance – Principal Accountant (Simon Peachey)</p> <p>Other attendees may be invited to discuss specific individual agenda items as and when appropriate.</p>

RESPONSIBILITIES:	<p>As asset management relates to all Council owned assets, both General Fund (GF) and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) there needs to be a clear understanding in place with NEDDC and Rykneld as to which body is the responsible lead on which assets.</p> <p>It is agreed that NEDDC will lead on all assets held within the GF account, but with consultation and input from Rykneld as required.</p> <p>Rykneld Homes Ltd are responsible for all asset management and estate management related matters in relation to the council housing stock they manage on behalf of NEDDC.</p> <p>Rykneld will also lead on all council housing garage sites held within the HRA, but with consultation and input from NEDDC as required.</p> <p>NEDDC will lead on all other assets held within the HRA that do not fall within the scope of housing or garage sites, but with consultation and input from Rykneld as required.</p> <p>Asset Management Board (AMB) is not responsible as a decision making body and it has no formal powers of approval. AMB will support any officer recommendations made which will then be approved under Officer Delegated Powers (as defined in "The Constitution of NEDDC" dated 26th April 2021) or at Cabinet/Full Council.</p> <p>AMB must have at all times regard for the Council Plan Objectives when considering matters presented to them.</p>
SERVICED BY:	<p>The frequency of meetings shall be on a monthly basis, both for AMOG and AMB. A formal agenda and associated papers will be circulated to the group/board attendees prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Formal minutes will be published and circulated to group/board membership and agreed/signed-off at the following AMOG/AMB.</p> <p>Any agreed actions will be managed through the AMOG/AMB process.</p> <p>Any agenda items will first be raised at the AMOG and if supported the item will then be taken to full AMB.</p>
REQUIRED ATTENDANCE	100% attendance assumed. Authorised deputies acceptable.
DATE APPROVED:	TBC – following PH Briefing and AMB Approval.
PROCESS FOR MONITORING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ALL OF THE ABOVE:	Progress against the implementation of the Strategic Asset Management Plan will be reported to SMT quarterly.

AMB Briefing Note – dated 29 August 2024



**North East
Derbyshire**
District Council

BRIEFING NOTE	TO:	Asset Management Board (AMB)
	DATE:	29 th August 2024
	LEAD OFFICER:	Damien Johnson (Assistant Director) Property, Estates and Assets
	TITLE:	Wingerworth Lido (Smithy Pond) Clay Cross and District Angling Association
1. Background		
1.1	<p>Wingerworth Lido (also known as Smithy Pond) is a Council owned general fund asset that is located at the northern end of the village off Nethermoor Road. A copy of the site location plan for the lido can be seen in Appendix (1) of this report.</p> <p>The lido is a local heritage asset and open-air swimming at the location dates back to 1934. NEDDC must manage and maintain the lido structure in accordance with the Reservoirs Act 1975 and there is limited scope as to what the Council can do with the asset.</p> <p>However, it is a popular destination with local residents and is used frequently for dog walking and is also of place of special interest for nature and wildlife groups.</p>	
2. Clay Cross & District Angling Association (CCDAA)		
2.1	<p>As a way of deriving some revenue income from the asset the Council decided to explore the possibility of letting out the exclusive fishing rights at the lido. The idea being that the location could still be enjoyed by visitors whilst the Council could still receive a small income from the site.</p> <p>Following this the CCDAA were granted a 5-year lease on the site (w.e.f. 1st Dec 2005) at an annual rent £400pa. (the rent has not been increased from this date). The CCDAA continue to fish the site under the terms of their expired agreement (which they can legally do) until the arrangement is formally brought to an end by either of the parties serving the appropriate notice (6-months' notice must be given by either party).</p> <p>The CCDAA are invoiced for the fishing rights on an annual basis and the current period runs from 4th March 2024 to 3rd March 2025 (which they have paid).</p> <p>A copy of the CCDAA lease agreement (dated 30th August 2006) can also be seen at Appendix (2) of this report.</p>	

3. Recent Issues	
3.1	<p>The presence of a fishing club at the lido has been longstanding issue for many of the local residents and users of the location. Although the agreement has terms and conditions as to how the lido can be safely fished and managed, the Council has regularly over the years been alerted to a number of issues where it has been claimed that the CCDAA are not adhering to the rights documented within their agreement.</p> <p>One particular issue is their continued use of Blue Dye (Dyofix) and while not banned in this country, the use of such a substance should be carefully controlled. The product is used by anglers, normally in a commercial fishery scenario, to increase and support fish growth. It should not be used in any situation where the water body (the point of use) flows into any open watercourse. It has been established that Wingerworth Lido is connected and does flow to the nearby Thickett Brook.</p> <p>One of the most recent issues (July-24) were the deaths of some new-born cygnets from discarded fishing line and hooks. These matters were reported to the Police. Whilst the incident cannot be 100% linked to the fishing club, it just demonstrates the issues around allowing fishing at the location. The incident led to the Council receiving 4no. formal complaints from local residents, 4no. emails raising concerns about the CCDAA, a further 3no. letters complaining about the club's management of the fishing rights at the site.</p> <p>Representations have also been made on a number of occasions by one of the [REDACTED] Local Members [REDACTED] regarding the CCDAA's fishing management and control of their members.</p>
4. Summary and Future Proposals	
4.1	<p>The proposal is that the arrangement with the CCDAA would not be permitted to continue beyond the current annual period for which they have paid (expires 03/03/25). If these proposals are supported the appropriate Notice to Quit would be served on the club to vacate the site on or before the 03/03/25 and they would have 6-months to make the necessary arrangements.</p> <p>Under the terms of the agreement determination can be triggered by either party and the Council do not have to give any specific reason as to why they are serving notice to quit – it is sufficient to say that they are just bringing the agreement to an end.</p> <p>The Council's position would then be that "No Fishing" is allowed at this location and the appropriate signs would be erected around the lido.</p> <p>The proposals are for the Council to obtain vacant possession of the lido site (free from the fishing rights and the controversy that they bring) and then promote the location as one of the district's premier destinations for bio-diversity and a great place to visit.</p> <p>The above proposal would be aligned with the new Council Plan – making the NEDDC a great place that cares for the environment and increase bio-diversity across the district.</p>

Lido Location Plan



Lease Agreement with Clay Cross and District Angling Association (CCDAA) – dated 30 August 2006

L1253
Stored with
L695

THIS DEED made the day of 30th August 2006

BETWEEN (1) NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL of Council House Saltergate Chesterfield Derbyshire S40 1LF (hereinafter called "the Council") and (2) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] ("the Tenants" being the present trustees of the Clay Cross and District Angling Association)

WITNESSES as follows:

1 Definitions

In this document the following expressions have the meanings set out below (unless the context otherwise requires)

- 1.1 "the Plan" means the plan enclosed with this document
- 1.2 "the Lido" means so much of the Lido as flows through the Council's property known between the points marked A and B and shown coloured red on the Plan
- 1.3 "the Club" means the Clay Cross and District Angling Association
- 1.4 "the Fishing Rights" means the exclusive right to fish in the Lido

2 Demise

In consideration of the Tenants' covenants the Council grants to the Tenants on behalf of themselves and the other members for the time being of the Club and their lawful visitors the Fishing Rights - TOGETHER with the right of access from and to the public highway shown on the Plan and of passing along the banks of the Lido between the points marked A and B on the Plan for the purpose of the Fishing Rights but not for any other purpose TO HOLD the same to the Tenants for the term of 5 years from the 1st day of December 2005 paying during the tenancy annually (and proportionately for any fraction of a year) the rent of £400 plus value added tax

3 Tenants' Covenants

The Tenants jointly and severally covenant with the Council that they and every member for the time being of the Club will comply with the conditions specified in the First Schedule

4 Council's Covenants

The Council covenants with the Tenants to comply with the conditions specified in the second schedule

5 General

PROVIDED ALWAYS and it is agreed that the provisions specified in the third schedule apply to the arrangements agreed between the parties

6 Successors

The expressions Council and Tenants where the context so admits include their respective successors in title (which in the case of the Tenants means the trustees for the time being of the Club)

7 I/WE certify that there is no agreement for Lease (or Tack) to which this Lease (or Tack) gives effect

IN WITNESS whereof the Council has caused its Common Seal and the Trustees have set their hands the day and year first before written

FIRST SCHEDULE
Tenants' Obligations

1 Rent

To pay the rent on the days and in the manner specified

2 Rates

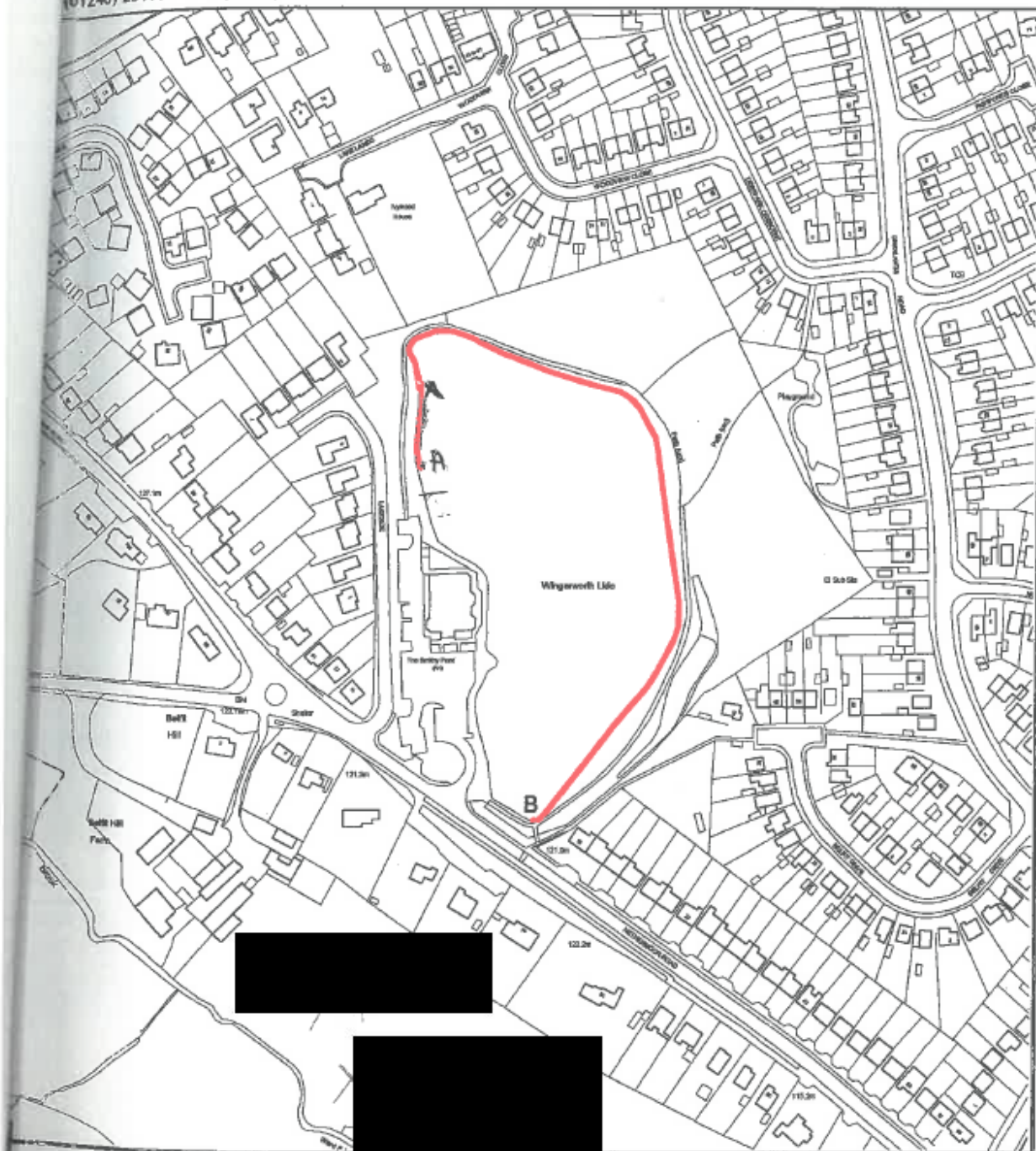
To pay all rates taxes and outgoings in respect of the Fishing Rights

3 Fish Stocks

To protect and preserve the fish in the Lido including spawn and young fish and to restock the Lido as deemed necessary

B.Sc., M.A., M.R.T.P.I.
 Planning & Development
 NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
 COUNCIL HOUSE, SALTERGATE,
 STERFIELD, DERBYSHIRE S40 1LF
 (01246) 231111 Fax: (01246) 217446

North East
 Derbyshire
 District Council



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NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Version No. 130010005 2005

Scale 1 : 2500



Plan No. 20347

FISHING RIGHTS ON WINGERWORTH LIDO

4 Protect Banks

To exercise the Fishing Rights and to use their best endeavours to ensure that the same are exercised by all members of the Club so as not to cause damage to the banks of the Lido and to the Council and other holding lands on or adjoining such banks and to pay full compensation for any damage caused by such exercise

5 Exercise of Rights

To exercise the Fishing Rights and to use their best endeavours to ensure that the same are exercised by all members of the Club in a fair and sportsmanlike manner by fair rod and line angling

6 Nets

Not to attempt to capture or permit the capture of fish by netting except for the removal of coarse fish or for the sole purpose of procuring fish baits. Not to use or permit to be used for the capture of fish any engine device or apparatus other than rods and lines with ordinary landing nets as auxiliary to them

7 Fishing by Members

Not to permit the Fishing Rights to be exercised by any persons other than registered members of the Club not at any one time exceeding 50 in number and to issue to each member a membership card which if required must be produced to the Council or its authorised representative or with the Councils written consent upon terms that the Council considers appropriate to members of the general public

8 Bailiffs

To employ at the Tenants' expense at least one full time competent bailiff to supervise the Lido and protect the fish in it and to expel all persons poaching or trespassing on the Lido for the purpose of fishing

9 Claim by Third Party

To give immediate notice to the Council if any third party under a claim of right or otherwise attempts to take fish from the Lido and to permit the Council at its own expense to use the name of the Tenants in any proceedings against any unauthorised person attempting to capture fish in the Lido

10 Assignment

Not to assign underlet or transfer the Fishing Rights or any part of them (except for the purpose of vesting the same in the trustees for the time being of the Club) or to grant licences to fish in the Lido except to members of the Club

11 Byelaws

To comply with the fishery byelaws for the time being in force of the Environment Agency for the area

12 Match Fishing

Charity fishing matches are permitted, however there is to be no more than 5 per year and non charitable fishing matches are not to be carried out or permitted on the Lido whatsoever

13 Indemnity

To indemnify the Council against all claims proceedings costs and expenses arising from or in connection with the grant of the Fishing Rights (EXCEPT to the extent that the same is shown to have been caused by the negligence of the Council or its employees or agents) - PROVIDED that the Council may not settle or compromise any such claims or proceedings without the written consent of the Tenants (such consent not to be unreasonably withheld)

14 Yield Up

At the end or sooner determination of the tenancy peaceably to yield up the Fishing Rights to the Council

15 Payment of Costs

To pay the Council's reasonable legal costs incurred in connection with the preparation of this lease and its Counterpart and all matters connected herewith

16 Keep Clear

To ensure that the part of the Lido to be fished is kept clear of weeds and plants some all such as are necessary for the proper maintenance and health of fish and after having obtained the prior written approval of the councils Deputy Chief Executive (Service Delivery) for the time being.

17 Daylight Hours Only

To permit fishing only during the hours of daylight

18 Fishing from Reed Beds

To only fish in the area of reed beds from stands built by the Club to the entire satisfaction of the Council's Deputy Chief Executive (Service Delivery) for the time being

19 Not to permit harm or injury or interference with birds wildfowl or other wildlife present or resident in the Lido

20 To notify forthwith the council's Deputy Chief Executive (Service Delivery) for the time being of any damaged missing or defective equipment whether life saving or otherwise

SECOND SCHEDULE
Council's Obligations

1 Banks

To keep the banks of the Lido in good condition and on receiving written notice from the Tenants immediately to make good any

14 Yield Up

At the end or sooner determination of the tenancy peaceably to yield up the Fishing Rights to the Council

15 Payment of Costs

To pay the Council's reasonable legal costs incurred in connection with the preparation of this lease and its Counterpart and all matters connected herewith

16 Keep Clear

To ensure that the part of the Lido to be fished is kept clear of weeds and plants some all such as are necessary for the proper maintenance and health of fish and after having obtained the prior written approval of the councils Deputy Chief Executive (Service Delivery) for the time being.

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To only fish in the area of reed beds from stands built by the Club to the entire satisfaction of the Council's Deputy Chief Executive (Service Delivery) for the time being

19 Not to permit harm or injury or interference with birds wildfowl or other wildlife present or resident in the Lido

20 To notify forthwith the council's Deputy Chief Executive (Service Delivery) for the time being of any damaged missing or defective equipment whether life saving or otherwise

SECOND SCHEDULE
Council's Obligations

1 Banks

To keep the banks of the Lido in good condition and on receiving written notice from the Tenants immediately to make good any

- 2.3 if the Club, its trustees or committee for the time being make any arrangements with the creditors of the Club
- 2.4 if any member or lawful visitor of the Club commits a breach of any of the conditions numbered specified in the first schedule
- 2.5 if there is a persistent or continued breach of any other condition specified in the first schedule

3 Determination by either Party

Either party may determine the grant of the Fishing Rights at the end of the third upon giving 6 months previous notice in writing to the other (but without prejudice to any subsisting right of action of either party under this document)

4 Exclusion of Members

The Council may exclude from the exercise and enjoyment of the Fishing Rights any person who fails to produce his membership card or other authority as a visitor of the Club to the Council or his authorised representative when required or who commits a breach of any of the conditions specified in the first schedule PROVIDED that such exclusion will not remain in force for more than 28 days in respect of each such failure or breach

5 Repair and Renovation Work

- 5.1 The Council reserves the right to carry out repair and renovation work to the banks and walls of the Lido irrespective of water levels being reduced thereby
- 5.2 The Council further reserves the right to request that fishing shall cease during any period of water levels being reduced as referred to in paragraph 5.1 to this Schedule and the Club shall comply forthwith with such request
- 5.3 The Council also reserves the right to inspect the inlets and outflows of the Lido and to carry out all necessary works consequent thereon

6 Notices

Section 196 of the Law of Property Act 1925 as amended by the Recorded Delivery Service Act 1962 applies to any notices to be served under this document

7 Arbitration

- 7.1 If any dispute arises between the parties in relation to this document the same is to be referred for determination by a single arbitrator under the Arbitration Acts 1950 to 1979 or any statutory modification or re-enactment for the time being in force
- 7.2 The arbitrator is to be agreed to in writing by the parties or failing such agreement within one month is to be nominated by the President for the time being of the Salmon and Trout Association

SIGNED AS A DEED by the said)
)
in the presence of:)

Witness Signature

Witness Name:

Witness Address:

Witness Occupation:

SIGNED AS A DEED by the said)

in the presence of

Witness Signature

Witness Name:

Witness Address:

Witness Occupation

3-12-04

Dated 30th August 2008 2008

NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

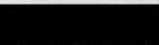
to

CLAY CROSS AND DISTRICT
ANGLING ASSOCIATION

Counterpart
LEASE

Lease of Fishing Rights
at Wingerworth Lido

File Ref: Win 26/2


Head of Legal and Democratic
Services
North East Derbyshire District
Council
Council House
Saltergate
Chesterfield
S40 1LF

157ep09/LD/MD

Notice to Quit – CCDA



**North East
Derbyshire**
District Council

NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF FISHING RIGHTS AT SO MUCH OF THE LIDO AS FLOWS
THROUGH THE COUNCIL'S PROPERTY BETWEEN POINTS A to B SHOWN COLOURED RED
ON THE PLAN ATTACHED.

TO: [REDACTED] Secretary of Clay Cross and District Angling Association, c/o [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Chairman of Clay Cross and District
Angling Association, [REDACTED] (Tenant)

FROM: **NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**, whose office is at District Council
Offices, 2013, Mill Lane, Wingerworth, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S42 6NG (Landlord)

PREMISES: Fishing Right over so much of the Lido as flows through the council's property between
points A to B shown coloured red on the plan attached.

We, NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL **GIVE YOU NOTICE** in accordance with the
Agreement dated 30th August 2006 that we, require you to give vacant possession of the Premises
on 2 June 2025 so that the Fishing Right of the Premises will come to an end on that date.

During the Notice Period the Clay Cross and District Angling Association

- Must not use BLUE DYE at the Premises
- The Fishing Pegs are to be left in place until North East Derbyshire District Council notify the
Clay Cross and District Angling Association that they can be removed. Removal may be after
the 6 month notice period has expired to allow time for the Council to obtain an ecology report
with regard to the habitat of the White Clawed Crayfish
- The Clay Cross and District Angling Club notice board must be removed at the end of the
Notice Period.

SIGNED:.....

Authorised Officer of North East Derbyshire District Council

Name:

Position:

DATED:.....

North East Derbyshire District Council, District Council Offices, 2013 Mill Lane,
Wingerworth, Chesterfield, S42 6NG. www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk

