

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.

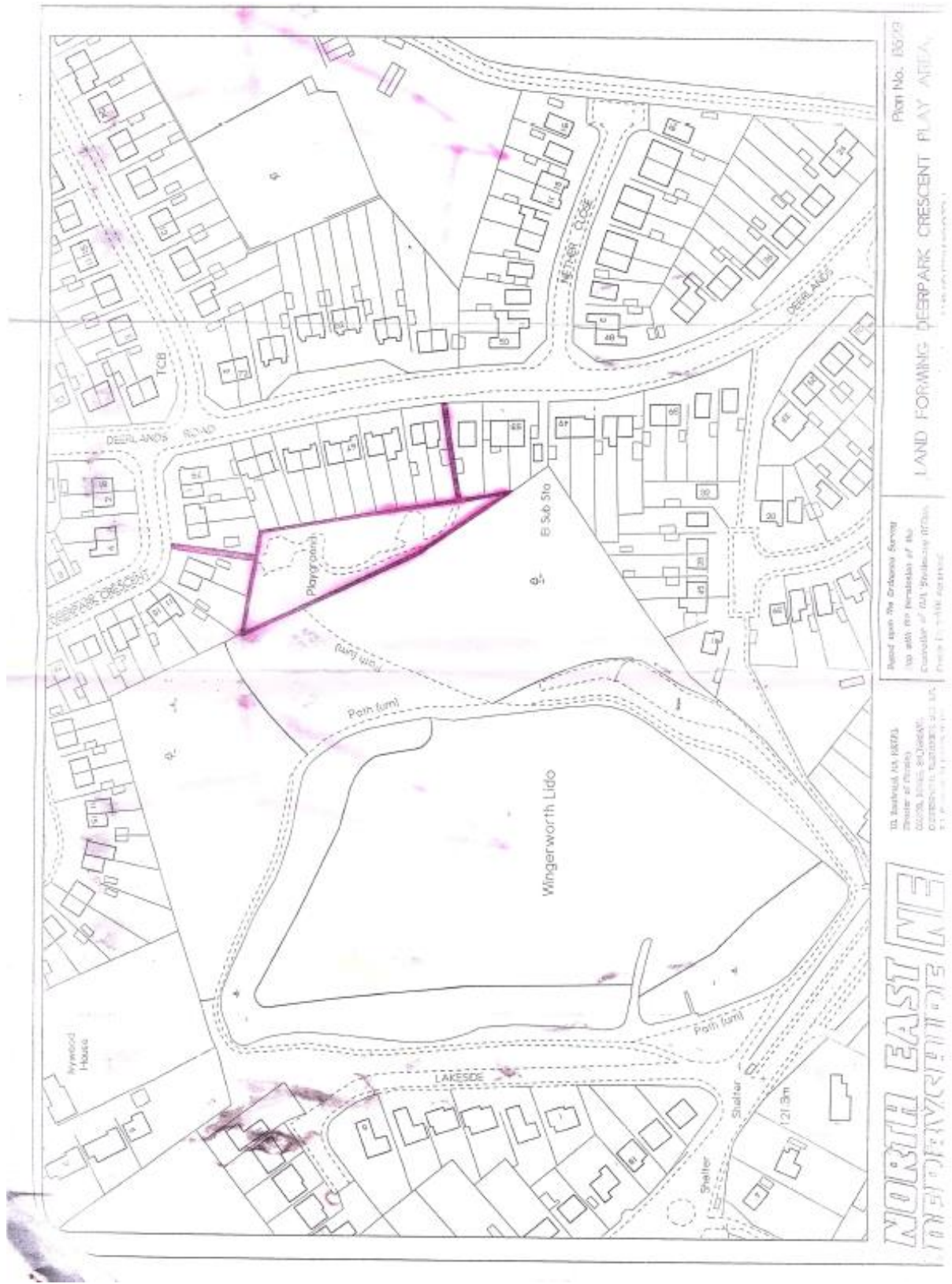
For example, perhaps a certain area or areas of the pond could be designated for other uses, subject to more detailed discussions undertaken, as part of this review.

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



NORTH EAST
PLANNING

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 Director of Planning
 NORTH EAST PLANNING
 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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Based upon the Ordnance Survey
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 Controller of the Ordnance Survey
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Plot No. 18721
LAND FORMING DEERPARK CRESCENT PLAY AREA

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 | 38 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 |

DERBYSHIRE AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE GROUP

A member group of ARG-UK

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 smart Newt, 1 casualties Newt casualty |

casualties

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% |

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

██████████

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





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.

[REDACTED]

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, 

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 sender.

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] <[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.



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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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- 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.

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