

invertebrates including different dragonfly and damselfly species that require a wide variety of vegetation types. All of these features are essential in supporting large populations of waterbirds. In common with other freshwater systems, artificial water bodies are susceptible to the introduction of invasive species such as non-native crayfish and Nuttall's waterweed *Elodea nuttallii*. Some management may be necessary to control these where they occur.

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

There are major military airfields in the vicinity of the SSSI and, in the interests of public and pilot safety, some of the lakes are subject to disturbance and control activities to manage the risk of bird strike to aircraft operating from those airfields. It is anticipated that there will be a need for that activity to continue to be managed through, among other things, the production and implementation of bird hazard management plans and in accordance with the statutory processes for assents and consents.

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

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