

Note on Proposed Works:

The reason for this work is that the nationally important feature on this site is the Oligotrophic lake which is classed a SSSI due to the aquatic plant communities that live on the site.

Due to increasing PH levels, this site is losing its acidic loving plant communities and has therefore been described by Natural England as “unfavourable”.

A million pound recovery plan has been put in place by Natural England, Thames Water and WBC with the key elements of work being:

- 1; Remove silt sediment from the lake (reduce nutrient levels within the water body)
- 2; Install silt interceptors on the lakes inlet to ensure sediment and pollutants are captured before entering the lake.
- 3; Removal of tree canopies from around the lake margins to reduce sediment build up via leaf litter. This will also reduce the organic matter entering the lake and as such raising PH levels and reduce shading which would allow some of the marginal species of plant to establish.

<https://www.thameswater.co.uk/media-library/home/about-us/investing-in-our-region/Improvements-in-your-area/heath-lake-introduction-to-the-scheme.pdf>