

River Avon System Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Operations Likely to Damage the Features of Special Interest (OLD)

(Please note that certain exclusions and other relevant information are defined in the footnotes)

Standard Reference Number	Operation
1	Cultivation including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing and re-seeding except as defined in Footnote 1
2	The introduction of grazing and alterations to grazing regimes (including type of stock, intensity or seasonal pattern of grazing)
3	Introduction of stock feeding and alterations to stock feeding practice
4	Alterations to mowing or cutting regimes on agricultural land (including a change from hay-making to silage). The introduction of mowing or cutting vegetation to new areas, including cutting and mowing to make new fishing paths, extend existing ones or re,open disused ones
5	Application of manure, slurry, silage liquor, fertilisers and lime
6	Application of pesticides, herbicides and veterinary products, whether terrestrial or aquatic except for: the spot-spray or wick (weed-wipe) treatment, in accordance with correct practice and application (as defined in footnote 2) of creeping thistle, spear thistle, nettle, broad-leaved dock, butterbur, Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam, common ragwort, giant hogweed and other notifiable agricultural weeds
7	Dumping, spreading or discharging of any materials (including effluent disposal) <u>for</u> works defined in footnotes 1 and 3
8	The introduction of burning, and alterations to the pattern or frequency of burning
9	Release into the site of any wild, feral, captive bred or domestic animal*, plant, seed or micro-organism (including genetically modified organisms) except for <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. brown trout, as currently** undertaken, as defined in Footnotes 4 and 5 ii. game birds as currently** undertaken
10	Killing, injuring, taking or removal of any live wild animal*or their eggs and nests, including pest control, and disturbing them in their places of shelter (see Footnote 5) except for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. fishing with rod and line for all game and coarse fish quarry species <u>other than</u> brook, river and sea lampreys, bullhead and stone loach ii. the operation of any existing fixed eel traps for catching eels iii. mink, brown rat, rabbit, grey squirrel, mice, mole, deer, fox, wasps (where nests in or by the river banks are causing a nuisance) and any non-native crayfish species, by lawful means iv. game birds and species covered by a DoE General Licence (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended 1991) or any specific DoE or MAFF licence

- 11 Destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant or plant remains, including tree, shrub, herb, hedge, dead or decaying wood, alga, moss, lichen and fungus **except for:**
- i. selective cutting and removal of submerged and emergent water plants and river bank vegetation as currently**undertaken for fishery purposes (see Footnote 5)
 - ii. the mowing of existing fishing paths and rotational scrub control as currently** undertaken
- 12 The introduction of or alteration to tree and woodland management including planting of trees and shrubs, and clear or block felling in woodland **except for**
- i. the replacement of individual trees following their loss, with a locally appropriate native species
 - ii. pollarding, pruning or tree surgery, and felling of individual trees for safety reasons or in compliance with felling regulations
- 13a The introduction of or alterations to drainage, including the installation of mole, tile, tunnel or other artificial drains
- 13b Modification to the structure of water courses (rivers, streams, springs, ditches, dykes and drains) including their banks and beds, as by re-alignment, infilling, damming, regrading, revetment, sheet piling and narrowing (see footnote 1)
- 13c Dredging, including the removal of vegetated silt accretions, and damage or disturbance of the river bed **except** for river bed cleaning outside spawning seasons (see Footnote 5)
- 14 Water impoundment, storage and alterations to water levels and tables. Abstraction from surface and ground water bodies and water utilisation including irrigation and the introduction or restoration of water meadow flooding except as defined in Footnote 3
- 15 Infilling or digging of ditches, dykes, drains, ponds, pools, marshes and pits
- 16a The introduction of, and alterations to, salmonid, eel and freshwater fish rearing and aquaculture
- 20 Extraction of minerals including peat, shingle, sand and gravel, topsoil, sub-soil, clay and chalk **except for** traditional bank maintenance and repair purposes (see Footnote 1)
- 21 Destruction, construction, removal, rerouting or regrading of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hard stands, banks, ditches or other earthworks, or the laying, maintenance or removal of pipelines and cables, above or below ground **except** as part of traditional bank maintenance and repair (see Footnote 1)
- 22 Storage of materials **except** as part of traditional bank maintenance and repair operations (see Footnote 1)
- 23 Erection of permanent or temporary structures including fences, huts, bridges, board walks, deflectors, groynes and other structures, the undertaking of engineering works including drilling; **except for:** the repair and maintenance or replacement *in situ* of existing and functioning fences, deflectors, groynes, revetments, board walks, bridges, duck hides, huts and shelters

- 26 Use of vehicles away from existing roads and tracks, and those river banks normally driven along, and the use of craft on the river **except for**
- i. Craft used on the river for fishing and fishery management
 - ii. Agricultural vehicles used for agricultural purposes and mowing machinery on fishing paths
- 27 Introduction of recreational activities, including water sports and 'war-games'.
- 28a The introduction of, and alterations to, game or waterfowl management and hunting practice (includes the introduction of mink hunting with hounds).

* includes any mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish or invertebrate

** "currently" is used to denote activities that are undertaken on a regular basis and at least once within the 5 year period preceding designation of the Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which are now carried out at the same location and the same level of intensity as the last time before the date of notification

FOOTNOTES

1. The repair and maintenance of river banks (ref OLDS 1, 7, 13b, 20, 21, 22)

Certain types of traditional bank repair and maintenance, where such management is already undertaken shall not constitute "Operations Likely to Damage the Special Interest". These are operations dealing with recent erosion and collapse of the bank or path, or repair, maintenance and replacement of existing revetments and bank piling. They constitute the placement and spreading of locally appropriate material, eg chalk, river gravels and local soil. Where possible the original topsoil/turfes shall be replaced as far as is practical, otherwise shall be reseeded with a native grass seed mix appropriate to the location and reflecting the natural vegetation type

2. The use of weedkillers (ref OLD 6)

"*Correct practice and application*" shall be construed as meaning compliance with the requirements of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 and any regulations made under that Act, with particular reference to the Control Of Pesticides Regulations 1986 (COPR). It also comprises approved usage as relates to the product in question, as well as any Environment Agency licence/consent and MAFF or other appropriate guidance issued with the aim of safeguarding aquatic and wetland habitats and wildlife.

3. Alteration of water levels, abstractions and discharges (ref OLDS 7, 14)

The alteration of water levels with hatches and sluices operates largely through traditional arrangements and cooperation between land managers and the Environment Agency. Such operations shall not constitute "Operations likely to Damage the Special Interest" where currently** practised to apportion water flows between river channels (eg to disperse cut weed and feed subsidiary channels that normally flow), unless:

- a. The activity requires a consent from the Environment Agency that has not been issued
- b. No individual channel is deprived of a significant proportion of its average annual flow for more than five days

4. Stocking with brown trout (ref OLD 9)

Where currently** undertaken under the necessary authorisations and where not affecting the long term survival of indigenous wild brown trout or salmon populations, stocking with brown trout shall not constitute an Operation Likely to Damage the features of Special Interest

5. Fishing and fishery operations, including water weed cutting (ref OLDS 9, 10 and 11)

These activities are subject to regulation by the Environment Agency through byelaws, licences and consents. Where such activities comply with the appropriate regulation English Nature will not require prior notice to be given. However, the exception of any particular ongoing practices from this list cannot be construed as an endorsement b) English Nature which could be used against any future changes in policy or the introduction of strategies and byelaws intended by the Environment Agency to regulate these activities.