

**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

# **Application for designation of a bathing water under the Bathing Water Directive**

## **Henleaze Lake, Bristol**

**November 2013**

### **Contents**

Background.....	1
Evidence for designation as a bathing water .....	2
Bathing numbers .....	2
Facilities .....	2
Lake management and water quality .....	2
Consultation.....	3

# Background

**Location:** Lake Road, Henleaze, Bristol BS10 5HG

**Grid reference:** ST 580774

**Owner:** Henleaze Swimming Club

**Applicant:** Henleaze Swimmng Club

**Date of application:** 16 October 2013

Henleaze Swimming Club has applied for Henleaze Lake to be designated as a bathing water under the Bathing Water Directive. The lake is a former limestone quarry which closed in 1910. Swimming was established at the site in the same year. Henleaze Swimming Club was formed in 1919 to enforce safety and manage swimming access, and purchased the lake and its grounds in 1933. The Club is run on a voluntary basis and became a registered charity (Charity number 1132633) in 2010 with the objects of:

- Promoting the health of the inhabitants of Bristol and the surrounding area by providing facilities for open water swimming and such other facilities for health exercise as the Executive Committee shall from time to time determine.
- Providing or assisting in the provision of open water swimming and other facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation, such facilities being provided at Henleaze Lake for the benefit of the inhabitants of Bristol and the surrounding area with the object of improving their conditions of life.

The lake is deep and has steep rocky sides, making it impossible for a swimmer to stand up. Members and guests must therefore pass a 50 metre swimming test in the lake before being accepted. The lake is also available to outside groups for swimming and other water-based activities, including:

- Open water swimming training for Bristol & District Triathletes; sessions for groups and individuals training for English Channel and other long distance swimming events; groups and individuals training for open water competitive swimming events.
- Lifesaving training: the Club, in conjunction with the Royal Lifesaving Society (RLSS) South West, runs the RLSS Open Water Activity Supervisor Qualification at the lake, as well as providing access to a number of RLSS groups for training sessions.
- Emergency rescue training sessions for Bristol Diving Club

- The lake is the venue for the Gloucester County Amateur Swimming Association Open Water Championship, which has been held annually at the Lake since 1999.

The lake has also been used as a location for films and television programmes promoting open water swimming.

## Evidence for designation as a bathing water

### Bathing numbers

Membership in 2013 stands at just over 1800 members.

Year	Number of swimming visits (May – September)	Maximum number of swimmers on one day
2011	10,500	450
2012	13,146	450
2013	20,000	806

### Facilities

The following facilities are available:

- Onsite staff during the swimming season including lifeguards, life savers and first aiders
- Diving springboards and diving stages
- Changing rooms, toilets and showers
- Bicycle and car parking
- Club room with tea and coffee making facilities
- Close to public transport

## Lake management and water quality

The Club is managed by a voluntary Executive Committee, with day to day management carried out by paid superintendents, grounds person and administrator.

In addition to swimming there are facilities for fishing at the lake, managed by the Club's Angling Section and supervised by voluntary angling bailiffs.

The Club uses a freshwater management specialist, AES Europe, to advise on water quality issues and operates a reserve policy that would allow it to deal with any water

quality or other issues that would affect swimmers' safety. They intend to continue to operate this policy if the lake becomes a designated bathing water.

## Consultation

The Club posted information about the application for designation at the lake and on its website to ask for comments from members and neighbours. They have also consulted Bristol City Council, the Environment Agency and Wessex Water, and have confirmed that the City Council supports the application.

© Crown copyright 2013

You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/) or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or e-mail: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk)

This document/publication is also available on our website at:

[www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

Any enquiries regarding this document/publication should be sent to us at:

Bathing Water Team  
Nobel House, Area 3D  
17 Smith Square  
London SW1P 3JR

Email: [bathingwater@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:bathingwater@defra.gsi.gov.uk)