

The Camping and Caravanning Club (Limited by Guarantee)

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27 March 2023

To: All Club Unit Secretaries

Dear Secretary

As Secretary to a Club Unit, you may be aware of the ongoing challenges the Club faces with regards to legislation around Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and their associated catchment areas and buffer zones within the UK. To support Club Units with this matter, Green Paper 3.22 has been in circulation for some time and sets out the legislation, as well as listing those areas of the UK we know are currently enforcing legislation to assist in protecting SSSIs.

The Club will be made aware of the enforcement through the Local Authorities, as notification must be given when a Club Unit operates a THS. Once the Club establishes that a geographical area/region has put measures in to protect SSSIs, the Club will then consult with the Local Authority and Natural England to understand how we can proceed.

In the worst-case scenario this could be that certain venues are no longer viable due to the possible impact camping may have on the concerns the Local Authority have identified. However, the most common route is that in order to use land in this area for a Club Camping Event, a mitigation payment can be made to cover the time on site and any detrimental impact.

Unfortunately, Natural England have not decreed what the mitigation payment process or amounts should be and allow the Local Authorities to set this charge and mechanism.

In addition to those listed in Green Paper 3.22, North Norfolk District Council and Kings Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council have recently applied SSSI status to land within their districts, and highlighted the need to consult with them.

I would like to reassure all Club Units that as areas are highlighted to us, we take every action to consult with the Local Authority and Natural England to fully understand what we can do to try and mitigate any impacts and enable Club events to proceed. However, this is outside of the Club's control, and we are at the mercy of the Local Authority to give clarity and where applicable, the mitigation values.

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Director General: Sabina Voysey

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In relation to North Norfolk District Council and Kings Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council, we are in early stages of consultation with both Local Authorities and Natural England. As the process is also new to them, it will take time to reach a solution.

Whilst the Club progresses these conversations with the Local Authorities we have had to take the decision to cancel a small number of Meets and THSs that fall within the SSSI catchment areas and were due to take place prior to the end of August 2023. This is regrettable, but a necessity to ensure the Club protects its Exemptions and works with the authorities to reach a suitable outcome, which both protects Club camping and the members involved in these events.

All organisers of the impacted events have been contacted and advised of the situation; they have also been supplied with a short statement to assist them when explaining the need to cancel to members. Therefore, **if you have not heard from the Exempted Camping Team with regards to your event, you can be confident it is not impacted at this time and can proceed as planned.**

For complete clarity, the following are the proposed venues impacted by the current consultation with North Norfolk District Council and Kings Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council and have therefore been cancelled. Please note, if you are thinking of using one of these venues in the future, permission will not be given until such time that the mitigation structure has been clarified by the relevant Local Authority:

Cancelled THSs (Prior to 31st August 23):

Eastern Region	HS3194/2023	Norfolk & Suffolk DA	28/04/2023	7617	Keith Farm
Eastern Region	HS2173/2023	BCC - East & West Yorks Section	21/05/2023	246	Whittletons Farm
Eastern Region	HS1805/2023	West Essex DA	26/05/2023	7617	Keith Farm
Eastern Region	HS3231/2023	Norfolk & Suffolk DA	18/06/2023	878	North Walsham Football Club
Eastern Region	HS2080/2023	East Essex DA	08/07/2023	7617	Keith Farm
Eastern Region	HS2936/2023	Norfolk & Suffolk DA	09/07/2023	502	Star Inn
Eastern Region	HS2184/2023	BCC - East & West Yorks Section	16/07/2023	246	Whittletons Farm
Eastern Region	HS2683/2023	Eastern Region	20/07/2023	598	Heacham Social Club
Eastern Region	HS2802/2023	Central Counties Region	21/07/2023	129	Sandringham Estate
Eastern Region	HS4074/2023	Northants DA	22/07/2023	1081	Cromer Academy
Eastern Region	HS3914/2023	Norfolk & Suffolk DA	23/07/2023	951	Wells County Primary School
Eastern Region	HS1442/2023	Trailer Tent & Folding Camper Group Section	31/07/2023	502	Star Inn
Eastern Region	HS2321/2023	Norfolk & Suffolk DA	03/08/2023	874	Sheringham High School
Eastern Region	HS3653/2023	Norfolk & Suffolk DA	03/08/2023	6601	St John's Community Primary School
Eastern Region	HS1814/2023	West Essex DA	11/08/2023	7617	Keith Farm
Eastern Region	HS2006/2023	South Lincolnshire DA	11/08/2023	598	Heacham Social Club
Eastern Region	HS1507/2023	Eastern Region	12/08/2023	1119	Keelers Meadow

Cancelled Meets (Prior to 31st August 23):

Eastern Region	M7323/2023	Norfolk & Suffolk DA	06/04/2023	874	Sheringham High School
Eastern Region	M3588/2023	BCC - Norfolk Section	06/04/2023	951	Wells County Primary School

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Under consultation to establish if licensed pitches are being used (Currently mitigation is not required on Licensed Pitches)– awaiting confirmation from Club Unit;

Eastern Region	HS1966/2023	BCC - Norfolk Section	29/06/2023	960	Breck Farm
Eastern Region	HS1971/2023	BCC - Norfolk Section	15/07/2023	4735	Glebe House School


As more information becomes available, we will as always, update the relevant Green Paper, to ensure all Club units remain informed at all times.

Unfortunately, a posting on an unofficial 'Club' related social media channel appears to have caused significant confusion and alarm. **Please note, at this time, only the sites indicated above are affected, and until such time that we are told differently by the Local Authority, all other events can proceed without mitigation.**

For clarity, **the Club has no influence over the application of this legislation.** All we can do is work with the Local Authorities as and when they choose to implement the mitigation payments. In rare cases the local authority are saying that camping cannot take place at all.

As always, should you have any questions regarding THSs or Meets the Exempted Camping Team are available and more than happy to help on 02476 475198.

Yours sincerely



Sabina Voysey
Director General