

Proposed fencing of Moon Lake and Marys Lake

See our FAQ below for Frequently Asked Questions.

Moon Lake and Marys Lake sit alongside the Wildlife Trust Summer Leys nature reserve and together form part of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits, a series of pits that are of international importance for overwintering waterbirds. They have been designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) and are regularly visited by good numbers of overwintering birds such as Gadwall, Wigeon, Pochard and Tufted duck.

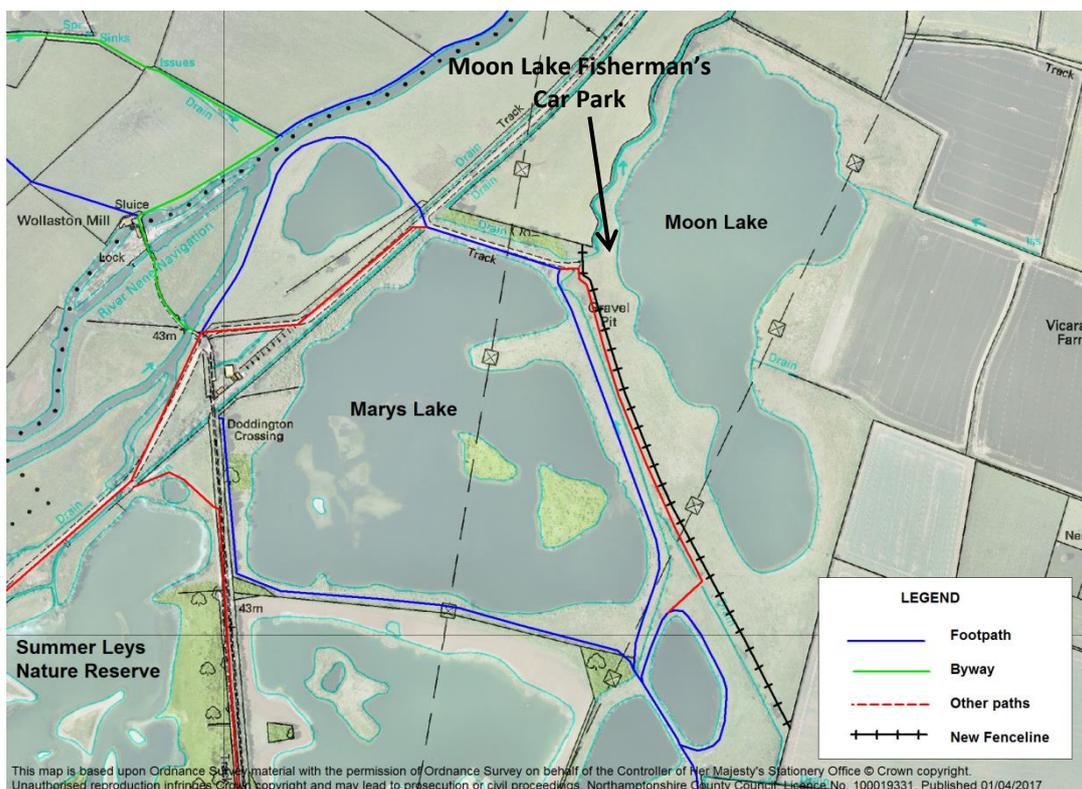
These lakes are one of the most publically accessible areas of the SPA, due to a network of rights of way, permitted paths and informal access. Public disturbance and lack of management have been identified as the main threats to the wildlife of the sites.

Moon Lake

Moon Lake is managed by the landowner under advice from Natural England and is the least visited of the lakes in this area, as there are no rights of way around the lake and access is not possible all the way around. There is a large area of grassland around the lake which has become covered in scrub in recent years, meaning it is less suitable as grazing habitat for the waterbirds using the lake.

The Wildlife Trust is working with the Natural England, Wellingborough Council and the landowner to address the disturbance and management issues on the site. The aim is to allow management through scrub clearance and grazing, and provide an undisturbed area of open water at Moon Lake.

It is therefore proposed to construct a fenceline as shown below to create a grazing unit around Moon Lake and create an undisturbed area for birds. The fenceline will not impact on any of the current rights of way and access will be possible along the western edge as shown.



Marys Lake

We are also aware that the Angling Club are considering putting an otter fence around Marys Lake. Whilst this is their own project we will be liaising with them to ensure that no rights of way are affected and that signage and footpath surfaces are improved around the lake.

If you have any comments or questions about this proposal please contact the Wider Countryside team at the Wildlife Trust on 01604 405285 or email Northamptonshire@wildlifebcn.org

We will be on-site to explain the project and answer any questions on Thursday 22/03/18, between 9-30am and 12-30pm, and again on Monday 09/04/18, between 1 and 4pm, at the Moon Lake Fisherman's car park (see map for location).

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why you are helping Natural England rather than letting them do it?

This is a joint project to improve the Special Protection Area* (SPA) for wild birds. We are local and better placed to manage contractors and liaise with the local community. Restoring grassland will benefit the SPA species, ensuring the legal obligation for the SPA is met. Left unmanaged the site will decline.

When is work likely to start and what if people have concerns?

There will be scrub clearance before the end of March and fencing in April. We are happy to listen to concerns (please contact us at Northamptonshire@wildlifebcn.org) but need to be able to meet the legal requirements to manage the SPA.

Why a fence not a hedge?

We need to stock proof the site so grazing animals don't escape, which is why a fence is necessary.

*A **Special Protection Area** (SPA) is a designation under the European Union Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds. Under the Directive, Member States of the European Union (EU) have a duty to safeguard the habitats of migratory birds and certain particularly threatened birds.