

## RAMSAR INFORMATION SHEET

### FOR WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Site reference number *4 UK 148*

**1** Compilation date September 2000

**2** Country UK (England)

**3** Name of wetland South West London Waterbodies

**4** Site centre location: Latitude: 51 23 59 N Longitude: 00 23 26 E

**5** Altitude 5-25 m

**6** Area (ha) 828.14

#### **7** Overview

The South West London Waterbodies site comprises a series of reservoirs and former gravel pits that support internationally important numbers of wintering *Anas strepera* and *Anas clypeata*.

**8** Wetland type Inland wetland, Man-made wetland

Code	Name	% Area
6	Reservoirs / barrages / dams	45
7	Gravel / brick / clay pits	25
Other	Other	30

**9** Ramsar Criteria 6

**10** Map of the site ✓

**11** Compiler Joint Nature Conservation Committee  
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City Road  
Peterborough  
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#### **12** Justification of criteria

##### **Ramsar criterion 6**

Over winter the site regularly supports internationally important populations of: Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

#### **13** General location

The site is comprised of a series of discrete waterbodies in the Thames Valley between Windsor and Hampton Court.

**Administrative Region:** Greater London, Berkshire, Surrey

#### **14** Physical Features

Soil & Geology	alluvium, clay, gravel, mud, neutral
Geomorphology and Landscape	floodplain, lowland, valley
Nutrient status	no information
PH	circumneutral
Salinity	fresh
Soil	mainly mineral
Water permanence	usually permanent
Summary of main climatic features	Rainy, temperate climate with a mild winter and periodic frost. Mean minimum temperature approximately 7.8°C. Mean

maximum temperature approximately 14.7°C. Mean annual precipitation approximately 548.7mm, with a winter maximum.
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## 15 Hydrological values

Public water supply

## 16 Ecological features

Open water, plus associated wetland habitats including grassland and woodland supporting a number of wetland plant and animal species including internationally important numbers of wintering wildfowl.

## 17 Noteworthy flora

None

## 18 Noteworthy fauna

### Birds

**Species occurring at levels of international importance (as identified at designation):**

**Over winter the area regularly supports:**

Gadwall, <i>Anas strepera</i> (Northwestern Europe)	710 individuals, representing an average of 2.4% of the population (Five year peak mean for 1993/94 to 1997/98)
Shoveler, <i>Anas clypeata</i> (Northwestern/Central Europe)	853 individuals, representing an average of 2.1% of the population (Five year peak mean for 1993/94 to 1997/98)

### Nationally important species occurring on the site

*Phalacrocorax carbo, Podiceps cristatus, Aythya ferina, Aythya fuligula, Fulica atra*

## 19 Social and Cultural Values

Aesthetic

Current scientific research

Non-consumptive recreation

Sport fishing

## 20 Land tenure/ownership

Ownership category	On-Site	Off-Site
Local authority, municipality etc.	+	+
Private	+	+
Other	+	+

## 21 Current land use

Activity	On-Site	Off-Site	Scale
Nature conservation	+	+	Large-Scale
Tourism	+	+	Large-Scale
Recreation	+	+	Large-Scale
Research	+	+	Large-Scale
Fishing: recreational/sport	+	+	Large-Scale
Freshwater aquaculture		+	Large-Scale
Grazing (unspecified)		+	Large-Scale
Industry		+	Large-Scale
Mineral exploration	+	+	Large-Scale

Transport route		+	Large-Scale
Domestic water supply	+	+	Large-Scale
Urban development		+	Large-Scale
Non-urbanised settlements		+	Large-Scale

## 22 Adverse factors affecting the ecological character of the site

Activity	On-Site	Off-Site	Scale
Vegetation succession	+	+	Large-Scale
Water diversion for irrigation/domestic/industrial use	+		Large-Scale
Recreational/tourism disturbance (unspecified)	+	+	Large-Scale
General disturbance from human activities	+	+	Large-Scale
Mining exploitation/exploration	+		Large-Scale
Transport infrastructure development		+	Large-Scale
Unspecified development: industry		+	Large-Scale
Unspecified development: urban use		+	Large-Scale
Other factor	+	+	Large-Scale

## 23 Conservation measures taken

Conservation measure	On-site	Off-site
SSSI	+	+
SPA	+	

## 24 Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented

see below

### Site vulnerability and management statement

There is an issue surrounding the potential future decommissioning of reservoirs once they are no longer required for the purposes of water supply; as well as the potential impacts of maintenance works, which may require winter draw-down of reservoirs. Discussions will be required with the current owners and occupiers regarding the future management, maintenance and decommissioning of the larger reservoirs, in order to maintain the site's interest.

The threat from potential development pressures in this urbanised and urban-fringe area is largely covered by the relevant provisions of the Conservation Regulations (1994).

Issues such as arresting (or locally reversing) vegetation succession will be addressed via management plans.

Levels of disturbance from recreational activities on one part of the site will be monitored in the winter months to determine their effects on the interest of the site.

## 25 Current scientific research/survey/monitoring and facilities

Wetland Birds Survey Counts

## 26 Current conservation education

None

## 27 Current recreation and tourism

Angling: fishing season only.

Sailing: all year round on gravel pits - club areas and slipways.

Birdwatching: all year round - no facilities.

## 28 Functional jurisdiction

Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions

## **29 Management authority**

English Nature  
Harbour House  
Hythe Quay  
Colchester  
Essex  
CO2 8JF  
UK  
Tel: 01206 796666  
Fax: 01206 794466

## **30 Bibliography**

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- Stroud, D.A., Mudge, G.P. & Pienkowski, M.W. 1990. Protecting internationally important bird sites: a review of the EEC Special Protection Area network in Great Britain. Nature Conservancy Council. Peterborough.

# Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat

**Name:** South West London Waterbodies

**Unitary Authority/County:** London Borough of Hounslow, Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and Surrey.

**Consultation proposal:** Kempton Park Reservoirs Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Knight & Bessborough Reservoirs SSSI, Thorpe Park No. 1 Gravel Pit SSSI, Wraysbury No. 1 Gravel Pit SSSI, Wraysbury Reservoir SSSI, and parts of Staines Moor SSSI and Wraysbury & Hythe End Gravel Pits SSSI have been recommended as a Ramsar site because of the site's international importance for waterbirds.

The South West London Waterbodies Ramsar site comprises a series of embanked water supply reservoirs and former gravel pits that support a range of man-made and semi-natural open-water habitats.

**Boundary of Ramsar site:** The Ramsar site boundary is coincident with Kempton Park Reservoirs SSSI, Knight & Bessborough Reservoirs SSSI, Thorpe Park No. 1 Gravel Pit SSSI, Wraysbury No. 1 Gravel Pit SSSI, Wraysbury Reservoir SSSI, and includes parts of Staines Moor SSSI and Wraysbury & Hythe End Gravel Pits SSSI. See Ramsar site map for further detail.

**Size of Ramsar site:** The Ramsar site covers an area of 828.14 ha.

**International importance of Ramsar site:** The Ramsar site is a Wetland of International Importance because:

- a) the site qualifies under **criterion 6** because it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird:

Waterbird species	5 year peak mean 1993/94 - 1997/98	% of population
Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i>	710 individuals - wintering	2.4 % NW Europe
Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>	853 individuals - wintering	2.1 % NW/Central Europe

Bird figures from WeBS database

### Non-qualifying species of interest

In addition, the site supports nationally important numbers of cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*, pochard *Aythya ferina* and coot *Fulica atra*.

### Status of Ramsar site

South West London Waterbodies was designated as a Ramsar site on 22 September 2000.

