RAMSAR INFORMATION SHEET
FOR WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Site reference number 7UK019
1 Compilation date Feb 1999
2 Country UK (England)
3 Name of wetland Rostherne Mere
4 Site centre location: Latitude: 53 21 14 N Longitude: 02 23 05 W
5 Altitude Not being submitted
6 Area (ha) 79.76

7 Overview
The mere is the deepest, one of the largest and the most northerly of the meres of the Cheshire Plain. It lies in a hollow surrounded by thick deposits of glacial drift overlying triassic marls and saltbeds. It is internationally important for its birds.

8 Wetland type Inland wetland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>% Area</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>O</td>
<td>Freshwater lakes: permanent</td>
<td>61.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U</td>
<td>Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)</td>
<td>12.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9 Ramsar Criteria 1a, 3c
10 Map of the site √
11 Compiler Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Monkstone House
City Road
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire PE1 1JY
UK
Telephone/Fax : +44(0) 1733 562626 / +44(0) 1733 555948

12 Justification of criteria

Ramsar criterion 1a
Good representative example of the meres of the Shropshire-Cheshire Plain. Rostherne Mere is one of the deepest and largest of the meres. Its shoreline is fringed with common reed Phragmites australis and a small area of peat bog has developed at the north-west end of the mere.

Ramsar criterion 3c
Over winter this site regularly supports nationally important numbers of:
Shoveler Anas clypeata
86 individuals
Pochard Aythya ferina
757 Individuals.

Ramsar criterion 3c

13 General location
Nearest town/city: Warrington
Situated 16km southwest of the centre of Manchester close to the southern outskirts of Greater Manchester. 3 miles N of Knutsford
Administrative Region: Cheshire
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21 Current land use

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>On-Site</th>
<th>Off-Site</th>
<th>Scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nature conservation</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td>Large-Scale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td>Large-Scale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent pastoral agriculture</td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Large-Scale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport route</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td>Large-Scale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-urbanised settlements</td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Large-Scale</td>
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22 Adverse factors affecting the ecological character of the site

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<th>Off-Site</th>
<th>Scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Eutrophication</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td>Large-Scale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction/invasion of exotic animal species</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td>Large-Scale</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

23 Conservation measures taken

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conservation measure</th>
<th>On-site</th>
<th>Off-site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSSI</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NNR</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management agreement</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site management statement/plan implemented</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>+</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

24 Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented

Site vulnerability and management statement

The site is vulnerable because of its sensitivity, particularly to changes in water quality in the surrounding catchment, as well as on-site management. Nutrient enrichment from agricultural and domestic sources has been an ongoing concern. Reduction of these anthropogenic threats is being achieved through Water Level Management Plans. The restoration of water levels and prevention of vegetation incursion is being achieved through Site Management Statements and management agreements.

Introduced species of plants and animals have also caused problems, e.g. grazing by Canada geese causes a threat to reed fringes. There have been occurrences of alien plants such as Himalayan balsam. Appropriate control programmes are being continually refined and implemented.

25 Current scientific research/survey/monitoring and facilities

Environment.
Water Chemistry.
Limnology.

Fauna.
Phytoplankton.
Zooplankton.
Trophic status / Nutrient budgets.
Fish Benthic fauna.
Ornithology.

26 Current conservation education

The National Nature Reserve has no general public access but is widely used by universities and others for site based research projects and dissertations.


Reference should also be made to Country Agencies Management Plans for sites that are within National Nature Reserves.