

RAMSAR INFORMATION SHEET

FOR WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Site reference number 7UK019 Date of designation: 24/07/81
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

Code	Name	% Area
O	Freshwater lakes: permanent	61.2
U	Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)	12.8
Other	Other	26

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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National/Crown estate	+	
Private	+	+

21 Current land use

Activity	On-Site	Off-Site	Scale
Nature conservation	+		Large-Scale
Research	+		Large-Scale
Permanent pastoral agriculture		+	Large-Scale
Transport route		+	Large-Scale
Non-urbanised settlements		+	Large-Scale

22 Adverse factors affecting the ecological character of the site

Activity	On-Site	Off-Site	Scale
Eutrophication	+		Large-Scale
Introduction/invasion of exotic animal species	+		Large-Scale

23 Conservation measures taken

Conservation measure	On-site	Off-site
SSSI	+	+
NNR	+	+
Management agreement	+	+
Site management statement/plan implemented	+	+
Other	+	

24 Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented

see below

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.

- Pritchard, D.E., Housden, S.D., Mudge, G.P., Galbraith, C.A. & Pienkowski, M.W., eds. 1992. *Important Bird Areas in the United Kingdom including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man*. Sandy, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.
- Ratcliffe, D.A., ed. 1977. *A nature conservation review: volumes 1 & 2*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- Rodwell, J.S., ed. 1991. *British plant communities. Volume 2. Mires and heaths*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- Rodwell, J.S., ed. 1995. *British plant communities. Volume 4. Aquatic communities, swamps and tall-herb fens*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- Rose, P.M. & Scott, D.A. 1997. *Waterfowl Population Estimates Second edition*. Wageningen, Wetlands International.
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. 1998. *Land for Life*. Sandy, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.
- Shirt, D.B., ed. 1987. *British Red Data Books: 2. Insects*. Peterborough, Nature Conservancy Council.
- Stewart, A., Pearman, D.A., & Preston, C.D., eds. 1994. *Scarce plants in Britain*. Peterborough, Joint Nature Conservation Committee.
- Stroud, D.A., Mudge, G.P. and Pienkowski, M. W., eds. 1990. *Protecting Internationally Important Bird Sites*. Peterborough, Nature Conservancy Council.
- Reference should also be made to Country Agencies Management Plans for sites that are within National Nature Reserves.