

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

*Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX. 22 of the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).*

## Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2nd edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3rd edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.
3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

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## 1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

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## 2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

Designated: 04 October 1991

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## 3. Country:

UK (England)

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## 4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Rutland Water

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## 5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

**This RIS is for:** Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

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## 6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

### a) Site boundary and area:

\*\* Important note: If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

### b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:

**7. Map of site included:**

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

**a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:**

- i) **hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): *yes* ✓ -or- *no* ;
- ii) **an electronic format** (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) *Yes*
- iii) **a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables** *yes* ✓ -or- *no* ;

**b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:**

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

The site boundary is the same as, or falls within, an existing protected area.

For precise boundary details, please refer to paper map provided at designation

**8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):**

52 38 52 N                      00 39 54 W

**9. General location:**

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s), and the location of the nearest large town.

Nearest town/city: Peterborough

Rutland Water lies 30 km east of Leicester.

**Administrative region:** Leicestershire; Rutland

**10. Elevation (average and/or max. & min.) (metres):    11. Area (hectares): 1360.34**

Min.	80
Max.	85
Mean	83

**12. General overview of the site:**

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

Rutland Water is a large eutrophic man-made pump storage reservoir created by the damming of the Gwash Valley in 1975. The reservoir is in a lowland setting receiving the majority of its water from the Nene (90%) and Welland (10%). In general the reservoir is drawn down in the summer and filled during the autumn and winter months when river levels are high.

The lagoons are one of the most important areas for wintering and breeding wildfowl. The reservoir regularly supports internationally important numbers of gadwall and shoveler and nationally important numbers of eight other species of wildfowl.

**13. Ramsar Criteria:**

Circle or underline each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11).

**5, 6**

**14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:**

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

Ramsar criterion 5

**Assemblages of international importance:**

**Species with peak counts in winter:**

19274 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)

**Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.**

**Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):**

**Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:**

Gadwall , <i>Anas strepera strepera</i> , NW Europe	1014 individuals, representing an average of 1.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Northern shoveler , <i>Anas clypeata</i> , NW & C Europe	619 individuals, representing an average of 1.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

**Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6.**

**Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:**

Mute swan , <i>Cygnus olor</i> , Britain	563 individuals, representing an average of 1.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
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Contemporary data and information on waterbird trends at this site and their regional (sub-national) and national contexts can be found in the Wetland Bird Survey report, which is updated annually. See [www.bto.org/survey/webs/webs-alerts-index.htm](http://www.bto.org/survey/webs/webs-alerts-index.htm).

Details of bird species occurring at levels of National importance are given in Section 22

**15. Biogeography** (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

**a) biogeographic region:**

Atlantic

**b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme** (include reference citation):

Council Directive 92/43/EEC

**16. Physical features of the site:**

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

Soil & geology	neutral, clay, sedimentary
Geomorphology and landscape	lowland, valley
Nutrient status	eutrophic
pH	circumneutral
Salinity	fresh
Soil	mainly organic
Water permanence	usually permanent

Summary of main climatic features	Annual averages (Sutton Bonnington, 1971–2000) (www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/sutton_bonnington.html) Max. daily temp.: 13.5° C Min. daily temp.: 5.8° C Days of air frost: 47.9 Rainfall: 606.2 mm Hrs. sunshine: 1388.0
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**General description of the Physical Features:**

Rutland Water is a man-made pump storage reservoir and is the largest reservoir in the UK. In general the reservoir is drawn down in the summer and filled during the autumn and winter months when river levels are high. The main habitats are open water and a mosaic of lagoons, reedswamp, marsh, old meadows, scrub and woodland.

**17. Physical features of the catchment area:**

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, general land use, and climate (including climate type).

Rutland Water is a man-made pump storage reservoir and is the largest reservoir in the UK. In general the reservoir is drawn down in the summer and filled during the autumn and winter months when river levels are high.

**18. Hydrological values:**

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

Water supply

**19. Wetland types:**

Human-made wetland, Inland wetland

Code	Name	% Area
6	Reservoirs / barrages / dams	91.9
Other	Other	8.1

**20. General ecological features:**

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

The main habitat is the open water of the main body of the reservoir. This is deep water with some macrophyte growth down to 3 metres (average depth 14 m, maximum depth 34 m).

The western end of the reservoir contains three bunded areas with their own water supply. These are managed by manipulating the water level to produce seasonal inundation and conditions for breeding wildfowl. They include several small artificial islands and a 2 ha reedbed. The rest of the site is made up of adjacent woodland and grazed grasslands that are used by wintering wigeon and swans and provide a buffer from activities adjacent to the site.

Ecosystem services

**21. Noteworthy flora:**

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

None reported

**22. Noteworthy fauna:**

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

**Birds****Species currently occurring at levels of national importance:****Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:**

Little grebe , <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis ruficollis</i> , Europe to E Urals, NW Africa	84 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Great crested grebe , <i>Podiceps cristatus cristatus</i> , NW Europe	755 individuals, representing an average of 4.7% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Great cormorant , <i>Phalacrocorax carbo carbo</i> , NW Europe	431 individuals, representing an average of 1.8% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Tufted duck , <i>Aythya fuligula</i> , NW Europe	4788 individuals, representing an average of 5.3% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Common coot , <i>Fulica atra atra</i> , NW Europe	3573 individuals, representing an average of 2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Ruff , <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> , Europe/W Africa	48 individuals, representing an average of 6.8% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Spotted redshank , <i>Tringa erythropus</i> , Europe/W Africa	2 individuals, representing an average of 1.4% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Common greenshank , <i>Tringa nebularia</i> , Europe/W Africa	13 individuals, representing an average of 2.1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Lesser black-backed gull , <i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i> ,	1480 individuals, representing an average of 2.4% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
<b>Species with peak counts in winter:</b>	
Common goldeneye , <i>Bucephala clangula clangula</i> , NW & C Europe	390 individuals, representing an average of 1.5% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Smew , <i>Mergellus albellus</i> , NW & C Europe	11 individuals, representing an average of 2.9% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Water rail , <i>Rallus aquaticus</i> , Europe	9 individuals, representing an average of 2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

**Species Information**

None reported

**23. Social and cultural values:**

Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values.

- Environmental education/ interpretation
- Livestock grazing
- Non-consumptive recreation
- Scientific research
- Sport fishing
- Tourism

**b)** Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning? **No**

If Yes, describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland:
- ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
- iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:
- iv) sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland:

**24. Land tenure/ownership:**

Ownership category	On-site	Off-site
Non-governmental organisation (NGO)	+	+
Private	+	+
Public/communal	+	+
Other		+

**25. Current land (including water) use:**

Activity	On-site	Off-site
Nature conservation	+	+
Tourism	+	+
Recreation	+	+
Current scientific research	+	
Commercial forestry		+
Cutting of vegetation (small-scale/subsistence)	+	
Fishing: recreational/sport	+	
Permanent arable agriculture		+
Rough or shifting grazing	+	+
Hay meadows		+
Sewage treatment/disposal		+

Transport route		+
Domestic water supply	+	
Urban development		+

**26. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site’s ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:**

*Explanation of reporting category:*

1. Those factors that are still operating, but it is unclear if they are under control, as there is a lag in showing the management or regulatory regime to be successful.
2. Those factors that are not currently being managed, or where the regulatory regime appears to have been ineffective so far.

NA = Not Applicable because no factors have been reported.

Adverse Factor Category	Reporting Category	Description of the problem (Newly reported Factors only)	On-Site	Off-Site	Major Impact?
No factors reported	NA				

For category 2 factors only.  
What measures have been taken / are planned / regulatory processes invoked, to mitigate the effect of these factors?

Is the site subject to adverse ecological change? NO

**27. Conservation measures taken:**

List national category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it is being implemented.

Conservation measure	On-site	Off-site
Site/ Area of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI/ASSI)	+	+
Special Protection Area (SPA)	+	
Land owned by a non-governmental organisation for nature conservation	+	
Site management statement/plan implemented	+	
Other	+	

**b) Describe any other current management practices:**

The management of Ramsar sites in the UK is determined by either a formal management plan or through other management planning processes, and is overseen by the relevant statutory conservation agency. Details of the precise management practises are given in these documents.

**28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:**

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

No information available

### **29. Current scientific research and facilities:**

e.g. details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

#### **Contemporary.**

Numbers of migratory and wintering wildfowl and waders are monitored annually as part of the national Wetland Birds Survey (WeBS) organised by the British Trust for Ornithology, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

Constant effort bird ringing site.

Annual report on breeding birds including work on the important Trees Sparrow population.

Work on the ecology of Inland cormorant populations and their impact on commercial fisheries (sponsored by MAFF and EA) carried out by Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.

Osprey reintroduction programme for England is being carried out.

#### **Environment.**

Work being undertaken by English Nature, Environment Agency and Anglian Water services on the phosphate problems at the reservoir.

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### **30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:**

e.g. visitor centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

The site has three wardens and a dedicated education officer who works specifically with school groups. The Anglian Birdwatching Centre is used for training events in conservation management techniques, wildlife appreciation and related topics. A full range of courses and guided walks are provided and the visitor centre is staffed seven days a week while. A second centre is open daily in the summer and at weekends in the winter. Most of the reserve has full disabled access. Both of the visitor centres have a wide range of interpretation facilities including CCTV used for videoing the osprey work and watching birds nesting in nest boxes.

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### **31. Current recreation and tourism:**

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

#### **Activities, Facilities provided and Seasonality.**

Land based Recreation:

Walking and cycling mainly in the summer but increasing in the winter. Bird watching within the reserve although this has little impact because of the way it is managed.

Visitor facilities such as visitor centres, car parks, Tropical house and others attract visitors to the land adjacent to the reservoir.

Water based recreation:

Fishing (April to November) both from the bank and from boat. Sailing (all year, but not as frequent in the winter), windsurfing (all year), canoeing (all year mainly summer).

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### **32. Jurisdiction:**

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept. of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

Head, Natura 2000 and Ramsar Team, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs,  
European Wildlife Division, Zone 1/07, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol,  
BS1 6EB

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### **33. Management authority:**

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

Site Designations Manager, English Nature, Sites and Surveillance Team, Northminster House,  
Northminster Road, Peterborough, PE1 1UA, UK

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### 34. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

#### Site-relevant references

\*\*\*\* (1996) *Water, birds and recreation. Rutland Water, a case study: integrating conservation and recreation*. British Ornithologists' Union/ Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust conference

\*\*\*\* *Rutland Water annual bird reports*. \*\*\*\*

Andrews, J (1992) *Birds of Anglian Water reservoirs*. Anglian Water, Huntingdon

Anglian Water (n.d. [~1998]) *The return of the osprey. The story of reintroducing a much missed bird of prey*. Anglian Water Services, Environmental Affairs Team, [Huntingdon]

Appleton, TP (1992) Rutland Water Nature Reserve: concept, design and management. In: Harper, D \*\*\*\*

Appleton, TP (2003) Rutland Water Nature Reserve Management Plan revision. Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, Leicester

Appleton, TP, Bolt, SRL & Dixon, H (1996) Return of the osprey *Pandion haliaetus*: translocation of osprey chicks to Rutland Water, Leicestershire, England. In: *Reintroduction of wild species. Proceedings of the 27th Eurosite European Workshop*. Eurosite

Appleton, TP, Bolt, SRL & Dixon, H (1997) Translocation of osprey chicks to Rutland Water. *The Raptor*, **24**, 12-15

Ford, A (1992) Perimeter forestry and landscape works at Rutland Water *Hydrobiologia*, **88**(1/2), 211-224

Stroud, DA, Chambers, D, Cook, S, Buxton, N, Fraser, B, Clement, P, Lewis, P, McLean, I, Baker, H & Whitehead, S (eds.) (2001) *The UK SPA network: its scope and content*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough (3 vols.) [www.jncc.gov.uk/UKSPA/default.htm](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/UKSPA/default.htm)

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