

COUNTY: GREATER LONDON/SURREY

SITE NAME: KEMPTON PARK  
RESERVOIRS

DISTRICT: LONDON BOROUGH OF HOUNSLOW/SPELTHORNE BOROUGH

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended.

Local Planning Authority: Hounslow Borough Council/Spelthorne Borough Council

National Grid Reference: TQ 118707

Area: 25.62 (ha.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 176

1:10,000: TQ 17 SW

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 26 October 1999

Date of Last Revision: –

Reasons for Notification:

Kempton Park Reservoirs are of national importance for wintering gadwall *Anas strepera*.

General Description:

Kempton Park Reservoirs comprises two artificially embanked basins to the northeast of Kempton Park Racecourse near Hampton. The site consists of Kempton Park East Reservoir and Red House Reservoir which lie within the operational boundary of Kempton Waterworks.

In addition to the nationally important numbers of gadwall, the site also supports significant numbers of wintering shoveler *Anas clypeata*.

Kempton Park East Reservoir was constructed in 1906 but has been redundant since 1980. In 1982 the reservoir was drained but continued to hold a residual amount of water, supplemented by rainfall. In 1996 part of the earth and clay embankment was removed to ensure compliance with maximum water volumes for redundant reservoirs under The Reservoirs Act.

Kempton Park East Reservoir has been actively managed as a nature reserve since 1996 when substantial works aimed at protecting and improving habitats for wetland bird species were begun under a planning agreement with the local authority. These included the creation of refuge islands, deep water channels and reed beds within the basin.

Regular breeding waders on the East Reservoir include lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* redshank *Tringa botanus* ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula* and little ringed plover *Charadrius dubius*. Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* bred on the East Reservoir in 1996. This represented the first successful inland breeding of this species in the British Isles.

A wide range of passage birds, including smew *Mergus albellus* garganey *Anas crecca* Temminck's stint *Calidris temminckii* spotted crane *Porzana porzana* and red-necked phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*, have been recorded in recent years.

Red House Reservoir is the smaller of the two reservoirs. It remains operational as a water storage facility and is fed by the Staines Reservoirs Aqueduct.

The secluded wooded setting of Red House Reservoir is particularly favoured by feeding bats and the site supports Noctule *Nyctalus noctula* serotine *Eptesicus serotinus* Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentoni* and pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*. Other mammals include water vole. Reptiles and amphibians present include populations of

grass snake *Natrix natrix* palmate newt *Triturus helveticus* smooth newt *Triturus vulgaris* common frog *Rana temporaria* and common toad *Bufo bufo*.