

**COUNTY:** NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

**SITE NAME:** PITSFORD RESERVOIR

**District:** Daventry

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

**Local Planning Authority:** Daventry District Council

**National Grid Reference:** SP 780708

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:** 152, 141      **1:10,000:** SP 77 SE, SP 76 NE

**Date Notified (Under 1949 Act):** 1970      **Date of Last Revision:** 1970

**Date Notified (Under 1981 Act):** 1984      **Date of Last Revision:**

**Area:** 409 ha 1, 011 ac

**Other Information:** The reservoir north of the causeway is managed as a nature reserve by the Northamptonshire Trust for Nature Conservation.

### **Description and Reasons for Notification**

Pitsford is one of the major reservoirs for passage and wintering waterfowl in the East Midlands, and the largest water body in Northamptonshire. The site has held nationally important numbers of several wildfowl species over different periods of time and in recent years winter shoveler *Anas clypeata* have achieved these levels.

The reservoir and marginal land supports a significant number and variety of breeding birds including great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, little grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, teal *Anas crecca*, kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* and reed warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*.

Bordering the reservoir the grassland, scrub, marsh, temporarily inundated shoreline and plantations all provide additional habitats valuable to a wide range of flora and fauna.

There is a small colony of the locally uncommon Essex skipper butterfly.

Re-presentation of details approved by Council. Re-typed October 1999.