

SITE NOTIFIED TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON 20 OCTOBER 1986

COUNTY: DERBYSHIRE

SITE NAME: OGSTON RESERVOIR

DISTRICT: NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE

SITE REF: 15 WMY

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

Local Planning Authority: DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, North East Derbyshire District Council

National Grid Reference: SK 376602

Area: 96.7 (ha.) 238.9 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 119

1:10,000: SK 36 SE, SK 35 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1963

Date of Last Revision: 1981

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1986

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Site boundary alteration (extension & reduction).

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Ogston Reservoir lies in the valley of the River Amber south of Chesterfield. The water covers some 85 hectares and is an important wintering site for many wildfowl and a feeding site for wading birds on passage in late summer. The peripheral mosaic of semi-natural habitats is not only of botanical interest but, most importantly, provides a diversity of nesting and feeding sites for a wide variety of breeding birds of which over 70 species have been recorded.

Grazed and ungrazed grassland, scrub, woodland and tall herb communities fringing the water, each provide habitat for a range of breeding birds. Water birds nesting on the water margin include great-crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, little grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* and tufted duck *Aythya fuligula* together with water-side waders such as common sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* and little ringed plover *Charadrius dubius*.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* nest on the drier, grazed swards with snipe *Gallinago gallinago* in the wetter, taller grasslands.

Scrub and woodland occurs around much of the reservoir margins with much grey willow *Salix cinerea* and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*. These provide food and cover for a wide range of breeding birds in particular the warblers including lesser white-throat *Sylvia curruca* and occasionally, grasshopper warbler *Locustella naevia*.

In late summer many wading birds stop over to feed on the exposed mud of the reservoir margin. Some 17 species have been recorded, with greenshank *Tringa nebularia* and common sandpiper being amongst the most abundant.

The open water of the reservoir are the winter home of many hundreds of mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* with over 100 teal *Anas crecca* and wigeon *Anas penelope*. Smaller numbers of pochard *Aythya ferina* and tufted duck are present throughout the winter and other waterfowl come in to the reservoir as climatic conditions change. Large numbers of gulls use the site as an overnight roost, in particular some 2000 greater black-backed *Larus marinus*, 500 herring *Larus argentatus* and 300 lesser black-backed gulls *Larus fuscus*.

Almost all of the fringing grasslands are semi-natural neutral swards representing relict examples of formerly widespread species-rich types. Both dry and wet grasslands have abundant glaucous sedge *Carex flacca* but crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* is dominant in the drier swards with abundant adder's-tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum* whilst rushes *Juncus* spp. and lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula* predominate in the wetter pastures.