

County: Berkshire **Site Name:** Wraysbury No. 1 Gravel Pit

District: Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

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

Local Planning Authority: Windsor and Maidenhead Borough Council

National Grid Reference: TQ 004745 **Area:** 57.75 ha

Ordnance Survey Sheet: 1:50,000 176 1:10,000: TQ 07 NW

Date Notified (under 1949) Act: Not applicable

Date of Last Revision: Not applicable

Date Notified (under 1981) Act: 26 October 1999

Date of Last Revision: Not applicable

Reasons for Notification:

Wraysbury No 1 Gravel Pit is of national importance for wintering gadwall *Anas strepera*.

General Description:

Shoveler *Anas clypeata* goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* and smew *Mergus albellus* are regular winter visitors in small but significant numbers.

The site is also locally important for other wintering bird species including great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus* cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* pochard *Aythya farina* tufted duck *Aythya fuligula* and coot *Fulica atra*.

The pit was excavated in the 1950s and is now almost fully mature, with most of the lake margins dominated by trees and scrub. In a few places there are still small areas of neutral grassland containing such species as common knapweed *Centaurea nigra* bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis* and wild carrot *Daucus carota*.

The woodland and scrub surrounding the gravel pits support a range of woodland birds including hobby *Falco subbuteo* garden warbler *Sylvia borin* tree creeper *Certhia familiaris* and great spotted woodpecker *Dendrocopus major*.