

A Landscape-scale Approach to Conserving the Nature of the Colne Valley Regional Park

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**Herts &
Middlesex**
Wildlife Trust

“...the valley is London’s kitchen garden, its well, its privy and its workshop – and is treated as everyone’s backyard, because it lies at everyone’s boundary...Today lorry drivers and commuters cross it and hardly know it is there. The forgotten boundary wiggles forlornly through the centre of the reservoirs and gravel pits along the line of the old riverbed. The land not used for heavy necessities remains damp and derelict, unheeded and ill-kempt.”

Civic Trust



ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY



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2005 – Landscape-scale Assessment

A Fisheries Action Plan for the Colne Valley

- still waters and the chalk river

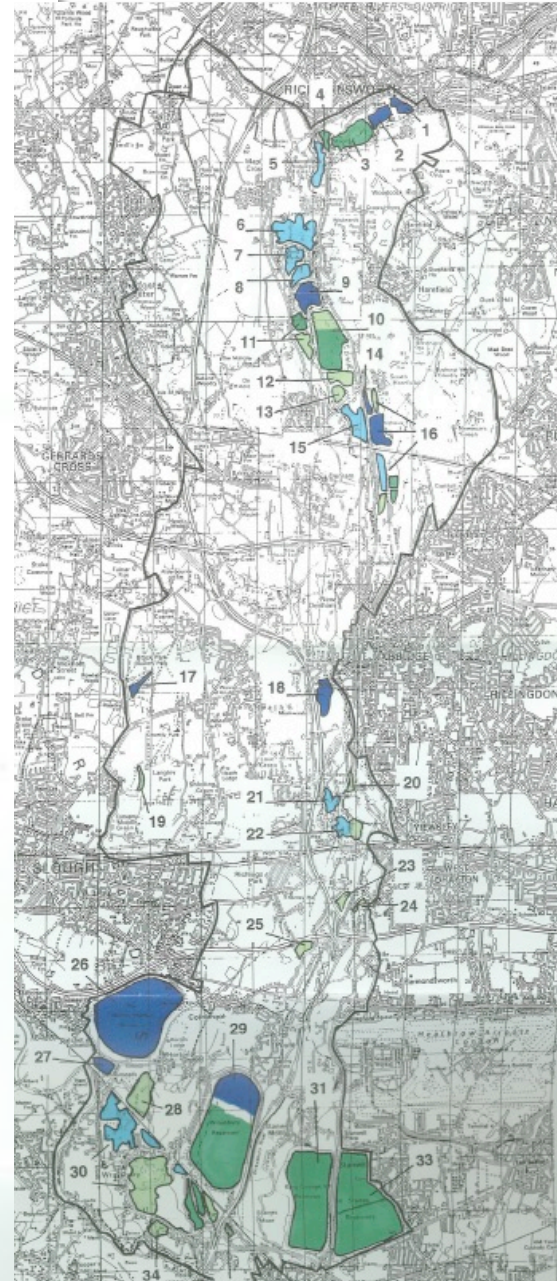


Creating a wilder Hertfordshire and Middlesex



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1. Batchworth Lake
2. Bury Lake
3. Stocker's Lake
4. Inns Lake
5. Springwell Lake
6. Lynsters Lakes (East & West)
7. Pynesfield Lake
8. Blue Circle Lake
9. Troy Lake
10. Broadwater Lake
11. Tilehouse Lake (North & South)
12. Harefield Lake
13. Korda Lakes
14. Harefield Marina
15. Savay Lake
16. Denham Quarry Lakes (A-E)
17. Black Park Lake
18. Cape Boards Lake
19. Langley Park Lake
20. Little Britain Lake
21. Farlows Lakes
22. Iver Water Treatment Works
23. Thorney
24. Lakes at The Common
25. Old Slade Lake
26. The Queen Mother Reservoir
27. Sunnymeads Lake
28. Kingsmead
29. Wraysbury Reservoir
30. Wraysbury Lakes (A-G)
31. King George VI Reservoir
32. Moor Lane Nature Reserve
33. Staines Reservoirs
34. Hythe End



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2008 - Landscape-scale Assessment



The wetland resource of the Colne Valley:
an assessment of its importance to nature conservation,
with special reference to waterbirds



Graham J White & Alan J Harris
2008

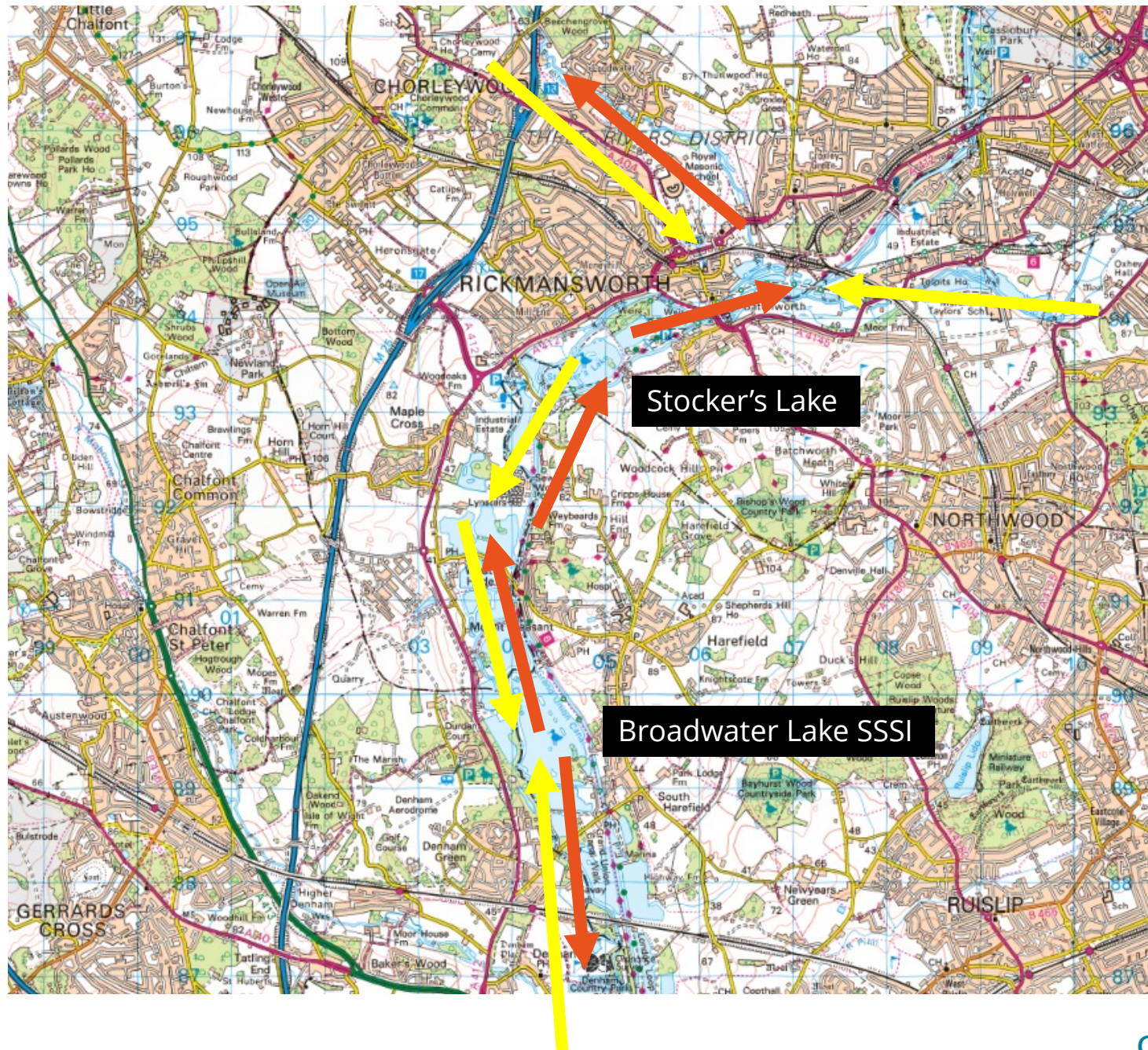


Headlines

Peak number of birds = 4618

National significance for Gadwall, Shoveler, Tufted Duck, Smew, Great Crested Grebe and Cormorant

Key refuges – Broadwater Lake SSSI and Stocker's Lake



Key refuges at Broadwater Lake SSSI and Stocker's Lake enable birds to exploit other waters across a much wider area.



2019 Angling and Nature Conservation



- 44 anglers each completed five days of AQA accredited training in wetland ecology, fisheries management, managing change
- 27 conservation/fishery management plans produced
- 23 fisheries have commenced practical works to increase biodiversity



2019 Preventing Water Voles from Becoming Extinct



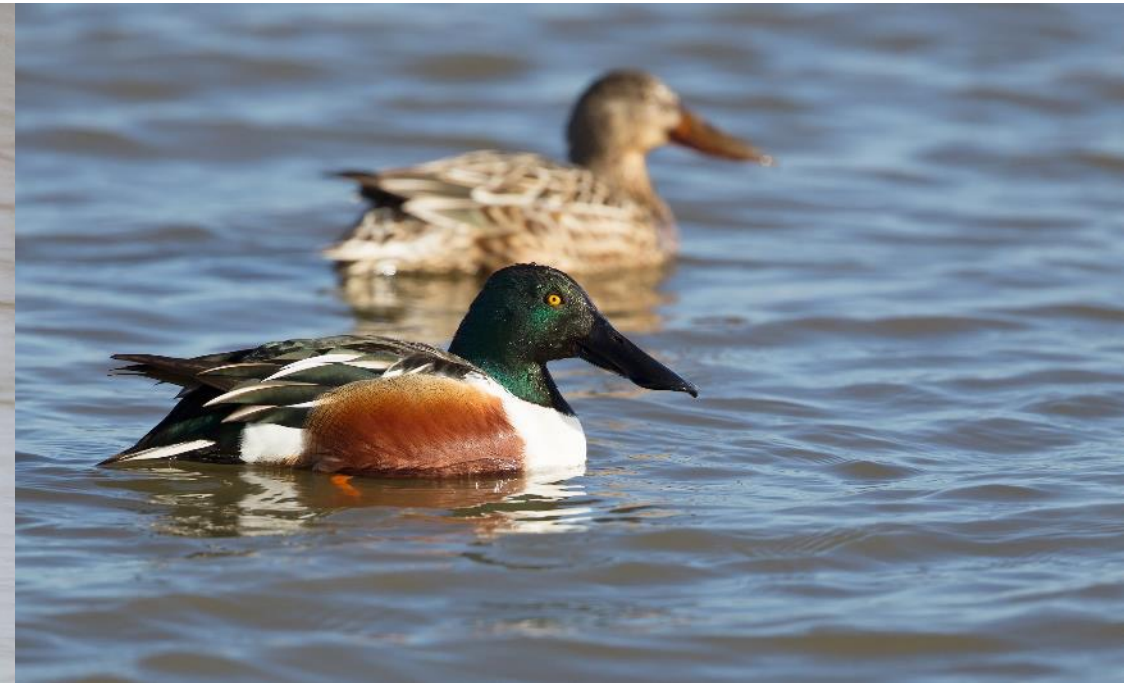
- More, bigger, better, joined-up
- 10 km of river corridor improved for Water Voles
- 36 People trained in water vole surveying and/or mink raft monitoring
- 22 landowners given water vole habitat management advice in the wider Colne Valley



2022/23 – Repeating the Landscape-scale Assessment

Pochard and Shoveler exceed national significance

Broadwater Lake remains the key refuge



The Colne Valley

A Regional Park with **national** significance
Colne wetlands and the birds they support

A Regional Park with **international** significance
The South-west London Special Protection Area
The River Colne and its chalk stream wildlife

A Regional Park with committed support from
a longstanding partnership of **local** stakeholders

However continuing threats to its wildlife...



“Every house we build is a mausoleum to the birds and animals that lived there before.”

John Lewis-Stempel

Questions?

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