

# The Colne Valley, a Regional Park with National Significance

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**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



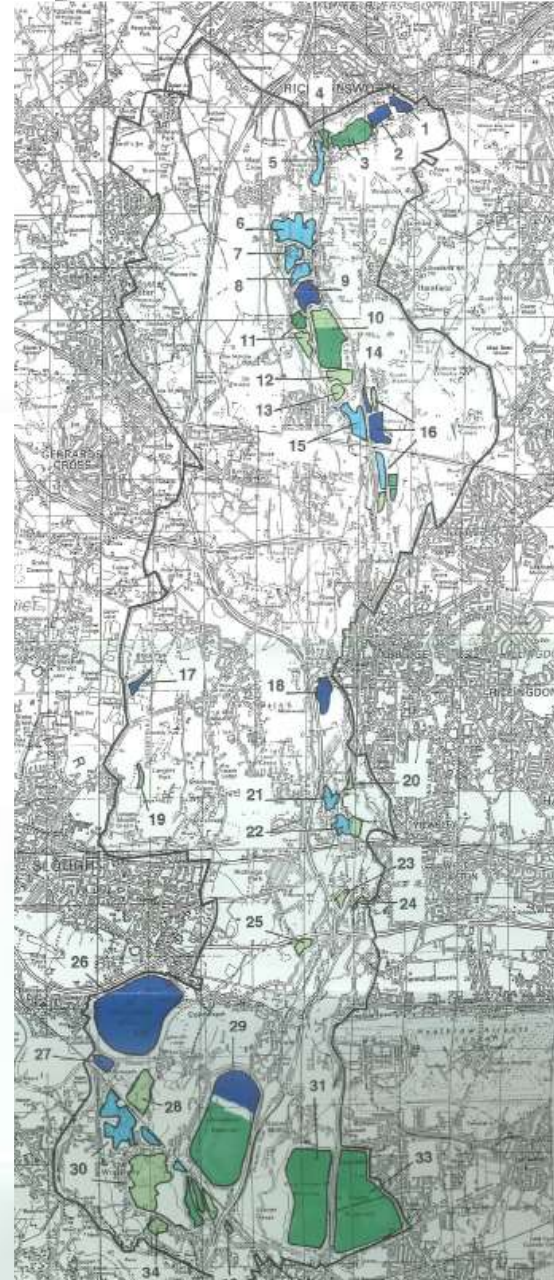
**The wetland resource of the Colne Valley:  
an assessment of its importance to nature conservation,  
with special reference to waterbirds**



Graham White  
October 2023



1. Batchworth Lake
2. Bury Lake
3. Stocker's Lake
4. Inns Lake
5. Springwell Lake
6. Lynstiers 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



# 2022/23 - Landscape-scale Assessment



## Headlines

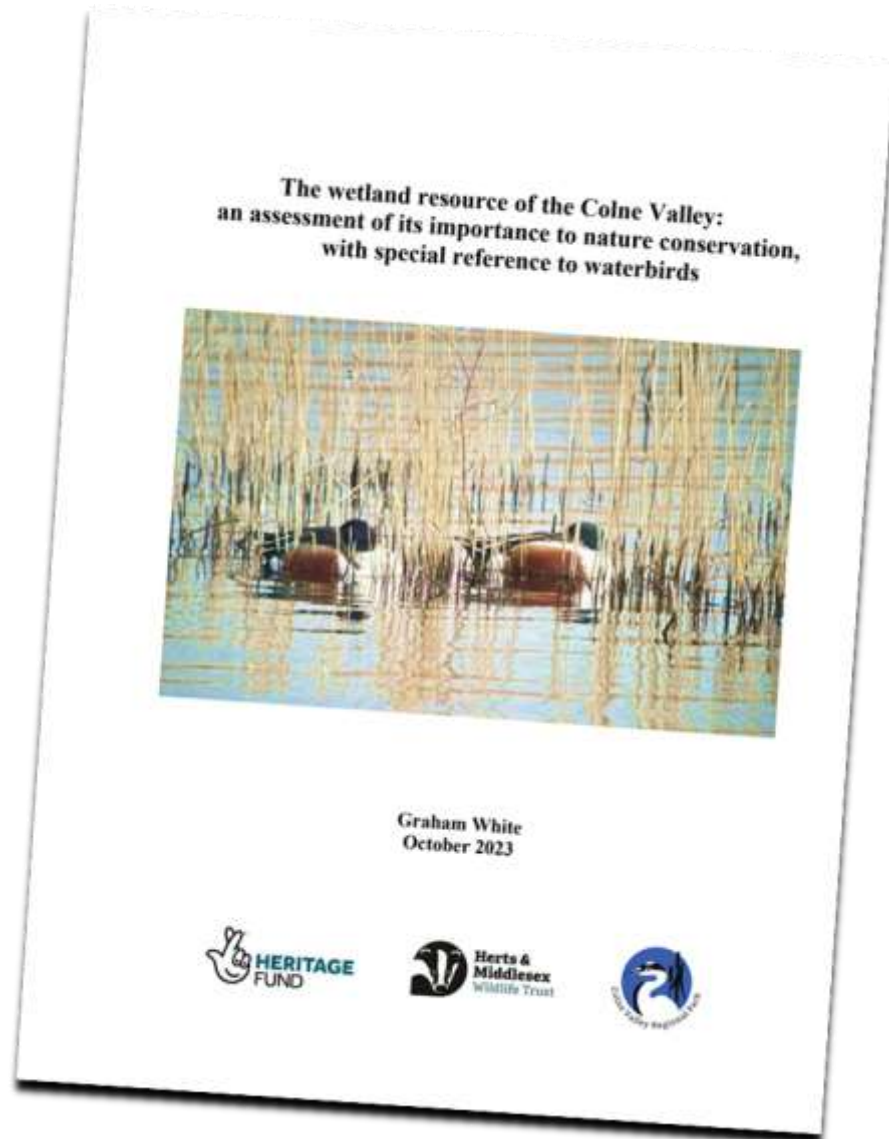
Peak number of birds = 3011

National significance for Shoveler and Pochard

Moult refuge at Broadwater Lake – 360 birds in August

Key refuges – Broadwater Lake SSSI and **Stocker's Lake**

Creating a wilder Hertfordshire and Middlesex



# Counts of waterbirds in the Colne Valley September 2022 to March 2023



	27 Sep	10 Oct	18 Nov	23 Dec	10 Jan	06 Feb	13 Mar	Peak Count	Level of national significance
Great Crested Grebe	79	103	92	54	69	75	72	103	170
Cormorant	54	53	109	86	70	100	90	109	620
Mute Swan	20	18	28	64	55	49	31	64	500
Canada Goose	185	194	12	24	134	167	305	305	N/A
Greylag Goose	100	108	12	0	13	2	4	108	N/A
Wigeon	14	20	7	107	46	62	82	107	4500
Gadwall	40	49	53	184	100	102	46	184	310
Teal	3	7	18	22	20	12	7	22	4300
Mallard	92	113	86	146	85	91	53	146	6700
Shoveler	48	83	109	184	<b>228</b>	<b>344</b>	132	344	190
Red-crested Pochard	0	0	0	32	13	22	4	32	N/A
Pochard	80	195	<b>234</b>	171	191	191	186	234	230
Tufted Duck	173	400	746	522	655	660	388	746	1300
Goldeneye	0	0	7	15	13	13	15	15	190
Smew	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
Goosander	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	150
Coot	969	1158	1400	1379	1318	1075	695	1400	2000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1857</b>	<b>2501</b>	<b>2916</b>	<b>2991</b>	<b>3011</b>	<b>2967</b>	<b>2110</b>	<b>3011</b>	

## Totals of waterbirds at individual sites in the Colne Valley September 2022 to March 2023

	<b>27 Sep</b>	<b>10 Oct</b>	<b>18 Nov</b>	<b>23 Dec</b>	<b>10 Jan</b>	<b>06 Feb</b>	<b>13 Mar</b>	<b>Peak count</b>	<b>Peak Count 2006-07</b>
<b>Stocker's complex</b>	663	756	722	684	842	717	544	834	1431
<b>Springwell</b>	8	8	6	11	18	45	60	60	276
<b>Maple Lodge</b>	10	17	48	77	75	87	55	87	151
<b>Lynsters</b>	87	259	283	263	290	278	205	290	662
<b>Pynesfield</b>	154	178	225	332	298	240	159	332	263
<b>North Troy</b>	50	46	78	291	95	91	38	291	107
<b>Troy Mill</b>	208	198	391	334	364	273	210	391	369
<b>Tilehouse</b>	28	36	58	62	52	47	36	62	226
<b>Broadwater complex</b>	459	557	589	443	560	784	501	784	1160
<b>Savay</b>	34	46	56	50	41	59	45	59	395
<b>Harefield No 2</b>	19	98	143	132	109	100	84	143	95
<b>Denham complex</b>	137	302	316	309	266	245	173	316	303
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1857</b>	<b>2501</b>	<b>2916</b>	<b>2991</b>	<b>3011</b>	<b>2967</b>	<b>2110</b>	<b>3011</b>	<b>4618</b>

# Shoveler – numbers of national significance

Peak count of 344 in February 2023

National significance = 190

Key sites – Broadwater Lake and Stockers  
Lake



# Pochard – numbers of national significance

Peak count of 234 in November 2022

National significance = 230

Key sites – Broadwater Lake and Stockers  
Lake





# Tufted Ducks – a key moult refuge

Peak count of 360 in August 2023

Key site – Broadwater Lake



# Key site – Stockers Lake

Key site for most important species:  
Shoveler, Pochard, Tufted Duck

Key breeding site for Cormorant, Grey  
Heron, Little Egret, Common Terns and  
Black-headed Gulls

Key refuge site, enables birds to feed over a  
much wider area. Significant movement  
between here and Broadwater Lake



# Key site - Broadwater Lake SSSI

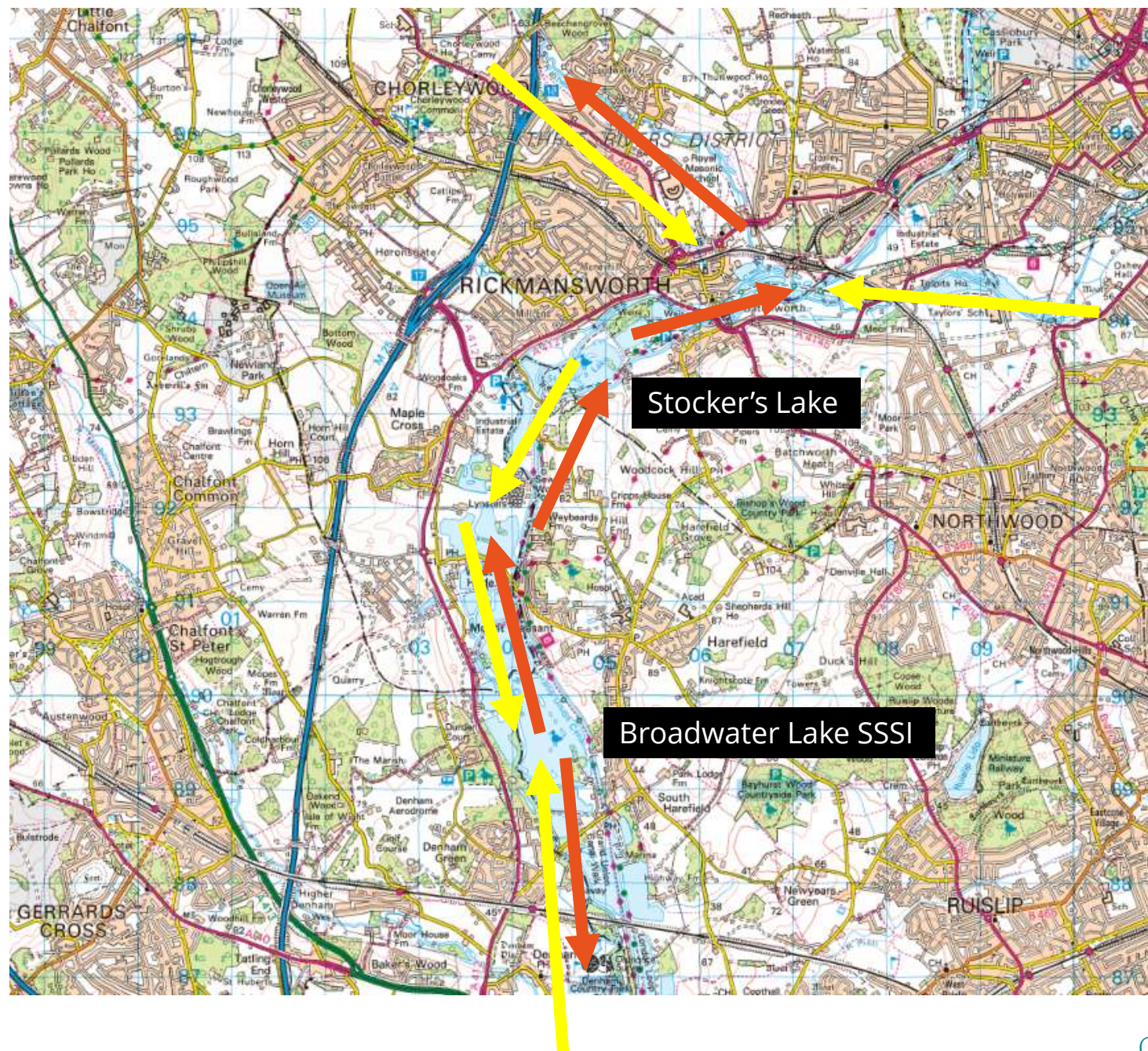
Key site for most important species:  
Shoveler, Pochard, Tufted Duck,  
supporting around 800 birds at peak

Key breeding site for Cormorant and Grey  
Heron

Key summer moult site for Tufted Duck  
and Coot

Key refuge site, enables birds to feed over a  
much wider area. Significant movement  
**between here 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.

# A landscape-scale approach to wetland management

- Maintain key refuges – Broadwater **Lake, Stocker's Lake, Maple Lodge**
- Maintain early successional habitats – shallow water, wet grass, marginal emergent vegetation.
- Manage tree cover to retain and enhance marginal aquatic vegetation and structural diversity.
- Seek natural fish populations
- Reduction of Signal Crayfish
- Management plans & monitoring – support fisheries managers



# Angling and Nature Conservation – a legacy to support



- Establish and maintain a Colne Valley wetland managers collaborative
- Continue to advise and support fishery managers
- Funding for habitat restoration and management
- Monitor key habitats and species

# 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...**

# Save Broadwater Lake SSSI

- A nationally important site under threat from proposals for a local watersports activity facility
- Find an alternative site for this locally important facility
- Object to the planning application by 21<sup>st</sup> December
- We need to stand up for nature today to protect it for the future.





# Questions?

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