

Information Sheet

Berkshire Ornithological Club Queen Mother Reservoir Access Thames Water offers access at Queen Mother Reservoir for birdwatching through the Berkshire Ornithological Club under the conditions of a Thames Water Operational Safety Authorisation and license issued to the Club. The Berkshire Ornithological Club may issue permits to its members and may withdraw the permit without notice if the conditions of issue are breached. Access is permitted to the area around the sailing club and to the perimeter pathway only (the wave wall and grass banks are out of bounds). The BOC holds a small number of keys, which may be issued, subject to availability, to frequent visitors, allowing entry from dawn to an hour after sunset seven days a week. In the event of a rarity, the Club will endeavour to provide access for other members.

The perimeter of the reservoir is approximately 5 km, with no shelter. Visitors should ensure that they are appropriately dressed and equipped for the prevailing weather conditions, which can be very cold with strong wind exposure in winter: warm waterproof clothing is recommended. In summer, hats and sunscreen may be needed. There is no drinking water available around the perimeter, so an adequate supply should be taken. There are no toilet facilities around the reservoir and urination on the site is strictly prohibited. Please ensure that no litter is left anywhere within the reservoir site.

The Datchet Sailing Club has said that, when the clubhouse is open, birdwatchers may use its toilet facilities; its café, open Saturday and Sunday, may also be used. Thames Water is responsible for security of this sensitive site; please ensure that you lock gates securely immediately after you and that you do not encourage or allow non-permit holders to access the site. Any suspicious behaviour should be reported immediately to Thames Water's helpline (see permit card).

For access from the M4, take exit 5, then A4 towards Colnbrook. After about 200m, turn right following signs to Colnbrook. At the village, follow the main road sharply to the right along the eastern side of the reservoir to the reservoir main gate on the right.

Keyholders must sign in at the BOC hut, which is immediately on the right of the gate and can be entered using the combination code provided. Cars should then be parked on the car park on either side of the sailing club building.

Please record bird observations in the logbook provided in the hut.

The perimeter wall may be followed in either direction. The pedestrian gates, for which a combination will have been provided, must be relocked immediately after entry or exit.

Members seeking to becoming keyholders should contact the Club Membership Secretary.