



News Release

4 October 2004

QUAD BIKE THREAT TO WILDLIFE AT KEMPTON NATURE RESERVE

Thames Water is appealing to quad bike users and motorcyclists to stay out of its nature reserve at Kempton Water Treatment Works, in Hanworth.

Bikers have recently been breaking into the reserve to ride on the open areas of land causing serious damage to wildlife.

This sort of activity is devastating to sensitive wildlife on the reserve, which is internationally recognised as an important breeding ground for many types of birds.

As well as threatening wildlife, the bikes are damaging the 50-acre site by churning up the ground and destroying plant life.

The Wwarden of Kempton Nature Reserve, Thames Water's Kristine Boudreau, is particularly concerned that the noise and damage will cause serious problems as the winter approaches.

She said: "This sort of disturbance threatens the survival of wildlife at the reserve. Many birds settle at the site during the winter. If they see a person they will take flight and this can be a survival problem, especially in cold weather.

"This is an important nature reserve in an urban environment and there are few other wetland habitats in the area in which the birds can live and breed successfully. Some birds, including Shovelers, have travelled here for the winter from as far as Russia, the Baltic States and Iceland so this site is really important to their protection."

A total of 156 different species of birds have been spotted at Kempton Nature Reserve and a specially designed path network, viewing point and hides keep people hidden from them.

Thames Water
Clearwater Court
Vastern Road
Reading
RG1 8DB

I www.thames-water.com





News Release

Kristine added: "Local people are welcome to view the wildlife here which includes waterfowl, waders, gulls and warblers, by joining the Friends of Nature Reserve but apart from members and arranged visits, the site is strictly off limits to the public to protect its wildlife.

"Disturbing the site by such means as we have recently seen destroys wildlife, spoils the enjoyment of legitimate users and is also illegal."

For details of joining Friends of Kempton Nature Reserve contact Kristine Boudreau on 0208 622 6506 or 07747 640361.

ends

For further details contact Thames Water's Press Office: Hilary Bennett on 0118 373 8935