

## Tring Reservoirs Trail Grand Union Canal

### The Trail

The [Tring Reservoirs Trail](#) begins and ends at the car park near Marsworth Bridge, a distance of approximately 1 km (0.6 mile). The walk, with stops, can be completed in about an hour.

### The Answers

#### Sheet 2 Answers

Stop 1: The water stored in Tring Reservoirs is used to top up the water levels in the Grand Union Canal. Startop's Reservoir is generally the second to be used, after Wilstone Reservoir. Water from the reservoirs is led through underground tunnels to Tringford Pumping Station. Here, the water is pumped up from deep wells into the Wendover Arm, from where it moves by gravity into the highest section of the Grand Union Canal at Tring Summit.

Stop 2: The second arch on the bridge crossed the channel leading to the second lock, situated beside the first one. The side pond, to the left of the towpath, was used to save water when boats passed through the lock.

#### Sheet 3 Answers

Stop 3: The man-made embankments show that the reservoir is not a natural feature. The gauges indicate the depth of the water. The reservoir may not be full if water has been pumped out to top up the water level in the Grand Union Canal. This occurs particularly at the height of the summer season when many pleasure boats cross Tring Summit.

Stop 4: Mallard ducks, coots, moorhens and Canada geese are common birds. Others are listed below. Marsworth Reservoir is also used by anglers. Common species of fish include carp, roach, tench, pike, bream and catfish. See the [Angling information pack](#) for illustrations and more details on fishing.

#### Sheet 4 Answers

Stop 5: Swifts, swallows, house martins, sand martins, common terns and arctic terns can be seen in spring; herons, reed buntings and reed warblers in the summer; Wading birds such as greenshank, redshank, dunlin and sandpipers in the autumn; Wildfowl such as shovellers, goldeneye, teal, goosander and gadwall, together with bitterns, water rail and great crested grebes in the winter. Current sightings are recorded by the Friends of Tring Reservoir on [www.fotr.org.uk](http://www.fotr.org.uk).

Stop 6: Reed beds provide an important habitat for birds, but reduce the capacity of the reservoir. The habitat has to be carefully managed to maintain the balance.

#### Sheet 5 Answers

Stop 7: The overflow channel carries surplus water from Marsworth Reservoir into Startop's End Reservoir. Food chains include, for example, Fox...Duck...Pond weed and Owl...Mouse...Seeds.

Stop 8: The feeder channel runs alongside the Grand Union Canal for about 250m and can be seen behind the cafe. This is because the canal at this point is at a higher level than the feeder channel, and water will not flow into it by gravity. The feeder channel joins the canal below Marsworth Lock where the canal is at a lower level.

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