



DARREN AND CEINWEN'S GREAT BRITISH RESERVOIR CHALLENGE!

*12 Reservoirs in 12 Counties
in 12 Months!*

Month 2 – February 27th 2010

Reservoir 2 – Pitsford Water, Brixworth, Northamptonshire

Our second walk on the Reservoir Challenge was Pitsford Water, which is just north of Northampton and is the third largest reservoir in the United Kingdom.



Pitsford was granted funding from the Millennium Commission, which enabled the creation of Brixworth Country Park. There is a 7 mile waterside path around the main section of the reservoir for walking or cycling and completing this was our challenge!




Supporting us (and making sure we turned up) was Cat (left) and Trudie (right), both colleagues of Ceinwen from Biology at the University of Leicester.

We began our walk at 2.50 from the Causeway, which divides the main section of the reservoir from the nature reserve, and walked clockwise around the main section of the reservoir.

It was a day of sunshine and showers. Video footage of the day shows us sitting in the car on arrival waiting for the heavy rain to ease so we could get out and put on our



waterproofs and walking boots. Fortunately, the rain did ease and between the showers it turned out to be a really nice day (and fairly warm for the time of year in the sunshine). We completed the main section of the reservoir by 5.35pm. At this point complete madness set in, with only an hour of daylight left we decided to walk around the nature reserve as well. This was an additional 7 mile walk and it has a soft path, as a result not only did we complete this part of the walk mainly in the dark, we were also caked in mud!

Pitsford Water – Key Facts	
	
Location	Brixworth, Northamptonshire.
Grid Reference	SP 780708
Managing agency	Anglian Water
Surface area	2.85 sq mi (7.4 km ²)

Fascinating Fact: Pitsford Water is home to a colony of the uncommon Hesperidae family butterfly the Essex Skipper.

Did you also know that Pitsford Water was designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1970 and is noted for supporting seventeen species of dragonfly as well as Great Crested Newts and Otters.

2 down, 10 to go! Our next two reservoir walks take place during Holy Week and includes the Upper Derwent Valley (Howden and Derwent) in Derbyshire on Tuesday 30th March and Winscar Reservoir in Yorkshire on Thursday 1st April.

Thank you if you have already sponsored us. If you haven't, it is not too late, you can sponsor us at any time during 2010.