

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

NOTE: It is important that you read the accompanying *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document before completing this form.

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

January 2002

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Country:

Denmark

3. Name of wetland: Randers and Mariager

Fjords and The Adjacent Sea.

International No.150; National No.11

4. Geographical coordinates: 56°59'N, 10°10'E

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.) 0-8 m 6. Area: 39,040 ha

7. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

The site is mainly shallow sea and fjord areas with small islets, but also saltmarshes and cultivated land including large reclaimed areas of the sea territory near Overgaard Estate.

8. Wetland Type (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document.)

marine-coastal: **A** · **B** · C · D · **E** · **F** · **G** · H · I · J · K

inland: L · M · N · O · P · Q · R · Sp · Ss · Tp · Ts
· U · Va · Vt · **W** · Xf · Xp · Y · Zg · Zk

man-made: 1 · 2 · 3 · 4 · 5 · 6 · 7 · 8 · 9

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant:

ABFEGW

9. Ramsar Criteria: (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12, next page.)

1 · **2** · 3 · 4 · 5 · **6** · 7 · 8

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 6

10. Map of site included? Please tick *yes* -or- *no* (Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits).

11. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

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Please provide additional information on each of the following categories by attaching extra pages (please limit extra pages to no more than 10):

12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page. (Please refer to Annex II in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document).

Criterion 2: The site is a breeding area for aquatic and salt marsh birds including species on the Danish red list, e.g. *Anas acuta*, *Calidris alpina schinzii*, *Philomachus pugnax*, and *Sterna albifrons*.

Criterion 6: The site regularly supports more than 1% of the individuals in the populations of the following species (count data 1999):

Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) 2,360 – 47,2% of the Svalbard/Denmark/UK population

Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*) 3,307 – 1,1% of the W Siberia/W Europe population

Common Scooter (*Melanitta nigra*) (28,000) – 1,8% of the W Sib/W & N Eur/NW Afr population

Velvet Scooter (*Melanitta fusca*) (11,000) – 1,1% of the Western Siberia/N Europe population

Eider (*Somateria mollissima*) 15,438 – 1% of the Baltic/Denmark/Netherlands population

Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) 4,816 – 1,6% of the Northwestern Europe population

Scaup (*Aythya marila*) 5,400 – 1,7% of the Northern/Western Europe population

13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

The site is located along the North East Coast of Jutland. The nearest large town is Randers to the south-vest. The site is situated in Aarhus and North Jutland Counties.

14. Physical features: (e.g. geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)

No specific information.

15. Hydrological values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc)

No specific information.

16. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

The marine area, sea inlets and the estuaries are the dominating features of the site. Furthermore, the site includes salt marshes, humid grassland and extensive cereal cultures.

17. Noteworthy flora: (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc)

No specific information.

18. Noteworthy fauna: (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.)

Resting and feeding area for waterbirds including – count data from 1999 (1993-94):

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) 589

Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) 188

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) (800)

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) 7,358

Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) 3,380

Goosander (*Mergus merganser*) (150-230)

Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) 1,573

Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) 5,790

Breeding area for aquatic and salt marsh birds including *Anas acuta*, *Anas clypeata*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Recurvirostra avosetta*, *Calidris alpina schinzii*, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Sterna paradisaea*, *Sterna hirundo*, *Sterna albifrons*.

19. Social and cultural values: (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

No specific information.

20. Land tenure/ownership of: (a) site (b) surrounding area

Territorial Waters, private, the State represented by the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Ministry of Defence.

21. Current land use: (a) site (b) surroundings/catchment

(a) Meadows are used for cattle grazing.

(b) Mostly farmland and forestry

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects: (a) at the site (b) around the site

(a): Decreasing presence of submerged vegetation has forced herbivorous waterbirds to feed on coastal grass areas.

Hydrographic conditions have changed as a result of reclamation and cultivation of shallow tidal areas in Mariager Fjord and along Ålborg Bay by Overgård Estate.

A potential threat in the area is a further decline in submerged vegetation e.g. *Zostera* due to eutrophication of sea and fjords.

(b): Wind farms may potentially influence the birds inside the area.

23. Conservation measures taken: (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made: management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

Nature conservation: Salt marshes at Sødringholm 38 hectares.

The whole site is included in the EU Bird Protection Site No. 15.

Parts of the Ramsar site are Wildlife reserves.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

By a Ministerial Order, hunting from motor boats has been prohibited in Randers and Mariager Fjords in order to reduce hunting pressure on and disturbance of waterbirds.

25. Current scientific research and facilities: (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

No specific information.

26. Current conservation education: (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

No specific information.

27. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)

No specific information.

28. Jurisdiction: (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment etc.)

Nature Conservation and administration of the Ramsar Convention and EU Bird and Habitat Directives: Ministry of Environment.

The legislation on Agriculture and Fisheries: Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Nature Conservation Scheme: Århus County.

29. Management authority: (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)

Århus County
Amtsgården
Lyseng Allé 1
8270 Højbjerg
Tel: 89 44 66 66
Fax: 89 44 69 90
E-mail: ag.au.amt@aaa.dk

Fussingø State Forest District
Vasevej 7
Fussingø
8900 Randers
Tel: 86 45 45 00
Fax: 86 45 40 36
E-mail: d31@sns.dk

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

- Clausen, P. et al. 2001: Jagt- og forstyrrelsesfrie kerneområder for vandfugle: Status 1999. Danmarks Miljøundersøgelser. 84 pp. Arbejdsrapport fra DMU nr. 146.
 - Miljø- og Energiministeriet, Skov- og Naturstyrelsen 1996: EF-fuglebeskyttelsesområder og Ramsarområder. Kort og områdebeskrivelser, status 1995. [With an English summary]. 273 pp.
 - Miljø- og Energiministeriet, Skov- og Naturstyrelsen 1999: Birds of Danish SPAs – trends in occurrence. 119 pp.
 - Ministry of Environment and Energy, The National Forest and Nature Agency 1996: Danish Report 1996 on the Ramsar Convention, Denmark and Greenland. 105 pp. + 4 appendices.
 - Pihl, S. et al. 2001: Landsdækkende optælling af vandfugle, vinteren 1999/2000. [With an English summary]. Danmarks Miljøundersøgelser. 46 pp. Faglig rapport fra DMU nr. 356.
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