

7AT 010



Ramsar Information Sheet
Lainsitz Valley Ponds, Peat Bogs and Floodplanes

Design. Date
12/22/1999

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:
20.9.99

2. Country:
Austria

3. Name of wetland:
(Lainsitz valley ponds, peat bogs and floodplanes)
*RENAMED: "WALDVIERTEL PONDS, PEATBOGS AND FLOODPLAINS"
(LETTER FEB. 2000, SEE COUNTRY/SITE FILE)*

4. Geographical coordinates:
15°59' longitude
48°46' latitude

5. Altitude: (average and/or maximum and minimum)
472m - 870m a.s.l.

6. Area: (in hectares)
13.000 ha

7. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)
The site is situated in the south-easternmost part of the central European mountain region, and contains a number of small and large riverine, peat bog and pond wetlands. All together, it represents the area's water regime with the Lainsitz as common river forming a direct connection to the Czech Ramsar sites "Trebou fish ponds" and "Trebou peat bogs", is of prominent commercial value (ponds for fish production) and consists of semi-natural (river planes, peat bogs) or man-made (fish-ponds) habitats essential for the survival of endangered plant and animal species.

Rivers: Lainsitz, Reißbach, Braunaubach, Romaubach, Schwarzabach and Elexenbach (all contributors to the Lainsitz);
Peat bogs: Karstifter Moore, Gemeindeau, Rottalmoos, Schönauer Moor, Haslauer Moor, Schremser Moor;
Ponds: Bruneiteich, Winkelauer Teich, Haslauerteich, Gebhartsteich and the pond area Pürbach-Hoheneich.

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

- M Permanent rivers/streams/creeks; including waterfalls
- Tp permanent freshwater marshes/pools; ponds (below 8 ha), marshes and swamps on inorganic soils; with emergent vegetation water-logged for at least most of the growing season.
- Ts Seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes/pools on inorganic soil; includes sloughs, potholes, seasonally flooded meadows, sedge marshes
- U non-forested peatlands: includes shrub or open bogs, swamps, fens.
- Xp Forested peatlands: peatswamp forest

man-made:

1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

- 1 Aquaculture (e.g. fish/shrimp) ponds.
- 4 Seasonally flooded agricultural land

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

Most dominant: 1, U, M

Less dominant: Tp, Ts, Xp, 4

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

- 1a it is a particularly good representative example of a natural or near-natural wetland, characteristic of the appropriate biogeographical region;
- 1d it is an example of a specific type of wetland, rare or unusual in in the appropriate biogeographical region
- 2a it supports an appreciable assemblage of rare, vulnerable or endangered species or subspecies of plant or animal, or an appreciable number of individuals of any one or more of these species
- 2c it is of special value as the habitat of plants or animals at a critical stage of their biological cycle

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to this site: 1a

10. Map of site included? YES

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

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

The Ramsar site is characterised by a high species diversity, especially in the groups of plants, dragonflies, amphibians and birds. Rare species as the mammals *Lutra lutra* and *Micromys minutus*, the mussels *Margaritifera margaritifera* and *Unio crassus* and the crustacean *Astacus astacus* have to be specially mentioned.

Main parts of the site are designated Natura2000 sites both under the Birds Directive (Dir. 79/409/EEC) and under the Habitats and Species Directive (Dir. 92/43/EEC), the European Union's main nature conservation frameworks.

The site contains two rivers of national importance, with one of the largest floodplane forest areas in Lower Austria by the river Lainsitz.

It contains several peat bogs classified as being of international and national importance.

It is one of Austria's most important breeding areas for waterfowl and resting area for migrating birds and is part of the "Important Bird Area" net according to the EU's Birds Directive mentioned above.

13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)
 Federal County: Lower Austria
 District: Gmünd
 North, east and South of the town of Gmünd

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)

The high plateau of the north-west Waldviertel is dominated by granite and gneiss.
 The annual precipitation is around 700 mm.

The area is situated along the European water shed, the Lainsitz river is contributing to the north via the Moldau and Elbe into the North sea.

Downstream of the Lainsitz area in Gmünd, the two Ramsar sites "Trebou fish ponds" and "Trebou peat bogs" are situated, around the town of Trebou and along river Lusnice (Czech word for Lainsitz)

The fish-ponds date back as far as the 13th century and mostly have been used for fish-production continuously ever since. The ponds are drained annually in autumn, refilled and restocked immediately after harvesting. The production is extensive, the annual net growth of fish between 300 and 500 kg/ha. The depths of the ponds mostly does not exceed 5m.

The peat bogs have been exploited by man over the past 200 years, draining peat bogs was common to make digging easier. The peat soil was mainly used as heating material in the glass industry till the end of the 19th century.

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

The rivers' and ponds' main value is flood control and water retention. Ponds and rivers act as hydrological buffer zone.

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

The site contains the following main vegetation types and habitats (as classified in the Dir. 92/43/EEC mentioned under pt. 12), **printed in bold letters are priority habitats under the Dir. 92/43:**

- oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoeto-Nanojuncetea*
- water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation
- Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clay-silt-laden soils (*Molinion careuleae*)
- Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels
- Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*)
- **Active raised bogs**
- Transition mires and quaking bogs
- **Bog woodland**
- Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*)

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

Surveys of the site have found the following species, endangered according to the national Red List)

Mosses

Aulacomnium palustre
Calliergon cordifolium
Calliergon stramineum
Polytrichum strictum
Riccia fluitans
Sphagnum angustifolium
Sphagnum cuspidatum
Sphagnum fallax
Sphagnum fimbriatum
Sphagnum flexuosum
Sphagnum papillosum
Sphagnum russowii
Sphagnum squarrosum
Sphagnum subsecundum

Vascular Plants:

Achillea ptarmica
Agrostis canina
Alchemilla filicaulis
Alopecurus geniculatus
Betula pubescens
Bromus racemosus agg.
Calamagrostis canescens
Calla palustris
Callitriche palustris agg.
Calycocorsus stipitatus
Cardamine matthioli
Carex canescens
Carex echinata
Carex elongata
Carex lasiocarpa
Carex pseudocyperus
Carex rostrata
Carex tumidicarpa
Carex vesicaria
Carex vulpina
Carlina acaulis
Cerastium arvense subsp. *arvense*
Cicuta virosa
Drosera rotundifolia
Eleocharis acicularis
Eleocharis palustris ssp. *palustris*
Epilobium obscurum
Epilobium tetragonum
Equisetum pratense
Eriophorum angustifolium
Eriophorum vaginatum
Glyceria fluitans
Glyceria maxima
Hypericum tetrapterum
Iris pseudoacorus
Juncus conglomeratus

Juncus filiformis
Juncus squarrosus
Leidum palustre
Lotus uliginosus
Lycopus europaeus
Lysimachia thrysiiflora
Menyanthes trifoliata
Myosotis nemorosa
Nardus stricta
Nuphar lutea
Nuphar pumila
Nymphaea candida
Oenanthe aquatica
Parnassia palustris
Pedicularis palustris
Pedicularis sylvatica
Pepelis portula
Persicaria bistorta
Peucedanum palustre
Phyteuma nigrum
Pinus rotundata
Potamogeton natans
Potentilla palustris
Ranunculus auricomus
Ranunculus circinatus
Ranunculus flammula
Ranunculus polyanthemus
Rhinanthus serotinus
Salix pentandra
Salix viminalis
Saxifraga granulata
Scorzenera humilis
Scutellaria galericulata
Senecio aquaticus
Sparganium emersum
Spergularia rubra
Spiraea salicifolia
Stellaria palustris
Trifolium spadiceum
Typha angustifolia
Utricularia australis
Vaccinium oxycoccos
Vaccinium uliginosum
Veronica scutellata
Viola palustris

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

Surveys of the site have found the following species (species printed in bold letters are protected under the Birds Directive or Habitat and Species Directive (see pt. 12) and/or included in the European Red List):

Dragonflies:

Zygoptera

Fam. Calopterygidae

Calopteryx splendens

Calopteryx virgo

Fam. Lestidae

Lestes barbarus

Lestes virens
Lestes sponsa
Lestes dryas
Lestes viridis

Fam. Platycnemididae

Platycnemis pennipes

Fam. Coenagrionidae

Pyrrhosoma nymphula
Coenagrion hastulatum
Coenagrion puella
Coenagrion pulchellum
Erythromma najas
Ischnura elegans
Ischnura pumilio
Enallagma cyathigerum

Anisoptera

Fam. Aeshnidae

Brachytron pratense
Aeshna juncea
Aeshna grandis
Aeshna cyanea
Aeshna mixta
Aeshna affinis
Aeshna isosceles
Anax imperator

Fam. Gomphidae

Gomphus vulgatissimus
Ophiogomphus cecilia ("Endangered" in the European Red List, Species of Annex II and IV of the Habitats and Species Directive)

Onychogomphus forcipatus

Fam. Cordulegastridae

Cordulegaster boltonii

Fam. Corduliidae

Cordulia aenea
Somatochlora metallica
Somatochlora arctica

Fam. Libellulidae

Libellula quadrimaculata
Libellula depressa
Orthetrum cancellatum
Sympetrum vulgatum
Sympetrum danae
Sympetrum flaveolum
Sympetrum sanguineum
Leucorrhinia dubia
Leucorrhinia pectoralis (Species of Annex II and IV of the habitats and Species Directive)

Amphibians:

Bufo bufo

Bufo calamita (Species of Annex IV of the Habitat and Species Directive)

Bombina variegata (Species of Annex II and IV of the Habitat and Species Directive)

Hyla arborea (Species of Annex IV of the Habitat and Species Directive)

Pelobates fuscus (Species of Annex IV of the Habitat and Species Directive)

Rana arvalis (Species of Annex IV of the Habitat and Species Directive)

Rana dalmatina (Species of Annex IV of the Habitat and Species Directive)

Rana esculenta

Rana lessonae (Species of Annex IV of the Habitat and Species Directive)

Rana temporaria

Triturus vulgaris

Fish:

Abramis brama

Alburnus alburnus

Blicca bjoerkna

Carassius carassius

Chondrostoma nasus

Cobitis taenia (Species of Annex II of the Habitat and Species Directive)

Cottus gobio

Cyprinus carpio

Esox lucius

Gibio gobio

Gymnocephalus cernua

Lampetra planeri (Species of Annex II of the Habitat and Species Directive)

Leucaspis delineatus

Leuciscus cephalus

Leuciscus leuciscus

Lota lota

Misgurnus fossilis

Noemacheilus barbatulus

Oncorhynchus mykiss

Perca fluviatilis

Phoxinus phoxinus

Rutilus rutilus

Salmo trutta f. fario

Scardinius erythrophthalmus

Stizostedion lucioperca

Thymallus thymallus

Tinca tinca

Birds:

Podicipediformes

Fam. Podicipedidae*Tachybaptus ruficollis**Podiceps cristatus**Podiceps nigricollis*

Pelecaniformes

Fam. Phalacrocoracidae*Phalacrocorax carbo*

Ciconiiformes

Fam. Ardeidae*Ardea cinerea**Casmerodius albus***Fam. Ciconiidae***Ciconia ciconia* (Species of Annex I of the Birds Directive)*Ciconia nigra* (Species of Annex I of the Birds Directive)

Anseriformes

Fam. Anatidae*Cygnus olor**Anser anser**Anas strepera**Anas crecca**Anas platyrhynchos**Anas querquedula**Netta rufina**Aythya ferina**Aythya fuligula*

Falconiformes

Fam. Pandionidae*Pandion haliaetus***Fam. Accipitridae***Haliaeetus albicilla* ("Endangered" in the European Red List, Species of Annex I of the Birds Directive)*Circus aeruginosus* (Species of Annex I of the Birds Directive)*Circus cyaneus**Accipiter nisus**Accipiter gentilis**Buteo buteo***Fam. Falconidae***Falco tinnunculus**Falco subbuteo*

Galliformes

Fam. Phasianidae*Coturnix coturnix**Phasianus colchicus**Perdix perdix*

Gruiformes

Fam. Rallidae*Rallus aquaticus**Porzana porzana* (Species of Annex I of the Birds Directive)*Crex crex* ("Endangered" in the European Red List, Species of Annex I of the Birds Directive)*Gallinus chloropus**Fulica utra*

Charadriiformes

Fam. Charadriidae

Vanellus vanellus

Fam. Scolopacidae

Calidris alpina

Gallinago gallinago

Numenius arquata

Tringa totanus

Tringa nebularia

Tringa ochropus

Actitis hypoleucos

Fam. Laridae

Larus ridibundus

Fam. Sternidae

Sterna hirundo (Species of Annex I of the Birds Directive)

Chlidonias niger (Species of Annex I of the Birds Directive)

Columbiformes

Fam. Columbidae

Columba livia

Columba palumbus

Streptopelia decaocto

Streptopelia turtur

Cuculiformes

Fam. Cuculidae

Cuculus canorus

Strigiformes

Fam. Strigidae

Glaucidium passerinum

Aegolius funereus

Coraciiformes

Fam. Alcedinidae

Alcedo atthis (Species of Annex I of the Birds Directive)

Fam. Piciformes

Fam. Picidae

Picus canus (Species of Annex I of the Birds Directive)

Picus viridis

Dryocopus martius (Species of Annex I of the Birds Directive)

Picoides major

Picoides minor

Passeriformes

Fam. Alaudidae

Alauda arvensis

Fam. Hirundinidae

Riparia riparia

Hirundo rustica

Delichon urbica

Fam. Motacillidae

Anthus trivialis

Anthus pratensis

Motacilla flava

Motacilla cinerea

Motacilla alba

Fam. Troglodytidae

Troglodytes troglodytes

Fam. Prunellidae

Prunella modularis

Fam. Turdidae

Erithacus rubecula

Phoenicurus ochruros

Saxicola rubetra

Turdus merula

Turdus pilaris

Turdus philomelos

Turdus viscivorus

Fam. Sylviidae

Locustella naevia

Locustella fluviatilis

Locustella luscinioides

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

Acrocephalus palustris

Acrocephalus scirpaceus

Hippolais icterina

Sylvia curruca

Sylvia communis

Sylvia borin

Sylvia atricapilla

Phylloscopus bonelli

Phylloscopus collybita

Phylloscopus trochilus

Regulus regulus

Regulus ignicapillus

Fam. Muscicapidae

Ficedula hypoleuca

Fam. Aegithalidae

Aegithalos caudatus

Fam. Paridae

Parus palustris
Parus montanus
Parus cristatus
Parus ater
Parus caeruleus
Parus major

Fam. Sittidae

Sitta europaea

Fam. Certhiidae

Certhia familiaris

Fam. Remizidae

Remiz pendulinus

Fam. Oriolidae

Oriolus oriolus

Fam. Laniidae

Lanius collurio (Species of Annex I of the Birds Directive)

Fam. Corvidae

Garrulus glandarius
Pica pica
Nucifraga caryocatactes
Corvus monedula
Corvus frugilegus
Corvus corone
Corvus corax

Fam. Sturnidae

Sturnus vulgaris

Fam. Passeridae

Passer domesticus
Passer montanus

Fam. Fringillidae

Fringilla coelebs
Serinus serinus
Carduelis chloris
Carduelis carduelis
Carduelis spinus
Carduelis cannabina
Loxia curvirostra
Pyrrhula pyrrhula
Coccothraustes coccothraustes

Fam. Emberizidae

Emberiza citrinella
Emberiza schoeniclus

Other endangered species:**Fam. Potamobiidae**

Astacus astacus ("Endangered" in the European Red List)

Fam. Unionidae

Margaritifera margaritifera ("Endangered" in the European Red List, Species of Annex II and IV of the Habitat and Species Directive)

Unio crassus (Species of Annex II and IV of the Habitat and Species Directive)

Fam. Mustelidae

Lutra lutra ("Endangered" in the European Red List, Species of Annex II and IV of the Habitat and Species Directive)

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

The fish production in the ponds is a tradition that dates back to the 13th century. Until today, it is an important source of income for part of the local population.

The digging of peat, traditionally used for heating in the glass industry, has stopped, more or less altogether, some decades years ago.

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

ponds: private big landowners

peat bogs: partly big landowners, partly public property of the local communities, partly private small land owners (farmers)

rivers: water bodies: partly public ownership (local communities, federal and national authorities); fishing rights privately owned

surrounding grassland meadows: mostly private owners (farmers)

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

(a)

ponds: extensive fish production

peat bogs: no traditional land use, part of one peat bog currently used as nature trail

rivers: angling

meadows: hay production

(b)

meadows: hay production

forest: production of wood

hunting is common all over the Ramsar site

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

past: drainage of peat bogs, digging turf soil

present: drainage canal still effective in peat bogs; afforestation of wet meadows (single farmers giving up agriculture)

potential: large scale afforestation of wet meadows (as a result of "restructuring" agriculture in the EU); further intensification of farmer's draining activities (co-financed by the EU); intensification of fish-production and agriculture (co-financed by the EU); mismanagement of angling in rivers (stocking to much fish or wrong species)

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)

rivers:

Alte Lainsitzschlinge	NM
Gabrielental	NM
Lainsitztal	(NCS)
Blockheide Eibenstein	NCS
Reitzenschlägerbach	NM
peat bogs:	
Gemeindeau	NCS

Karlstifter Moore (5 sites)	NCS
Rottalmoos	(NCS)
Schremser Moor	(NCS)
ponds:	
Bruneiteich	NCS
Gebhartsteich	NCS

NM Nature Monument, NCS Nature conservation site, ()....in planning

All sites mentioned above are part of the Natura2000 site "Waldviertler Heide-, Teich- und Moorlandschaft (see pt. 12 and pt. 24).

Management plans exist for: Lainsitz floodplane, Reißbach, Rottalmoos, Gemeideau, Winkelauer Teich, Gebhartsteich and Bruneiteich and Schremser Moor; their implementation is just starting

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

In the LIFE project "Wetland Management in the upper Waldviertel" carried out by WWF Austria management plans have been developed for the sites Reißbachtal, Rottalmoos, Gemeideau, Gebhartsteich, Brunauteich and Winkelauerteich. Their implementation has just started;

2 peat bogs (Rottalmoos, Schremser Moor) and the Lainsitz floodplane are proposed as nature conservation sites, the legal procedure is currently under way;

for the site Schremser Moor (peat bog) a management plan has been developed, it's implementation is just starting;

For the site Haslauer Moor (peat bog) a management plan is in preparation;

all sites mentioned above are part of the Natura2000 site "Waldviertler Heide-, Teich- und Moorlandschaft" (Dir. 92/43/EEC as mentioned under pt.12), full EU legislation will be in operation as soon as the official community list is finished.

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

scientific research:

- surveys, development of management plans and monitoring as part of the project "Wetland management in the upper Waldviertel (co-financed by the EU-Life-Nature program, carried out by WWF Austria);
- annual bird surveys of the ponds, (Bird Life Austria);
- surveys and applied research on *Lutra lutra* with the aim to minimize the conflict between otters and fish-farming), (WWF Austria);
- restoration and monitoring of selected Waldviertel peat bogs (Schönauer Moor, Haslauer Moor, Gemeideau, Rottalmoos), (WWF Austria);

no research facilities on site

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

current:

2 peat bogs (Karlstifter Moore, Gemeideau) with nature trails;

WWF Austria (regional Waldviertel office) offers school lectures and excursions on "*Lutra lutra*" and one "Wetlands":

In planning:

Ramsar centre Waldviertel: information and visitor centre, education, school courses, field excursions, etc.;
Nature trail for 2 further peat bogs (Schremser Moor, Haslauer Moor)

- 27. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate rivers: angling (medium intensity)
peat bogs: Gemeineau und Karlstifter Moore: hiking on nature trail (medium intensity)
others: none
ponds: none

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

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

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