

## INFORMATION SHEET ON RAMSAR WETLANDS

**Country:** Germany

**Date:** 13 February 1992

**Ref:** 7DE027

**Name and address of compiler:**

Landesanstalt für Oekologie, Landschaftsentwicklung und  
Forstplanung Nordrhein-Westfalen; Leibnitzstr. 10; 4350  
Recklinghausen; Germany  
Tel: 02361 505-1

**Name of wetland:** Weserstaustufe Schlüsselburg

**Date of Ramsar designation:** 29 September 1989

**Geographical coordinates:** 52°24'N-52°30'N 08°58'E-09°06'E

**General location:** Bundesland Nordrhein-Westfalen, District  
Detmold, Community of Minden-Lübbecke, Weser-floodplain between  
petershagen to the South and Schlüsselburg to the North.

**Area:** 1,600 ha

**Wetland type:** M 4 7

**Altitude:** 32-40 m above sea level.

**Overview:** A 21 km stretch of the river Weser with neighbouring  
floodplain areas. The site consists of two core areas: 1)  
"Oberwasser" to the North, situated around the area of the  
river-dam (= "Staustufe") itself; and 2) "Häverner Marsch" to  
the South, a river floodplain area with 8 gravel pits.  
The area is of international importance as resting and wintering  
site, mainly for waterfowl.

**Physical features:** The Weser river-dam was built in 1956 in  
connection with the canalisation of the Mittelweser in order to  
circumnavigate the 7 km river bend. The weir now divides this  
bend into the 5 km long "Oberwasser" (= upper water = water  
above the weir), and the 2 km long "Untwasser" (= lower water  
= water below the weir). The speed of the waterflow north of the  
weir, in the Oberwasser, varies greatly; on the other hand, the  
weir has caused still water-bodies to form to the south, in the  
Untwasser area. At high water in the river Weser, the adjacent  
floodplains are periodically flooded. The area Häverner Marsch  
includes 8 extraction pits, which are temporally directly  
connected to the river at high water. Mean water levels are  
between 3-5 m. The gravel pits are influenced by the high  
chlorine content of the Weser; under normal water conditions  
they become a little more eutrophic (sweet!) as the groundwater  
flow goes towards the river (?). The soils of the Weser  
floodplain consist of layers of clay above gravelly-sandy  
endmoraines (holocene fluvial valley sediments).

**Ecological features:** Lowland river with overgrown shoreline and adjacent pasture- and arable fenland. The gravel pits of the Häverner Marsch support a pontic (typical of ponds?) vertebrate fauna, which varies in the different pits due to varying degrees of salinity in each pit. The area is the most important wintering site for *Bucephala clangula* in inland Western Germany and the largest resting site for *Pluvialis apricaria* in Westfalia.

**Land tenure/ownership of**

**a) site:** Bundesland Nordrhein-Westfalen (some areas), and private ownership.

**b) surrounding area:** private ownership.

**Conservation measures taken:** Ca. 80% of the site is under nature protection: (NSG = Naturschutzgebiet = Nature Reserve)

- NSG Staustufe Schlüsselburg	since 18.05.81	268.0
ha		
- NSG Häverner Marsch	since 23.10.89	93.0
ha		
- NSG Grube Baltus	since 01.12.86	62.94
ha		
- NSG Mittelweser	since 14.09.87	90.0
ha		
- NSG Weseraue	since 23.10.89	765.0
ha		

Management Plans exist for the Nature Reserves Häverner Marsch and Staustufe Schlüsselburg. Angling and Watersports are permanently prohibited in Häverner Marsch and temporally restricted in the area of the Staustufe. The management plan for Häverner Marsch mainly deals with the ecological transformation of the gravel pits. In the area of the Weseraue "Blänken" (?) were built, and flatter shorelines were created. A special campaign was carried out in order to protect the last remaining breeding site for *Ciconia ciconia* in Nordrhein-Westfalen. With this aim, more land was bought, pasture was converted from intensive to extensive use, biotopes for feeding were created, and in the core breeding areas overhead cables were eliminated.

**Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:**

Management plans will have to be developed for the Nature Reserves Grube Baltus and Mittelweser; the management plan for the Nature Reserve Weseraue is at present in preparation. Tighter restrictions on hunting should be applied to the whole area.

**Current land use: principal human activities in**

**a) site:**

- National waterway (Weser)
- agricultural use (pasture and arable land)
- water sport including fishing on most waters
- gravel extraction
- nature conservation, species protection
- hunting

**b) surroundings/catchment:** Relatively sparsely populated agricultural landscape, which, in the closest vicinity, is

almost entirely used for agriculture or forestry.

**Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects**

**a) at the site:**

- disturbance through increase in water sports and fishing
- disturbance through hunting
- conversion from pasture to arable land
  
- gravel extraction
- intensive agricultural use (fertilizers, biozides)
- disturbance through military use (low flights)
- Chloride contamination in the water with constantly strongly varying concentrations.

**b) in the surroundings/catchment:**

- intensive agriculture
- working farms
- military exercise base in the Weser area.

**Hydrological and physical values:** At the time of the canalisation of the Mittelweser the Staustufe Schlüsselburg was built, and the canal was constructed to circumnavigate the river bend (= Weserschleife). The weir caused a greater water depth in the Oberwasser from originally 1.5 m (mean water level) to 3.8 m at the top of the dammed water to 5.6 m at the weir. The river Weser only floods at very high waters. A network of deep drainage channels was built parallel to the Weser in order to protect the agricultural fields adjacent to the weir; these drainage channels flow into the Unterwasser. Under normal water conditions the groundwater flow goes towards the Weser.

**Social and cultural values:** scientific research.

**Noteworthy fauna:**

Breeding birds: (amongst others)

<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	3 pairs
<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	7-9 pairs
<i>Riparia riparia</i>	up to 150 pairs
<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	1 pair
<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	11 pairs
<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	5 pairs

Wintering birds: (source: reference Nr. 3)

<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	max. 10,000
<i>Aythya ferina</i>	max. 4,600
<i>A. fuligula</i>	max. 3,100
<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	max. 1.500
<i>Mergus merganser</i>	max. 800
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	max. 70
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	max. 200
<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	max. 40-50
<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	max. 300
<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	max. 1-2
<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	max. 1,000
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	max. 15,000
<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	max. 80

**Noteworthy flora:** no information available.

**Current scientific research and facilities:** Regular bird population counts and counts of the migrating and wintering birds by the Biological Station Minden-Lübbecke.

**Current conservation education:** no information available.

**Current recreation and tourism:** The site is strongly used for recreation. A sailingboat harbour lies within Nature Reserve boundaries. The drainage canals and the Weser itself are used for water sport and fishing.

**Management authority:**

Weser - FR Germany, Wasser- und. Schifffahrtsdirektion  
Hanover.

The areas owned by the Bundesland lie in the responsibility of the District President for Detmold, i.e. Community Minden-Lübbecke. The LÖLF is in charge of supervision.

**Jurisdiction:** no information supplied.

**Bibliographical references:**

- 1) Ziegler, G. 1981. Durchzug und Ueberwinterungsvorkommen der Entenvögel im Bereich der "Weserstaustufe Schlüsselburg". *Charadrius* 17: 1-22.  
(Migratory and wintering ducks in the area of "Weserstaustufe Schlüsselburg").
- 2) Woike, M. & Penselin, U. 1980. Biotopmanagementplan für das geplante NSG "Häverner Marsch". - im Auftrag der Landesanstalt für Oekologie, Landschaftsentwicklung und Forstplanung.  
(Biotope-management plan for the planned Nature Reserve "Häverner Marsch").
- 3) Erfassung von "Important Bird Areas" der Bundesrepublik Deutschland. Ber. Dtsch. Sekt. Int. Rat Vogelschutz 27 (1987), 13-58.  
(Counts on IBAs in FR Germany).
- 4) Ziegler, G. *et al.* 1989. Pflege- und Entwicklungsplan für das NSG "Staustufe Schlüsselburg". -im Auftrag des Regierungspräsidenten Detmold.  
(Management- and Development Plan for the Nature Reserve "Staustufe Schlüsselburg").

**Reasons for inclusion:**

- 1 (a), 1 (c)
- 2 (a), 2 (c)
- 3 (c)

**Map of site:** 1:50,000 enclosed.