

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD	MM	YY

Designation date

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Site Reference Number

2. Country:

Denmark

3. Name of wetland:

Nissum Bredning with Harboøre and Agger Tange
International No. 144; National No. 5

4. Geographical coordinates: 56°38'N, 08°15'E

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.) 1-5 m

6. Area: (in hectares) 12,772 hectares

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

The area consists of great salt marshes, with reed swamp along shallow lagoons. East and south of Agger Tange is a considerable area of shallow water with tidal sandbars.

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:

A, B, J, H, G

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:

Sten Asbirk, Danish Forest and Nature Agency, Haraldsgade 53, 2100 Copenhagen, Denmark.
Tel: +45 39 47 20 00, fax: +45 39 27 98 99, e-mail: sta@sns.dk
Inge Thaulow, Kaare Duhn, and Palle Uhd Jepsen, Danish Forest and Nature Agency.

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 an important habitat for two nationally red listed plant species: *Glaucium flavum* at Krik Vig and *Dactylorhiza purpurella* spp. *purpurella* at Agger Tange.

The site is a breeding area for aquatic and salt marsh birds including species on the national red list e.g. *Anser querquedula*, *Anas acuta*, *Charadrius alexandrinus*, *Calidris alpina schinzii*, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Numenius arquata*, *Sterna albifrons*, and *Asio flammeus*.

Criterion 6: The site regularly supports more than 1% of the individuals in the populations of the following species:

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) 4,150 (1998) – 12,2% of the Svalbard/NW Europe

Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*) 480 (1999) – 9,6% of the Svalbard/Denmark/UK

Pintail (*Anas acuta*) 2,010 (1998) – 3,4% of the Northwestern Europe population

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

The site is located in the western part of Limfjorden, the sound separating the Thy, Hanherred and Vendsyssel parts from the rest of Jutland. Nearest town is Thyborøn, administrative regions are Viborg and Ringkøbing 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)

The Nissum Bredning part of the Ramsar area is the most westerly part of the Nissum Bredning with large very shallow areas (below 2-3 meters depth). The rest of the Bredning is an estuary with a depth mostly around 4-7 meters. Nissum Bredning is connected to the North Sea through a narrow canal at Thyborøn and to the rest of the Limfjord through another narrow area "Oddesund". The Limfjord is a strait with connection both to the North Sea and Kattegat and with high freshwater input from the catchment area.

The connection to the North Sea was established in 1825 and before that it was a freshwater area. Now it is the most saline part of the Limfjord with a salinity a little lower than the North Sea. The salinity varies between 28 and 33‰.

The water level can change much at strong winds both from west and east due to the rather narrow opening to the North Sea. The water level normally varies 0.85 meter but up to 3-3.5 meters. The tidal fluctuation is around 0.15 meter.

The mean water depth in the lagoons at Harboøre Tange is 0.2-1.6 meter, mean secchi depth 0.5-1.3 meter. The nutrient level in the lagoons is high. Mean annual phosphorous level is 0.1-0.5 mg P/l.

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

There is a high water exchange in the area due to strong wind and current. The net water exchange of around 8 km³/year is from west to east.

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

The area consists of great salt marshes, with reed swamp along shallow lagoons. The Nissum Bredning part of the Ramsar area has large areas of submerged vegetation of eelgrass and smaller areas covered with stones and various macro algae. The rest of the area is mainly characterised by sandflats, which easily are resuspended by waves and current.

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

Glaucium flavum at Krik Vig and *Dactylorhiza purpurella* spp. *Purpurella* at Agger Tange are on the national red list.

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

Nissum Bredning with Harboøre and Agger Tange is a very important area for Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Brenta bernicla* ssp. *hrota*), several wader species and certain rare breeding birds. The fjord area is a breeding area and haul-out for Common Seal (*Phoca vitulina*).

Resting and feeding area for waterbirds:

Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) 180 (1998)

Bewick's Swan (*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*) 100 (1998)
population

Dark-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*) 50 (1998)
population

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) 10 (1998)

Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) 5,390 (1999)

Teal (*Anas crecca*) 2,220 (1999)

Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) 590 (1998)

Red breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) 480 (1999)

Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) 1,680 (1999)

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) 5,040 (1999)

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) 270 (1998)

Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) 60 (1999)

Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) 325 (1999)

Coot (*Fulica atra*) 8,100 (1999)

Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) 4,950 (1999)

Breeding area for aquatic and salt marsh birds:

Anas strepera, *Anas crecca*, *Anser querquedula*, *Anas acuta*, *Anas clypeata*, *Circus aeruginosus*, *Recurvirostra avosetta*, *Charadrius alexandrinus*, *Calidris alpina schinzii*, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Numenius arquata*, *Limosa limosa*, *Sterna paradisaea*, *Sterna hirundo*, *Sterna albifrons*, *Asio flammeus*, *Haematopus ostralegus*.

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

Tourism, boating (incl. windsurfing) and hunting. Fisheries and production of reeds.

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

Territorial waters, private, the State represented by the Ministry of public affairs and the Ministry of Environment.

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

(a) cattle grazing, farmland (b) farmland

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

It seems that a gradual leaching of salt and a change in the plant communities in and around the large lagoons of Agger and Harboøre Peninsulas is taking place. These lagoons were isolated from the Limfjord by a dam in the mid 1950s.

Overgrowth of salt marshes due to the lack of cattle grazing. Pollution from the "Cheminova" chemical factory. Variable water levels in lagoons. Increasing tourism, boating (incl. windsurfing) and hunting.

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: Agger and Harboøre Tange (2,400 ha) and Plet Enge (250 ha).

The whole area is included in the EU Bird Protection Area Nos. 23 and 39 and EU Habitat Protection area No. 28.

Part of the Ramsar site is a wildlife reserve.

Management of the marshes on Harboøre Tange has improved considerably during the last decade as most of the marshes are now grazed by cattle. In the autumn 1998 the sluice was removed, which until then prevented saltwater from the Limfjord to enter the area. It is an experiment aimed at seeing if dryingup of lagoons and marshes can be prevented, and the frequency of flooding can be increased. The experiment will be evaluated in 2002.

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

No specific information.

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

Monitoring of waterbirds is currently undertaken.

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)

Increasing tourism, boating (incl. windsurfing) and hunting.

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: Ringkjøbing County and Viborg County.

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

Ringkøbing County
Østergade 41
Postboks 152
6950 Ringkøbing
Telefon: 96 75 30 00
Telefax: 96 75 30 80

Viborg County
Skottenborg 26
Postboks 21
8800 Viborg
Telefon: 87 27 17 00
Telefax: 86 62 39 33

Klosterheden State Forest District
Sønderby

Gl. Landevej 35
Fabjerg

7620 Lemvig
Tlf. 97 81 00 33
Fax 97 82 02 40
E-mail: d60@sns.dk

Thy State Forest District
Søholt
Søholtvej 6
7700 Thisted
Tlf. 97 97 70 88
Fax 97 97 71 88
E-mail: d55@sns.dk

The Coast Inspectorate
Ministry of Public Works
7620 Lemvig
Tel. 99 63 63 63
Fax 99 63 63 99
e-mail: ki@kyst.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.
-

Please return to: **Ramsar Convention Bureau, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 GLAND, Switzerland**
Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • e-mail: ramsar@hq.iucn.org