Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 27 April 2023
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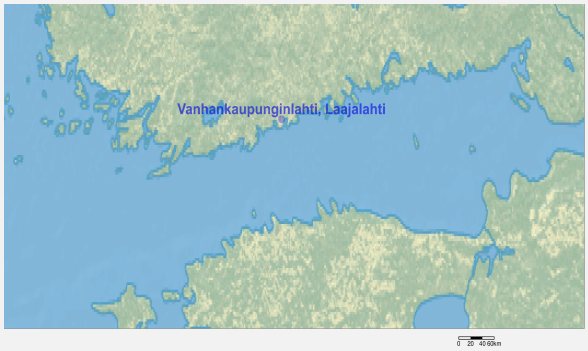
Finland

Vanhankaupunginlahti, Laajalahti



Designation date	28 May 1974
Site number	9
Coordinates	60°12'17"N 24°56'16"E
Area	508,00 ha

Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

1 - Summary

Summary

The bays form an important wetland complex especially for breeding and migrating waterfowl and waders. The recreational importance is very notable, being located inside and within easy access from major population centres with ca. 1 million inhabitants. The site is also used for education. The site has two sub-areas, Vanhankaupunginlahti is formed at the mouth of the River Vantaanjoki, where the old center of Helsinki was first formed. On the northern shore of the shallow bay of Laajalahti there are the archaeological remains of a deserted Medieval hamlet. Both sites are eutrophic and host large reed beds.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Responsible compiler

Institution/agency	Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), Natural Environment Centre
Postal address	PO Box 140 FI-00251 Finland

National Ramsar Administrative Authority

Institution/agency	Metsähallitus, Parks and Wildlife Finland
Postal address	PO Box 94 FI-01301 Vantaa Finland

2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year	2004
To year	2017

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Vanhankaupunginlahti, Laajalahti
Unofficial name (optional)	Originally designated as 'Viikki'

2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

(Update) A. Changes to Site boundary	Yes ○ No ◉
(Update) B. Changes to Site area	No change to area
(Update) For secretariat only: This update is an extension	☐

2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS?	No

(Update) Optional text box to provide further information

Wetland types and species, and ecosystem services have been reassessed according to current knowledge, but there are no changes to the ecological character.

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image
<2 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps	0

Boundaries description

For its original designation in 1974 the site extended over 247 ha which at the time corresponded with the Viikki Protected Area. In 1998 the Ramsar site was extended and now exactly overlaps with the Natura 2000 Sites Vanhankaupunginlahden lintuvesi SAC/SPA (316 ha) and Laajalahden lintuvesi SAC/SPA (192 ha).

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	Uusimaa
b) What is the nearest town or population centre?	Helsinki, Espoo

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes ○ No ◉

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes ○ No ◉

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha): 508

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries: 507.993

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Other scheme (provide name below)	Hemiboreal forest vegetation zone
EU biogeographic regionalization	Boreal region

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

Vegetation zones of Finland according to Ruuhijärvi et al. 2000.

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

☑ Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Other reasons: A representative example of near-natural wetland types (estuarine waters, shallow sea bays) in the EU Boreal region, including 2 priority natural wetland habitat types (boreal Baltic coastal meadows, Fennoscandian deciduous swamp woods).

☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

☑ Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
Birds																	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas acuta*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - EN	The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas clypeata*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐		The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas querquedula*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - EN	The Site supports this species during breeding period.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anas strepera*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐		The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anser fabalis*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Anthus cervinus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Asio flammeus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	EU Birds Directive - Annex I	The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Aythya ferina*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				VU	☐	☐	National Red List - EN	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Aythya fuligula*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - EN	The Site supports this species during breeding period.

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA / AVES	*Aythya marila*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - EN	The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Botaurus stellaris*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	EU Birds Directive - Annex I	The Site supports this species during migration and breeding periods.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Branta leucopsis*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	EU Birds Directive - Annex I	The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Calidris minuta*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - EN	The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Calidris temminckii*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - EN	The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Chlidonias niger*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	National Red List - CR; EU Birds Directive - Annex I	The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	The Site supports this species during breeding period.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Circus aeruginosus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	EU Birds Directive - Annex I	The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Circus cyaneus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU; EU Birds Directive - Annex I	The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Circus pygargus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - EN; EU Birds Directive - Annex I	The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Crex crex*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	EU Birds Directive - Annex I	The Site supports this species during breeding period.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	EU Birds Directive - Annex I	The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Cygnus cygnus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	EU Birds Directive - Annex I	The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Gallinago media*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				NT	☐	☐	National Red List - CR; EU Birds Directive - Annex I	The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Gallinula chloropus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	The Site supports this species during breeding period.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Hydrocoloeus minutus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	EU Birds Directive - Annex I	The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Hydroprogne caspia*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	EU Birds Directive - Annex I	The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Lanius collurio*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	EU Birds Directive - Annex I	The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Larus fuscus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - EN	The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Limosa lapponica*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				NT	☐	☐	EU Birds Directive - Annex I	The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA / AVES	*Limosa limosa*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				NT	☐	☐	National Red List - EN	The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Melanitta nigra*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐		The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Mergellus albellus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	EU Birds Directive - Annex I	The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Motacilla citreola*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - EN	The Site supports this species during breeding period.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Pandion haliaetus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	EU Birds Directive - Annex I	The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Panurus biarmicus*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Philomachus pugnax*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	National Red List - CR; EU Birds Directive - Annex I	The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Podiceps auritus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				VU	☐	☐	National Red List - EN	The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Porzana parva*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - EN	The Site supports this species during breeding period.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Porzana porzana*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	EU Birds Directive - Annex I	The Site supports this species during breeding period.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Remiz pendulinus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - EN	The Site supports this species during breeding period.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Sterna hirundo*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	EU Birds Directive - Annex I	The Site supports this species during migration and breeding periods.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Sterna paradisaea*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	EU Birds Directive - Annex I	The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Sternula albifrons*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - EN; EU Birds Directive - Annex I	The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Sylvia nisoria*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Tringa glareola*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	EU Birds Directive - Annex I	The Site is important for the species as a resting site species during the migration seasons.
CHORDATA / AVES	*Tringa totanus*	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	National Red List - VU	The Site supports this species during breeding period.

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
Estuaries	☑		EU Habitats Directive - Annex I
Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	☑		EU Habitats Directive - Annex I
Large shallow inlets and bays	☑		EU Habitats Directive - Annex I
Fennoscandian decidious swamp woods	☑		EU Habitats Directive - Annex I
Transition mires and quaking bogs	☑		EU Habitats Directive - Annex I
Boreal Baltic coastal meadows	☑		EU Habitats Directive - Annex I

4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

4.1 - Ecological character

Vanhankaupunginlahti: Area 316 ha, including ca. 140 ha of water. Head of the bay (ca. 140 ha) is covered by growths of Common Reed (Phragmites australis) with >30 small ponds inside. Growths of Grey Club-rush (Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani), Common Club-rush (S. lacustris) and Lesser Bulrush (Typha angustifolia) occur in many areas. Submerged vegetation is scarce. Shores are fringed by a zone of Black Alder (Alnus glutinosa) swamps. Restored and regularly managed meadows cover ca. 40 ha. Agricultural land and an arboretum adjoin the area on the eastern side.

Laajalahti: Area 192 ha, including ca. 130 ha of water. Shores are covered by extensive growths (>30 ha) of Common Reed. Small coastal meadows and submerged vegetation are species-rich. The most abundant aquatic plants are Spiked Water-milfoil (Myriophyllum spicatum), Rigid Hornwort (Ceratophyllum demersum), Brackish Water-crowfoot (Ranunculus baudotii) and Fennel-leaved Pondweed (Potamogeton pectinatus). Restored and regularly managed meadows cover ca. 30 ha

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Marine or coastal wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
A: Permanent shallow marine waters		2		Representative
F: Estuarine waters		1		Representative
H: Intertidal marshes		4		
I: Intertidal forested wetlands		3		

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Invasive alien plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Impatiens glandulifera*	Actual (major impacts)	increase

Optional text box to provide further information

The City of Helsinki and NGO's have organized control measures to prevent the spread of the Himalayan balsam.

4.3.2 - Animal species

Invasive alien animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	*Carassius carassius*	Actual (major impacts)	decrease
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	*Neovison vison*	Actual (major impacts)	decrease
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	*Nyctereutes procyonoides*	Actual (major impacts)	decrease

Optional text box to provide further information

The hunting of alien small predators is carried out by local hunters and hunting clubs. Also trapping of Prussian carp has been started by City of Helsinki.

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
D: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with cold winters	Dfb: Humid continental (Humid with severe winter, no dry season, warm summer)

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres): 0

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres): 13

Entire river basin ☐
Upper part of river basin ☐
Middle part of river basin ☐
Lower part of river basin ☐
More than one river basin ☐
Not in river basin ☐
Coastal ☑

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

A Bay and an Estuary on the coast of the Baltic Sea, Gulf of Finland

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

No available information ☐

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes ○ No ◉

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

Mainly silt and clay. Vanhankaupunginlahti: major subsoil type mud-clay (ovar 90 %) minor types silt and sand. Turf and mud layers contain over 20 000 mg/kg of both aluminium and iron. Concentrations of heavy metal do not exceed the limit values for soil.

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	No change

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Marine water	☑	No change

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Marine	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels largely stable	No change

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Sediment regime unknown ☐

<no data available>

4.4.6 - Water pH

Unknown ☑

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l) ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Mixohaline (brackish)/Mixosaline (0.5-30 g/l) ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Unknown ☐

Please provide further information on salinity (optional):

0–4‰ in Vanhankaupunginlahti and ca. 3–5‰ in Laajalahti.

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Eutrophic ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Unknown ☐

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself: i) broadly similar ○ ii) significantly different ◉

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development ☑

Surrounding area has higher human population density ☑

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use ☑

Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types ☑

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Wetland non-food products	Livestock fodder	Medium

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	High
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	Low
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	High
Scientific and educational	Major scientific study site	High
Scientific and educational	Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)	High
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	High

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganizms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	Medium

Within the site: 10 000s

Outside the site: 10 000s

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes ○ No ◉ Unknown ○

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

i) the site provides a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland ☐

ii) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland ☐

iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples ☐

iv) relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland ☐

<no data available>

4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
National/Federal government	☑	☐
Local authority, municipality, (sub)district, etc.	☑	☐

Other

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
No information available	☐	☑

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site: City of Helsinki (Vanhankaupunginlahti), Metsähallitus Park and Wildlife Finland (Laajalahti)

Provide the name and/or title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland: Mr. Ilpo Huolman, Senior Advisor

Postal address: PO Box 36
FI-00521 Helsinki
Finland

E-mail address: ilpo.huolman@ely-keskus.fi

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

Human settlements (non agricultural)

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Housing and urban areas	Medium impact	High impact	☐	No change	☑	increase

Transportation and service corridors

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Utility and service lines (e.g., pipelines)	Medium impact	High impact	☑	No change	☑	No change

Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Recreational and tourism activities	Medium impact	High impact	☑	increase	☑	increase

Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Invasive non-native/ alien species	Medium impact	High impact	☑	decrease	☑	increase
Problematic native species	High impact	High impact	☑	increase	☑	increase

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Household sewage, urban waste water	Medium impact	High impact	☑	increase	☐	increase
Garbage and solid waste	Medium impact	High impact	☐	No change	☑	No change
Excess heat, sound, light	Medium impact	High impact	☐	No change	☑	increase

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

Regional (international) legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
EU Natura 2000	Laajalahden lintuvesi SAC/SPA	http://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/Natura2000/SDF.aspx?site=FI01000 28	whole
EU Natura 2000	Vanhankaupunginlahden lintuvesi SAC/SPA	http://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/Natura2000/SDF.aspx?site=FI01000 62	whole

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Waterfowl Habitat Conservation Programme			whole
protected area			whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

Ia Strict Nature Reserve ☐

Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection ☐

II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation ☐

III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features ☐

IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention ☑

V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation ☐

VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems ☐

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Habitat

Measures	Status
Habitat manipulation/enhancement	Partially implemented

Species

Measures	Status
Control of invasive alien animals	Partially implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities	Implemented

Other:

The sites are included in the Natura 2000 Network, designated both as SPA and SCIAC, and in the Waterfowl Habitats Conservation Programme. Viikki Protected Area (250 ha) was established in 1959 and 1962, and further extended in 1987, 2005 and 2016. Laajalahti Protected Area (190 ha) was established first in 1979, extended in 1993 and 1995–96.

In Vanhankaupunginlahti, wastewater discharge was stopped in 1987 and also the waters of River Vantaanjoki have purified in recent years. Submerged vegetation and benthic fauna have started to recover. In Laajalahti, after reducing use of the sewage plant in 1975 and stopping it completely in 1986, the water quality has improved and both submerged vegetation and benthic fauna have recovered during the 1990s.

Conservation of the Natura 2000 sites outside the already protected areas will be carried out under the Nature Conservation Act. In Vanhankaupunginlahti and Laajalahti, removal of vegetation from the overgrown areas has been carried out as well as ponds and pasture meadows has been enlarged significantly since 2005.

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? Yes

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes ○ No ◉

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes ○ No ◉

Please indicate if a Ramsar centre, other educational or visitor facility, or an educational or visitor programme is associated with the site:

Both areas are very popular for outdoor recreation and birdwatching. Vanhankaupunginlahti: A nature information centre, six birdwatching towers, four nature trails and a hide have been constructed. The mouth of River Vantaanjoki is a popular area for recreation fishing, and the annual introduction of young fish includes ca. 60 000 Salmons (Salmo salar), 50 000 Sea Trouts (S. trutta) and 200 000 Whitefishes (Coregonus lavaretus).

Laajalahti: A nature information centre, two birdwatching towers and a nature trail have been constructed.

The areas form very important education sites for schools and university. An environmental education centre of Espoo city is located in Laajalahti and of Helsinki city in Vanhankaupunginlahti.

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? Yes, there is a plan

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Birds	Implemented
Water quality	Implemented

Bird populations of Vanhankaupunginlahti have been under observation since the late 19th century. Annual counts of the breeding bird fauna and migratory waterfowl and waders have been carried out since 1986. The flora was surveyed in 1991–96, and the benthic fauna in 1992. The water quality has been monitored since the 1930s. Bird-ringing specialized in warblers (Acrocephalus spp.) has been regular since the late 1960s.

The vegetation of meadows was monitored in 1993–96 and the aquatic flora was surveyed in 1994. Bird-ringing specialized in warblers (Acrocephalus spp.) has been regular since the 1984.

The breeding waterfowl and waders of Laajalahti have been surveyed regularly since 1984. Observation of migratory waterfowl and waders have been regular since the 1960s.

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

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Lammi, E. 2002: Viikin - Vanhankaupunginlahden Natura-alueen vesikasvillisuus. – Ympäristökeskuksen julkaisuja 3/2002.

Leivo, M., Asanti, T., Koskimies, P., Lammi, E., Lampolahti, J., Mikkola-Roos, M.& Virolainen, E. 2002. Suomen tärkeät lintualueet FINIBA. BirdLife Suomen julkaisuja 4, Suomen graafiset palvelut, Kuopio.

Malinen, S. (toim.) 1993. Viikin-Vanhankaupunginlahden luonnonsuojelualueen hoito- ja käyttösuunnitelma 1994–2003. Manuscript. Helsingin kaupungin ympäristökeskus.

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Mikkola-Roos, M. & Yrjölä, R. (toim.) 2000. Viikki; Helsingin Vanhankaupunginlahden historiaa ja luontoa. Kustannusosakeyhtiö Tammi. Helsinki. (English summary: Viikki, a Helsinki suburb with a natural history of its own).

Mikkola-Roos, M., Rusanen, P., Haapanen, E., Lehikoinen, A., Pynnönen, P. & Sarvanne, H.: 2013: Helsingin Vanhankaupunginlahden linnustoseuranta 2012. Vuosien 2000-2012 yhteenveto. Helsingin kaupungin ympäristökeskuksen julkaisuja 20/2013.

Pynnönen, P. 2013: Vanhankaupunginlahden sudenkorentoselvitys 2012. – Helsingin kaupungin ympäristökeskuksen julkaisuja 13/2013.

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Ymparistosuunnittelu Enviro Oy 2006: Vanhankaupunginlahden lintuvesi – Natura 2000 – alueen hoito- ja kayttosuunnitelma. – Helsingin kaupungin ymparistokeskuksen julkaisuja 5/2006.

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6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)
<no file available>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)
<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory
<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports
<no file available>

v. site management plan
<no file available>

vi. other published literature
<no file available>

<no data available>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:

An aerial view over Vanhankaupunginlahti Bay and the Helsinki City. (*Jari Kostet, 15-07-1980*)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation 1974-05-28