



# Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 10 January 2024

Update version, previously published on : 24 September 2001

## United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Overseas territories) Bertha's Beach



Designation date	24 September 2001
Site number	1103
Coordinates	51°54'33"S 58°24'23"W
Area	3 000,00 ha

<https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/1103>

Created by RSIS V.1.6 on - 10 January 2024

## 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

Bertha's Beach is a dynamic sandy beach on the northern shore of Choiseul Sound, East Falkland, connecting the former islands at Fox Point to the mainland. The site includes significant areas of shallow marine water and reefs to the south-east and sheltered marine lagoons to the north.

Above high tide mark includes coastal dunes, dune slacks and pools, and grasslands; offshore, includes kelp beds in shallow seas and two islands with tussac vegetation, Direction Island and Fox Point Islet.

The site is of value as a good representative example of Falkland coastal wetland types, including beach, small lakes, shallow marine ecosystems and tussac islands, supporting a broad range of Falkland avifauna and flora, including the endemic Falkland Steamer Duck *Tachyeres brachypterus* and other endemic sub-species of waterfowl, as well as Gentoo Penguin *Pygoscelis papua* colonies.

## 2 - Data & location

### 2.1 - Formal data

#### 2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

##### Responsible compiler

Institution/agency

Postal address

##### National Ramsar Administrative Authority

Institution/agency

Postal address

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

From year

To year

#### 2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)

#### 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 the area has decreased

(Update) The Site area has been calculated more accurately

(Update) The Site has been delineated more accurately

(Update) The Site area has increased because of a boundary extension

(Update) The Site area has decreased because of a boundary restriction

(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

## 2.2 - Site location

### 2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

#### b) Digital map/image

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps

#### Boundaries description

### 2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?

b) What is the nearest town or population centre?

### 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):

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

### 2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW)	186. Malvinas/Falklands

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

### 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

Hydrological services provided

The pools above high-water mark capture water from the catchment and provide drinking water for cattle and sheep. There are no data on ground water. The sandy beach prevents coastal erosion, and beach sediment connects the former island to the mainland, creating a natural harbour at East Cove which is currently used in support of the military base.

Other reasons

The principal criterion under which Bertha's Beach qualifies is Criterion 1, since it is a good representative example (in a relatively natural state) of several different wetland habitat types found around much of the coast of the Falkland Islands, including:

- Low sand dunes at the top of the beach (Ramsar wetland type E);
- Shallow waters offshore, with kelp beds (Ramsar wetland types A and B);
- Freshwater pools above high-water mark and associated short turf grassland (coastal "greens") (Ramsar wetland type K);
- Fox Point Islet and Direction Island, two offshore rock outcrops with Tussac Grass *Poa flabellata* (Ramsar wetland type D); and
- Areas of peaty moorland with Whitegrass *Cortaderia pilosa* and Diddle-dee *Empetrum rubrum* (Ramsar type U).

Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

Optional text box to provide further information

It qualifies under Criterion 2 because it supports appreciable numbers of Ruddy-headed Goose *Chloephaga rubidiceps*, which were formerly listed as Near Threatened by the IUCN (1996) when the site was designated. Cobb's Wren *Troglodytes cobbi*, also listed by IUCN as Vulnerable when the site was designated, may occur on Direction Island and/or Fox Point Islet. Several of the six Falkland plant species listed as Globally Threatened by the IUCN in 1997 (see Walter & Gillett 1998) may occur. These include Vanilla Daisy *Erigeron incertus* and Silvery Buttercup *Hamadryas argentea*, which are respectively classified on the 2022 IUCN Red List as Endangered and Near Threatened.

Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification

The site qualifies under Criterion 3 by virtue of the richness of the waterfowl populations which are important value for maintaining the genetic and ecological diversity of the region. The site supports populations of the endemic Falkland Steamer Duck *Tachyeres brachypterus* and a number of endemic Falkland sub-species including Upland Goose *Chloephaga picta leucoptera*, Kelp Goose *Chloephaga hybrida malvinarum*, White-tufted Grebe *Podiceps rolland rolland* and Tussacbird *Cinclodes antarcticus*. The endemic Cobb's Wren may occur on the tussac islands. Five of the 14 Falkland endemic plants occur (Summers 2005; Upson 2012; Upson & Lewis 2014): Vanilla Daisy *Erigeron incertus*; Smooth Ragwort *Senecio vaginatus*; Clubmoss *Cudweed Chevreulia lycopodioides* and Coastal *Nassauvia Nassauvia gaudichaudii* and Silvery Buttercup *Hamadryas argentea*.

It qualifies under Criterion 3 because it provides breeding habitat for an unusually diverse assemblage of breeding waterbirds of the Falklands, in greater variety and numbers than many other apparently similar areas in the islands, including the rare species mentioned under Criterion 2, the endemic species and sub-species indicated under Criterion 3 and other more widespread species. Populations of endemic species and sub-species may be of international importance on this site.

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

Optional text box to provide further information

It qualifies under Criterion 4 because it supports breeding Southern Sea Lion *Otaria flavescens* and breeding colonies of Gentoo Penguins *Pygoscelis papua* at a critical stage in their biological cycle.

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

Phylum	Scientific name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
<b>Plantae</b>								
TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Chevreulia lycopodioides</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	Endemic to the Falkland Islands	Scarce species, endemic to the Falkland Islands
TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Erigeron incertus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EN	<input type="checkbox"/>	Endemic to and listed as Endangered on the Falkland Islands	Scarce species, endemic to the Falkland Islands; globally endangered
TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Hamadryas argentea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	Endemic to and listed as Near Threatened on the Falkland Islands	Scarce species, endemic to the Falkland Islands; globally near threatened
TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Nassauvia gaudichaudii</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	Endemic to the Falkland Islands'	Scarce species, endemic to the Falkland Islands
TRACHEOPHYTA / MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Senecio vaginatus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	Endemic to the Falkland Islands'	Scarce species, endemic to the Falkland Islands

### 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 <sup>1)</sup>	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
<b>Others</b>																	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	<i>Otaria byronia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Breeding species
<b>Birds</b>																	
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Chloephaga hybrida malvinarum</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Race endemic to the Falkland Islands
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Chloephaga picta leucoptera</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Race endemic to the Falkland Islands
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Chloephaga rubidiceps</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Original qualifier for site	Race endemic to Falkland Islands; formerly listed as Near Threatened by the IUCN (1996)
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Cinclodes antarcticus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Endemic race to the Falkland Islands; listed as Near Threatened on IUCN Red List (2022)
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Pygoscelis papua</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	506	2020		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Breeding species
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Rollandia rolland</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Race endemic to the Falkland Islands
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Tachyeres brachypterus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Endemic to Falkland Islands
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Troglodytes cobbi</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Original qualifier for site	Endemic to Falkland Islands; formerly listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN (1996)

<sup>1)</sup> Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Cincoidees antarcticus and Troglodytes cobbi only occur on the small offshore islands as they are limited by the presence of non-native terrestrial ground predators.

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

<no data available>



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

### 4.1 - Ecological character

Bertha's Beach is a dynamic sandy beach on the northern shore of Choiseul Sound, East Falkland, connecting the former islands at Fox Point to the mainland. The site includes significant areas of shallow marine water and reefs to the south-east, and sheltered marine lagoons to the north. Above high tide mark includes coastal dunes, dune slacks and pools, and grasslands; offshore, includes kelp beds in shallow seas and two islands with tussac vegetation, Direction Island and Fox Point Islet.

The site is of value as a good representative example of Falkland coastal wetland types, including beach, small lakes, shallow marine ecosystems and tussac islands, supporting a broad range of Falkland avifauna and flora, including the endemic Falkland Steamer Duck *Tachyeres brachypterus* and other endemic sub-species of waterfowl, as well as Gentoo Penguin *Pygoscelis papua* colonies.

A total of 80 species of flowering plant have been recorded (Summers 2005; Upson 2012; Upson & Lewis 2014), including five of the Falkland's 15 endemic plant species.

Details of the main wetland types, starting from the seaward side, are given below:

- Offshore islands (Ramsar type D). About one kilometre offshore lies Direction Island, which forms a 1 ha rocky outcrop covered with a hectare of Tussac Grass *Poa flabellata* (it is so called because it presents a magnetic anomaly which affects ships' compasses, including that of the Norwegian iron barque Bertha which was wrecked in 1892 and bestowed its name on the beach). Tussac Grass is typical of Falkland coastal areas but has in many areas suffered from over-grazing and is now much more restricted than formerly, so that it mostly survives on small offshore islands. Direction Island has in the past supported a small population of Southern Sea Lions *Otaria flavescens* and there are indications of breeding shearwaters (Strange et al. 1988). Fox Point Islet, the other tussac island, is located immediately off Fox Point and covers about one hectare.
- Shallow seas (Ramsar type A) and Kelp beds (type B). Below low tide mark are several low lying reefs and extensive beds of kelp *Macrocystis pyrifera*, which in fact extends beyond the six metre mark, as in many offshore sites in the Falklands. Kelp helps to protect coastlines from erosion, and probably provides spawning grounds and shelter for many fish (mullet, smelt), squid, jellyfish, molluscs (including chitons), crabs and other marine life forms. In addition, it provides feeding grounds for dolphins, seals, fish and some water birds such as shags, steamer ducks and terns.
- Beach and dune systems (type E). The littoral vegetation is composed of associations of Sea Cabbage *Senecio candidans* and Marram Grass-Lyme Grass *Ammophila-Elymus* (the latter introduced to stabilise sand dunes). The beach is used by South American Tern *Sterna hirundinacea* and shorebirds, mainly resident Magellanic Oystercatcher *Haematopus leucopodus*, together with White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* and some Sanderling *C. alba*, both of which spend the austral summer here. Falkland Steamer Duck and Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus* loaf on the beach.
- Coastal grassland ("greens") and pools (type K). Behind Bertha's Beach, above high-water mark, at the foot of the higher ground which slopes gradually down from inland, is an area of flat coastal grassland grazed by sheep and some cattle, with occasional pools and marshy ground. The associations in the short-cropped grasslands (greens) are characterised by *Agrostis* and *Festuca* spp. and, on the damper areas, pigvine *Gunnera magellanica* and *Cotula scariosa*. In the ponds Spike Rush *Eleocharis melanostachys* provides cover, while Water-milfoil *Myriophyllum elatinoides* and filamentous algae are important food sources for water birds.
- Eroded sandy outcrops in the oceanic heath (type U). In the higher ground, dominated by the ubiquitous White Grass and Diddle-dee, some outcrops have been eroded, and support nesting colonies of Gentoo Penguin.

### 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	600	Representative
B: Marine subtidal aquatic beds (Underwater vegetation)		3	400	Representative
D: Rocky marine shores		4	200	Representative
E: Sand, shingle or pebble shores		2	600	Representative
K: Coastal freshwater lagoons		3	400	Representative

#### Inland wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
Fresh water > Marshes on peat soils >> U: Permanent Non-forested peatlands		1	1800	Representative

### 4.3 - Biological components

#### 4.3.1 - Plant species

##### Optional text box to provide further information

A total of 80 species of flowering plant have been recorded (Summers 2005; Upson 2012; Upson & Lewis 2014), including five of the 15 plant species that are endemic to the Falkland Islands.

#### 4.3.2 - Animal species

<no data available>

## 4.4 - Physical components

### 4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
C: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with mild winters	Cfc: Marine west coast (Mild with no dry season, cool summer)
E: Polar climate with extremely cold winters and summers	ET: Tundra (Polar tundra, no true summer)

The Falkland Islands has a cool temperate oceanic climate, with average temperatures between 2-6 C and rainfall averaging 610 mm per annum. It is classified as transitional between the tundra and subpolar zones.

### 4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)

- 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.

South Atlantic

### 4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral

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

Organic

(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

### 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
Water inputs from precipitation	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change
Marine water	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

#### Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Marine	No change

#### Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)	No change

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology.

Freshwater usually permanently present on site

#### 4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Sediment regime unknown

Please provide further information on sediment (optional):

Clay, sand and sandstone present

#### 4.4.6 - Water pH

Acid (pH<5.5)

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

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

Euhaline/Eusaline (30-40 g/l)

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

Unknown

#### 4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Unknown

<no data available>

#### 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 i) broadly similar  ii) significantly different  site itself.

### 4.5 - Ecosystem services

#### 4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

##### Provisioning Services

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

##### Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Erosion protection	Soil, sediment and nutrient retention	High
Hazard reduction	Coastal shoreline and river bank stabilization and storm protection	High

##### Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	High

##### Supporting Services

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

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
Provincial/region/state government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Provide further information on the land tenure / ownership regime (optional):

Terrestrial elements of the site are owned by Falklands Landholdings Ltd.

There is no general public access, all visitors must collect a key either at the Ministry of Defence (MOD) or from farm managers, thus limiting the number of cars/day. Visitors can also go, with permission, as part of a guided tour, so daily numbers are regulated. When larger visitor groups go, there are always wardens present to keep visitors in check. Smoking, fires and BBQs are not allowed. No dogs apart from sheep dogs when livestock are gathered. All MOD visitors visit the site under a code of conduct, which is enforceable by law.

The area is used for grazing, the camp (=paddock) is stocked with pregnant ewes for lambing in spring and summer. The rest of the year it is either rested or part of a grazing rotation.

#### 5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:

Department of Environmental Planning, in collaboration with the Farm Manager, Fitzroy Farm, East Falkland and Falkland Landholdings (landowner), Shackleton House, Stanley, Falkland Islands

Provide the name and/or title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:

Mike Jervois

Postal address:

Shackleton House, Stanley, Falkland Islands

E-mail address:

environment@sec.gov.fk

## 5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

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

Agriculture and aquaculture

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Livestock farming and ranching	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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	Low impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change
(Para)military activities	High impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	decrease	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	decrease

Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Fire and fire suppression	High impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

Under the Conservation of Wildlife & Nature Ordinance 1999, Bertha's Beach requires management provisions to be agreed, in consultation with landowner/manager. These would include measures to guarantee continued use for sheep farming and conservation of wetland values; and might include further restrictions on access to avoid sheep disturbance at critical periods. Military activities should be controlled in sensitive areas and public awareness on site should be increased. Oil spill response plan from nearby Mare Harbour port should also be reviewed as part of any management plan. Potential adverse factors are at present few and not severe.

(a) In the Ramsar Site

Construction & military activities – disturbance in recent years in or near the Site has decreased significantly. A military Oil Spillage Contingency Plan exists, but needs to be reviewed to give additional attention to possible damage to Site. Occasional use for military firing exercises is not frequent or highly disturbing.

Disturbance by human visitors – recreational disturbance by people using the beach is limited at present to personnel of nearby military base. The site is closed to other visitors unless permission is given by the farm manager (Summers 2005). Recreational use of vehicles on the beach is prohibited.

Over-grazing – throughout the Falklands, grazing – especially by sheep – has led to impoverishment of the native flora, and in some instances to erosion of the thin soils. Studies near Bertha's Beach, in the L'Antioja catchment by Wilson et al. (1993) suggest that erosion continues to occur, while Hoppe & McAdam (1994) report on studies of defoliation and winter grazing of Whitegrass at Bush Pass. At Bertha's Beach pilot studies on improving techniques for plant species introduction are being carried out. If applied in some future time over a large area of the coastal grasslands, they could affect the natural vegetation.

Burning of vegetation – throughout the Falklands, burning has historically exacerbated soil erosion. Miles (1984) notes that, in the Mount Pleasant area, few potentially inflammable stands of vegetation appear to have escaped burning in the recent past. This practice has decreased considerably in recent years, but is occasionally still used to promote pasture growth for sheep.

Beach erosion by natural factors – need to check on possible effects of natural scouring of beach by sea currents.

Hunting/egg collection – hunting of wildfowl and collection of penguin eggs, which was formerly widely practiced, has decreased significantly recently.

(b) In the surroundings and catchment

Additional measures to be taken in case of leaks or oil spills at East Cove, may need to be carefully designed. Issues of over-grazing and burning are relevant in surrounding catchment as well as the Site. No legal site conservation measures taken (i.e. no ordinance under two 1964 ordinances on Nature Reserves and Protection of Wild Animals and Birds).

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
none			whole

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	Bertha's Beach, East Falkland	<a href="http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/berthas-beach-east-falkland-iba-falkland-islands-(mainland)">http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/berthas-beach-east-falkland-iba-falkland-islands-(mainland)</a>	partly

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

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Livestock management/exclusion (excluding fisheries)	Implemented
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Implemented

Other:

The only management is in relation to visitors and livestock.

### 5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? No

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:

No activities at present. The area has enormous potential for conservation education for military and civilian visitors. It would be possible to develop visitor facilities, such as signs, a nature trail, and eventually perhaps, a visitor centre, with a warden to guide visitors and oversee access to the more sensitive areas.

### 5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No need identified

### 5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Birds	Implemented

The site was covered in the Breeding Birds Survey of the Falkland Islands (Woods & Woods 1997), the 2010 Falkland Islands census of Gentoo and Rockhopper Penguins (Baylis 2012), and the 2020/21 Falkland Islands Seabird Monitoring Programme (Crofts & Stanworth 2021). It is also referred to in a number of scientific papers on flora and fauna of Falklands.

There are no current research activities or facilities.

## 6 - Additional material

### 6.1 - Additional reports and documents

#### 6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

See appended bibliography

#### 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

<5 file(s) uploaded>

#### 6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



Qualifying bird species Kelp Goose *Chloephaga hybrida malvinarum* ( [Stefanie Carter, 24042019](#) )



Qualifying bird species the endemic Falkland Steamer Duck *Tachyeres brachydactyla* ( [Stefanie Carter, 13062019](#) )



Qualifying bird species Gentoo Penguin *Pygoscelis papua* ( [Stefanie Carter, 31102020](#) )



Qualifying bird species Tussac Bird (Blackish Cinclodes) *Cinclodes antarcticus antarcticus* ( [Stefanie Carter, 24042019](#) )



Qualifying mammal species South American Sea Lion *Otaria flavescens* (pup shown) ( [Stefanie Carter, 24042019](#) )



Qualifying plant species Coastal Nassauvia *Nassauvia gaudichaudii* ( [Stefanie Carter, 25122021](#) )



Qualifying plant species Silvery Buttercup *Hamadryas argentea* ( [Stefanie Carter, 13112019](#) )



Qualifying plant species Smooth Ragwort *Senecio vaginatus* ( [Stefanie Carter, 28112020](#) )



Wetland Type A - shallow marine waters with Commerson's Dolphin *Cephalorhynchus commersonii* ( [Stefanie Carter, 240419](#) )



Wetland Type D - intertidal rocky shore with resting South American tern *Sterna hirundinacea* ( [Stefanie Carter, 31102020](#) )



Wetland Type E - low sand dunes with feeding White-rumped sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* ( [Stefanie Carter, 24042019](#) )



Wetland Type J - Coastal Brackish Lagoon ( [Stefanie Carter, 29102021](#) )



Wetland Types A & E - shallow marine waters and pebble shores ( [Stefanie Carter, 24042019](#) )

#### 6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation 2001-09-24