Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 22 December 2023
Update version, previously published on : 11 May 1999

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Overseas territories)

Somerset Long Bay Pond

Designation date	11 May 1999
Site number	985
Coordinates	32°18'12"N 64°52'19"W
Area	1,09 ha

https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/985
Created by RSIS V.1.6 on - 22 December 2023

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

Somerset Long Bay Pond is a former tidal swamp that has been restored into a brackish to freshwater pond with mangrove-fringed islets. The edge of the pond is also covered by both Black and Red mangroves. It supports an internationally important population of the Bermuda killifish Fundulus bermudae, an endangered species that is endemic to the Bermudian archipelago. This was recently introduced using stock derived from the freshwater-adapted Bermuda killifish found in Warwick Pond. The site is located along a coastal bay and, although it is small, it represents a good example of a fresh/brackish pond with islets behind a sandy beach. It is also noted as a bird sanctuary for breeding waterbirds and a stopover and wintering site for migrant songbirds, ducks, herons and egrets.

The site provides protection against tidal erosion and flooding, is regularly used by local and visiting birdwatchers, acts as educational resource, and the beach area is used for recreation. The most significant threat is invasive non-native species.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Responsible compiler

Institution/agency	Bermuda Government
Postal address	DENR Headquarters, the Botanical Gardens, 169 South Road, Paget, DV04, Bermuda

National Ramsar Administrative Authority

Institution/agency	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Postal address	2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF

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

From year	1999
To year	2023

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Somerset Long Bay Pond
Unofficial name (optional)	Somerset Long Bay Pond West

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) The boundary has been delineated more accurately	☑
(Update) The boundary has been extended	☐
(Update) The boundary has been restricted	☐
(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?	Not evaluated

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

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

Former maps	0

Boundaries description

The geographical coordinates for the site are 32°18'12"N 64°52'20"W. It is located adjacent to the beach in Somerset Long Bay on the northern side of Somerset Island, Bermuda. The southern boundary of the site is Daniel's Head Road, and the northern boundary is the 2012 Mean High Water shoreline at Somerset Long Bay beach. The eastern boundary is the fence between the Audubon society property and the Government park. The western boundary is the where the nature reserve meets the private residential lot (the house is #10 Daniel's Head Road).

2.2.2 - General location

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

b) What is the nearest town or population centre? Hamilton

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): 1.09

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries 1.09

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW)	Tropical Atlantic, Tropical Northwestern Atlantic
WWF Terrestrial Ecoregions	Neotropic

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	See section 4.5.
Other ecosystem services provided	See section 4.5.
Other reasons	Somerset Long Bay Pond is a former tidal swamp that has been restored into a brackish to freshwater pond with mangrove-fringed islets. It is located along a coastal bay and includes a narrow raised sandy bank, which separates it from the sea. Although small, it represents a good example of a fresh/brackish pond with islets behind a beach, is the only pond in Bermuda that is directly adjacent to a beach, and is also noted as a bird sanctuary for breeding waterbirds and a stopover and wintering site for migrant songbirds, ducks, herons and egrets.

☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

Optional text box to provide further information	The site supports an internationally important population of the Bermuda killifish Fundulus bermudae. This species is rare, threatened and endemic to the Bermudian archipelago, and is classified as Endangered under the Bermuda Protected Species Act (2003) based on IUCN Criteria. It was introduced to the Bermuda Audubon Society's Somerset Long Bay West Pond by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in August 2021, when 134 individuals were released from the Bermuda Aquarium, using stock derived from the freshwater-adapted Bermuda killifish found in Warwick Pond. Research suggests that the Bermuda killifish populations at the western end of Bermuda (including Warwick Pond) form a genetic clade separate from the other Bermuda populations, alluding to the possibility of a separate species.
Optional text box to provide further information	Located at the western end of Bermuda, Somerset Long Bay Pond is often the first resting place encountered by migrant birds making passage along the east coast of North America. The dense vegetation of the mangroves fringing the pond, and the protection from predators afforded by the islets isolated in the pond, make this site an excellent migrant bird sanctuary.

☑ Criterion 7 : Significant and representative fish

Justification	See information presented under Criterion 2.

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								
Fish, Mollusc and Crustacea																	
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Fundulus bermudae*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	134				☐	☐	Listed on the Bermuda Protected Species Order (2012)	Endemic to Bermudian archipelago; listed as Endangered on the Bermuda Protected Species Order (2012)

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

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

The site is located at the back of a sandy beach along a shallow coastal bay. The area was formerly covered by a tidal swamp, which was used as a landfill site in the early 20th century. It was purchased in two parts in the early 1970s and the pond was re-excavated, leaving islands where healthy stands of Red mangrove Rhizophora mangle and Black mangrove Avicennia germinans had survived. The excavated material, a mixture of bottles, rusted metal, rubble, soil and peat, was used to form a level dyke north and east of the new one-acre pond. Areas of parkland, gardens and sub-urban housing occur in the surrounding landscape.

The excavated pond turned out to be fresh rather than brackish water, despite its proximity to the beach. However, it is separated from the ocean only by a low raised sandy bank and can be flooded by seawater during storm or tidal surges, as happened during Hurricane Emily in 1987. This effected the freshwater ecosystem of the pond for many months, disrupting the breeding of waterbirds whilst the saltwater seeped out.

After it was deepened in 1979 to prevent it being choked by Sheathed paspalum grass Paspalum vaginatum, the pond developed a rich freshwater marsh community with abundant beds of Wigeon grass Ruppia maritima, fish and invertebrate life, which support populations of waterfowl. It is noted as a breeding site for American coot Fulica americana, Common gallinule Gallinula galeata, Pied-billed grebe Podilymbus podiceps, Green heron Butorides virescens and Yellow-crowned night heron Nyctanassa violace, and as an important stopover and wintering site for migrant ducks, herons, egrets and songbirds. Recent sightings include Blue-winged teal Spatula discors, Green-winged teal Anas crecca, Black bellied whistling duck Dendrocygna autumnalis and Northern pintail Anas acuta. Digital records compiled by the Bermuda Audubon Society show 160 species of birds have been reported from Somerset Long Bay Pond.

Located at the western end of Bermuda, Somerset Long Bay Pond is often the first resting place encountered by migrant birds making passage along the east coast of North America. The dense vegetation of the mangroves fringing the pond, and the protection from predators afforded by the islets isolated in the pond, make this site an excellent migrant bird sanctuary.

The non-native Eastern mosquitofish Gambusia holbrookii has been introduced to the pond to control mosquitos and provide food for birds. In 2021, the endemic Bermuda killifish Fundulus bermudae was introduced to the pond to expand the area of habitat occupied by this endangered fish species.

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
E: Sand, shingle or pebble shores		0	0.15	Representative
K: Coastal freshwater lagoons		0	0.94	Representative

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Position in range / endemism / other
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Alternanthera littoralis*	This site is the only known location where this native beach plant grows
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Avicennia germinans*	At the northern limit of its range in the Atlantic at Bermuda
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Rhizophora mangle*	At the northern limit of its range in the Atlantic at Bermuda
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Ruppia maritima*	Isolated mid-oceanic population

Invasive alien plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Arundo donax*	Actual (major impacts)	No change
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Brachiaria mutica*	Actual (major impacts)	No change
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Epipremnum aureum*	Actual (minor impacts)	No change
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Ipomoea indica*	Actual (major impacts)	No change
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Livistona chinensis*	Actual (minor impacts)	No change
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Momordica charantia*	Actual (minor impacts)	No change

Optional text box to provide further information

Somerset Long Bay Pond has an unusual assemblage of invasive plants, likely due to its road side location and freshwater nature (which is unusual on Bermuda where most wetlands are brackish). It was the first place where Bitter melon Momordica charantia was found to be invasive. Invasive marsh plants like Cow cane Arundo donax and Para grass Brachiaria mutica syn. Urochloa mutica thrive on the pond edge. Climbing invasive vines like Elephant ears Epipremnum aureum and Ipomoea indica drape over the mangroves in places. Control of specific invasive plant species is detailed in the 2019 Conservation Management Plan.

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	% occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/AVES	*Butorides virescens*				Notable breeding bird species
CHORDATA/AVES	*Fulica americana*				Notable breeding bird species
CHORDATA/AVES	*Nyctanassa violacea*				Notable breeding bird species
CHORDATA/AVES	*Podilymbus podiceps*				Notable breeding bird species
CHORDATA/AVES	*Vireo griseus bermudianus*				Endemic sub-species to Bermuda; listed as Vulnerable under the Bermuda Protected Species Order (2012)

Invasive alien animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	*Gambusia holbrooki*	Actual (minor impacts)	No change
CHORDATA/REPTILIA	*Trachemys scripta elegans*	Actual (major impacts)	No change

Optional text box to provide further information

The Red-eared slider terrapin Trachemys scripta elegans has become established in Somerset Long Bay Pond, where all life stages are numerous. The actual impact of this invasion on native wildlife is unknown, but is potentially significant.

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
C: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with mild winters	Cfa: Humid subtropical (Mild with no dry season, hot summer)

Bermuda has a sub-tropical climate, which is hot and humid in summer, mild from autumn to spring, and with gales and strong winds common during the winter.

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

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

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres): 2

- 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.

Western North Atlantic Ocean

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 ◉

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

The soils are mainly composed of sand with some accumulations of peat in the pond.

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Water inputs from precipitation	☑	No change
Marine water	☐	No change

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Marine	No change
Feeds groundwater	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 ☐

Please provide further information on sediment (optional):

The pond acts as a sediment trap gradually accumulating silt and peat derived from the mangrove stands. The sandy beach seaward of the pond is largely stable, with no significant erosion or accretion, except during periodic storm events. Past storm damage to the sand bank has repaired itself over time.

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):

The pond normally contains freshwater, but can become brackish if seawater flooding occurs.

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

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 ☑

Please describe other ways in which the surrounding area is different:

The surrounding area includes a mix of sub-urban housing, gardens and parkland, with a narrow road running along the southern boundary; there is a sandy beach and shallow coastal bay to the north. The adjacent parkland is a mowed grass lawn and playground, so differs significantly from the habitat around the pond.

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Hazard reduction	Coastal shoreline and river bank stabilization and storm protection	Medium

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	Low
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	Low
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	Medium

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

Optional text box to provide further information

The site provides benefits through the diversity of lifeforms and ecosystems that it supports. It also includes a short section of a raised sandy bank that contains the only extensive area of the native Beach alternathera Alternanthera littoralis in Bermuda. This bank helps protect against tidal erosion and flooding, and the pond catches ocean storm surge waters before they affect adjacent road and houses. The area is regularly used by local and visiting birdwatchers; records of breeding/migratory waterfowl using the pond have been kept since 1980s with at least 160 species recorded. There are also occasional ecotourist visits to the pond and neighbourhood schools visit the site for environmental education on wetlands. The mangrove islets in the pond are used as a demonstration of successful habitat restoration. The local community and tourists use the beach area for recreation such as picnicking, swimming, boating and kite surfing.

Outside the site: 1000s

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	☐	☑

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Foundation/non-governmental organization/trust	☑	☑

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

The Ramsar site was purchased by the Bermuda Audubon Society in 1971/2 and restored as a nature reserve. To the west of the reserve is a private house and on the eastern boundary is the Bermuda Government-owned Somerset Long Bay Park.

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site: Bermuda Audubon Society – Ramsar Site Land Owners

Provide the name and/or title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland: President of the Bermuda Audubon Society

Postal address: Bermuda Audubon Society, P.O. Box HM 1328, Hamilton HM FX, Bermuda

E-mail address: info@audubon.bm

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
Tourism and recreation areas	Low impact		☑	No change	☑	No change

Transportation and service corridors

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Roads and railroads	Medium 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	Low impact		☑	No change	☑	No change

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	High impact		☑	No change	☑	No change

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		☑	No change	☑	No change
Garbage and solid waste	Medium impact		☑	No change	☑	No change

Climate change and severe weather

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Storms and flooding	Medium impact		☑	No change	☑	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

The most significant threat within the Somerset Long Bay Pond Site is invasive non-native species. The property owners have spent considerable effort removing invasive plants and animals from the site, but invasive plants continue to regenerate and must be constantly managed. Illegal dumping of pet terrapins at the site occurs.

The perimeter of the site is fenced to prevent people and domestic animals entering the site, so impacts from nearby recreation and residential areas is limited to noise, light pollution at night and litter.

There is likely some pollution from surface-water run-off from the road that forms the southern boundary of the site from pollutants, such as diesel and transmission oil. Also, because of former use of area as a landfill site, metal pollutants, such as lead and iron, may be present as leachate in the pond. Increased residential development in area could also lead to nutrients seeping into the pond from cesspits, although there is no significant evidence of this. Trash has occasionally been blown or dumped into the pond in small quantities from the roadway. Stolen motorcycles have also been occasionally dumped in the pond resulting in small spills of gasoline; however these normally disperse quickly. Illegal entry to dig for antique bottles around the pond edge also occurs, with vandals cutting the perimeter fence to gain access.

The beach in front of and adjacent to the site is raked regularly with a tractor by the Department of Parks to remove trash and seaweed and improve the amenity value of the area for park users. This has the potential to impact the sandy bank protecting the pond.

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Nature Reserve held under the Bermuda Audubon Society Act (1960)	Somerset Long Bay Nature Reserve (West)	http://www.audubon.bm/conservation/nature-reserves/152-1-somerset-long-bay-west	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	Implemented

Species

Measures	Status
Control of invasive alien plants	Implemented
Control of invasive alien animals	Implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Implemented
Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities	Implemented

Other:

The site is afforded legal protection from development as it has a 'Nature Reserve' zoning under the Bermuda Plan (2018). The Bermuda Audubon Society Act (1960) incorporates the Bermuda Audubon Society and allows the society to own land, but does not afford legal protection as a nature reserve.

The Bermuda Audubon Society undertook significant habitat restoration at the site in 2020/21, following a Conservation Management Plant written in 2019 (which covers management of invasive plants, reopening of waterways, ongoing planting and maintenance). Invasive plants on the site were removed, including clearing vines off the mangrove trees and using an excavator to dig up the corms of the Arundo donax that had smothered parts of the pond edge. The pond edge was replanted with endemic trees including Juniperus bermudiana (Critically Endangered), Sabal bermudana (Endangered) and Elaeodendron laneanum (Endangered). The programme of work also included repairs to the perimeter fencing and new signage. Invasive red eared sliders are also periodically culled from the pond.

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:

As the whole site is zoned as nature reserve under the Bermuda Plan (2018), the development of a building or other facilities is prohibited under the Development and Planning Act (1974). The small size of the site makes a visitor centre inappropriate, but signage is in place. Regular educational field trips to the site are conducted by local NGOs.

URL of site-related webpage (if relevant): https://audubon.bm/reserve/somerset-long-bay-nature-reserve-west/

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

Records of breeding/migratory waterfowl using the pond have been kept since 1980s. Members of the Bermuda Audubon Society regularly visit the site and submit bird species checklist to ebird.org, which currently contains 127 checklists of birds from Somerset Long Bay (as of December 2021). The site is most heavily visited by birders during the autumn, winter and spring when migrants are arriving and overwintering.

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Bermuda Audubon Society Newsletters. http://www.audubon.bm/news/newsletters
Bermuda Audubon Society. (2019) Conservation Management Plan Somerset Long Bay West Nature Reserve. May 2019. 7pages.
Hayward, SJ, Gomez, FH & Sterrer, W (eds.) (1981) Bermuda's delicate balance: people and environment. Bermuda National Trust, Paget.
Pienkowski, M (ed.) (2003) A sense of direction: a conference on conservation in UK Overseas Territories and other small island communities, Bermuda 22nd–27th March 2003. UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, Peterborough. www.ukotcf.org
Pienkowski, MW (ed.) (2005) Review of existing and potential Ramsar sites in UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies. (Contractor: UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum, Peterborough.) Final report on Contract CR0294 to the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Bristol. www.ukotcf.org
Proctor, D & Fleming, LV (eds.) (1999) Biodiversity: the UK Overseas Territories. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.
Wingate, DB (1984) Taking stock of Bermuda's wetland heritage. Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Hamilton.

Previous versions of RIS
Somerset Long Bay Pond Ramsar Information Sheet UK41006. Version 3.0, 13/06/2008, produced by JNCC.
Somerset Long Bay Pond Ramsar Information Sheet GB985RIS. Dated 4 March 1999.

Related websites/documents
Bermuda Audubon Society webpage http://www.audubon.bm/conservation/nature-reserves/152-1-somerset-long-bay-west
Somerset Long Bay NR ebird sightings https://ebird.org/hotspot/L2709029
Somerset Long Bay Nature Reserve Teacher Resource Guide, Bermuda National Trust 2014 http://b95017.eos-intl.net/eLibSQL14_B95017_Documents/Somerset%20Long%20Bay%20East%20Nature%20Reserv e.pdf

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
<1 file(s) uploaded>

vi. other published literature
<1 file(s) uploaded>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:

The edge of SLBW pond after clearing invasive plants (*Bermuda Audubon Society, 01-09-2020*)

BAS members planting endemic trees at SLBW (*Bermuda Audubon Society, 01-09-2020*)

Mangrove islet, pond edge and the sea beyond at Somerset Long Bay West (*Alison Copeland, 29-01-2011*)

Newly planted endemic trees along the edge of Somerset Long Bay Pond (*Alison Copeland, 13-06-2021*)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation: 1999-05-11