

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

NOTE: It is important that you read the accompanying *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document before completing this form.

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

10th February, 1999

Date of designation 11/05/99 (date of announcement at COP7)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD	MM	YY
11	05	99

Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Country:

Bermuda (U.K.O.T.)

3. Name of wetland:

WARWICK POND

4. Geographical coordinates: 32°16'N 64°48'W

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.) 0.5m

6. Area: (in hectares) 2.3 hectares

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

Bermuda's largest freshwater pond with mudflats at the north end and a broad fringing marsh. Important for the only freshwater adapted population of endemic Killifish. The most important mudflat for passage shorebirds on Bermuda.

8. Wetland Type (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document.)

marine-coastal: A . B . C . D . E . F . G . H . I . J . K

inland: L . M . N . O . P . Q . R . Sp . Ss . **(Tp)** . Ts
. U . Va . Vt . W . Xf . Xp . Y . Zg . Zk

man-made: 1 . 2 . 3 . 4 . 5 . 6 . 7 . 8 . 9

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant:

9. Ramsar Criteria: (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12. next page.)

(1a) . 1b . 1c . **(1d)** | 2a . 2b . 2c . **(2d)** | 3a . **(3b)** . 3c | 4a . 4b

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 1d

10. Map of site included? Please tick *yes* -or- *no*

(Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits).

11. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

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12. **Justification of the criteria selected under point 9:**

This is the largest freshwater pond in Bermuda and is a good representative example of a natural small island wetland. The seasonal mudflats regularly support 16 species of passage shorebirds. It also supports the only freshwater adapted population of the endemic Killifish.

13. **General location:**

Located adjacent to Middle Road, Warwick Parish 3 km south south west of Hamilton, bordered by arable land and woodland to the north and east.

14. **Physical features:**

A shallow freshwater pond up to 20cm deep, with mudflats at the north end and a broad fringing marsh. There are slight fluctuations in water level associated with the tides.

15. **Hydrological values:**

None.

16. **Ecological features:**

Open water, some mudflats and *Paspalum/Fimbristylis* marsh. The largest shallow freshwater pond in Bermuda.

17. **Noteworthy flora:**

Mainly *Paspalum vaginatum* with some *Scirpus americanus* and *Fimbristylis castanea*.

18. **Noteworthy fauna:**

The endemic killifish *Fundulus bermudae* occurs. This is the only freshwater location where it does so, and it is likely that the form occurring here is unique to the pond. The mudflats at the north end of the pond are an important feeding area for passage shorebirds, notably: Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*, Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*, Lesser Yellow legs *T. flavipes*, Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*, Least Sandpiper *C. minutilla*, White-rumped Sandpiper *C. fuscicollis*, Pectoral Sandpiper *C. melanotos* and Stilt Sandpiper *C. himantopus*. Wintering birds include Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*, various Herons *Ardeidae*, Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*, Sora Rail *Porzana carolina* and American Coot *Fulica americana*. The common Moorhen *gallinula chloropus* breeds on the pond.

19. **Social and cultural values:**

An important roadside visual amenity. The nature reserve is used for recreational birding.

20. **Land tenure/Ownership of:**

- a) Site – Bermuda National Trust
 - b) Surrounding area – Privately held residential
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21. **Current land use:**

- a) Nature reserve, farmland and woodland reserve
 - b) Surroundings – Residential
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22. **Factors adversely affecting the sites ecological character:**

- a) At the site – Eutrophication is increasing mudflat at the expense of open water
 - b) Around the site – nutrient enrichment from residential cess-pits. Pond sometimes smells in summer months.
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23. **Conservation measures taken:**

Declared inalienable as a nature reserve under the Bermuda National Trust Act.
Zoned as nature reserve by the Bermuda Plan 1992.

24. **Conservation measures proposed:**

Some suction dredging of south end of pond may be required in future to maintain open water.

25. **Current scientific research and facilities:**

A detailed limnological study of the pond was conducted by Dr. Martin Thomas. Migrant bird usage has been monitored and recorded since 1950.

26. **Current conservation education:**

Some field trips by local schools.

27. **Current recreation and tourism:**

The Trust maintains a nature trail around the pond. An observation hide is proposed.

28. **Jurisdiction:**

- a) Territorial – Government of Bermuda
 - b) Functional – Bermuda National Trust and Conservation Section, Bermuda Government
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29. **Management authority:**

The Bermuda National Trust
P.O. Box HM 61
Hamilton HM AX
Bermuda

30. **Bibliographical references:**

Scott, D.A. and Carbonell, M., Compilers. 1986. A Directory of Neotropical Wetlands. IUCN Cambridge and IWRB Slimbridge.
