



Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 10 January 2017

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Netherlands Oostelijke Vechtplassen



Designation date	29 August 2000
Site number	1275
Coordinates	52°11'35"N 05°06'09"E
Area	6 474,80 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 site Oostelijke Vechtplassen consists of a series of peat lands between the river Vecht and the east side of the Utrechtse Heuvelrug (Utrecht hill ridge). The development of peat land was possible due to seepage of water from the hill ridge and the influence from the river Vecht. The small lakes are a result of peat extraction activities in the past. Some lakes are quite deep due to extraction of sand.

The site has a broad variety of landscapes and vegetations ranging from open water, wet grasslands, marshes, transition mires and quaking bogs to bog woodland. Due to the process of vegetation succession a decrease in marsh vegetations can be observed in favour of woodland. The site has a high biodiversity of flora and fauna species.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Compiler 1

Name	Ms. A. Pel-Roest
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2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

To year 2013

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish) Oostelijke Vechtplassen

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 increased

(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

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? Yes (actual)

(Update) Are the changes Positive Negative Positive & Negative

(Update) Positive % 100

(Update) No information available (Update) Changes resulting from causes operating within the existing boundaries? (Update) Changes resulting from causes operating beyond the site's boundaries? (Update) Changes consequent upon site boundary reduction alone (e.g., the exclusion of some wetland types formerly included within the site)? (Update) Changes consequent upon site boundary increase alone (e.g., the inclusion of different wetland types in the site)?

(Update) Please describe any changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar Site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site.

The water quality of the site is improving, which has a positive effect on the site as a whole.

(Update) Is the change in ecological character negative, human-induced Yes
AND a significant change (above the limit of acceptable change)

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Boundaries description (optional)

The Ramsar site Oostelijke Vechtplassen has also been designated as the European Natura 2000-site Oostelijke Vechtplassen. For this RIS-version, the Ramsar site boundary has therefore been adjusted to the (proposed) Natura 2000-boundary. This means a 1974.8 ha or 44% increase.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie? Utrecht and Noord-Holland

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

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): 6474.8

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries 6476.08

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
EU biogeographic regionalization	Atlantic

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

The bio-geographic regions dataset used, contains the official delineations used in the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and for the EMERALD Network set up under the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention).

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

The almost 6500 ha of the Oostelijke Vechtplassen form one of the largest and finest examples of bog in the Atlantic biogeographic region. The site is very diverse due to the alternation of land and water with all kinds of succession stages ranging from the finest examples of transition mires and quaking bogs to vast areas of bog woodland. As a result the area is home to a wide range of species and habitat types of European importance (see criterion 2 and 3).

Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification

The Oostelijke Vechtplassen is designated as a Natura 2000 site (both SAC and SPA) and can therefore be considered important for maintaining the biodiversity of the Atlantic biogeographic region. Besides the species mentioned under criterion 2, the site has also been designated as a SAC for a range of habitat types (Annex I of HD) and SPA for a number of bird species that are not on annex I of the BD. See the tables below:

Habitat code; Habitat type:
H3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.
H3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition type vegetation
H4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix
H6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)
H7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs
H7210 *Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae
H91D0 *Bog woodland

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

Criterion 5 : >20,000 waterbirds

Overall waterbird numbers

Start year

Source of data:

Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population

Criterion 8 : Fish spawning grounds, etc.

Justification

The site has among others been designated as a SAC for following fish species:
Bitterling Rhodeus sericeus amarus, Spined Loach Cobitis taenia, and Bullhead Cottus gobio (see criterion 2).

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

Scientific name	Common name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
<i>Armillaria ectypa</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NT 	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List (2004) - EN	
<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i> 	Early Marsh orchid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List (2004) - VU	
<i>Epipactis palustris</i> 	Marsh Helleborine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List (2004) - VU	
<i>Fissidens adianthoides</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List (2004) - VU	
<i>Hammarbya paludosa</i> 	Bog Orchid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List (2004) - CR	
<i>Hygrocybe helobia</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List (2004) - VU	
<i>Liparis loeselii</i> 	Fen Orchid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List (2004) - EN ; AnnexII, IV of the EU Habitats Directive	
<i>Pedicularis palustris</i> 	Marsh Lousewort	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List (2004) - VU	
<i>Rhizomnium pseudopunctatum</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List (2004) - VU	
<i>Scorpidium scorpioides</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List (2004) - VU	
<i>Tricholoma fulvum</i> 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List (2004) - VU	

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

Phylum	Scientific name	Common 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	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i> 	Great Reed Warbler	<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"/>	National Red List (2004) - EN	Breeding
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i> 	Sedge Warbler	<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"/>	National Red List (2004) - LC	Breeding
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Alcedo atthis</i> 	Common Kingfisher	<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"/>	AnnexI of the EU Birds Directive ; (National Red List (2004) - LC)	Breeding
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Anas clypeata</i> 	Northern Shoveler	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	946 2006-2010	2.4 Criterion 6: Non-breeding ; Biogeographic region: NW/Central Europe
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Anas penelope</i> 	Eurasian Wigeon	<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"/>		Non-breeding
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Anas strepera</i> 	Gadwall	<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"/>		Non-breeding
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Anser albifrons</i> 	Greater White-fronted Goose	<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"/>		Non-breeding
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Anser anser</i> 	Greylag Goose	<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"/>		Non-breeding

Phylum	Scientific name	Common 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														
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Purple Heron	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	147	2006-2010	1.2	LC EN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the EU Birds Directive ; National Red List (2004) - EN	Breeding Criterion 4: The site is of particular importance for many breeding and non-breeding bird species. Several species gather in relatively small areas like breeding colonies of Purple Heron <i>Ardea purpurea</i> .									
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Common Pochard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				VU EN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Non-breeding				
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Eurasian Bittern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<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"/>				LC EN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the EU Birds Directive ; National Red List (2004) - EN	Breeding
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Black Tern	<input checked="" 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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC EN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the EU Birds Directive ; National Red List (2004) - EN	Breeding Criterion 4: The site is of particular importance for many breeding and non-breeding bird species. Several species gather in relatively small areas like breeding colonies of Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger</i> .
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Little Bittern	<input checked="" 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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC EN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the EU Birds Directive ; National Red List (2004) - CR	Breeding Criterion 4: The site is of particular importance for many breeding and non-breeding bird species. Several species gather in relatively small areas like breeding colonies of Little Bittern <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i> .
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	Savi's Warbler	<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"/>				LC EN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List (2004) - VU	Breeding
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Mergus albellus</i>	Smew	<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC EN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the EU Birds Directive	Non-breeding
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Great Cormorant	<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"/>				LC EN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Non-breeding
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	Spotted Crake	<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC EN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the EU Birds Directive ; National Red List (2004) - VU	Breeding
Fish, Mollusc and Crustacea																				
MOLLUSCA/ GASTROPODA	<i>Anisus vorticulus</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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Annex II, IV of the EU Habitats Directive ; National Red List (2004) - VU	
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGI	<i>Cobitis taenia</i>	Spine loach	<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC EN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive ; (National Red List (2004) - LC)	
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGI	<i>Cottus gobio</i>	European bullhead	<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC EN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive ; (National Red List (2004) - LC)	
MOLLUSCA/ GASTROPODA	<i>Gyraulus riparius</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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		National Red List (2004) - CR	
MOLLUSCA/ GASTROPODA	<i>Myxas glutinosa</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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		National Red List (2004) - CR	
MOLLUSCA/ BIVALVIA	<i>Pisidium amnicum</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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		National Red List (2004) - VU	
MOLLUSCA/ BIVALVIA	<i>Pisidium hibernicum</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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		National Red List (2004) - VU	
MOLLUSCA/ BIVALVIA	<i>Pisidium pseudosphaerium</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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC EN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List (2004) - EN	
MOLLUSCA/ BIVALVIA	<i>Pisidium pulchellum</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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		National Red List (2004) - VU	

Phylum	Scientific name	Common 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								
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	  <i>Rhodeus amarus</i>	Bitterling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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"/>	Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive ; National Red List (2004) - VU
Others														
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	  <i>Aeshna viridis</i>	Green Hawker	<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex IV of the EU Habitats Directive ; National Red List (2004) - EN
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	  <i>Boloria selene</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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List (2004) - EN
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	  <i>Brachytron pratense</i>	Hairy Dragonfly; Hairy Hawker	<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List (2004) - VU
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	  <i>Graphoderus bilineatus</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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II, IV of the EU Habitats Directive ; (National Red List (2004) - LC)
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	  <i>Leucorrhinia pectoralis</i>	Yellow-spotted Whiteface	<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II, IV of the EU Habitats Directive ; National Red List (2004) - EN
ARTHROPODA / INSECTA	  <i>Libellula fulva</i>	Scarce Chaser	<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List (2004) - VU
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	  <i>Myotis dasycneme</i>	pond bat; Pond Myotis	<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II, IV of the EU Habitats Directive (National Red List (2004) - LC)

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Species listed under Criteria 2, 3 which are not listed in the Catalogue of Life:

- Mammal: Root Vole *Microtus oeconomus arenicola* - Other status: priority species; Annex II, IV of the EU Habitats Directive ; National Red List (2004) - VU
- Dragonfly: *Aeshna isosceles* - Other status: National Red List (2004) - VU
- Mollusc: *Oxyloma sarsii* - Other status: National Red List (2004) - EN

Criterion 4:

The site is of particular importance for many breeding and non-breeding bird species (see criterion 2, 3 and 6), of which several species gather in relatively small areas like breeding colonies of Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*, Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* and Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*.

Criterion 6: WPE-4, Wetlands International 2006 ; source: Sovon, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology

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
Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.	<input type="checkbox"/>		Annex I of EU Habitats Directive
H3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition type vegetation	<input type="checkbox"/>		Annex I of EU Habitats Directive
H4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	<input type="checkbox"/>		Annex I of EU Habitats Directive
H6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)	<input type="checkbox"/>		Annex I of EU Habitats Directive
H7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs	<input type="checkbox"/>		Annex I of EU Habitats Directive
H7210 Calcareous fens with Cladion mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae	<input type="checkbox"/>		Annex I of EU Habitats Directive (priority habitat type)
H91D0 Bog woodland	<input type="checkbox"/>		Annex I of EU Habitats Directive (priority habitat type)

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

4.1 - Ecological character

An extensive area of shallow lakes and canals, fenland, reed beds, swampy woodland, and wet meadows. The area is made up out of: permanent freshwater lakes (approx 40%), permanent freshwater marshes (approx. 25%), freshwater swamp forest (approx. 30%) and wet grassland (approx. 5%).

Water management measures have considerably improved the water quality. From 2010 onwards this among others resulted in (incidental) sightings of Otters (*Lutra lutra*) again (which had gone extinct in the seventies).

The site furthermore has a great number of plant communities of European interest:

- Nitellopsidetum obtusae
- Chareta hispidae
- Chareta asperae
- Lemno-Nitelletum capillaries
- Najadetum marinae
- Potametum lucentis
- Stratiotetum
- Utricularietum vulgaris
- Groenlandietum
- Scirpetum fluitantis
- Cicto-Caricetum pseudocyperi
- Cladietum marisci
- Pallavicinio-Sphagnetum
- Scorpidio-Caricetum diandrae
- Sphagno palustris-Ericetum
- Lychnido-Hypericetum tetrapteri
- Carici elongatae alnetum
- Thelypterido-Alnetum
- Betuletum pubescens

The ecosystem services mainly refer to:

- the opportunities for recreation.
- the ability for agriculture to take fresh water in (for irrigation or livestock drinking water) or drain it off.

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

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 > Lakes and pools >> O: Permanent freshwater lakes		2		
Fresh water > Marshes on peat soils >> U: Permanent Non-forested peatlands		1		Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on peat soils >> Xp: Permanent Forested peatlands		3		Representative

Human-made wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
4: Seasonally flooded agricultural land		4		
9: Canals and drainage channels or ditches		0		

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Scientific name	Common name	Position in range / endemism / other
<i>Cortinarius betulinus</i>		National Red List (2004) - NT

4.3.2 - Animal species

<no data available>

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
C: Mbist Md-Latitude climate with mild winters	Cfb: Marine west coast (Mild with no dry season, warm summer)

The climates according to Köppen are rainy (Cbf) and montane (EH).

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.

The Vechtplassen belong to the river Rhine catchment area. The surface area of the Rhine catchment is 185.000 km². Geologically and geomorphologically it consists mainly of Quarternary, Paleozoic and Mesozoic sediments and Tertiary mountains.

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 general soil types are: Alluvial, Brown forest soils and montane soils.

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	

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

This area of lakes and marshes does not have a major hydrological function. The water system is more or less isolated from the surrounding waters to improve the water quality. Different parts of the site have certain water level targets. Inlet of water from the river Vecht or the canal "s Gravelandse Vaart" (main sources of water are seepage and precipitation) has to be allowed in order to ensure these stable water levels. For the inlet into the Loosdrechtse Plassen, in the southern part of the site, the Vecht-water is treated first to improve the quality.

The current landscape has been formed by reclamations. Part of the seepage water is drained by the lower elevated reclamations. Water shortage locally occurs in summer time. More or less polluted water from the river Vecht has to be let in to compensate for the shortage.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Sediment regime unknown

<no data available>

4.4.6 - Water pHUnknown

<no data available>

4.4.7 - Water salinityFresh (<0.5 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 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
Food for humans	Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains)	High
Wetland non-food products	Reeds and fibre	Medium
Wetland non-food products	Other	Low

Cultural Services

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

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

Current land use (including water use within the Ramsar Site): Boating 60%, Tourism and leisure 5%, Residential (conurbation) 5%, Motorways and major roads 2%, Extractive operations 1%, Farming 5%, Commercial fisheries 60%, Conservation and research 27%, Water management 100%, Reed cutting 1%.

Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site: Excursions, hide, information booklet.

Current recreation and tourism: Boating, cycling, hiking and excursions. Number of visitors not known.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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):

a) within the Ramsar site:

The site is partly owned by Natuurmonumenten and Staatsbosbeheer; the remainder is in private ownership.

b) in the surrounding area:

Several private owners

5.1.2 - Management authority

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

Main management authorities:

- (1) Staatsbosbeheer
- (2) Natuurmonumenten

(1) Staatsbosbeheer,
P.O. Box 1300,
3970 BH Driebergen,
the Netherlands
tel. +31 (0)30-6926111.

Postal address:

(2) Natuurmonumenten
P.O. Box 9955,
1243 ZS 's-Graveland,
tel. +31 (0)35 655 99 33.

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

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

Water regulation

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Drainage	Medium impact		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Gathering terrestrial plants	Medium impact		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input 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	Medium impact		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Dams and water management/use	Medium impact		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Unspecified	High impact		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change
Agricultural and forestry effluents	Medium impact		<input type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

(A = serious threat covering large part of the area; B = moderate threat or local threat; C = minor threat)

a) within the Ramsar site:

- Drainage (B – agricultural land use and drinking water extraction);
- Recreation/ tourism (B - o.a. pleasure navigation);
- Selective logging/ cutting (B - reed cutting);
- Pollution (A - not Industrial discharge) .

b) in the surrounding area:

- Atmospheric deposition of nutrients from bio-industry (C).
- Nutrient pollution caused by water from surrounding farmland (B).

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			

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

Habitat

Measures	Status
Improvement of water quality	Proposed

Other:

The Ramsar site matches 100% with the (proposed) designation for Natura 2000.

The process for the Natura 2000-management plan has been started.

Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

Turbidity locally prevents the development of underwater vegetation. Water management measures are planned to improve the water quality, like: the creation of three pits (120 ha), improvement of water management and further active water treatment.

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? In preparation

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

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? Please select a value

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Birds	Implemented

Ongoing biodiversity monitoring is one of the obligatory activities in relation to the designated Natura 2000-habitat types and/or species. SOVON, the Dutch Bird Research Organisation, coordinates for instance a continues national bird monitoring program in which it cooperates with 7000 volunteers, research institutes and organisations in the monitoring of birds throughout the Netherlands (among which the Oostelijke Vechtplassen).

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

- BirdLife International, 2004. Birds in Europe, population estimates, trends and conservation status. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International. (BirdLife Conservation Series No. 12).
- Hornman, M., Hustings, F., Koffijberg, K., Kleefstra, R., Klaassen, O., van Winden, E., SOVON Ganzen- en Zwanenwerkgroep & L. Soldaat, 2012. Watervogels in Nederland 2009/2010. SOVON-rapport 2012/02, Waterdienst-rapport 12.06. SOVON Vogelonderzoek Nederland, Nijmegen.
- Janssen, John, A.M. & Joop, H.J. Schaminée, 2009. Europese Natuur in Nederland. Laag Nederland Natura 2000-gebieden. KNNV-Uitgeverij. 248p.
- Ministerie van LNV. Ontwerpbesluit Natura 2000-gebied Oostelijke Vechtplassen.
- Van Roomen M.W.J. Boele A., van der Weide M.J.T., van Winden E.A.J. Zoetebier D. 2000. Belangrijke vogelgebieden in Nederland, 1993-97. Actueel overzicht van Europese vogelwaarden in aangewezen en aan te wijzen speciale beschermingszones en andere belangrijke gebieden. SOVON-informatierapport 2000/01. SOVON Vogelonderzoek Nederland, Beek-Ubbergen.

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

<1 file(s) uploaded>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



Ramsar logo ([Ramsar logo, 02-02-1971](#))

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation