Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2009-2012 version

Available for download from http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm.

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX. 22 of the 9th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).

Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.

2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 14, 3rd edition). A 4th edition of the Handbook is in preparation and will be available in 2009.

3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

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

Inge Hafstad,
County Governor Nord-Trøndelag,
Strandveien 38,
7700 Steinkjer
Tlf: +47 74 16 80 00

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY

Designation date | Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

May 2013

3. Country:

Norway

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

The precise name of the designated site in one of the three official languages (English, French or Spanish) of the Convention. Alternative names, including in local language(s), should be given in parentheses after the precise name.

West-Vikna archipelago

5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for (tick one box only)**:**

a) Designation of a new Ramsar site ☒; or

b) Updated information on an existing Ramsar site ❑

6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

a) Site boundary and area

The Ramsar site boundary and site area are unchanged: ❑

or

If the site boundary has changed:

i) the boundary has been delineated more accurately ❑; or

ii) the boundary has been extended ❑; or

iii) the boundary has been restricted** ❑

and/or

If the site area has changed:
i) the area has been measured more accurately ❑; or
ii) the area has been extended ❑; or
iii) the area has been reduced** ❑

** **Important note**: If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:

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7. Map of site:
Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:
i**) a hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): ☒;

ii**) an electronic format** (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) ☒;

iii) **a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables** ❑.

b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:
e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park, etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

The boundaries are the same as for the existing:
Borgan and Frelsøy Nature Reserve and Borgan and Frelsøy Animal Protected Area.
Kvaløy and Raudøy Nature Reserve and Kvaløy and Raudøy Animal Protected Area.
Sklinnaflesin Protected Area
Fruflesa Nature Reserve
Nordøyan Nature Reserve
Sørøyan Nature Reserve
Ytre Brosmflesa Protected Area
Tronflesa Protected Area

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8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude, in degrees and minutes):
Provide the coordinates of the approximate centre of the site and/or the limits of the site. If the site is composed of more than one separate area, provide coordinates for each of these areas.
64°58'N 10°49'E: Borgan and Frelsøy Nature Reserve and Borgan and Frelsøy Animal Protected Area
65°1'N 11°4'E: Kvaløy and Raudøy Nature Reserve and Kvaløy and Raudøy Animal Protected Area.
65°7'N 10°57'E: Sklinnaflesin Protected Area
64°54'N 10°32'E: Fruflesa Nature Reserve
64°48'N 10°31'E: Nordøyan Nature Reserve
64°45'N 10°36'E: Sørøyan Nature Reserve

64°49'N 10°33'E: Ytre Brosmflesa Protected Area
64°43'N 10°44'E: Tronflesa Protected Area

Central coordinate of the Ramsar site:
64°58'34.49"N 10°49'39.72"E

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9. General location:
Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s) the site lies and the location of the nearest large town.

West-Vikna archipelago consists of several larger islands (such as Borgan, Kalvøya, Frelsøya, Bøsseløya, Sandværet, Raudøya, Kvaløya) and several smaller islets. The archipelago is situated in Vikna municipality in Nord-Trøndelag County. The nearest town is Rørvik approx. 20-35 km to the east, northeast and southeast, with approx. 2.600 inhabitants.

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10. Elevation: (in metres: average and/or maximum & minimum)
0 – 109 m.a.s.l.

11. Area: (in hectares)
Borgan and Frelsøy Nature Reserve: Approx. 5424 ha.
Borgan and Frelsøy Animal Protected Area: Approx. 2800 ha.
Kvaløy and Raudøy Nature Reserve: Approx. 618.2 ha
Kvaløy and Raudøy Animal Protected Area: Approx. 3639 ha
Sklinnaflesin Protected Area: 131.8 ha (50 ha land area)
Fruflesa Nature Reserve: 68.3 ha (5 ha land area)
Nordøyan Nature Reserve: 84.2 ha (12 ha land area)
Sørøyan Nature Reserve: 787.6 ha (47 ha land area)
Ytre Brosmflesa Protected Area 10 ha (2 ha land area)
Tronflesa Protected Area 29 ha (4 ha land area)

Total: 13592 ha

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12. General overview of the site:
Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

West-Vikna archipelago consists of several larger islands and numerous islets in shallow marine waters. The landscape has a mosaic pattern including rocky shores, narrow mires/bogs and vegetation influenced by seabird droppings. Some of the main islands, with Kalvøya as the most spectacular example, have large areas with northern coastal heath land. Often the heath land is found in mosaic with bogs and ponds. Many of the islets have rocky shores and sparse vegetation cover.

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13. Ramsar Criteria:
Tick the box under each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11). All Criteria which apply should be ticked.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

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14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:
Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

(Capitalized letters shows the species`status on the Norwegian Red List 2010)

Criterion 1:
West-Vikna archipelago with its islands, islets and shallow waters are representative wetland types in this biogeographic region. It has large areas with northern coastal heath land, which is typical for the region, but due to changes in agricultural practice this habitat type is highly threatened. On Raudøya, there is a unique complex of asymmetric concentric raised bogs.

Criterion 2:
The wetland supports breeding, staging and wintering populations of many nationally threatened species, e.g. Eurasian Eagle-Owl *Bubo bubo* (EN), Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle* (VU), Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica* (VU), Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* (EN), Skylark *Alauda arvensis* (VU), Eurasian Otter *Lutra lutra* (VU), Common Seal *Phoca vitulina* (VU).

West-Vikna archipelago exhibit excellent examples of northern coastal heathland. Due to changes in agricultural practice the habitat type is threatened. In the Norwegian red list on habitat (2011) coastal heathland is considered as endangered (EN).

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15. Biogeography (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):
Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

a) biogeographic region:
Atlantic region.

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):
Biogeographical Regions, European Environment Agency, 2005

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16. Physical features of the site:
Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

Geology	West-Vikna archipelago consists of granite formed during the Caledonian orogeny.
Geomorphology	The archipelago is shaped by the waves from the open ocean. Large areas of northern coastal heathland characterize the area, and also unique complexes of asymmetric concentric raised bogs.
Water depth/ fluctuations	The archipelago is situated in a larger area of shallow water with water depth between 0 and 50 meters. Between some of the islands there are narrow straits with strong currents.
Climate	The climate is typical Atlantic with high annual precipitation (>1500 mm and average about 200 days with precipitation pr. year), wet summers and mild winters.

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17. Physical features of the catchment area:
Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, and climate (including climate type).

The site consists mostly of shallow marine waters less than 50 metres deep at low tide. However, some deeper areas occur in the surrounding ocean.

18. Hydrological values:
Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

Due to the fact that most of the shoreline consists of hard granite rocks; erosion is minimal, despite of a harsh winter climate. The large mires constitute important water reservoirs. They provide stability in water flow and availability by constituting reservoirs in dry periods and flood control during periods of heavy precipitation.

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19. Wetland Types

a) presence:
Circle or underline the applicable codes for the wetland types of the Ramsar "Classification System for Wetland Type" present in the Ramsar site. Descriptions of each wetland type code are provided in Annex I of the *Explanatory Notes & Guidelines*.

Marine/coastal: A • B • C • D • E • F • G • H • I • J • K • Zk(a)

Inland: L • M • N • O • P • Q • R • Sp • Ss • Tp Ts • U • Va • Vt • W • Xf • Xp • Y • Zg • Zk(b)

Human-made: 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • Zk(c)

b) dominance:
List the wetland types identified in a) above in order of their dominance (by area) in the Ramsar site, starting with the wetland type with the largest area.
A, D, U

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20. General ecological features:
Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

The skerries and islands in the outermost coastal zone have generally low vegetation cover due to the rough seas. Marine shallow waters with a large production of marine invertebrates and fish, combined with seaweed beds and kelp forests sustains a rich animal life.

The site has a rocky coastal zone including areas with boulders and gravel. The vegetation on the smaller islets is often influenced by seabird droppings. On some of the islands, common heather is the dominating vegetation, often in a mosaic landscape in combination with bogs and ponds. Large mires are dominating some of the other islands.

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21. Noteworthy flora:
Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14, Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS*.

Middle boreal vegetation zone (Mb-O3 – strong oceanic section).
Zonal division showing the variation in vegetation from south to north and from the lowlands to the mountains, and sectional graduation showing the variation between the coast and inland (In: Moen, A. 1998. *Nasjonalatlas for Norge*; vegetasjon. Statens kartverk, Hønefoss).

Common Heather *Calluna vulgaris*, Black Crowberry *Empetrum nigrum*, Red Champion *Silene dioica* and Scentless Mayweed *Tripleurospermum inodorum* are some of the most common species. However, in the gulls and cormorants colonies the droppings give nitrous substrate which benefit plants as Common Scurvy Weed *Cochlearia officinalis* and Common Sorrel *Rumex acetosa*.

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22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Mammals
The islets in the site hold a population of Grey Seal *Halichoerus grypus* and Harbour Seal *Phoca vitulina* (VU) regularly visits the site. More rarely Killer Whale *Pseudorca crassidens* and Eurasian Otter *Lutra lutra* (VU) visit the archipelago. European Roe Deer *Capreolus capreolus* is common on some of the islands.

Birds
The site holds considerable colonies with Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo,* but also European Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis.* Other birdspecies which are more or less common breeders in the area are Dunlin *Calidris alpine,* Common Eider *Somateria mollisima* and Greylag Goose *Anser anser.* Herring Gull *Larus argentatus,* Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*, Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*, Parasitic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus,* Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*, and White-tailed Eagle *Haliaetus albicilla.* European Storm-petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* most probably breed in the area. Though not well documented, the area is supposed to be of great importance as a wintering and moulting area for grebes, loons, auks, ducks and geese. It is referred to the national red list 2010.

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23. Social and cultural values:

a) Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g., fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values:

In the past some of the islands had settlements. A few islands (e.g. Ivarsøya, Frelsøya, Raudøya, Kvaløya) still have houses or cottages, today mainly used for recreational purposes, but some of them also in connection with fishery activities.

Residents on Borgan make subsistence from agriculture, fishery and some tourism.

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning?

Yes.

If Yes, tick the box ❑ and describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

i) sites which provide 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) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:

Northern Coastal Heathland with a genuine maritime influence is very limited in the Atlantic biogeographical region. Heathland with its semi-natural vegetation are results of a long history of land use with grazing and burning. Due to changes in agricultural practices the heathlands are highly threatened. The northern coastal heaths in Norway are typically found on islands and islets where these traditions have been kept alive. Due to the local traditions and today's effort, Kalvøya still exhibit excellent examples of this valuable habitat.

iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:

iv) sites where 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:

24. Land tenure/ownership:
a) within the Ramsar site:
Private (most of the islands). The Norwegian Government (sea, Sørøyan and some smaller islands)

b) in the surrounding area:
The Norwegian Government (sea)

The Norwegian Government (sea area)

25. Current land (including water) use:
a) within the Ramsar site:
Fishing. Agriculture (Borgan) and grazing (Kalvøya, Borgan).
Eggs from gulls are collected (Gullfrøholmen and Gullfrøholmnakken).

b) in the surroundings/catchment:
Fishing. Fish farming.
Eggs from gulls are collected.

26. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:

a) within the Ramsar site:
Constructions (weekend cottages, quays).
In the past, the seabirds profited of gubbins from local fishing industry.

b) in the surrounding area:

Fish farming and constructions in the nearby area (weekend cottages, quays).

27. Conservation measures taken:
a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site:
In particular, if the site is partly or wholly a World Heritage Site and/or a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, please give the names of the site under these designations.

Borgan and Frelsøy was designated as a Nature Reserve and Animal Protected Area November 16th,1973.
Kvaløy and Raudøy was designated as a Nature Reserve and Animal Protected Area November 16th,1973.
Sklinnaflesin was designated as a protected area December 19th, 2003.
Fruflesa was designated as a Nature Reserve December 19th, 2003.
Nordøyan Nature Reserve December 19th, 2003.
Sørøyan Nature Reserve December 19th, 2003.
Ytre Brosmflesa was designated as a protected area December 19th, 2003.
Tronflesa was designated as a protected area December 19th, 2003.

b) If appropriate, list the IUCN (1994) protected areas category/ies which apply to the site (tick the box or boxes as appropriate):

Ia ☒; Ib ❑; II ❑; III ❑; IV ❑; V ❑; VI ❑

c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?:

Management plan exists for Kalvøya (Nilsen & Moen 2003).

d) Describe any other current management practices:

The area is given status as a Nature Reserve, Animal Protected Area and Protected Area. Human activity is regulated by an official set of regulations. The aim is to conserve the landscape with important botanical and zoological elements on land and at sea.

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:
e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.
None

29. Current scientific research and facilities:
e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.
Some of the islands are part of the national monitoring program for seabirds (SEAPOP).

30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:
e.g. visitors' centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.
None

31. Current recreation and tourism:
State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

None, except from some tourism on the island Borgan. Here is transportation available with the local ferry and one can find simple overnight accommodations, but no shops or eating places.

32. Jurisdiction:
Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.
Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management (DN), Tungasletta 2, 7485 Trondheim
Ph +47 73580500
Fax +47 73580501
Email: postmottak@dirnat.no

33. Management authority:
Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

The site is managed by the County Governor of Nord-Trøndelag, which is under the instruction of DN.
Address:
Inge Hafstad
County Governor of Nord-Trøndelag,
Statens Hus, N-7734 Steinkjer.
Phone. +47 74 16 80 00.
E-mail: postmottak@fmnt.no

34. Bibliographical references:
Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Artsdatabanken 2010. Artskart. http://artskart.artsdatabanken.no/Default.aspx

Kaspersen, T.E. 1997. Utkast til verneplan for sjøfuglområder i Nord-Trøndelag. - Fylkesmannen i

Nord-Trøndelag, Miljøvernavdelingen. *Rapport 3-1997*. 1-221.

Lindgaard, A. og Henriksen, S. (red) 2011. Norsk rødliste for naturtyper 2011. Artsdatabanken, Trondheim.

Lorentsen, S.-H. & Christensen-Dalsgaard, S. 2009. Det nasjonale overvåkingsprogrammet for sjøfugl. Resultater til og med hekkesesongen 2008. Norsk institutt for naturforskning (NINA), Rapport 439: 53 pp.

Moen, A. 1998. *Nasjonalatlas for Norge*; vegetasjon. Statens Kartverk, Hønefoss

Nilsen, L.S. & Moen, A. 2003. Plantelivet på Kalvøya ved Borgan, Vikna, og forslag til skjøtsel av kystlyngheilandskapet. NTNU Vitensk.mus. Rapp. Bot. Ser. 2003-3: 1-51.
