Designation Date: 24/07/85 **Ramsar Site no. 308**

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 for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2nd edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3rd edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.

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:

Miljøfaglig Utredning AS commissioned by Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management (DN), Tungasletta 2, 7485 Trondheim
Tlf +47 73580500
Fax: +47 73580501
E-mail: postmottak@dirnat.no

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY | Designation date | Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:
March 2012

3. Country:
Norway

4. Name of the Ramsar site:
Ilene & Presterødkilen Wetland System (includes sub-sites: Ilene and Presterødkilen)
(International No. 308, National No. 5)

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

i) 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:

Changes have most probably occurred due to extensive road construction and other minor impacts from sewage disposal and pollution. This matter will be followed up and a report will be sent to the Ramsar secretary.

---

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 boundary is the same as for Ilene Nature Reserve and Presterødkilen Nature Reserve.

---

8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

Ilene 59° 16' N 10° 23 E

Presterødkilen 59° 16' N 10° 26' E

Entire site: 59º16' N 010º25' E

---

9. General location:

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s), and the location of the nearest large town.

Ilene is situated to the west of the town of Tønsberg in the county of Vestfold on the west side of the Oslofjord. Presterødkilen is situated to the east of Tønsberg in Vestfold County. These areas are close to the town, which has 36000 inhabitants.

---

10. Elevation: (average and/or max. & min.)
0 m.a.s.l.

11. Area: (in hectares)
177 ha (Ilene 91.6 ha, Presterødkilen 85.4 ha)

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

Ilene is a classic delta and area of shallow water in the inner part of a narrow fjord arm around the mouth of the Aulielva river. The area has a mosaic of mudflats, saltmarsh, reedbeds, sedge belts and heather covered areas of pinewood. Presterødkilen is a shallow coastal bay surrounded by reedbeds. The shallow waters are built up with alluvial deposits and postglacial marine clay and have a high productivity of algae, snails, mussels and other invertebrates. These areas are exposed at low tide and are important feeding sites for ducks and waders in particular. In the permanently water covered areas *Zostera marina* and *Enteromorpha intestinalis* grow. A total of 240 bird species and 200 plant species are recorded from the area.

Ilene and Presterødkilen have much of the same ecological structure and we find much of the same kind of birds in the two places. Migrating birds are using both sites and thereby making an ecological connection between the two sites.

13. Ramsar Criteria:
Circle or underline 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).

1 • **2** • **3** • **4** • 5 • **6** • 7 • **8**

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).

Note: more detailed information is provided in RIS for individual sub-sites.

Criterion 2. Large numbers of wetland birds use the two areas as staging sites during migration, although they are also important for wintering birds and as breeding sites for several species, including several red-listed species., Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* (VU, Ann. III Berne Convention) is observed during migration and is a regular breeder, Corn Crake *Crex crex* (Ann. II Berne Convention, CR) have been recorded (less than annual). Many migrating birds of prey are passing through, most of them in autumn. Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* (VU, Annex II Berne Convention) are regularly observed. The red-listed plant *Centaurium pulchellum* (VU) has been found at Ilene, and it is likely that a number of other red-listed species may well occur at Ilene. The Norwegian Red List 2010 is used.

Criterion 3. The nutrient-rich large mudbanks and shallow waters have a high productivity of snails, mussels and other invertebrates. The extensive shallow areas are exposed at low tide despite the small tidal variations in the region. The areas which are exposed are very good feeding places for ducks and waders throughout much of the year, and in particular for wildfowl and waders on migration. Large wetlands of this type have become scarce and have often been filled in for industry and other economic developments. The fauna and flora of Ilene and Presterødkilen includes threatened species as well as species which are typical or representative for the biogeographical region, for more details see point 22. Many national rarities have been recorded.

Criterion 4 Large numbers of wetland birds use the area as staging sites during migration, although they are also important for wintering birds and as breeding sites for several species, including several red-listed species.. For more details see justification of criterion 2 and point 22.

Criterion 6 Ilene & Presterødkilen regularly hold more than 1% of the bio-geographic population of Pink-footed Goose. Usually we record over 1000 individuals in the site during the spring migration. At maximum there is counted 4300 individuals (11.4.2011- Artsdatabanken.no). The 1 % level of the Svalbard population being 420 individuals (according to Waterbird Population Estimates 4th Ed. 2002). The population have increased and is probably around 62 000 individuals in 2010.

Criterion 8. Salmon *Salmo salar* and Sea Trout *Salmo trutta* occur in the Auli watercourse. Production of sea trout has been reduced due to developments and pollution, but is still an important Sea Trout rivers. Vellebekken is also a local important river for Sea Trout.

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:

1. Boreonemoral vegetation zone, slightly oceanic section (Bn-O1).
2. Boreal

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

1. 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).
2. Biogeographical regions of Europe, European Environment Agency, 2005

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	Mainly rombeporphyr, some monzonite in the west.
Geomorphology	Two shallow bays on each side of the town of Tønsberg. Both are relatively sheltered from wind and weather. Vestfold county's second largest river and two streams flow into Ilene, and a large stream flows into Presterødkilen. There are indications that there is transport of river bottom material into Ilene.
Origins	Natural
Substrate/soil type	Mainly marine clay and marine mud, seaweed remains and shellsand crate very nutrient-rich soils.
Water quality	Water quality is relatively good, although pollution of groundwater from the river / inlet streams occurs during periods of heavy precipitation and flooding.
Water depth/fluctuations	Large areas are exposed at low tide. The tidal variation in the Oslofjord is small, usually only 0.5 m. Water depth in the area are only a few metres.
Climate	The area has a coastal climate and the average temperature in the period 1961-1990 was -3.2^0C in January and $16,8^0$C in July. Annual precipitation in the same period was about 930 mm.

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

The catchment area of the Aulielva which flows into Ilene is 364 km^2 and the catchment area for Vellebekken (or Kilenbekken) which flows into Presterødkilen is 25.3 km^2. The catchment areas include

cultivated land, woodland and built-up areas. The soil types are mainly alluvial and glacial alluvial deposits with marine clay in the lower parts. Most of the agricultural land within the catchment areas is used for corn production. The climate is typically coastal with warm summers and mild winters.

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

The area functions as a sediment trap for eroded material from the catchment area carried by the rivers and streams that flow into the shallow waters.

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, F, G

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

A typical transect from the outer zone towards the inner areas begins in the permanently submerged areas where dense populations of *Zostera marina* and *Enteromorpha intestinalis* create important feeding sites for birds including swans *Cygnus* sp. Further in are areas that are exposed at low tide and in the outer part of this zone *Salicornia europea* grows in dense populations. These areas become overfertilised by sludge, algae and nutrients from the sea. Suspended nutrient-rich materials from agriculture are transported via the Aulielva river and streams. This leads to a high production of snails, mussels and other prey species which are utilised by wetland birds. The shallow waters are of greatest importance for swans, geese, ducks and waders. In the areas not affected by high tides there is a rim of saltmarsh at Ilene. This is dominated by *Juncus gerardii*, *Festuca rubra*, *Agrostis stolonifera* and *Plantago lanceolata*. The red-listed species *Centaurion pulchellum* (VU) is also found in this zone. There are also small areas of *Phragmites australis*, *Schoenoplectus maritimus* and *Carex paleacea*. Presterødkilen does not have such a wide range of habitats, and is composed mainly of an area of shallow water surrounded by impressive reedbeds.
See also RIS for individual sub-sites.

21. Noteworthy flora:
Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. 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.*

The red-listed *Centaurium pulchellum* (VU) is recorded from Ilene. This is a typical species for unfertilised, grazed saltmarsh in the region and may indicate that several other red-listed plant species occur at Ilene. No red-listed plant species have been found at Presterødkilen.

22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. 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.*

Fish:

Salmon and sea trout occur in the Auli watercourse. Production of sea trout has been reduced due to developments and pollution, but is still one of Skageraks most important sea trout rivers. Also Vellebekken is also a local important river for sea trout.

Birds:

Ilene and Presterødkilen are important as feeding and staging sites for wetland birds. The most important function is as a staging area for wetland birds during spring and autumn migration. Below is a list of species recorded with totals of 500 or more (maxima in parenthesis): Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (500 individuals), Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* (500 individuals), Greylag Goose *Anser anser* (2500 individuals), Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* (3400 individuals), Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* (500 individuals), Common Teal *Anas crecca* (1500 individuals), Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* (3000 individuals), Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (3200 individuals), Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* (500 individuals), Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* (500 individuals), Dunlin *Calidris alpina* (500 individuals), Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* (800 individuals), Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* (up to 600 individuals), Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (VU), Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* (8000 individuals), Common Gull *Larus canus* (2000 individuals), Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* (1500 individuals) and Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* (100 individuals). Birds other than wetland species which have also been recorded in totals of 500 or more include Common Swift *Apus apus* (750 individuals), Chaffinch/Brambling *Fringilla coelebs / montifringilla* (1500 individuals), Redwing *Turdus iliacus* (4460 individuals), Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* (8500 individuals), and Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* (1500 individuals). The areas are also important as wintering sites e.g. Mute Swan (200 individuals), Mallard (200 individuals) and Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* (2000 individuals). Typical breeding species include Mute Swan, Mallard, Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* (not annual), Corn Crake *Crex crex* (not annual), Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Northern Lapwing, Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*, Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Common Gull, and Common Tern. A total of 255 bird species have been recorded. In recent years it has been confirmed that there is a large migration of birds of prey in the area, especially in Ilene. For example, in a day, more than 200 common buzzards have been observed.

Invertebrates:

The mudbanks and shallow waters probably have a species-rich fauna, although no scientific studies have been carried out,. Both in Presterødkilen and Ilene there is registered *Mya arenaria* (VU)

See also RIS for individual sub-sites.

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:

Ilene is considered among the best site for birdwatching in the county due to the rich number of species, easy viewing and access and its close proximity to Tønsberg with it's 36000 inhabitants. Presterødkilen is also a popular place for ornithologists, although there is less species diversity and access is not as easy. The area may be of marine archaeological interest due to it's proximity to a Middle-Age town of Tønsberg.

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?

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:

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:
Partly private, partly municipal.

(b) in the surrounding area:
Partly private, partly municipal.

---

25. Current land (including water) use:
(a) within the Ramsar site:

The areas is used for birdwatching and for walking along the "Grevestien" footpath at Ilene. There are also some grazing by cattle and horses at Ilene. Some smaller piers for private boats exist.

(b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Ilene is surrounded by agricultural land, mainly corn and fodder production, as well as livestock grazing. Presterødkilen is surrounded by housing, roads, agricultural land and some industry.

---

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:

Some illegal hunting earlier occurred at Ilene, especially in the western part.

Due to the close proximity to a large settlement a few violations on the reserve boundaries/Ramsar site have occurred, the latest being by the State Highway Department (Statens Vegvesen) in 2004.

Traffic noise along the west bank of Presterødkilen affects breeding birds.

Although the water quality is relatively good, pollution of groundwater from the river / inlet streams occurs during periods of heavy precipitation and flooding.

(b) in the surrounding area:

A large area of saltmarsh north of Ilene was cultivated in 1952. This cultivation reduced the areas natural value, not just in terms of changes in plant life and vegetation, but also due to the loss of important

feeding area for birds including wetland species. Presterødkilen is under pressure from building interests and large areas around the bay have been lost.

More detailed information is provided in RIS for individual sub-sites.

---

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.

Presterødkilen nature reserve was designated on 4th July 1969, with amendments on 28th June 1985. Ilene nature reserve was designated on 2nd October 1981. The boundaries of the Ramsar site are identical with the boundaries of the nature reserves at Ilene and Presterødkilen.

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?:

A management plan will be approved in near future.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

---

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:
e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

The County Governor of Vestfold announced in June 2005 that work had been started to revise the reserve boundaries (extension), to revise the bye-laws and to prepare a management plan for the two reserves. The Directorate for Nature Management has engaged the County Governor's Office to carry out these measures.

---

29. Current scientific research and facilities:
e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

There are no formal scientific studies, although local ornithologists monitor the bird life at Ilene on a voluntary basis.

---

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.

An information centre is established at the farm tenant's house at Holmen, beside the reserve boundary at Ilene. A bird observation tower has been erected, and is open to everyone. A footpath through the area helps to channel visitors and thereby reduce disturbance. The County Governor of Vestfold has prepared a field guide for use in schools. This includes the commonest bird species found in the area. An 8 page information brochure on the nature of Ilene has also been prepared. Information posters have been put up in both reserves.

---

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

The area is mainly used for birdwatching and walking. In Aulielva there is sport fishing for sea trout.

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 Vestfold, which is under the instruction of DN. Address: County Governor of Vestfold, Statens Park, PB 2076, N-3103 Tønsberg, Norway. Phone: +47 33371000. E-mail: postmottak@fmve.no

34. Bibliographical references:
scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 13 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Axelsen, T. 1989. Fuglelivet i Ilene og Gullkronene naturreservat. Rapport. 39 s. (In Norwegian – On the birdlife of Ilene and Gullkronene nature reserves).

Fylkesmannen i Vestfold 1975. Utkast til verneplan for våtmarksområder i Vestfold fylke. 51s. (In Norwegian – Draft management plan for wetlands in Vestfold).

Fylkesmannen i Vestfold 1987. Felthåndbok, Ilene våtmarksreservat. Fylkesmannen i Vestfold, miljøvernavdelingen. Brosjyre. 24 s. (In Norwegian – Field guide for Ilene nature reserve).

Fylkesmannen i Vestfold. 1988. Forvaltningsplan for Ilene Naturreservat. Fylkesmannen i Vestfold, miljøvernavdelingen juli 1988. (In Norwegian – Management plan for Ilene nature reserve).

Norderhaug, M. 1968. *Presterødkilen.* Østlandske naturvernforening småskrifter nr. 8. 40 s. Riksantikvaren, Fylkeskultursjefen, Fylkeskultursjefen, Tønsberg og omland reiselivslag, (In Norwegian – On wildlife of Presterødkilen).

Fylkesmannens miljøvernavdeling, Tønsberg kommune - kulturkontoret. Udatert. Grevestien. Natur og kultursti. Brosjyre. 26 s. (In Norwegian – On Grevestien footpath).

Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.Røv, N., Eide, S. & Hangård, A. 2004. Betydningen av trafikkstøy for fuglelivet i Ilene og Presterødkilen naturreservater. 1-10. (In Norwegian – On noise form traffic and the effect on birds in Ilene and Presterødkilen nature reserves).

Schmedling, T. & Markussen, J. Udatert. Ilene naturreservat. Fylkesmannen i Vestfold, miljøvernavdelingen. Brosjyre. 8 s. (In Norwegian – Brochure about Ilene nature reserve).

Schmedling, T. & Markussen, J. Udatert. Holmen informasjonsenter for natur- og miljøvern. Fylkesmannen i vestfold, Mijøvernavdelingen. Brosjyre. 4 s. (In Norwegian – Brochure about Holmen information centre).