



Ramsar Information Sheet

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Update version, previously published on : 21 December 2017

Norway

Sandblåst-/Gaustadvågen Nature Reserve



Designation date	18 March 1996
Site number	807
Coordinates	62°59'08"N 07°16'33"E
Area	245,30 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

Sandblåstvågen/Gaustadvågen Nature Reserve is a typical well-developed estuary situated in an undulating, low-lying coastal landscape, surrounded by farmland and overgrown coastal heath. The site is characterised by large tidal flats and salt marsh systems linked together by three smaller rivers. The area is divided into three sections: the innermost part is Gaustadvågen, an isolated and highly productive brackish basin. A little further out is Sandblåstvågen, which is made up of wide salt marshes, mudbanks and a shallow river course. The outermost part, Vågen is a wide and shallow area at the mouth of the Kornstadfjorden, and this, as well as the shallow waters and the island of Purkholmen, are also included within the reserve.

The area is unique within the county of Møre og Romsdal and is one of the most typical and valuable estuaries in Norway. The site is highly productive, and a large number of wetland birds use the area, especially during spring and autumn migration. A total of 250 different bird species are registered within this wetland. This site is also an important breeding site for many species and in mild winters highly important as a wintering site. Particularly high numbers of birds gather here during the autumn migration, with regular counts of several hundred whooper swans (*Cygnus cygnus*) and various ducks and waders. For several species this site holds the highest concentrations recorded in Møre og Romsdal including whooper swan, dabbling ducks and several species of waders. The site is also important for otters, breeding within the area.

Botanically the area is also extremely valuable. The large system of brackish meadows and salt marshes, which are well developed in Sandblåstvågen, are special for this part of the county, and perhaps also nationally. The large and well-developed occurrences of Characeae (*Chara canescens* (NRL 2021: NT), *Chara aspera* (NRL 2021: NT)) in the underwater brackish meadows at Gaustadvågen are unique in a national context. Here one can also find threatened habitat types, such as semi-natural grassland (NRL: VU), coastal heath (NRL: EN) and Semi-natural tidal and salt meadow (NRL: VU).

Several regionally rare and national red-listed species occur, both birds, Characeae and higher plants. Several threatened nature types are represented, in particular the various forms of brackish meadows.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Responsible compiler

Institution/agency

Postal address

National Ramsar Administrative Authority

Postal address

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

From year

To year

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)

Unofficial name (optional)

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) B. Changes to Site area No change to area

(Update) For secretariat only: This update is an extension

2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS? No

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps

Boundaries description

2.2.2 - General location

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

b) What is the nearest town or population centre?

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): 245.3

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from
GIS boundaries 244.597

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
EU biogeographic regionalization	1. Southern boreal vegetation zone, highly oceanic section (Sb – O3)
EU biogeographic regionalization	2. Atlantic

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

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. EU Habitat directive 92/43/EEC

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 area represents a rare and in many ways unique estuary in the region. Gaustadvågen is rather distinctive, with its large brackish meadows containing Characeae. Sandblåstvågen with the neighbouring Vågen and the area towards Gaustadvågen, also contain distinctive and well-developed underwater brackish meadows and salt marshes.

- Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

Optional text box to provide further information

Several regionally and nationally rare/threatened species and habitat types can be found. Threatened habitat types are coastal bog (NRL: VU) and coastal heath (NRL: EN).

Regarding birds, the area is important for several species, such as the black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa*, IUCN: NT, NRL 2021: CR), the Northern pintail (*Anas acuta*, NRL 2021: VU), the Northern shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*, NRL 2021: VU) and the garganey (*Spatula querquedula*, NRL 2021: EN).

- Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification

Large, intact estuaries represent a threatened environment, both from construction activity and pollution. Some of the charales recorded occur nowhere else in the county (*Chara canescens* and *Chara aspera*) and are also considered as rare in this part of the biogeographic region. Several plant species and some wetland bird species are regionally rare, and it is reasonable to assume that the area is responsible for the survival of several populations in the region, both during summer and winter. The site is also considered to be a hotspot for migrating birds. For several species this site holds some of the highest concentrations recorded in Møre og Romsdal county, including whooper swans, dabbling ducks and several species of waders. In addition to various wildfowl and waders there are often large flocks of gulls and passerines in the area throughout the year, sometimes reaching thousands of individuals.

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

Optional text box to provide further information

The site is highly productive, and a large number of wetland birds utilize this area, especially during spring and autumn migration. This is also an important breeding site for many species and in mild winters it is also an important wintering site.

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

Phylum	Scientific name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
Fungi								
BASIDIOMYCOTA/ AGARICOMYCETES	<i>Hygrocybe splendidissima</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as VU	

Capitalized letters shows the species' status on the National Red List 2021.

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

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
Others																	
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II, Berne Convention	Criterion 4: This species breeds within the site.
Birds																	
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Anas acuta</i>	<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"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 4: This species occurs during migration. Numbers of dabbling ducks are for many species the highest recorded in the county. This species probably breeds here.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	<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"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 4: Numbers of dabbling ducks are for many species the highest recorded in the county. This species probably breeds here.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Anas crecca</i>	<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"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criterion 4: Numbers of dabbling ducks are for many species the highest recorded in the county. This species forage here.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Anas penelope</i>	<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"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criterion 4: Numbers of dabbling ducks are for many species the highest recorded in the county. This species forage here.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	<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"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criterion 4: This species breeds within the site. Numbers of dabbling ducks are for many species the highest recorded in the county
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Anser anser</i>	<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"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criterion 4: Several goose species occur, and Greylag goose often number several hundred during autumn migration.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	<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"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as EN	This species occasionally occur within the site.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	<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"/>				VU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		This species occasionally occur within the site.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Aythya marila</i>	<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"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as EN	This species occur within the site.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ann. II Berne Convention	Criterion 4: This species occur in large numbers during migration.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	<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"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criterion 4: This species occur in large numbers during migration.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	<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"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ann. II Berne Convention	Criterion 3 & 4: The area is an important breeding site for several wetland bird species during summer, with irregular nesting by this regionally interesting species.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 4: This species occur in large numbers during migration.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	<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"/>				NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ann. II Berne Convention	
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	<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"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ann. II Berne Convention	
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ann. II Berne Convention	Criterion 4: This species breeds within the site.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ann. II Berne Convention	Criterion 4: Several hundred of this species gather during the autumn migration. This species also utilize this area during winter.

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		This species is foraging in the area.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Grus grus</i>	<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"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criterion 3 & 4: The area is an important breeding site for several wetland bird species during summer, with irregular nesting by this regionally interesting species.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Criterion 4: This species is foraging in the area
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 4: This species breed within the site.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Larus canus</i>	<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"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 3 & 4: The outer part of the reserve includes the island of Purkholmen, which was previously considered regionally important as a nesting site for this species.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as CR	Criterion 4: This species breeds here.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as EN	Criterion 4: This species breeds within the site, but population declines are reported for recent years.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	<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"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as VU	Criterion 3 & 4: The area is an important breeding site for several wetland bird species during summer, with irregular nesting by this regionally interesting species.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	<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"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criterion 4: This species occurs during migrations
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	<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"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as NT	This species occur in large numbers during winter months. Regular breeder.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	<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"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ann. II Berne Convention	
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	<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"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criterion 4: This species breeds within the site.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	<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"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criterion 4: This species breeds within the site.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Red List: Considered as CR	Criterion 4: This species breeds within the site, but population declines are reported for recent years.

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Capitalized letters shows the species' status on the National Red List 2021.

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
Coastal heath	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		This habitat type is considered EN on the Norwegian red list for habitat types
Semi-natural grassland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		This habitat type is considered VU on the Norwegian red list for habitat types
Semi-natural tidal and salt meadow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		This habitat type is considered VU on the Norwegian red list for habitat types
Atlantic raised bog	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		This habitat type is considered EN on the Norwegian red list for habitat types

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

4.1 - Ecological character

The site is surrounded by an undulating landscape with moor on knolls and poor mire vegetation in between. In the outer parts toward the Kornstadfjord there are small areas of salt marshes and seaweed communities. There are large areas of wet brackish meadows, coastal marshes and some underwater brackish meadows at Sandblåstvågen and the area between the river Gaustadelva and the inlet to Gaustadvågen, and there are large gatherings of waders, ducks and other birds in these areas at various times in their annual cycle. The submerged brackish meadows are threatened habitat types. Gaustadvågen is probably somewhat deeper and there are often a good number of ducks, especially during migration periods.

The different locations within the wetland have functions that vary depending on the season. Purkholmen is usually utilized by shore-bound species that prefer shallow areas, such as common eiders, red-breasted merganser and gulls throughout the year. The narrow Vågen towards Sandblåst is to a small degree utilized as a breeding area for birds, but is regularly used during foraging by species such as grey heron, red-breasted merganser and other duck species. Sandblåstvågen is a central staging area for waders during the migration, and also an important breeding location for the same species. Additionally, several ducks reside here during migration and breeding season. Periodically large numbers of geese are present during the autumn migration. The common crane is a regular species during summer, while whooper swans can regularly be found in ice-free periods during the winter season. Additionally, several passerines, gulls and raptors occur during forage.

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

Marine or coastal wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
A: Permanent shallow marine waters		4		
B: Marine subtidal aquatic beds (Underwater vegetation)				
D: Rocky marine shores				
F: Estuarine waters		3		
G: Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats		2		Unique
H: Intertidal marshes		1		Unique
J: Coastal brackish / saline lagoons				

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 > Marshes on peat soils >> U: Permanent Non-forested peatlands		0		Rare

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Position in range / endemism / other
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Bolboschoenus maritimus</i>	Regional and rare species
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Carex flacca</i>	Regional and rare species
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Carex lepidocarpa</i>	National Red List: Considered as NT
BASIDIOMYCOTA/AGARICOMYCETES	<i>Hygrocybe quieta</i>	National Red List: Considered as NT
BASIDIOMYCOTA/AGARICOMYCETES	<i>Hygrocybe russocoriacea</i>	National Red List: Considered as NT
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Juncus balticus</i>	Regional and rare species
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Potamogeton gramineus</i>	Regional and rare species
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Ruppia cirrhosa</i>	Regional and rare species
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i>	Regional and rare species
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Stuckenia pectinata</i>	Regional and rare species

Optional text box to provide further information

Capitalized letters shows the species' status on the National Red List 2021.

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	% occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>				

Invasive alien animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Actual (minor impacts)	No change

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
D: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with cold winters	Dfc: Subarctic (Severe winter, no dry season, cool summer)

The site has a highly oceanic climate with mild winters and relatively cool summers. Annual precipitation is 1000 – 1500 mm.

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.

Norwegian Sea

Sandblåstvågen and Gaustadvågen are situated at the mouth of the Kornstadfjord, and represent a large, brackish system, which receives fresh water from the south and the south-west. The largest river, Gaustadelva, runs out of the lake Gådalsvannet, which is about 3 km south of the reserve. In addition, a number of small streams run into the area from smaller water bodies and mires in the south and south-west.

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral

(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 outer part of Sandblåstvågen is made up of rocks, stone, gravel, sand, clay and silt. In the central parts of Sandblåstvågen and eastwards towards Gaustadvågen there are finer materials with stone, gravel, clay and silt. Peat covers the mires and raw humus covers the moor. There are also large areas of boggy soil.

The bedrock consists of gneiss which gives rise to the modest flora. Richer floristic species is assumed possible by the shell sand or saline influence from the sea water.

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Marine water	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change
Water inputs from surface water	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)	No change

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

The variation between high and low tides measured at Kristiansund averages annually 129 cm. Fluctuations and depths in the brackish water system are uncertain.
The ecosystem is governed by a variation of fresh water from three rivers and salt water at high tide.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Sediment regime unknown

4.4.6 - Water pH

Unknown

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Mixohaline (brackish)/Mixosaline (0.5-30 g/l)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Euhaline/Eusaline (30-40 g/l)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Unknown

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Unknown

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself: i) broadly similar ii) significantly different

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development

Surrounding area has higher human population density

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use

Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types

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

There is little boat activity by the outlet. Farming in the south and south-west.

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Wetland non-food products	Livestock fodder	High
Wetland non-food products	Other	Medium

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	High
Recreation and tourism	Water sports and activities	Medium
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	High
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	High
Scientific and educational	Major scientific study site	High
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	High

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Nutrient cycling	Carbon storage/sequestration	Medium

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

The area is important both for recreation as well as agriculture. The area is rich in fish. Ease of access makes the area ideal for studying the landscape and its bird life. The area is therefore important for research and educational purposes. Access is forbidden in parts of the reserve between 1st April and 31st August. Some walking probably takes place outside the periods of restriction. Parts of Sandblåstsvågen are cultivated farmland and there is often farming activity. A few sheep graze on Sandblåstsvågen, as well as cattle north of the reserve.

There is no known organised research. The Møre og Romsdal branch of the Norwegian Ornithological Society (BirdLife Norway) had a hide in the area during the 1980's. This has since been moved to another site (Male) and ornithological activity has since subsided. Birdwatching takes place throughout the year, and this is one of the main observation sites of the outer part of Romsdal. Boating activity outside the bridge by Komstadfjorden.

Kelp trawling was banned throughout the year in this area in 2012.

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

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):

Within the Ramsar site: Private.

In the surrounding area: Private. Knarrshaugmyra, which borders the southern part of the nature reserve at Sandblåstvågen/Gaustadvågen was designated as a nature reserve on 13th December 1996.

5.1.2 - Management authority

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

County Governor of Møre og Romsdal

Postal address:

Statsforvalteren i Møre og Romsdal
Pb 2520
N-6404 Molde

E-mail address:

sfmrpost@statsforvalteren.no

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

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

Human settlements (non agricultural)

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

Agriculture and aquaculture

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

Transportation and service corridors

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

Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Invasive non-native/ alien species	Low impact	Low 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
Agricultural and forestry effluents	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change
Household sewage, urban waste water	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

Within the Ramsar site:

Further cultivation within the reserve will probably be negative for the natural value of the site. Fertilizing, both within and near the reserve, should have been monitored. The heather moor within the reserve are overgrown both due to lack of management as well as conifer planting. This likely result in a negative impact on water birds.

Several roads (both farm tracks and proper roads) have been constructed over Vågen and this may have affected water exchange from the brackish system. The salt content may well have been reduced and thus affected the ecosystem, although the biological consequences of this have not been assessed.

The invasive species Canada goose breed within the protected area, actions are to be taken in order to prevent this species from breeding here.

15 houses close to the wetland border have sewage emission pipes with outlets inside the borders.

County road 64 cross the nature reserve in Vågen, however, the road has been diverted and now cross Vågen with an overhead bridge.

In the surrounding area:

Fertilising along the nearby rivers and streams ought to be monitored. Overgrowing of neighbouring heather moors has resulted in a change in the open character of the area and probably affected bird life in a negative way.

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
nature reserve	Sandblåstvågen/Gaustadvågen		whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

Ia Strict Nature Reserve

Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection

II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation

III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features

IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention

V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation

VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

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

Please indicate if a Ramsar centre, other educational or visitor facility, or an educational or visitor programme is associated with the site:

A viewing facility for birdwatching has recently been completed just east of Gaustadvågen, with information boards about the nature reserve. An information booklet is produced by the management authorities, comprising all the Ramsar sites in Møre and Romsdal county.

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No, the site has already been restored

Further information

Planted shelter belts with alien tree species, such as sitka spruce and dwarf mountain pine, have recently been removed and it is assumed that all alien tree species have now been eliminated. However, monitoring of possible new sprouts and reestablishment needs to be performed in order to confirm this.

In 2021, a grazing project with goats to keep the vegetation down have been started.

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

<no data available>

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Artsdatabanken (2021, 24. november). Norsk rødliste for arter 2021. <https://www.artsdatabanken.no/lister/rodlisterforarter/2021>

Botanical and management plans:

Holten, J. I., Frisvoll, A. A. & Aune, E. I. 1986. Havstrand i Møre og Romsdal. Flora, vegetasjon og verneverdier. Økoforsk rapport 1986:3A: 253 s. (on flora and vegetation along the coast of Møre og Romsdal).

Holten, J. I., Frisvoll, A. A. & Aune, E. I. 1986. Havstrand i Møre og Romsdal. Lokalitetsbeskrivelser. Økoforsk rapport 1986:3B: 184 s. (on site descriptions along the coast of Møre og Romsdal).

Jordal, J.B. 2005. Kartlegging av naturtyper i Eide kommune. Rapport J. B. Jordal nr. 4-2005. 65 s. + kart. (on habitat mapping in Eide municipality).

Jordal, J. B. 2005. Kartlegging av naturtyper i Fræna kommune. Rapport J. B. Jordal nr. 5-2005. 139 s. + kart. (on habitat mapping in Fræna municipality).

Langangen, A., Gaarder, G. & Jordal, J. B. 2001. Plantegeografisk viktig funn av kransalgen hårkrans (*Chara canescens* Lois.) i Møre og Romsdal. Blyttia 59: 165-166. (In Norwegian – on a find of *Chara canescens* in Møre og Romsdal).

Birds:

Fiske, P. & Gylseth, J., 1985. Gaustad-/Sandblåstvågen. Rallus 15: 101-111. (In Norwegian – on the birdlife in Gaustad-/Sandblåstvågen).

Folkestad, A. O. 1978. Fylkesvis oversikt over ornitologisk viktige våtmarksområder i Norge. Møre og Romsdal. Miljøverndepartementet juni 1978. (on Ornithologically important wetlands in Norway).

Folkestad, A. O. & Loen, J. 1998. Hekkende sjøfugl i Møre og Romsdal - ein statusrapport. Fylkesmannen i Møre og Romsdal, Miljøvernnavdelinga, rapport nr. 4-1998. 125 s. (on breeding seabirds in Møre og Romsdal).

Fylkesmannen i Møre og Romsdal, Miljøvernnavdelinga 1982. Utkast til verneplan for våtmarksområde i Møre og Romsdal. Fylkesmannen i Møre og Romsdal, Miljøvernnavdelinga. 224 s. (draft management plan for wetlands in Møre og Romsdal).

Gjerde, Ø. 1974. Feltrapport høsten 1974. Landsplan for verneverdige områder/forekomster. Upubl. rapport til Miljøverndepartementet, nr. 72.1. 32 s. (on important areas).

Gjerde, Ø. 1975. Feltrapport vår/sommer 1975. Landsplan for verneverdige områder/forekomster. Upubl. rapport til Miljøverndepartementet, nr. 72.2. 50 s. (on important areas).

Moen, G. 2004. Viltet i Fræna. Rapport, 170 s. (In Norwegian – on wildlife in Fræna municipality). Moen, G. 2005. Viltet i Eide. Naturkonsult DA rapport nr. 1-2005. 135 s + vedlegg og kart. (In Norwegian – on wildlife in Eide municipality).

Solbakken, K. A. under arbeid. Status for fuglelivet i norske Ramsarområder. NOF-rapport. (In Norwegian – on Birdlife of Norwegian Ramsar sites).

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

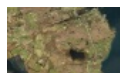
<no file available>

vi. other published literature

<2 file(s) uploaded>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



Aerial view of Sandblåst/Gaustadvågen (Norwegian Environment Agency, 26-10-2017)



Aerial view of Sandblåst/Gaustadvågen (Fylkesmannen i Møre og Romsdal, 17-07-2017)



Aerial view of Sandblåst/Gaustadvågen (Fylkesmannen i Møre og Romsdal, 17-07-2017)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation