

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

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

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

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

April 2002

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Country:

Sweden

3. Name of wetland:

Blekinge archipelago

4. Geographical coordinates:

- (a) Bräkne-Hoby 56°8'N, 015°5'E
(b) Listerby 56°9'N, 015°28'E
(c) Torhamn 56°4'N, 015°47'E

5. Altitude:

 (average and/or max. & min.) 0 - 20 m

(a) 0 - 15 m, b) 0 - 20 m, c) 0 - 15 m

6. Area:

 (in hectares) 12 500 ha

a) 910 ha, b) 3 510 ha, c) 8 080 ha

7. Overview:

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

The archipelago of Blekinge has high ecological, ornithological, botanical and cultural values. The area is very attractive for visitors. The landscape is to a large extent shaped by humans. There are several red-listed species of birds and insects within the site, and the number of geological and cultural remnants is high.

8. Wetland Type

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

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

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

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

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

9. Ramsar Criteria:

 (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12, next page.)

1 . 2 . 3 . 4 . 5 . 6 . 7 . 8

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

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

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

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

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Please provide additional information on each of the following categories by attaching extra pages (please limit extra pages to no more than 10):

12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page. (Please refer to Annex II in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document).

1. A rare example of a near-natural wetland type (archipelago in shallow marine waters) in the EU Continental region
 2. >100 nationally redlisted species, primarily insects (>80, including 1 globally redlisted) and birds (10, included 1 globally redlisted)
 3. Supports particular elements of biological diversity that are rare to the EU Continental region
 5. >20 000 waterbirds, mainly ducks (including 15-20 000 *Somateria mollissima*), gulls and cormorants (3 000)
 6. Supports >1% of the northern/central European population of *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis* (3 000) and 1% of the Baltic/Denmark/Netherlands population of *Somateria mollissima* (15-20 000)
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13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

The site consists of three sub-areas in the archipelago of Blekinge: (i) Bräkne-Hoby, (ii) Listerby and (iii) Torhamn. They are situated in the County of Blekinge, south-eastern corner of Sweden, as follows;

- (i) Bräkne-Hoby 15 km east-south-east of the town of Karlshamn
(ii) Listerby 11 km south-west of the town of Karlskrona
(iii) Torhamn 16 km south-east of the town of Karlskrona

Municipalities: Karlskrona, Ronneby.

14. Physical features: (e.g. geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)

The three parts of the site all include isles, islands, some coastal areas and the waters in between. Some beaches are flat, being surrounded by large, shallow areas. In such places, food resources for breeding and migratory birds are rich. Terrestrial areas display a variety of wet habitats as well as bare, rocky areas.

15. Hydrological values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc)

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16. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

Vegetation within the site include grazed seashore meadows, emergent water vegetation, wetland forests of different kinds, wet meadows, fens, transitional fens/bogs, areas dominated by heather *Calluna vulgaris* or grass and sedge *Carex* spp. There are also restricted areas of deciduous forests (e.g. oak *Quercus robur* and beech *Fagus sylvatica*). Most of the islands resemble ancient and old time pastures, with juniper *Juniperus communis*, roses *Rosa* spp., blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and hawthorn *Crataegus* sp. in grazed areas.

17. Noteworthy flora: (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc)

Noteworthy species on the islands include the white sticky catchfly *Silene viscosa* and *Montia arvensis* (nationally redlisted). In the inner parts of the archipelago the flora of seaweed is interesting and rich in species, some of them quite uncommon in Sweden. Several species of *Chara* occurs, for example *C.*

horrida (nationally redlisted).

For additional information, see Annex 1

18. Noteworthy fauna: (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.)

Ornithological values are mainly linked to the grazed coastal wetland areas and the rocky islands. One island supports the largest colony of sandwich tern *Sterna sandvicensis* (nationally redlisted, EU birds directive species). Other islands support Caspian tern *Sterna caspia*, little tern *Sterna albifrons* (both nationally redlisted and EU birds directive species), eider *Somateria mollissima* (8-10 000 pairs), sea eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* (globally and nationally redlisted, EU birds directive species), avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, red-breasted flycatcher *Ficedula parva* and golden oriole *Oriolus oriolus* (all nationally redlisted). In the western part of the site (Bräkne-Hoby skärgård) great cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis* has its largest colony in the county (about 1500 pairs). On one of the islands the largest colony of heron *Ardea cinerea* in the County is found.

The fish fauna is also noteworthy. Parts of the archipelago are of great importance for the spawning of herring *Clupea harengus*. Among amphibians inside the site natterjack toad *Bufo calamita* and agile frog *Rana dalmatina* (both nationally redlisted, EU habitat directive species) are the most noteworthy. The evertbrate fauna of Tromtö Nature Reserve is of special interest. More than 80 redlisted species of wood living insects have been found, including the stag beetle *Lucanus cervus* and the hermit beetle *Osmoderma eremita* (also globally redlisted).

19. Social and cultural values: (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

Areas within the site have been used as grazing and pasture land for a long time. There are also old villages, which have not been changed for a long time. There are archaeological monuments e.g. medieval house foundations and ancient graves on some islands. Preservation of the cultural landscape in this area is of national interest. Traces from the latest Ice Age include ancient shoreline banks, drumlins, ancient cobble stone banks, a sandy ridge with ancient graves and several elements showing the direction in which the ice sheet moved.

20. Land tenure/ownership of: (a) site (b) surrounding area

(a) The western part, Bräkne-Hoby, is mainly privately owned, although large areas are public waters. The central part, Listerby, is mainly a part of Johannishus entailed estate and the state owns about 400 ha. The eastern part, Torhamn, is mainly privately owned. The state owns some islands and parts of a few nature reserves, as well as the whole Torhamns udde Nature Reserve. The Church and a municipality own minor areas and very large areas are public waters.

(b) Mostly privately owned but also owned by the state.

21. Current land use: (a) site (b) surroundings/catchment

(a) Fishing, grazing and agriculture

(b) Fishing, agriculture and forestry

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects: (a) at the site (b) around the site

(a) The islands are to a very large extent unexploited. On some islands, rock quarries are common. As a result of these activities, some ancient graves have been damaged. In order to maintain the site's botanical values, it is important that management is continued, e.g. scrub clearance followed by grazing.

(b) None known

23. Conservation measures taken: (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made: management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

There are eight nature reserves fully within the site; most of them privately owned:

Tromtö Nature Reserve - 1224 ha. Owned by Johannishus entailed estate. Protected 1982.

Kvalmsö Nature Reserve - 182 ha. Protected since 1986.

Almö Nature Reserve - 880 ha. Protected since 1987.

Listerby skärgård Nature Reserve - 180 ha. Protected since 1981.

Senora Svenö Nature Reserve - 88 ha. Protected since 1975.

Järkö Nature Reserve - 123 ha. Protected since 1975.

Hästholmen-Ytterön Nature Reserve - 1160 ha. Partly owned by the state. Protected since 1975.

Torhamns udde Nature Reserve - 518 ha. Owned by the state. Protected since 1977.

There are four nature reserves partly within the site:

Sonekulla Nature Reserve - 52 ha. Protected since 1973.

Vambåsa hagmarker Nature Reserve - 99 ha. Protected since 1982.

Västra Skällön Nature Reserve - 44 ha. Partly owned by municipality. Protected since 1971.

Hallarumviken Nature Reserve - 51 ha. The part included in the site is owned by the state. Protected since 1973.

Management plans exist for all nature reserves.

There are also several bird sanctuaries within the site.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

There is a proposal to protect a large marine area as Torhamns skärgård (Archipelago) Nature Reserve (in the eastern part of the site). This marine reserve will include several of the existing nature reserves, and will be approximately 10 000 ha, some of the area is outside the Ramsar site.

In addition, there are plans to protect approximately 200 ha of the eastern archipelago as a nature reserve, the Tomtö-Stora Hammar-Varö-Björnön-Lillö area in Hallarumsviken Bay. There are plans to turn the islands Ivö and Vångsö into nature reserves as well.

There are 12 Natura 2000 sites (pSCI), proposed by the government, within or connected to the Ramsar area:

SE0410042 Tromtö-Almö - 3369 ha

SE0410089 Sonekulla - 52 ha

SE0410092 Haglö - 161 ha

SE0410097 Hallarum - a minor part

SE0410098 Järkö - 123 ha

SE0410099 Hästholmen-Öppenskär - 1160 ha

SE0410100 Senora Svenö - 88 ha

SE0410104 Torhamns udde - 518 ha

SE0410046 Bräkne-Hoby skärgård - 212 ha

SE0410205 Vambåsanäs - a minor part

SE0410206 Ivö - 72 ha

SE0410225 Sandhamn - 27 ha

There are five Natura 2000 sites (SPA), confirmed by the government, within the Ramsar area:

SE0410042 Tromtö-Almö - 3369 ha

SE0410046 Bräkne-Hoby skärgård - 212 ha

SE0410048 Ronnekläppen - 61 ha

SE0410049 Björnön-Varö - 100 ha

SE0410184 Danaflöt - 4,7 ha

25. Current scientific research and facilities: (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

At Torhamn, in the south-eastern part of the Ramsar site, there is a bird station and bird watching towers where migratory birds are studied.

Monitoring activity and pollution control at the coast (The Coastal Management and Protection Association).

A special monitoring project of the flora and fauna inside the Tromtö Nature Reserve has been carried out during 2001.

26. Current conservation education: (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

The bird station at Torhamn also works as an information centre for school visits and tourists.

27. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)

The site is of high value for recreation and tourism and boat tourists frequently visit parts of it.

28. Jurisdiction: (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment etc.)

County Administrative Board of Blekinge

29. Management authority: (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)

County Administrative Board of Blekinge

S-371 86 Karlskrona

Sweden

in co-operation with a number of individual landowners/farmers

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

Baranowski, R. & Nilsson, S. G. 1994. Vedinsekter på Tromtö. Länsstyrelsen i Blekinge län 1994.

Berglund, B. 1965. Late-Quaternary vegetation in eastern Blekinge, southeastern Sweden, a pollen-analytical study. 1. Late-glacial time. Lund, 1966.

Länsstyrelsen i Blekinge län. 1986. Torhamns ytterskärgård. Natur och naturvärden. Meddelande 1986: 2

Länsstyrelsen i Blekinge län. 1987. Torhamns ytterskärgård. Marininventering. Meddelande 1987: 1.

Länsstyrelsen i Blekinge län. 1994. Våtmarker i Blekinge.

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Annex 1

In several parts of the site the flora is rich, representative and interesting. There is an important wetland on one of the islands in Hästholmen-Ytterön Nature Reserve, being in a transitional state, turning from a topogenous fen into a slightly raised bog. Mires are very unusual in this area, despite the fact that precipitation is low. This mire is considered a unique feature, as it is valued for studies of mire formation processes. In other parts of the site, there are stands of old oak and other deciduous trees, which support a valuable and interesting insect fauna and fungus flora. One of the islands contains the largest heather *Calluna vulgaris* moor in the eastern part of the archipelago.