

# 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.

DD	MM	YY

Designation date

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Site Reference Number

**2. Country:**

Sweden

**3. Name of wetland:**

Tönnersjöheden - Årshultsmyren

**4. Geographical coordinates:**

56°46'N, 013°19'E

**5. Altitude:** (average and/or max. & min.) 152.4 – 230.2 m

**6. Area:** (in hectares) 12 300 ha

**7. Overview:** (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

Two large areas, highly valued for their representativity and diversity in wetland types, as well as their size. The bird life and flora are rich, and include several rare and threatened species.

**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 . Q . 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: U, W, Xp, Tp, Ts, O, M

**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:**

Isabell Olevall, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, S-106 48 Stockholm, Sweden  
Eva Nohlgren, County Administrative Board of Gävleborg, S- 801 70 Gävle, Sweden  
Torsten Larsson, Swedish EPA, S-106 48 Stockholm, Sweden

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

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**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 representative example of a near-natural wetland type (peatlands and shrub-dominated marshes) in the EU Boreal region
  2. >15 nationally redlisted species, including plants (5 species) and birds (4 species)
  3. Supports particular elements of biological diversity that are characteristic of the EU Boreal region
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**13. General location:** (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

The site is situated some 30 km east-north-east of the town of Halmstad, in the Counties of Halland and Kronoberg, south-western Sweden. Municipalities: Halmstad, Laholm, Ljungby.

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**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 site is a very large wetland complex, which displays a high diversity of wetland types of several different developmental stages. The high proportion of wetlands is derived from the situation at the western border of the “South-Swedish Highland” (sydsvenska höglandet). This is the most humid region of South Sweden with a precipitation between 1200 and 1500 millimetres yearly, higher values in Sweden to be found in the alpine region only. Because of this “superhumid” status the site contains unique mire complexes by Swedish standard. There are several ridges and eskers within the area, and also springs can be seen.

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

By large unaffected by human activities which contributes to the maintenance of water quality.

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

The site is very representative, displaying a high number of wetland types. Among these peat bogs, small lakes, fens, fen soaks, meandering streams, wetland meadows along the streams, wet forests and solid ground islets covered by forest could be mentioned. Different kinds of peat bogs dominate the site, and some belong to the most valued in the country. Other important habitats are coniferous and mixed forests of natural origin, which often grow as a part of the wetland mosaic landscape. Parts of the forest in the site are unexploited. Dry and wet heaths were formerly extensive over the area but are now restricted to a few areas. Within the military training ground a large area is still managed by means of burning.

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

The flora is typical for the “poor” habitats of the region, but with a well-conserved stock of species belonging to wetlands and heaths. Species with subatlantic (southwestern) extension predominate, e.g. the bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum*, growing in huge carpets of the mire, *Erica tetralix*, *Galium saxatile*, *Pedicularis sylvatica*, *Juncus squarrosus*, *Genista pilosa*, *Gentiana pneumonanthe*, *Blechnum spicant* and *Quercus petraea*. Northern species are *Carex magellanica*, *Juncus stygius* and *Betula nana*, the latter occurring in large stands in the western part of the site. Nationally redlisted species are *Lycopodium complanatum* ssp. *chamaecyparissus*, *Pedicularis sylvatica*, *Genista pilosa*, *Gentiana pneumonanthe* and *Anemone vernalis*. The wetland meadows along the rivers contain several moss species. In some localities, like by Lake Örsjön in the central eastern part of the area, the flora includes interesting plant societies.

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

The area is important for the birdlife. There are birds characteristic of the vast mires of this region, such as the crane *Grus grus*, golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, wood sandpiper *Tringa glareola*, curlew *Numenius arquata* (nationally redlisted), black grouse *Tetrao tetrix* (all EU Birds directive species) and kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*. The black grouse leks and breeds in numbers hardly surpassed by any other site in the region. There are also frequently visited resting and feeding places for crane as well as greylag goose *Anser anser*. Among forest birds present in the area are the capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus* (EU Birds directive species), goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*, black woodpecker *Dryocopus martius* (EU Birds directive species), lesser spotted woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor* (nationally redlisted), Tengmalm's owl *Aegolius funereus* (EU Birds directive species), Eurasian pygmy owl *Glaucidium passerinum* (EU Birds directive species) and spotted nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes* (nationally redlisted). In wintertime the golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* (nationally redlisted, EU Birds directive species) is a regular visitor.

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

At Lake Örsjön, in the central eastern part of the area, remnants are found from the latest ice age in the form of shoreline banks. In the western parts of the site, there are traces of the traditional (now abandoned) burn-beaten land of the region.

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

- (a) Protected areas are owned privately, by the state, by a foundation and by the municipality. Unprotected areas are largely owned by state, the rest mainly privately owned.
- (b) Owned mainly privately and by the municipality.
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**21. Current land use:** (a) site (b) surroundings/catchment

- (a) Forestry, agriculture and grazing. There are two military training grounds within the site. The total area for Mästocka training ground is 3390 ha, with an additional water area of 22 ha. For Tönnersjö the total area is 1779 ha, also with an additional water area of 15 ha.
- (b) Forestry, military training ground, agriculture and grazing.
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**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) Because the size of the site, exploitation pressure differs from area to area. Roads, ditches and forestry locally affect the eastern half of the site. In the western half of the site, there are ditches and spruce *Picea abies* plantations. A number of lakes in the site have been lowered. Previously, fens and fen soaks were used for haymaking. This has long since been abandoned, and several of these areas are gradually becoming overgrown with pine *Pinus sylvestris*. Military activities are to some extent performed in line with conservation interests and in some areas burning take place, which contributes to the rich flora and fauna. However, uncertainty prevails about the future of burning. Since parts of the site are drained through River Fylleån (another Ramsar site), any activities like pollutant discharges and physical disturbance should be avoided. The western parts of the site includes areas, which belongs to the most exposed areas in the country in terms of airborne acidifying pollutants and are interesting from the environmental monitoring point of view.
- (b) The factors are to a great extent the same in the surroundings as they are at the site.
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**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 three nature reserves fully within the site;

Porsbjär Nature Reserve - 436 ha. Protected since 1987 and owned by the state and privately.

Långhultamyren Nature Reserve - 768 ha. Protected since 1999 and owned by the municipality (landstinget) and the state.

There is one nature reserve partly within the site;

Gårdshult Nature Reserve - 182 ha, of which 77 is within the site. Protected since 1991 and owned by a foundation.

Årshultsmyren Nature Reserve - 1 392 ha. Protected since 1973 and owned by the state and privately.

Management plans exist for all reserves.

The site is partly included in the National Mire Protection Plan.

Military training fields will be subject to conservation-orientated management planning

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

There are far-reaching plans to expand Porsbjär Nature Reserve to 543 ha. Land has already been purchased by the state for the purpose.

The following areas have been proposed to the Natura 2000 network;

Porsbjär SE0510023 (SPA)

Långhultamyren SE0510116 (pSCI and SPA)

Gårdshult SE0510090 (pSCI)

Porsbjär-Laängen SE0510102 (pSCI)

Tönnersjömålet och Mästocka skjutfält SE0510170 (pSCI and SPA)

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

Parts of the site are traditional target for excursions and also research objects for the University of Lund.

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

None known

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

Parts of the site are valued for the scenic beauty, and are attractive for tourism and recreation. In the western parts of the site, the most frequently visited mire areas in the whole region are found.

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

County Administrative Boards of Halland and Kronoberg

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

County Administrative Board of Halland

S-301 86 Halmstad

Sweden

County Administrative Board of Kronoberg

S-351 86 Växjö

Sweden

Royal Fortification Administration

Box 513

291 25 Kristianstad

(for the military areas)

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**30. Bibliographical references:** (scientific/technical only)

Bengtsson, S. 1996: Naturvårdsprogram för Hallands län. Del 3 Halmstads kommun. Information från Länsstyrelsen i Hallands län. Remissutgåva.

Erlandsson, J. 2001. Områden av riksintresse för naturvård i Hallands län. NN18 Simlångsdalen-Tönnersjöheden, s. 81-89. Länsstyrelsen Halland. Meddelande 2001: 20.

Forslund, M. och Rundlöf, S. 1984: Våtmarker i Hallands län. Länsstyrelsens meddelande nr 1985: 1.

Fritz, Ö. 1996: Inventering av skogliga nyckelbiotoper inom naturskyddade områden i Hallands län. Del 1. Södra länsdelen.  
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Malmberg, S. 1974: Myrarna vid Långhultbacken. Information från Länsstyrelsen i Hallands län.  
Olausson, E. 1957: Das Moor Roshultsmyren. Lunds universitets årsskrift. N.F. Avd 2. Bd 53. Nr 12.

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Please return to: **Ramsar Convention Bureau, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 GLAND, Switzerland**  
Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • e-mail: [ramsar@hq.iucn.org](mailto:ramsar@hq.iucn.org)