

INFORMATION SHEET ON RAMSAR WETLANDS

Country: Sweden

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Name of wetland: Ottenby

Date of Ramsar designation: 5 December 1974

Geographical coordinates: 56°12'N 16°24'E

General location: Located at the southern tip of the island of Öland, off the southeastern coast of Sweden, in the county of Kalmar.

Area: 1,610 ha

Wetland type: A E T X

Altitude: Average of 2.5 m above sea level

Overview: A coastal area with beaches covered in banks of sand, flat open seashore-meadows and pastures and a large deciduous wood. The site is famous for migrating birds.

Physical features: The site includes the southern tip of the Island of Öland. The coastal landforms include sand and pebble beaches, sandbanks and small bays. There are extensive sections of beaches covered by old types of natural grassland. The tongue of land is flat.

Ecological features: Part of this area is probably used as a meadow for haymaking since the iron age. Other parts are very old pastures. The land-use history is very important when interpreting today's nature conditions. In south-east, there are extensive pastures and the largest remaining non-fertilized hay-meadow in Sweden (57 ha). The seashore meadows proper consists of *Agrostis stolonifera*-*Potentilla anserina* and *Festuca rubra*-*Juncus gerardi* (communities). Above the saline belt there are damp lime-influenced meadows of *Sesleria caenulea*-*Carex panicea*-type, as well as ridges of dryer vegetation. The central part of the site is covered by a large deciduous wood. West of this wood shrubby *Potentilla fruticosa* and *Juniperus communis* are common in the pasture land.

Land tenure/ownership of

a) site: State owned

b) surrounding area: Privately owned

Conservation measures taken: Listed as a site of national importance to nature conservation. All land in the designated site and the sea area around the island is included in a Nature Reserve (995 ha, protected 20 Nov. 1970). The reserve has a management plan. There is some restriction in access within the reserve.

Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: no information supplied.

Current land use: principal human activities in

a) site: Nature conservation; livestock grazing (sheep, cattle, fallow deer)

b) surroundings/catchment: The adjacent land north of the designated site is used for agriculture and pasture.

Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects

a) at the site: Lack of grazing animals poses a threat to the open character of the pastures, but significant improvements have taken place in terms of grazing pressure during the last decade. The great number of visitors may locally cause disturbances on wildlife.

b) in the surroundings/catchment: no information supplied.

Hydrological and physical values: Water currents cause sand to constant transportation and new islands or sand-banks are continuously being created or eliminated.

Social and cultural values: Land-use within the site has been very well documented for centuries.

Noteworthy fauna: (Figures refer to 1988)

Resting: Large numbers of waders and geese such as *Calidris alpina*, *Branta bernicla* and *B. leucopsis*.

Breeding: *Recurvirostra avosetta* (75-100 pairs); *Calidris alpina* (15-25); *Philomachus pugnax* (50-60 females); *Gallinago gallinago*, *Limosa limosa* (1-2 pairs), *Numenius arquata* (20-30), *Sterna albifrons*, *Oriolus oriolus*, *Sylvia nosoria* (several pairs), *Ficedula pana*, *Carpodacus erythrinus*, *Hippalais icterina*.

Moulting: *Cygnus olor* (200-300 birds), *Anser anser* (600).

Other fauna: *Dama dama* graze on the pastures and in the woods.

Noteworthy flora: no information supplied

Current scientific research and facilities: At the southern tip of the island there is a tall lighthouse (Långe Jan), which provides a good overview over the site. There is also Ottenby Bird Station, where ornithological studies, including ringing and observation of bird migration, have been carried out since the 1940s. These studies are now part of the National Environmental Monitoring Programme.

Current conservation education: In the Nature Reserve there are two observation towers, a bird museum and guided tours at the Bird Station. There is also a small restaurant. An information

leaflet is available.

Current recreation and tourism: The Ottenby area receives some 250,000 visitors every year, thus being one of the most frequented Nature Reserves in Sweden.

Management authority: The manager of the Nature Reserve is the Forest Service.

Jurisdiction: Territorial and functional: County administration of Kalmar.

Bibliographical references:

- Grimmet, R.F.A. & Jones, T.A. (1989). Important bird areas of Europe. ICBP.
- Svenska våtmarker av internationell betydelse (1989). Swedish EPA information. (English summary).
- Duffey, E. (1982). National Parks and Reserves of Western Europe. Macdonald and Co. London.
- Management plan of Ottenby N.R. (1983).
- Edelstam, C. (ed) (1972). The visible migration of birds at Ottenby, Sweden. Vår Fågelvärld. Suppl. 7.
- A great number of scientific papers on bird migration, bird ringing, bird census and vegetation mapping within the site.

Reasons for inclusion: 1d, 2a, 3b, 3c

Map of site: enclosed