



Ramsar Sites Information Service

Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

63 Ramsar Site(s) covering 909,931 ha

Ulendeltaet

Site number: 1967 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Trøndelag
Area: 270 ha | Coordinates: 64°09'39"N 13°49'02"E | Designation dates: 12-11-2010

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Ulendeltaet is an undisturbed freshwater delta on Lake Ulen, which includes stretches of a meandering river, marshes, islands, oxbow lakes and pools. Spruce and birch forests line the riverbank and vast, well-developed willow scrubs are important breeding areas for different passerines such as the yellow wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) and the willow warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*). The delta and the lake harbour large numbers of brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), arctic char (*Salvelinus alpinus*), burbot (*Lota lota*) and common minnow (*Phoxinus phoxinus*). The area also has a stable population of Eurasian beaver (*Castor fiber*). The Site functions as a sediment trap and is important for nutrient fixing as well as flood reduction. It is used by local communities for fishing and moose hunting, but also for canoe trips and bird watching. A National Park Centre is located near the Site.

Trondheimfjord wetland system

Site number: 1198 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Trøndelag
Area: 1,846 ha | Coordinates: 63°42'32"N 11°08'46"E | Designation dates: 06-08-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of 13 sub-sites with sheltered intertidal mudflats, salt marshes, permanent shallow marine waters and rocky shores. There are also the two largest river estuaries in the fjord, notably Gaulosenas, one of very few unspoilt large-river estuaries in southern Norway. Both estuaries play an important role in flood regulation. These wetlands support outstanding biodiversity and are of great importance for migratory birds, in particular geese, ducks, waders and wintering seabirds. Nearly the entire Svalbard population of pink-footed goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) uses the Site as a staging area both in spring and autumn. The nutrient-rich freshwater areas and the numerous islets and skerries in the fjord are the most important areas for breeding species such as the horned grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) and the great crested grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*). The shallows also comprise important moulting areas for common eiders (*Somateria mollissima*) and mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) during summer months. Ørin, Gaulosen, Vinnan and Velvangen are important spawning grounds for the local fjord population of Atlantic herring (*Clupea herengius*). The Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) and brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) also use some of the sub-sites as migratory paths. The sites are used quite often by tourists and residents for bathing, fishing, walking and birdwatching. Trondheimsfjorden (including all sub-sites) is one of ten areas in the national monitoring programme for wintering seabirds and waterfowl. In addition voluntary NGO-based monitoring is ongoing with bird counts and ringing activities.

Rott-Håstein-Kjør

Site number: 1952 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Rogaland

Area: 10,722 ha | Coordinates: 58°54'54"N 05°29'04"E | Designation dates: 12-11-2010

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This Site includes a large number of small islands, skerries and islets surrounded by shallow seas. Several islands have shallow ponds and lakes with saltwater influence; the vegetation cover is mostly sparse. The highly diverse marine ecosystems harbour extensive areas of shell sand and kelp (*Laminaria hyperborean*), an important habitat for large numbers of breeding common seal (*Phoca vitulina*) and grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*). The Site is an important staging, moulting and breeding area for seabirds including the highest national population of breeding European shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*), moulting common eider (*Somateria mollissima*) and several species such as the vulnerable Atlantic puffin (*Fratercula arctica*), black guillemot (*Cepphus grille*), and the common guillemot (*Uria aalge*). The Site is part of the earliest prehistoric settlement area in Norway. The largest island, Rott, has active farmland and some deciduous forest, and its 4,000-year-old farming-fishing tradition lives on. The island is used for boat recreation and there are a few cabins. Extensive leisure fishing and boat-related outdoor life might cause some disturbance to breeding seabirds.

Skogvoll

Site number: 1195 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nordland

Area: 5,544 ha | Coordinates: 69°09'40"N 15°49'28"E | Designation dates: 06-08-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of two separate mire and marine areas. The mire area is one of the most extensive lowland Atlantic mire complexes in Norway, dotted with numerous ponds and lakes. The other half of the Site consists of shallow marine waters, with islets and skerries, tidal zones and a lagoon system with brackish as well as fresh water and rare flora. Wet salt-influenced meadows fringe the shorelines. The marine part of the Site is important as a staging, moulting and wintering area for several threatened species of waterbirds. A large population of the harbour porpoise *Phoca vitulina* breeds on the skerries, and the Site is also an important spawning area for the Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* and the brown trout *Salmo trutta*. The human impact upon the Site is very limited; its uses include fishing, birdwatching and cloudberry picking.

Kvisleflået

Site number: 1193 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Innlandet

Area: 5,682 ha | Coordinates: 61°48'25"N 12°06'11"E | Designation dates: 06-08-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a large, flat-mire landscape, with large moraine deposits which create a mosaic of dry and wet areas interspersed with ponds and lakes, smaller poor fens and low pine-covered knolls. The mosaic landscape is ideal breeding habitat for the common greenshank (*Tringa nebularis*) and the whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*). Broad-billed sandpiper (*Limicola falcinellus*), common crane (*Grus grus*) and Siberian tit (*Poecile cinctus*) also nest here. The Site is important for flood control during periods of heavy precipitation and snowmelt and acts as a reservoir during droughts. Forestry is among the main sources of income in the area, and the Site itself is used for low-impact hunting and fishing activities, with some sheep and cattle grazing.

Hynna

Site number: 1191 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Innlandet

Area: 6,442 ha | Coordinates: 61°14'31"N 09°53'39"E | Designation dates: 06-08-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a large mire complex with a number of large and smaller pools, as well as dry ground with open upland birch and Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) woodland. The mire complex is characterized by a variation of string mires (shifting dry and wet strings) and dryer mires on shallow slopes. Aquatic vegetation grows in slow-flowing rivers and streams and along pond edges. Hynna is an important area for breeding waterbirds such as the ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), broad-billed sandpiper (*Limicola falcinellus*) and black-headed gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*). The mire areas store carbon, regulate the local climate, provide water during droughts, and contribute to flood control during periods of high precipitation. Human uses are limited to leisure activities including sport fishing and hunting.

Tanamunningen

Site number: 1197 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Troms and Finnmark

Area: 3,409 ha | Coordinates: 70°29'40"N 28°23'54"E | Designation dates: 06-08-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site in northern Norway consists of a large and characteristic river delta. It is of international importance for birdlife as a staging and resting site, due to its mud and sand flats and rich tidal meadows. There is a large variety of water birds, among them the globally vulnerable long-tailed duck (*Clangula hyemalis*). Huge numbers of common merganser (*Mergus merganser*) can be observed during the moulting period. Black-legged kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) and ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) are also found. The Site is the only place in Norway where female harbour seals (*Phoca vitulina*) give birth on sand banks. The Tana River is a very important spawning river for Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*). The river plays a significant role in flood protection and sediment transport and is extremely important for the local Sami culture, both as a traditional transport route and as a source of salmon. Possible threats include the introduction of invasive species through the unloading of ballast water, and potential oil spills, but the situation is monitored.

Sørkapp

Site number: 1965 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Svalbard

Area: 55,203 ha | Coordinates: 76°33'35"N 16°34'04"E | Designation dates: 12-11-2010

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, at the southern tip of Spitsbergen, includes shallow, nutrient-rich marine areas, islands, numerous ponds and lakes, streams, small rivers and further inland, ice-covered mountain ridges. It is characterized by permafrost and erosion by wind, ice and the sea, and is mainly covered by intermittent patches of grass. More than 60% of the land is still covered by glaciers, despite the climate warming. A few bird species such as long-tailed duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) and glaucous gulls (*Larus hyperboreus*) might occasionally overwinter in areas free of sea ice, but most bird species are migratory. Waders, geese and seabirds are the dominant groups. Sørkapp is frequently visited by polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*), especially when there is sea ice in the area. Another observed mammal is the arctic fox (*Vulpes lagopus*). The Site's permafrost areas and mires are important carbon reservoirs. There is limited use of the Ramsar Site for recreation or tourism, although three different landing sites are used by expedition cruise ships. Some research and biodiversity monitoring have been conducted in the area.

Isøyane

Site number: 316 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Svalbard

Area: 230 ha | Coordinates: 77°08'36"N 14°47'25"E | Designation dates: 24-07-1985

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes two islands off Spitsbergen – Nordre Isøya and Isøykalven – several smaller islets and the surrounding sea. Nordre Isøya, the northern island, is covered with rich, grassy vegetation and small freshwater ponds, while Isøykalven, the southern island, supports less-developed vegetation. The area is among the most important localities of Spitsbergen for breeding barnacle geese (*Branta leucopsis*) and common eider (*Somateria mollissima*). Polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*) regularly visit the Site. The Site has some value in shoreline stabilization. Limited traditional collection of eider down and eggs is permitted. The Site is not used for recreation or tourism, and the regulations for the nature reserve ban visits from 15 May to 15 August because of the birds' breeding season. Any increase in tourism, as well as oil spills from ships and oil and gas development projects in this part of the Arctic, would threaten the Site's ecological character.

Atnsjømyrene

Site number: 1955 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Hedmark County and Oppland County

Area: 533 ha | Coordinates: 61°54'44"N 10°04'06"E | Designation dates: 12-11-2010

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a large mire complex dominated by flat fens, which also includes pools, ponds and parts of the Atnsjøen lake. A characteristic of the Site is its nutrient-poor vegetation, though willow and birch forests are common along the watercourses and mire edges. The mixture of different wetland types makes the Site a valuable breeding area for ducks such as tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*) and common goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) and waders such as common sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) and common greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*). The Site also host nationally threatened species, such as the greater scaup (*Aythya marila*), the black-headed gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*), black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa*), velvet scoter (*Melanitta fusca*), horned grebe (*Podiceps auritus*), and northern lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*). Some threatened plant species can be found, such as the ghost orchid (*Epipogium aphyllum*) and the cotton grass (*Eriophorum brachyantherum*). The mires are important water reservoirs and offer flood protection during periods of snow melt and heavy precipitation. The Site is used for hunting, sports fishing, berry picking and sheep grazing. Restoration of the Site is planned: trenches dug for agriculture and peat harvesting will be filled, and dams will be built to increase water retention.

Nordre Tyrifjord Wetlands System

Site number: 802 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Viken

Area: 1,119 ha | Coordinates: 60°06'54"N 10°13'52"E | Designation dates: 18-03-1996

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a system of oxbow lakes, bays dotted with islets, small dams and mires, across five sub-sites: Juveren, Synneren, Karlsrudtangen, Averøya and Lamyra. Wetland types include flooded marshland, seasonally flooded deciduous forests, mud and sand flats. A few rare fungi and plants including mosses are present. Several thousand wildfowl gather in the spring, and the area is important as an inland locality for migrating and wintering waterbirds and waders in southern Norway, and as a staging site for the Svalbard population of the pink-footed goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) and for the whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*). Several species of waterbirds feed, and numerous nationally rare species breed at the Site, including Eurasian coot (*Fulica atra*). The Site is also an important spawning ground for numerous species of fish including the brown trout (*Salmo trutta*). It is valuable in terms of flood reduction, sediment trapping and fixing of nutrients. Human activities include nature conservation, recreation, fishing, birdwatching, irrigation, and livestock farming. Watercourse regulation and the spread of Canadian pondweed threaten the Site.

Hedmarksvidda Wetland System

Site number: 1951 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Innlandet

Area: 4,742 ha | Coordinates: 61°02'38"N 11°05'29"E | Designation dates: 12-11-2010

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, which includes the sub-sites of Endelausmyrene, Brumundsjøen, Harasjømyrene and Lavsjømyrene-Målikjølen, is a mosaic of fens, mires, small pools, ponds and lakes interspersed with ridges of bedrock or moraine on which pine forests dominate. Birch (*Betula pubescens*) is also common, especially along watercourses and at the edges of mires. The Site supports some notable birds such as the nationally vulnerable ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) and endangered common tern (*Sterna hirundo*). The Eurasian teal (*Anas crecca*), the mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), the common goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*), and the tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*) are the most common breeding species at the Site. Mammals such as the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) and the Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) can also be found here. The mires play an important role as water reservoirs and in flood protection during periods of snowmelt and heavy precipitation. They are also important for carbon sequestration and storage. The Site is used for hunting, sports fishing, berry picking and sheep grazing.

Havmyran

Site number: 1190 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Trøndelag

Area: 3,872 ha | Coordinates: 63°30'14"N 08°37'41"E | Designation dates: 06-08-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is an unspoilt characteristic coastal Atlantic mire and lake system and one of the largest mire and wetland systems in Norway. The area is dotted with hundreds of ponds and lakes. The Site is an important breeding area for several bird species, most notably the Southern dunlin (*Calidris alpina subsp. schinzii*). The dunlin and red-throated loon (*Gavia arctica*) are not regularly found in this region, but they occur in high numbers while breeding. Nevertheless, all of these species have experienced population declines, especially the whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*). The freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) is found in the Skumfosselva river, which partly runs through the Site. Human uses include low-impact fishing and bird watching. Offal from deer hunting attracts crows and ravens, both predators of eggs and a threat for breeding birds, leading to the decline of waterfowl numbers. Monitoring of the freshwater pearl mussels has been in place since 2000, and another study observes the effect of possible increased nitrogen levels found in precipitation originating from a newly-opened gas refinery four kilometres away.

Tufsingdeltaet

Site number: 1199 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Innlandet

Area: 895 ha | Coordinates: 62°11'38"N 11°49'14"E | Designation dates: 06-08-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes the delta of the River Tufsinga where it meets Lake Femund, and a section of the Lake. The landscape is in a state of slow continuous change as the river erodes, transports and deposits sediments to create a number of small islands covered with mires, willow scrubs, and belts of sedge. The formation of mires into the lake through the overgrowing of ponds is considered to be remarkable. Land areas along the slow flowing river are dominated by large, dry and open mires with several dystrophic pools and ponds. The aquatic vegetation is relatively rich and the river banks are surrounded by dense birch woodland. Despite the Site's high altitude and latitude, a total of 49 different wetland bird species have been recorded. They notably include breeding ducks, waders and gulls, as well as other bird groups such as divers, swans, geese and grebes, most of which are stopping over. The river delta is important area for the globally vulnerable Baltic whitefish (*Coregonus lavaretus*). Human uses include sport fishing, berry-picking, hunting and canoeing, but human impacts are very limited. The Site is valuable for its roles in flood reduction, sediment trapping and nutrient fixing.

Ilene and Presterødkilen Wetland System

Site number: 308 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Vestfold and Telemark

Area: 216 ha | Coordinates: 59°16'11"N 10°24'33"E | Designation dates: 24-07-1985

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of two separate nature reserves. 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 contains 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 are rich in algae, snails, mussels and other invertebrates. Both areas are exposed at low tide and are important feeding sites for ducks and waders. A total of 240 bird species and 200 plants have been recorded at the Site. It is also important for wintering and breeding birds, including several nationally threatened species. Pink-footed geese (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) stage and feed in the area in significant number during the migration in spring and autumn. The Site functions as a sediment trap and offers habitat to the brown trout (*Salmo trutta*). Ilene is considered among the best sites for birdwatching in the county, and there is an information centre and a birdwatching tower. A footpath through the area helps to channel visitors and thereby reduce disturbance. Due to its proximity to the city of Tønsberg the Site is slightly affected by noise and pollution from traffic.

Glomådeltaet

Site number: 1954 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nordland county

Area: 594 ha | Coordinates: 66°25'15"N 13°55'52"E | Designation dates: 12-11-2010

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is among the most important freshwater deltas in Norway, and features small lakes including oxbow lakes, river courses and channels, newly developing sandbanks and adjacent mires. The different areas of the Site feature diverse vegetation, from the sandbanks with pioneer vegetation, to the channels with reed vegetation, wet and flooded alder forests, and other deciduous and coniferous forests. There are also smaller areas of agricultural land. The Site is an important inland breeding area for waterbirds such as the greater scaup (*Aythya marila*) and the willow tit (*Poecile montanus*), which are listed as threatened on the Norwegian Red List. It plays a key role for migrating birds, especially as a staging area during spring migration. The numerous river branches are particularly important for ducks, while the swamps and mires are most important for waders. The European lynx (*Lynx lynx*) is present on the Site. The area recharges local groundwater reserves through abundant caves and underground rivers. The Site is used for recreation activities such as sport fishing, birdwatching and canoeing. In addition, reindeer husbandry and moose hunting take place. The ecological character is threatened by pollution caused by runoff from the surrounding agricultural areas and the airport at Evenes.

Måstadjellet

Site number: 2162 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nordland

Area: 802 ha | Coordinates: 67°38'51"N 12°36'03"E | Designation dates: 27-05-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site in the county of Nordland consists of the southernmost area of Verøy Island. The western part of the Site is a steep area rising from the sea up to a mountain plateau at an altitude of 400 metres; it is covered by rich vegetation due to the nutrients brought by the large colonies of seabirds. The Site also contains a characteristic system of sand dunes with unique botanical values. It is one of the large bird mountains along the Norwegian coast and has a high value as a breeding site for several bird species. The bird cliffs are important breeding sites for the vulnerable Atlantic puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) and the black-legged kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*). The harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*) and European otter (*Lutra lutra*) occasionally visit. Collection of eggs and down from some species is permitted within the protected landscape area comprising the eastern part of the Site but forbidden within the nature reserve in the western part. Bird cliffs are important in the nutrient flow between the ocean and land, as the birds foraging in the ocean spread guano across the cliffs and surrounding area. The Site is also important for tourism. Reductions in the stocks of some fish species because of natural fluctuations, overfishing and climate change have had an impact on the breeding success of the seabirds. Petrol pollution poses a threat to the feeding of bird species in the Site.

Harøya Wetlands System

Site number: 806 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Møre and Romsdal

Area: 190 ha | Coordinates: 62°46'40"N 06°28'18"E | Designation dates: 18-03-1996

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of four reserves on the island of Harøya and its smaller neighbour Finnøya: Selvikvågen, Lomstjønna, Malesanden og Huse, and Lyngholman. The habitat types include shallow bays, extensive tidal, mud and sand flats with seaweed zones, sand dune systems, mires, and freshwater and salt marshes. Large quantities of seaweed accumulate, creating rich feeding areas for large numbers of breeding, migrating and wintering birds, including globally vulnerable species such as white winged scoter (*Melannitta fusca*) and long-tailed duck (*Clangula hyemalis*). The Site also offers habitat to the European otter (*Lutra lutra*). The rocky shores are important for shoreline stabilization. Human activities include nature conservation, fishing, livestock grazing, birdwatching and other recreational activities. Threats to the Site include changes in agricultural practices and related overgrowth of bird habitats. A partial management plan has been prepared and an information booklet on Ramsar Sites has been produced by the management authorities.

Skinna

Site number: 1953 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Trøndelag County

Area: 589 ha | Coordinates: 65°12'19"N 10°58'29"E | Designation dates: 12-11-2010

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Skinna is a small archipelago which consists of several small islands with rocky shores, divided by shallow water. The main island in the archipelago is Heimøya. The archipelago as a whole is an important site for seabirds, especially in early summer. Skinna is home to a large breeding population of European shag (*Gulosus aristotelis*) and up to 3,200 pairs have been recorded. The razorbill (*Alca torda*) and the vulnerable Atlantic puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) breed in the area, and 100 pairs of the common eider (*Somateria mollissima*) were recorded in 2017. Since 2011, in contrast, the vulnerable black-legged kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) has not bred at the Site. The grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) uses the area for breeding and staging. Skinna has a long history of traditional fishing. The Site is also part of a long-term monitoring and mapping programme for Norwegian seabirds since its establishment as a SEAbird POPulations (SEAPOPOP) key site in 2007 and a SEATRACK site in 2014. There is no public accommodation on the archipelago, but Skinna is regularly visited by ornithologists during the autumn migration. During June and July the station is used for research and global monitoring.

Innherred Freshwater System

Site number: 2159 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Trøndelag

Area: 182 ha | Coordinates: 63°45'52"N 11°26'16"E | Designation dates: 27-05-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site comprises three rich and productive sub-sites, Hammervatnet, Lundselvoset and Lyngås-Lysgård, featuring shallow freshwater areas, inland deltas and lakes. It is important habitat and feeding area for the European otter (*Lutra lutra*) and European eel (*Anguilla Anguilla*). During spring and autumn migrations several thousand pink-footed geese (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) stop at Lyngås-Lysgård and Lundselvoset. Leksdalsvatnet is a breeding site for the globally vulnerable horned grebe (*Podiceps auratus*). The main activities within the site are cattle grazing, fishing and birdwatching tourism. There is eutrophication of freshwater lakes caused by agricultural activities. Some restoration including the dredging of accumulated biomass has been undertaken. Mappings of the bird life were carried out in 2018, 2020 and 2022.

West-Vikna Archipelago

Site number: 2165 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Trøndelag

Area: 13,592 ha | Coordinates: 64°53'48"N 10°43'35"E | Designation dates: 27-05-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes the major part of the Vest-Vikna archipelago, and consists of several larger islands and numerous islets in shallow marine waters. The landscape has a mosaic pattern including rocky shores, narrow mires and bogs, and sparse vegetation fertilized by seabird guano. Some of the islands are covered by a nationally endangered heathland mosaic with bogs and ponds. More than 345 vascular plant species have been recorded, with several species at the northernmost or southernmost limits of their range. The wetland supports breeding, staging and wintering populations of many notable species such as the black guillemot (*Cephus grille*), the Atlantic puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) and the black-legged kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*). The islets hold populations of harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*) and European otter (*Lutra lutra*). The large mires constitute important water reservoirs, which provide stability in water flow and supply by constituting reservoirs in dry periods and controlling flooding during periods of heavy precipitation. The Site is used for fishing and agriculture. The main threats include construction of weekend cottages and jetties.

Ørland Wetland System

Site number: 310 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Trøndelag

Area: 3,168 ha | Coordinates: 63°40'48"N 09°28'52"E | Designation dates: 24-07-1985

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a complex of four separate areas – Grandefjæra, Hovsfjæra, Innstrandfjæra and Kråkvågsvaet – which form part of a large system of shallow marine waters, intertidal zones and mudflats. The intertidal area features salt-tolerant vegetation, with some nationally endangered species such as the Northern marsh orchid (*Dactylorhiza purpurella*) present. Due to its location on the flyway for birds migrating along the Norwegian coast to and from their breeding locations in Greenland, Svalbard, Iceland and Siberia, the Site is the most important wetland system in central Norway for resting and feeding migratory waterbirds, especially ducks and waders. Generally, high numbers of species such as the red knot (*Calidris canutus*), the curlew sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*), the common snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*), the Eurasian wigeon (*Mareca penelope*), the mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), mew gull (*Larus canus*) and the snow bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) are present. The nationally threatened harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*) also regularly visits, while the European Otter (*Lutra lutra*) breeds here. Human activities have included drainage for agricultural purposes, but strict regulations now prevent construction, hunting and drainage. The Site is used for fishing, birdwatching, sheep grazing and small-scale seaweed cutting. It has some value in shoreline stabilization. The species composition of the soft seabed is potentially threatened from run-off from farming and agriculture. The permitted cutting of seaweed is thought to have a negative effect on avian food sources.

Jaeren wetland system

Site number: 309 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Rogaland

Area: 3,085 ha | Coordinates: 58°44'26"N 05°38'11"E | Designation dates: 24-07-1985

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site lies in an agriculture-dominated area of south-western Norway which once featured extensive wetlands; its coastal wetlands remain largely intact, but freshwater sites have been drained on a large scale. This Site features marine areas dominated by sand, mud, pebble and stone shores, with large areas of dune systems, and freshwater areas in which shallow lakes and extensive stands of *Phragmites communis* dominate. Three smaller mire systems have also been included. The coastline of Jaeren is one of the most important resting and breeding areas in Norway for migratory and wintering seabirds, waterfowl and shorebirds, and species such as red knot (*Calidris canutus*), black-headed gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) and dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) can appear in great numbers. Given the influence of agriculture and the high levels of nitrogen pollution in the area, its remaining wetlands are extraordinarily important as sediment traps and for water purification. The shorelines host the densest collection of archaeological sites in Norway, with grave mounds dating back a thousand years or more. The beaches in the area are popular with local residents for leisure activities, and the freshwater lakes for fishing. Many tourists come for birdwatching. Action plans to decrease agricultural run-off were showing promise as of 2022, and buffer zones were being considered.

Dunøyane

Site number: 314 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Svalbard

Area: 1,191 ha | Coordinates: 77°03'14"N 14°58'09"E | Designation dates: 24-07-1985

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site, located within the Sør-Spitsbergen National Park, consists of three islands covered with rich Arctic vegetation, several freshwater ponds, and a few barren and rocky skerries. The surrounding sea is shallow and nutrient-rich. The Site is one of Spitsbergen's most important breeding and moulting grounds for barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*), pink-footed goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) and common eider (*Somateria mollissima*) and supports several other species of breeding waterbirds such as glaucous gulls (*Larus hyperboreus*). Polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*) regularly visit the Site. Some research and biodiversity monitoring have been conducted in the area. The Site has some value in shoreline stabilization. The Site is not used for recreational purposes.

Laukvikøyene

Site number: 2160 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nordland

Area: 1,084 ha | Coordinates: 68°21'47"N 14°24'45"E | Designation dates: 27-05-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a diverse wetland area on the west coast of Lofoten, the south-western part of which contains large areas of permanent shallow marine waters with eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) beds, intertidal flats, islands and islets. The north-eastern part of the Site is on the main island Austvågøya and contains extensive mires and freshwater ponds. The Site is internationally important for its animal and plant life. The European otter (*Lutra lutra*) is present, while many seabirds and waterfowl such as black guillemot (*Cepphus grille*), herring gull (*Larus argentatus*), and northern pintail (*Anas acuta*) breed in Laukvikøyene. The sheltered shorelines reduce the impact of waves coming from the open ocean, and no particular erosion problems have been noted. The area is occasionally visited by birdwatchers and traditionally used by local residents for collecting seabird eggs. Potential factors adversely affecting the Site are overgrazing and disturbance of birds by a nearby quarry.

Kurefjorden

Site number: 306 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Viken

Area: 392 ha | Coordinates: 59°19'53"N 10°44'22"E | Designation dates: 24-07-1985

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a very shallow arm of a fjord featuring extensive beds of submerged vegetation and large mudflats which are exposed at low tide. The bay is surrounded by salt marshes, wet grassland and agricultural land. The Site's wealth of mussels, snails and invertebrates supports a wide range of birds. It is one of the most important wetlands in the region for staging migratory waterbirds, particularly ducks and waders, and it is also important as a breeding, moulting, feeding and overwintering site. It supports some globally vulnerable species such as the horned grebe (*Podiceps auratus*) and the velvet scoter (*Melanitta fusca*). The salt marshes also offer habitat to nationally threatened plants, and the Site is important for the critically endangered European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*). Some commercial net fishing is practiced in some of the deeper waters out in the fjord. The area functions as a sediment trap for eroded material carried along the streams flowing into the shallow waters. The Site is considered one of the best birdwatching sites in the county and facilities include an observation tower; the management authorities were planning in 2022 to produce a report on the birds observed.

Møsvasstangen

Site number: 803 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Telemark County

Area: 1,441 ha | Coordinates: 59°48'57"N 08°10'55"E | Designation dates: 18-03-1996

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is one of the largest string mires in southern Norway. It contains areas of transition between open water, bogs, and dry areas with mountainous birch forest. The central part of the Site is dominated by a small watercourse and Kulingstjern, the largest lake. There are also distinct glacial landforms such as drumlins, eskers and kames, formed by movements of ice and melted water during glaciation. The area has some value as a staging area during migrations but is primarily valuable as a highland breeding area. 117 bird species have been recorded; this is the southernmost breeding site of many northern and alpine bird species. Globally or nationally threatened species breeding here include velvet scoter (*Melanitta fusca*), and northern lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*). In the Site's sheltered coves and stretches of river with more extensive vegetation cover, waterbirds such as Eurasian teal (*Anas crecca*) and common ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) are found. The Site is important for reindeer during their calving season. The area is used by residents and some tourists for fishing and bird watching. Yarn fishing in nearby Hardangervidda most likely has a high impact on diving bird species.

Giske Wetlands System

Site number: 805 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Møre og Romsdal

Area: 553 ha | Coordinates: 62°32'39"N 06°04'09"E | Designation dates: 18-03-1996

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site comprises six sub-sites, one on the island of Giske and five on the island of Vigra. The wetland system consists of extensive shallow marine bays with mud and sandflats and pebble shores, as well as a small area of dunes. The extent and the location of the wetlands make them internationally important, in particular for 220 recorded bird species. Large numbers of birds stage during their migrations, and in particular waders, making this the most important site for waders in the country. The area is also important for other wetland birds, including ducks, grebes and divers. It is used for recreation (walking, swimming, riding, birdwatching and non-commercial net fishing) as well as farming. Other human activities include conservation and education: a birdwatching station is established on Giske. Overgrowing due to changes in agriculture is the factor most affecting the area, as well as run-off of fertilizer. Planting of trees as shelter belts has also had a negative effect, while boat traffic and windsurfing also cause some disturbance.

Sandblåst-/Gaustadvågen Nature Reserve

Site number: 807 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: More og Romsdal
Area: 245 ha | Coordinates: 62°59'08"N 07°16'33"E | Designation dates: 18-03-1996
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a typical well-developed estuary where three small rivers converge, forming a system of sheltered brackish lagoons and extensive intertidal mudflats with wet meadows. Its salinity varies from freshwater to brackish and finally salt water. A total of 250 different bird species have been recorded. The Site's high biological production, extensive beds of aquatic vegetation, and invertebrate populations support large numbers of migrating birds and numerous wintering swans, geese, ducks and waders. 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. Several waterbird species as well as the European otter (*Lutra lutra*) breed at the Site. Botanically the area is also extremely valuable. The large system of brackish meadows and salt marshes, which are well developed in Sandblåstvågen, are notable for this part of the county. Road construction and urban wastewater may have affected the ecosystem. Human activities include agriculture, recreation and research, while birdwatching takes place throughout the year and there is a viewing facility.

Tautra and Svaet

Site number: 311 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nord-Trøndelag
Area: 1,635 ha | Coordinates: 58°44'26"N 05°38'11"E | Designation dates: 24-07-1985
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of the island of Tautra and a shallow strait between Tautra and the mainland, together with the surrounding shallow intertidal marine waters. These waters and their mud- and sandflats are particularly important as a staging area in spring and autumn for many bird species, including the globally vulnerable velvet scoter (*Melanitta fusca*) and long-tailed duck (*Clangula hyemalis*). The common eider (*Somateria mollissima*) and black guillemot (*Cephus grylle*) breed at the Site. As of 2022, the Site has Norway's largest colony of breeding black-headed gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*), a species considered nationally as critically endangered. The island is important for agriculture, nature conservation and as a historical area with ruins of the Tautra monastery, dating back to 1207.

Gåsøyane

Site number: 317 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Svalbard
Area: 236 ha | Coordinates: 78°27'16"N 16°13'02"E | Designation dates: 24-07-1985
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Gåsøyane is located in the Svalbard archipelago, in the inner part of Isfjorden, and consists of two small, partially vegetated islands with a few freshwater ponds and cliffs suitable for nesting seabirds. The Site is among the most important Spitsbergen localities for the nesting common eider (*Somateria mollissima*) and the barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*), with over 4% of global populations supported by the Site. Polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*) regularly visit. In addition, approximately 1,000 pairs of the vulnerable Atlantic puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) breed here. In the past, and sporadically still today, the Site has been used for the collection of eider eggs and down. The Site is not used for recreation or tourism, and the regulations for the nature reserve ban visits over summer months due to the birds' breeding season. Some research and biodiversity monitoring have been conducted in the area, but due to its remoteness, the Site is rarely visited.

Målselvtløpet

Site number: 1956 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Troms and Finnmark County
Area: 1,288 ha | Coordinates: 69°16'28"N 18°30'42"E | Designation dates: 12-11-2010

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Målselvtløpet is an active delta with sandy substrate, shore vegetation and small forested islands, some of which contain flooded birch and willow forest habitats. The delta, one of the largest in Troms County, lies at the outlet of the River Måselva into the Malangen fjord. The stages of plant succession vary from pioneer communities to stable communities. Målselvtløpet constitutes an important migration, staging and moulting area for waterfowl, especially for mergansers. The area is also a winter staging area for ducks and swans. The most numerous species observed are the red-breasted merganser (*Mergus serrator*), whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), and velvet scoter (*Melanitta fusca*) and long-tailed duck (*Clangula hyemalis*), both of which are classified as vulnerable. Small flocks of waders can also be observed during spring. The Site is the largest salmon river in Troms and is ranked as a national salmon watercourse. An important stock of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), Arctic char (*Salvelinus alpinus*) and brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) migrate through the Site. The area is used for sports, fishing, berry picking and some forms of outdoor recreation. Run-off from surrounding agriculture and built-up areas poses a threat to the ecological character of the Site.

Forlandsøyane

Site number: 313 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Svalbard
Area: 540 ha | Coordinates: 78°20'20"N 11°34'19"E | Designation dates: 24-07-1985

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes three islands and several rocky islets in the western Svalbard archipelago. One of the islands is completely bare, while the others are grass-covered and feature small ponds. The shorelines are formed by cliffs and sandy beaches. The surrounding seas are shallow and nutrient-rich. The Site supports breeding colonies of goose species nesting in Svalbard, the pink-footed goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*), the brent goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*), as well as of waterbirds as such as glaucous gull (*Larus hyperboreus*). The harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*) breeds here. The traditional collection of eider down is permitted occasionally. The Site is part of the Forlandet National Park. There is no use of the Site for tourism and visits to the nature reserve are forbidden during the bird breeding season.

Runde

Site number: 2164 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Møre og Romsdal
Area: 351 ha | Coordinates: 62°24'33"N 05°39'54"E | Designation dates: 27-05-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of several protected areas on the island of Runde, the neighbouring islands Skjervøya and Grasøya and surrounding islets, which support nationally threatened bird species such as the black-legged kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) and the common murre (*Uria aalge*). Cliff-nesting birds dominate the wildlife, and Runde regularly supports more than 120,000 breeding pairs. The hillsides and the plateau of Runde are dominated by open heathland, small freshwater ponds and grassland, as well as mires which are important for carbon storage and provide nesting sites for species such as the great skua (*Stercorarius skua*). The site supports large populations of vulnerable species such as the Atlantic puffin (*Fratercula Arctica*) and the leach's storm petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*), and the near threatened common eider (*Somateria mollissima*). There are no human settlements inside the protected areas, but the Site is used for tourism, sheep grazing, scientific research, and the SEAPOP seabird monitoring and mapping project. As the site has become a popular tourist destination, the possible disturbance of birdlife is now monitored. There is also a risk of oil spills from ships.

Horsvaer

Site number: 2157 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nordland

Area: 17,036 ha | Coordinates: 65°18'37"N 11°40'54"E | Designation dates: 27-05-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a representative northern European coastal archipelago formed by 360 islands and islets with shallow marine waters, which provide important breeding sites for large numbers of seabirds and waterfowl. The Site supports breeding of species such as the common tern (*Sterna hirundo*), the black guillemot (*Cepphus grille*) and the common guillemot (*Uria aalge*), and there are also considerable populations of the great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) and the European shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*). The Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*) regularly uses the Site. The vegetation on the main islands has been shaped by traditional grazing and harvesting, and the ceasing of these activities is very likely to trigger vegetation succession. The islands are also used for recreation and tourism. Horsvær has been an important Site for monitoring the lesser black-backed gull population under the SEAPOP seabird monitoring programme since 2008.

Øvre Forra

Site number: 1194 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Trøndelag

Area: 10,254 ha | Coordinates: 63°36'07"N 11°36'21"E | Designation dates: 06-08-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a huge intact peat mire system at high elevation. It is partly forested, notably with Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) and interspersed with several smaller lakes and a meandering river. The landscape is undulating and there are also mires on sloping terrain due to the high precipitation, amid some drier areas and peaks. The river is protected against hydropower developments. The Site supports 130 different bird species, of which 70 are regular breeders. The most abundant birds are common greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*), common snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) and whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*). More than 331 species of vascular plants and 370 species of fungi have been found in the area, some of them nationally threatened. The globally endangered freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) and the European otter (*Lutra lutra*) are also present. The area is valuable in terms of flood control and is used for grazing, hunting, fishing, recreational activities, and berry picking. Extensive research on a few fields have been conducted in the past: hydrology, limnology, climate, geology, flora and fauna.

Anda

Site number: 2155 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nordland

Area: 53 ha | Coordinates: 69°04'03"N 15°10'21"E | Designation dates: 27-05-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a small rocky island situated on the underwater plateau to the north of the Øksnes peninsula. Its higher ground is covered by a thin layer of peat and seabird guano, which support vegetation growth. The Site is one of the few nesting areas for ocean-going seabirds in Norway; its location between the continental shelf to the west and the shallow fjords to the east means that the surrounding ocean provides diverse and reliable feeding conditions for breeding colonies of vulnerable Atlantic puffin (*Fratercula arctica*), and of black-legged kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*). The birds do not depend on the larvae brought northwards by the coastal currents, but feed on local populations of sand eels in the adjacent fjords, as well as mesopelagic fish on the shelf edge. Within the nature reserve, collecting eggs from some gull species such as *Larus argentatus*, *Larus marinus* and *Larus canus* is permitted. During the nesting season the island is closed to tourism. Potential threats to the Site's ecological character are oil spills, overfishing and invasive species such as mink.

Nordenskiöldkysten

Site number: 1968 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Svalbard

Area: 42,992 ha | Coordinates: 32°17'27"N 64°45'30"W | Designation dates: 12-11-2010

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of a coastal plain with many freshwater pools and, in its south-eastern part, Ingeborgfjellet, a mountain with steep cliffs harbouring breeding seabird colonies. During the breeding season little auk (*Alle alle*), thick-billed murres (*Uria lomvia*) and black-legged kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla*) breed there. Large parts of the area are important year-round territory for the Svalbard reindeer. Foraging geese are mainly found in the moss meadows encircling the lakes scattered along the entire coastline. Most of these lakes are fringed by vegetation composed of mosses, grasses and sedges. The Site supports several rare species, such as the red knot (*Calidris canutus*) and the sanderling (*Calidris alba*). It also supports more than 10% of the Svalbard population of the barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*). The Site is also important for mammals such as the walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*) and is visited by polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*). It plays an important role in carbon and methane storage due to its permafrost, which is between ten and 40 metres deep. There is traditional trapping activity in the area, and a trapping station is situated on Akseløya, south-east of the Site. Climate changes, increasing tourism, oil spill from ships and oil and gas development projects in this part of the Arctic are possible threats.

Lovund/Lundeura

Site number: 2161 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nordland

Area: 153 ha | Coordinates: 66°21'57"N 12°19'28"E | Designation dates: 27-05-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of approximately a quarter of Lovund Island and the much smaller Alkøya Island, and adjacent shallow marine waters, rocky shores and marine subtidal aquatic beds. Lundeura is a scree mountain with unique large boulders close to seabird feeding grounds; its steepness provides the protection they need to nest. The Site is internationally important for seabird populations across the North Atlantic Ocean, such as the vulnerable Atlantic puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) and the black-legged kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*). The common tern (*Sterna hirundo*), eagle owl (*Bubo bubo*) and the black guillemot (*Cephus grylle*) breed here. The European otter (*Lutra lutra*) is occasionally observed. The nesting cliffs are important in the nutrient flow between ocean and land: the birds foraging in the ocean spread guano across the cliffs and surrounding area, which provides nutrient-rich growing conditions for the diverse vegetation of the island. The lower-lying areas are used for sheep grazing. The Site is used for tourism, especially when puffins arrive in the spring.

Bear Island

Site number: 1966 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Svalbard

Area: 298,171 ha | Coordinates: 74°26'03"N 19°01'31"E | Designation dates: 12-11-2010

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Bear Island, locally known as Bjørnøya, is an isolated island situated halfway between the Svalbard archipelago and the Norwegian mainland. The Site, which also covers the surrounding waters, is one of Europe's few remaining intact ecosystems. The northern and western parts of the island are covered with lakes and small ponds which constitute 10% of the land area, and the south and east are dominated by tall mountain formations and some steep sea cliffs. 126 different bird species have been observed, of which 33 breed on the Site, including the razorbill (*Alca torda*) which is endangered in Svalbard. The seabird colonies in southern Bjørnøya are among the largest in the northern hemisphere: it is estimated that over one million seabirds gather here during the breeding season. The Site supports over 1% of the global population of the black-legged kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*), with an estimated 135,000 breeding pairs. It is also an important resting and foraging site for migrating birds such as pink-footed goose (*Anser branchyrhynchus*), barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*) and brent goose (*Branta bernicla hrota*). The rich shallow seas, where the Atlantic and Arctic waters meet, support the entire food chain and make it an important foraging area for many species. Monitoring programmes have been active since 1986, and there is a weather station of the Meteorological Institute on the island. The island is visited by scientific researchers, but most of the areas are untouched nature with no nearby human activity. In accordance with an assessment of the risk of acute oil pollution, no oil extraction activities will be initiated within a 65-kilometre zone around Bjørnøya.

Froan Nature Reserve and Landscape Protection Area

Site number: 809 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Trøndelag

Area: 49,097 ha | Coordinates: 64°05'55"N 09°13'17"E | Designation dates: 18-03-1996

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a coastal nature reserve with hundreds of islands, skerries, islets and shallow marine waters, in the outermost coastal zone. It has extensive seaweed and kelp beds and is rich in marine invertebrates and fish. The outermost parts of the area have bare skerries and rocky outcrops devoid of vegetation due to the rough seas, while the larger, more protected islands feature bogs and meadows. The vegetation is to a large degree characterized by traditional agriculture; for example, the large heather meadows have been burned and grazed by livestock for centuries. The Site is a very important wintering, moulting and breeding area for seabirds and for breeding coastal seals, and it supports vulnerable bird species such as the long-tailed duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) and the Atlantic puffin (*Fratercula arctica*). There are also strong populations of several species of seals, such as the grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) and the harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*). Human activities include nature conservation, fishing, livestock farming and boating. Two monumental lighthouses are protected under the Cultural Heritage Act. There is ongoing research on seals and monitoring of the breeding population of *Phalacrocorax carbo*.

Pasvik

Site number: 810 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Troms and Finmark
Area: 1,910 ha | Coordinates: 69°08'39"N 29°13'17"E | Designation dates: 18-03-1996
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes the most intact section of the (regulated) Pasvik River, characterized by many bays, lakes and islets. The area includes Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) forests and extensive mires. Due to its very early ice break-up, the area is especially important for staging migratory waterbirds. Numerous threatened species breed at the Site, including the bean goose (*Anser fabalis*), ruff (*Calidris pugnax*) and the little bunting (*Emberiza pusilla*). The area is also important for a series of boreal species with limited distribution in Europe, such as the northern hawk-owl (*Surnia ulula*) and the great grey owl (*Strix nebulosa*). The Site has also a stable breeding population of the nationally threatened brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) and the European otter (*Lutra lutra*). The area is important for flood regulation, sediment transport and carbon sequestration. Human activities include nature protection, recreation, fishing, and some reindeer husbandry. The greater trilateral Pasvik area was featured as a Ramsar case study on transboundary wetland ecosystems in the 2nd Assessment of Transboundary Rivers and Lakes (UNECE 2011). The Pasvik river is regulated by two hydro-electric power plants; this has some influence on the fluctuation of the water level. There is also some contamination by air from industry and nearby military activities associated with border control in Russia.

Horta

Site number: 2158 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Trøndelag
Area: 3,158 ha | Coordinates: 65°12'38"N 11°25'54"E | Designation dates: 27-05-2013
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a small marine archipelago consisting of small islands, islets and skerries, and the fjords between them. The landscape is dominated by remnants of cultivated farmland, narrow mires, bogs, coastal heathlands, and islets with vegetation influenced by natural seabird fertilization. Its shallow marine waters with seaweed beds and kelp forests are rich in marine invertebrates and fish. The Site is an important breeding area for threatened birds such as the Baltic lesser black-backed gull (*Larus fuscus fuscus*) and the Arctic tern (*Sterna paradisaea*). The Site is also an important breeding area for species such as the black guillemot, the red-throated loon, the common eider and cormorants. Common eider and greylag goose breed and moult in the area in considerable numbers. It also hosts stable populations of Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*), harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*), grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) and common murre (*Uria aalge*). The Site is used by scientists for seabird monitoring and geological research, and by private landowners as a holiday site. The surrounding seas are used for fishing. There has been some kelp trawling just outside the boundaries of the Site, which could possibly affect seabirds that breed within the area and feed around it. A management plan is being implemented to conserve the botanical, zoological and geological assets, including elements of the semi-natural landscape.

Øra

Site number: 305 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Viken

Area: 1,676 ha | Coordinates: 59°09'41"N 10°59'29"E | Designation dates: 24-07-1985

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

This extensive estuarine area at the mouth of Norway's largest river, River Glomma, is characterized by shallow areas of brackish water with numerous small islands and skerries surrounded by sediments deposited by the River. The Site also includes meadows, grassland, and forest areas. It is an important area for waterbirds which nest, stage, moult and winter there, including swans and large numbers of ducks in autumn. The Eurasian curlew (*Numenius arquata*), whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) and northern pintail (*Anas acuta*) stage at the Site. The rare tentacled lagoon worm (*Alkmaria romijni*) has been recorded here, uniquely in Norway. The area is used by local people for birdwatching but also for boating, rod fishing and other recreational activities. A number of extensive scientific studies have been carried out to inform the establishment of the nature reserve which covers the area of the Site. Regulations prevent construction, hunting, drainage and access to resting areas during sensitive periods. The cessation of hay-cutting, grazing and tree-felling has led more nearby areas and islands within the estuary to become overgrown, with the result that some species of plants and birds have become rarer or even disappeared. Measures to reverse this trend have been implemented.

Røstøyan

Site number: 1950 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nordland

Area: 6,986 ha | Coordinates: 67°27'N 11°56'42"E | Designation dates: 12-11-2010

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Røstøyan is a large archipelago with hundreds of islands, islets and skerries surrounded by shallow marine waters. Vedøya and Storfjellet are the two largest islands. There are bird cliffs located on several islands, with breeding populations of Atlantic puffin (*Fratercula arctica*), black-legged kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*), razorbill (*Alca torda*), common guillemot (*Uria aalge*) and northern fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*). On the skerries are breeding colonies of great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), European shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) and black guillemot (*Cephus grylle*). The Site has a stable population of harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*). It is traditionally used for collecting seabird eggs, and is also popular for sports, fishing and boat tours. The area has three protected archaeological and cultural heritage sites such as Skomvær lighthouse. A long-term research project on seabirds led by the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research has been ongoing for 40 years in the research station at Hernyken.

Risøysundet

Site number: 2163 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nordland

Area: 504 ha | Coordinates: 68°58'59"N 15°41'36"E | Designation dates: 27-05-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site consists of shallow marine areas within a complex of flat grassy islets, lagoons and brackish swamps, supporting communities of *Zostera*, *Potamogeton* and *Salicornia*. In the western part, there is a 15-hectare lake surrounded by a large beach meadow complex. There are also exposed bays, isolated freshwater ponds, sheltered salt marshes and exposed seaweed meadows which are important for shoreline stabilization. The Site supports one of the few, intact larger mud or sand flats in northern Norway, and a broad range of regionally rare sublittoral plant species. Many waterbirds depend on these rich areas for food and rest during their spring and autumn migrations. More than 50 species of waterfowl have been recorded here, mainly ducks and waders, with some populations reaching several thousand individuals. The Site is a particularly important staging area for pink-footed geese (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) during their spring migration. Considerable numbers of staging birds have been recorded, such as the red-breasted merganser (*Mergus serrator*) the long-tailed duck (*Clangula hyemalis*), the common ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*), the dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) and the great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). The Site regularly supports a stable population of the European otter (*Lutra lutra*). The area features archaeological and historical remains. The main land uses are livestock grazing, tourism, fishing and birdwatching.

Evenes wetland system

Site number: 1949 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Troms and Finnmark, Nordland

Area: 434 ha | Coordinates: 68°30'22"N 16°42'27"E | Designation dates: 12-11-2010

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes five nature reserves: Nautå, Sommervatnet, Kjerkvatnet, Tennvatn and Myrvatn. The wetland system is one of the few naturally rich nutrient systems in the northernmost parts of the world. It includes bogs, lakes, ponds, rivers, forests and agricultural land as well as some coastal habitats. The Site supports nationally threatened plant species such as the rugged stonewort (*Chara rudis*). The garganey (*Spatula querquedula*), the greater scaup (*Aythya marila*) and the smew (*Mergellus albellus*) breed on the Site. In addition, it is an important staging, feeding and moulting for several species of migratory birds. A dense population of the globally endangered freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) is also found here. The area is used for various outdoor activities such as hiking, canoeing, birdwatching, hunting and sports fishing. Potential threats to the ecosystem include eutrophication and diffuse run-off from agriculture activities and the nearby airport.

Balsfjord Wetland System

Site number: 1186 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Troms and Finnmark

Area: 1,795 ha | Coordinates: 69°27'09"N 18°59'30"E | Designation dates: 06-08-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site comprises three large marine tidal areas located in the inner part of the Balsfjorden fjord, which at low tide reveal large areas of mud and sand flats. Wet coastal meadows are found between the tidal areas and cultivated land outside the Site boundaries, while gallery forests line the Site in some locations. Several rivers and streams discharge into the fjord through the tidal flats within Kobbevågen and Sørkjosleira. The third area, Grindøysundet, was added in 2017; it contains some small ponds of importance for birdlife. The fjord has high densities of intertidal invertebrates and fish populations which support large numbers of shorebirds and seabirds. Balsfjorden, and Sørkjosleira in particular, is important as one of only two resting sites in northern Norway for large numbers of spring migrant knots (*Calidris canutus islandica*), which fly directly from early spring staging areas in the United Kingdom and the Wadden Sea. They stay in Balsfjorden for two or three weeks in May and build up substantial fat reserves before apparently flying non-stop to their breeding grounds in Greenland and Arctic Canada. The site is also very important as a staging, moulting and wintering area for a number of other waterfowl species, including swans, divers, grebes, ducks and waders. Some livestock grazing and gravel quarrying is practiced by local people, but the Site enjoys low traffic and little human impact. The birds in the area are annually monitored and research on birds by the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research continues.

Kongsfjorden

Site number: 315 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Svalbard

Area: 710 ha | Coordinates: 78°56'02"N 12°10'35"E | Designation dates: 24-07-1985

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is located in the inner parts of Kongsfjorden in western Spitsbergen, in the Svalbard archipelago. It consists of ten islands covered with rich, grassy vegetation and small freshwater ponds, as well as some skerries and surrounding sea. The vegetation provides the basis for a sizable breeding colony of barnacle geese (*Branta leucopsis*). The islands are also important breeding locations for common eiders (*Somateria mollissima*) as well as pink-footed geese (*Anser brachyrhynchus*). Kongsfjorden hosts species considered to be rare or threatened, such as the black-legged kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) and Atlantic puffin (*Fratercula arctica*). The Site is used as a study area, with Ny-Ålesund, an international research station, located nearby. A small visitor centre provides information about ongoing research activities. Collecting of eider down is still practiced. There is no use of the Ramsar site for recreation or tourism, and the regulations for the nature reserve ban visits from 15 May to 15 August because of the birds' breeding season.

Dokkadelta

Site number: 1188 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Innlandet

Area: 375 ha | Coordinates: 60°47'51"N 10°08'59"E | Designation dates: 06-08-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is the second largest inland delta in southern Norway. Situated where the Etna and Dokka rivers flow into Lake Randsfjorden, it includes large shallow areas, mud banks, numerous channels, bogs, meadows and islets dominated by shrubs and alder/shrub gallery forest. As one of the few unspoilt estuaries remaining in the region, the Site is highly important for biodiversity preservation, as it supports numerous nationally red-listed species and a rich invertebrate fauna. It also has an important function as a staging area for several migratory bird species, such as the bean goose (*Anser fabalis*), northern pintail (*Anas acuta*) and the vulnerable velvet scoter (*Melanitta fusca*). This area hosts almost 7% of the pink-footed goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) population. The delta is important as a spawning place for several of Randsfjorden's fish species, while more crustacean species are recorded in the delta than anywhere else in Norway. The Site is valuable in terms of sediment trapping, nutrient fixing and flood control. Cessation of grazing and hay cutting in the inner part of the delta has allowed rapid vegetation succession and as a result birds such as yellow wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) and Eurasian curlew (*Numenius arquata*) have either disappeared or become scarcer. However, restoration plans have been initiated. The National Wetlands Centre at the Site performs a range of tasks, such as education, guiding, management and monitoring of bird populations and plants. Popular activities include birdwatching and fishing.

Lista Wetlands System

Site number: 804 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Agder county

Area: 1,173 ha | Coordinates: 58°04'57"N 06°41'15"E | Designation dates: 18-03-1996

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a wetland system of shallow bays, sand, shingle and rocky beaches, dune systems and shallow inland lakes. Large quantities of seaweed accumulate, creating rich feeding areas for waterbirds. The Site is of great importance to wintering and staging waterfowl, seabirds and waders, owing to its great diversity and its strategic location on the southern tip of Norway. The lakes are important feeding areas for divers, grebes, cormorants and many species of diving ducks during winter and migration periods. Populations of horned grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) and greater scaup (*Aythya marila*) winter at the Site, while common shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*), water rail (*Rallus aquaticus*) and Eurasian curlew (*Numenius arquata*) use it for staging and breeding. The Lista area is important for leisure activities such as swimming, camping and birdwatching, and it is noted for a large number of archaeological findings of national importance, including ancient and monumental burial sites. The Site faces threats due to the recreational activities. Its management plan was being revised as of 2023.

Nordre Øyeren

Site number: 307 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Viken

Area: 6,441 ha | Coordinates: 59°51'52"N 11°09'48"E | Designation dates: 24-07-1985

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Nordre Øyeren is northern Europe's largest inland delta; it is formed by three rivers, Glomma, Nitelva and Leira. The Site includes low-lying islands and land adjacent to Lake Øyeren. Large variations in water level and the influence of the rivers create varying natural conditions which boost species diversity, and Øyeren is Norway's most species-rich lake, with large populations of birds, fish, benthic organisms and plants. Water levels are lowest in early spring when large areas of mud banks are exposed, providing excellent access to food for abundant birdlife staging and feeding on the Site during its spring migration. This makes the lake one of the most important areas in southern Norway for resting migratory waterbirds. The Site is also an important wintering site and has Norway's largest numbers of whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*). Characteristic fish in shallow bays with clear water include roach (*Rutilus rutilus*), golden orfe (*Leuciscus idus*), European perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) and Aral bream (*Abramis brama*). The Site is important for erosion protection. Major scientific studies take place in the Site. It is used for fishing, agriculture and recreation: there are two birdwatching towers and a nature information centre.

Hopen

Site number: 1957 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Svalbard

Area: 318,567 ha | Coordinates: 76°34'50"N 25°11'43"E | Designation dates: 12-11-2010

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Hopen is an Arctic island, mostly covered by rocks and continuous permafrost, with a very narrow beach from which the landscape rises sharply. In the north of the island there are steep cliffs with horizontal shelves which are ideal for breeding seabirds, including the globally vulnerable Atlantic puffin (*Fratercula arctica*). The Site also supports a population of 130,000 black-legged kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*), over 1% of the global population. Northern fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*), black guillemot (*Cepphus grylle*), little auk (*Alle alle*) and glaucous gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) are all found here. The birds are important in the transfer of nutrients from the ocean to support the island's mammal, invertebrate and plant species. The island is also important for marine mammals. Polar bears *Ursus maritimus* use the Site for denning, feeding and migration, and the shallow waters surrounding Hopen are important as a resting place for walrus *Odobenus rosmarus*. Five trapper huts from the 19th century are protected as cultural heritage sites, and there is also a meteorological station on the island. Recreational activities among the station crew include both hiking and use of recreational cabins. Climate change and its effects may be the most serious threat to the Arctic environment.

Grunnfjorden

Site number: 2147 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nordland County

Area: 1,472 ha | Coordinates: 68°56'18"N 15°11'43"E | Designation dates: 27-05-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a complex of large mires dominated by sphagnum mosses with small rivers, pools and lakes, shallow beach areas with islets, skerries, large intertidal flats and a brackish lagoon system. Along the shoreline are different vegetation communities, from grass-rich slopes to mudflats. Because of its high food production and its location on key waterbird migration routes, the Site is an internationally important area for many species during their spring and autumn migrations. Some notable birds species breed there including the Atlantic puffin (*Fratercula arctica*), the greater scaup (*Aythya marila*) and the ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*). The area is particularly known as one of the northernmost overwintering locations for whooper swans (*Cygnus cygnus*). The Site is also important for shoreline stabilization. Archeological and historical features are to be found. The main human activities are agriculture, cattle grazing, fishing, hunting, tourism and gathering of cloudberries. In the catchment area, there is some farm land and activities which lead to erosion and nutrient run-off. However, the number of farms and the extent of farm land is decreasing. Illegal off-road driving damages the vegetation cover and soil, alters natural drainage conditions and could increase erosion.

Bliksvaer

Site number: 1187 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nordland

Area: 4,316 ha | Coordinates: 67°15'47"N 13°58'48"E | Designation dates: 06-08-2002

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a complex of eight separate areas along the north-western coast of Norway, comprising numerous skerries and islets and a larger island, with shallow marine waters, rocky shores, and some sandy beaches. Its wet meadows, dunes and dune slacks, as well as brackish marshes, are typical of the biogeographic region. The area is one of the county's most important botanical areas, and more than 270 different plant species have been recorded. The Site is of great importance for staging, moulting and breeding seabirds, and the most common breeding species are the great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), the white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), the herring gull (*Larus argentatus*), the common guillemot (*Cephus grylle*), the common eider (*Somateria mollissima*), the Arctic tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) and the Eurasian oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*). Harbour seals (*Phoca vitulina*) also breed here. The Site is used for recreational activities, fishing and sheep grazing. Traditionally the breeding population of common eiders were exploited for down and egg collection, which boosted their population as they benefited from predator protection and erection of breeding-houses. The abandonment of some of these traditional practices threatens the ecological character of the Site, but there are plans to revive them. Heather and juniper burning as well as grazing are practiced to prevent overgrowing. The Site was extended in 2012.

Mellandsvågen

Site number: 808 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: More og Romsdal

Area: 96 ha | Coordinates: 63°21'21"N 08°30'10"E | Designation dates: 18-03-1996

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site includes a system of intertidal shallow waters including a sheltered bay (Mellandsvågen) and mussel and seaweed beds; extensive mudflats; salt marshes, wet meadows and mires; and rocky outcrops bordering a 1,000-hectare wildlife protection area. The Site's location makes it important for migrating birds, in particular geese, ducks and waders that feed, rest, moult or winter there. From autumn until spring migrations the area is important for species such as red-breasted merganser (*Mergus serrator*), velvet scoter (*Melanitta fusca*), common eider (*Somateria mollissima*) and long-tailed duck (*Clangula hyemalis*), at times in high numbers. Species such as greylag goose (*Anser anser*), common redshank (*Tringa tetanus*), Eurasian oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) and mew gull (*Larus canus*) appear to breed regularly within the Site. Human activities include recreational activities, birdwatching and fishing. Run-off from neighbouring farmland may affect the Site, while boat traffic could affect the bird life, especially during spring.

Fiskumvannet Nature Reserve

Site number: 2156 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Viken

Area: 119 ha | Coordinates: 59°42'31"N 09°49'28"E | Designation dates: 27-05-2013

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site covers part of a lake within a representative agricultural landscape, of which the western part along with the adjacent land areas is protected as a nature reserve. The Site has rich and varied swamp vegetation, and very rich water vegetation with almost 40 registered water plants. The vegetation belt and swamp areas are excellent breeding sites for a number of nationally endangered birds, such as the garganey (*Anas querquedula*), the greater scaup (*Aythya marila*), and the nationally vulnerable smew (*Mergellus albellus*). More than 1% of the population of pink-footed goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) rests regularly at Fiskumvannet in spring and autumn. The main hydrological values of the Site are sediment trapping and shoreline stabilization. Some pike fishing is still practiced, especially during spring. Within the reserve, the land has mainly been used for grazing and mowing. The Site is used for birdwatching and other nature-based tourism, environmental education and transport.

Stabbursneset

Site number: 312 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Troms and Finnmark
Area: 1,568 ha | Coordinates: 70°09'47"N 24°56'33"E | Designation dates: 24-07-1985
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a part of a river delta which includes shallow marine waters, sandbanks which are exposed at low tide, saltmarshes and wet mires, as well as large well-developed salt meadows with Arctic plant species and communities. The Valda marshes at the southern end of the Site are internationally important staging, feeding and moulting areas for several species of waterfowl. The most numerous birds at the Site are the red knot subspecies *Calidris canutus islandica* and the common eider (*Somateria mollissima*). The Site also hosts globally vulnerable species such as the lesser white-fronted goose (*Anser erythropus*) for which the wetland area is the most important staging site in Northern Europe, the velvet scoter (*Melanitta fusca*), the Steller's eider (*Polysticta stelleri*) and many more. The River Stabburselva is one of the most important rivers for Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) in the country, and it also has vital populations of brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) and Arctic char (*Salvelinus alpinus*). A local visitor centre is situated close to the Site. The area is to a limited degree used for bird watching, and monitoring of bird populations continues. Many people visit the area to explore the world's northernmost pine forest; guided tours and nature trails have been established.

Fokstumyra

Site number: 1189 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Innlandet
Area: 1,799 ha | Coordinates: 62°07'41"N 09°16'18"E | Designation dates: 06-08-2002
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is Norway's first large protected area, created in 1923. It comprises vast wet mires on the flat ground and drier mires on its slopes, divided by moraine ridges with mainly open upland birch forest and some shallow nutrient-rich pools. Around 170 bird species have been recorded at Fokstumyra, an impressive number for an upland wetland. The Site offers breeding habitat to large populations of ducks, waders and raptors. It is probably the most important breeding site in Norway for the northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*); other breeders are the ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), the short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*) and the common crane (*Grus grus*). The area is also important as a staging site in spring and early summer for birds waiting for breeding sites higher in the mountains to become free of snow and ice. The large mire areas are important water reservoirs, especially during droughts, and play a critical role in flood protection during periods of high precipitation and snowmelt. The Site is used for leisure activities such as walking, birdwatching and fishing. Additional visitor facilities need to be planned carefully so as not to further increase the disturbance of breeding birds.

Karlsøyvær

Site number: 1192 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Nordland
Area: 4,936 ha | Coordinates: 67°34'11"N 14°39'19"E | Designation dates: 06-08-2002
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a marine archipelago whose shallow waters are dotted with some 220 skerries, islets and islands featuring wet meadows, dunes and dune slacks, and brackish marshes in some parts. The climate and topography provide a diverse and varied vegetation cover, which however remains low-lying apart from some deciduous forest on a few of the islands. The Site is one of several important areas along the coast for staging, breeding, moulting and wintering seabirds from large areas of the Arctic. Common eider (*Somateria mollissima*), red-breasted merganser (*Mergus serrator*) and white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) breed in the archipelago, while the vulnerable long-tailed duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) and Atlantic puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) use it for staging. The near-threatened Eurasian curlew (*Numenius arquata*) and the Northern lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) can also be found in the Site. European otters (*Lutra lutra*) have stable breeding populations. Traditionally the Site was used for collection of common eider down and eggs, but except for the sporadic collection of eggs, this practice has ceased. Other human uses include recreational activities, fishing, and sheep grazing. The archipelago is among the largest coastal conservation areas in Norway.

Slettnes

Site number: 1196 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Troms and Finnmark
Area: 1,230 ha | Coordinates: 71°04'36"N 28°11'38"E | Designation dates: 06-08-2002
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a coastal lowland plain in the northernmost area of mainland Europe. It consists of treeless meadows with mires, ponds and lakes on the Arctic shore. The many freshwater bodies create an area of high importance to birdlife, and many species breed and rest there. Some notable species are found in high densities such as the Arctic skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*), black-legged kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) and Atlantic puffin (*Fratercula arctica*). The European otter (*Lutra lutra*) breeds at the Site. It is also important as a historical site: it has been inhabited for over 10,000 years. Archaeological remains include foundations of houses, grave sites, and remains of Sami turf huts and old stone fences. Increased tourism might cause some disturbance for breeding birds. The Site is used for research, and monitoring of bird populations is carried out by the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research.

Reisautløpet

Site number: 1958 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Troms County
Area: 600 ha | Coordinates: 69°47'23"N 20°59'48"E | Designation dates: 12-11-2010
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site comprises a delta ecosystem formed through the discharge of a large sub-arctic river into a fjord. Large marine tidal areas of mud and sand flats as well as wet coastal meadows along the shore exhibit sub-Arctic features. Northern and southern plant communities coexist in this Site, some of which are nationally rare. It is a staging area for migratory birds such as the ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, the black guillemot *Cephus grille*, the common merganser *Mergus merganser* and the red-breasted merganser *Mergus serrator*. It is also a feeding area for ducks and wading birds, and important river stocks of the Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*, the anadromous Arctic char *Salvelinus alpinus* and the brown trout *Salmo trutta* migrate through the Site. Sørkjosen Airport is close, and the noise and runoff may affect the Site.

Åkersvika

Site number: 13 | Country: Norway | Administrative region: Hedmark county
Area: 428 ha | Coordinates: 60°47'57"N 11°06'50"E | Designation dates: 09-07-1974
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Åkersvika is one of the largest and best-developed freshwater deltas in Norway, where the unregulated Svartelva and Flakstadelva rivers join in the adjacent shallow basin, which feeds into Lake Mjøsa. Following the Ramsar Advisory Mission (no.64) in 2010, new areas were added to compensate for areas excluded due to a road enlargement. The Site is a freshwater embayment of an artificially regulated lake and lower river reaches composed of open water, exposed mudflats, wet grassland, and *Alnus/Salix* scrub, with shoreline vegetation dominated by moss. The vegetation is composed of various bog, meadow, scrub and woodland communities supporting a number of rare and nationally red-listed habitats and plant species. The reserve is one of the most important staging sites for wetland birds following inland migration routes in Norway; and a total of 226 bird species have been recorded. Large numbers of ducks and waders rest in Åkersvika, both in spring and in autumn, which also supports 1 % of the biogeographic population of the pink footed goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*. 16 species of fish have been registered in Åkersvika and the Site is considered as the main spawning ground in the Mjøsa Lake. The area functions as a barrier or trap for sediments and has an important function for sedimentation and nutrient fixing as well as flood control. Human activities include sport fishing, nature observation and environmental education. The main threats to the ecological character of the Site relate to housing and urban areas, roads and railways, and invasive species. Large areas of sedge meadow are being taken over by meadow communities and *Salix* scrub, following the cessation of burning and grazing in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Regulation of Lake Mjøsa has also accelerated this process. Management measures are now being implemented to stop the overgrowth.