

Designation date: 02/09/1977

Ramsar Site no. 144

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2009-2012 version

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## 1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

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## 2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

May 2012

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## 3. Country:

Denmark

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## 4. Name of the Ramsar site:

The precise name of the designated site in one of the three official languages (English, French or Spanish) of the Convention. Alternative names, including in local language(s), should be given in parentheses after the precise name.

Nissum Bredning with Harboøre and Agger Tange  
(International No. 144; National No. 5)

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## 5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for (tick one box only):

- a) Designation of a new Ramsar site ; or  
b) Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

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## 6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

### a) Site boundary and area

The Ramsar site boundary and site area are unchanged:

or

If the site boundary has changed:

- i) the boundary has been delineated more accurately  or

- ii) the boundary has been extended ; or
- iii) the boundary has been restricted\*\*

and/or

**If the site area has changed:**

- i) the area has been measured more accurately ; or
- ii) the area has been extended ; or
- iii) the area has been reduced\*\*

**\*\* Important note:** If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

**b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:**

No major changes to the ecological character of the site are known.

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**7. Map of site:**

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

**a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:**

i) a **hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): ;

ii) an **electronic format** (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) ; Denmark\_ramsar5.pdf

iii) a **GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables** .

A comprehensive ESRI ArcView GIS 3.1 shapefile named DKRamsar\_WGS84geo is submitted in conjunction with the Danish RIS 2008 update files. The shape is geo referenced and projected in datum WGS84. The shape is composed of five files:

- a. DKRamsar\_WGS84geo.shp
- b. DKRamsar\_WGS84geo.dbf
- c. DKRamsar\_WGS84geo.shx
- d. DKRamsar\_WGS84geo.sbn
- e. DKRamsar\_WGS84geo.sbx

and is considered self-explanatory in its database fields.

**b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:**

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park, etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

All Danish Ramsar sites are also designated as Special Protection Areas for Birds (SPAs) under the EEC Birds Directive, and most of them as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) under the EEC Habitats Directive, hence part of the Danish Natura 2000 network. Generally the delineation of the Ramsar-sites are identical to that of the SPAs, follow coastlines or lake shores, but also includes adjacent salt marshes.

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**8. Geographical coordinates** (latitude/longitude, in degrees and minutes):

Provide the coordinates of the approximate centre of the site and/or the limits of the site. If the site is composed of more than one separate area, provide coordinates for each of these areas.

56°38'N, 08°15'E

**9. General location:**

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s) the site lies and the location of the nearest large town.

The site is located in the western part of Limfjorden, the sound separating the Thy, Hanherred and Vendsyssel parts from the rest of Jutland. Nearest town is Thyborøn. Administrative regions are Lemvig and Thisted municipalities. [i.e., Regions Midtjylland and Nordjylland; DCP, 13/02/13]

**10. Elevation:** (in metres: average and/or maximum & minimum)

1-5 m

**11. Area:** (in hectares)

12,786 hectares

**12. General overview of the site:**

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

The area consists of great salt marshes, with reed swamp along shallow lagoons. East and south of Agger Tange is a considerable area of shallow water with tidal sandbars.

**13. Ramsar Criteria:**

Tick the box under each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11). All Criteria which apply should be ticked.

1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9

**14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:**

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

**Criterion 2:** The site is a breeding site for several waterbirds listed on the current Danish Red List (DMU 2007), e.g. Pintail (*Anas acuta*) (listed as VU on the Danish Red List), Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) (NT – IUCN, VU Denmark), Baltic Dunlin (*Calidris alpina schinzii*) (EN, Ann. I, EU Birds Directive), Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) (EN, Ann. I, EU Birds Directive), occasionally Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) (EN, Ann. I, EU Birds Directive) and Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) (CR, Ann. I, EU Birds Directive), Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) (NT, Ann. I, EU Birds Directive), and several other species listed in Annex 1 of the EEC Birds Directive, i.e. Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), Marsh Harrier (*Circus auruginosus*), Avocet (*Recurvirostra avocetta*), Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*), and Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*).

The site also holds a breeding population of Common Seals *Phoca vitulina* covered by Annex 2 of the EEC Habitats directive.

**Criterion 4:** The site is important for a number of rare and threatened breeding birds during summer especially waterbirds such as ducks, waders and terns. See point 22 for more details.

**Criterion 6:** The site regularly supports more than 1% of the individuals in the populations of the following species (average of available count data tabulated below for 2004-2009 compared to WPE4):

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) 4,133 birds – 9.8% of the Svalbard/NW Europe population

Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) 5,072 – 1.0% of the NW Europe/SW Europe population

Light-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla brota*) 729 birds – 10.4 % of the Svalbard/Denmark/UK population.

Pintail (*Anas acuta*) 2,102 birds – 3,5% of the Northwestern Europe population

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**15. Biogeography** (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

**a) biogeographic region:**

Atlantic

**b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme** (include reference citation):

Biogeographical Regions Europe, 2005, European Environment Agency

For Criterion 2, species are listed either:

- i) with reference to their presence on the International lists of species of conservation concern, i.e. listed on the most recent IUCN Red list and according to most recent criteria for conservation concern (IUCN 2007).
- ii) or with reference to their presence on the National lists of species of conservation concern. The latter are under transition from published information to online information which means that for some taxa older IUCN criteria for red listing have been applied (e.g. fish, Stoltze & Pihl 1998), while for other taxa the most recent IUCN criteria are adopted (e.g. birds, amphibians DMU 2008).
- iii) or with reference to their presence on Annex 1 of the EEC Birds Directive, or Annex 2 of the EEC Habitats Directive, and are considered threatened in the European Union

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**16. Physical features of the site:**

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

The Nissum Bredning part of the Ramsar area is the most westerly part of the Nissum Bredning with large very shallow areas (below 2-3 meters depth). The rest of the Bredning is an estuary with a depth mostly around 4-7 meters. Nissum Bredning is connected to the North Sea through a narrow canal at Thyborøn and to the rest of the Limfjord through another narrow area “Oddesund”. The Limfjord is a strait with connection both to the North Sea and Kattegat and with high freshwater input from the catchment area.

The connection to the North Sea was established in 1825 and before that it was a freshwater area. Now it is the most saline part of the Limfjord with a salinity a little lower than the North Sea. The salinity varies between 28 and 33‰.

The water level can change much at strong winds both from west and east due to the rather narrow opening to the North Sea. The water level normally varies 0.85 meter but up to 3-3.5 meters. The tidal fluctuation is around 0.15 meter.

The mean water depth in the lagoons at Harboøre Tange is 0.2-1.6 meter, mean secchi depth 0.5-1.3 meter. The nutrient level in the lagoons is high. Mean annual phosphorous level is 0.1-0.5 mg P/l.

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**17. Physical features of the catchment area:**

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, and climate (including climate type).

No specific information.

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### 18. Hydrological values:

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

There is a high water exchange in the area due to strong wind and current. The net water exchange of around 8 km<sup>3</sup>/year is from west to east.

### 19. Wetland Types

#### a) presence:

Circle or underline the applicable codes for the wetland types of the Ramsar "Classification System for Wetland Type" present in the Ramsar site. Descriptions of each wetland type code are provided in Annex I of the *Explanatory Notes & Guidelines*.

Marine/coastal: A • B • C • D • E • F • G • H • I • J • K • Zk(a)

Inland: L • M • N • O • P • Q • R • Sp • Ss • Tp • Ts • U • Va •  
Vt • W • Xf • Xp • Y • Zg • Zk(b)

Human-made: 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • Zk(c)

#### b) dominance:

List the wetland types identified in a) above in order of their dominance (by area) in the Ramsar site, starting with the wetland type with the largest area.

A, B, J, H, G

### 20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

The area consists of great salt marshes, with reed swamp along shallow lagoons. The Nissum Bredning part of the Ramsar area has large areas of submerged vegetation of eelgrass and smaller areas covered with stones and various macro algae. The rest of the area is mainly characterised by sandflats, which easily are resuspended by waves and current.

### 21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

*Glaucium flavum* at Krik Vig and *Dactylorhiza purpurella* spp. *Purpurella* at Agger Tange are on the national red list (both threat category NT; DMU 2007).

### 22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

The fjord area is a breeding area and haul-out for Common Seal (*Phoca vitulina*).

Breeding area for aquatic and salt marsh birds including, especially important for breeding dabbling ducks (*Anas strepera*, *Anas crecca*, *Anser querquedula*, *Anas acuta*, *Anas chapeata*), waders *Recurvirostra avosetta*, *Calidris alpina schinzii*, *Philomachus pugnax*, *Numenius arquata*, *Limosa limosa*, *Pluvialis apricaria* (occasional). and terns *Sterna paradisaea*, *Sterna hirundo*, *Sterna albifrons*, Occasional breeding *Asio flammeus*, *Haematopus ostralegus*. *Charadrius alexandrinus* has disappeared.

**Breeding waterbirds:** Table giving the most recent information about breeding waterbirds in the Ramsar site. Published and unpublished data from the NOVANA programme of the Ministry of Environment and DCE, supplemented with data from the Birdlife Denmark citizen science portal DOFbasen on selected breeding species covered by the EEC Birds Directive Annex 1. Numbers given are annual breeding populations of the species listed. Counting intensity varies over the years. Note: 0 does not necessarily mean the species was absent – rather not counted/reported. Ducks mentioned above have not been monitored systematically.

| Species \ Year                 | Breeding population (in pairs) |      |      |      |      |       |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------|------|------|------|-------|
|                                | 2004                           | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009  |
| <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>     | 1806                           | 1416 | 1109 | 1073 | 1062 | 866   |
| <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>      | 0                              | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0     |
| <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>  | 59                             | 75   | 26   | 87   | 27   | 249,5 |
| <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> | 0                              | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0     |
| <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>     | 0                              | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 0     |
| <i>Calidris alpina</i>         | 34                             | 56   | 53   | 46,5 | 4    | 5,5   |
| <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>      | 3                              | 5    | 3    | 2,5  | 0    | 1     |
| <i>Sterna hirundo</i>          | 0                              | 2    | 0    | 6    | 0    | 0     |
| <i>Sterna paradisaea</i>       | 25                             | 88   | 71   | 1,5  | 11   | 0     |
| <i>Sterna albifrons</i>        | 12                             | 40   | 17   | 0    | 3    | 4,5   |
| <i>Asio flammeus</i>           | 0                              | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0     |
| <i>Luscinia svecica</i>        | 1                              | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0     |

Note: this site has not been subject to intensive monitoring programmes for all species/all years. Missing Marsh Harriers *Circus aeruginosus* and tern *Sterna* numbers in table might thus represent missing coverage rather than absence of these species some years. “Half pairs” represents a range, 0,5 pair is this 0-1 pair.

The site has been known since the 1960s as being an important staging and wintering area for waterbirds

**Migratory waterbirds:** Table giving the most recent information about staging waterbirds in the Ramsar site. Published and unpublished data from the NOVANA programme of the Ministry of Environment and DCE, supplemented with data from the Birdlife Denmark citizen science portal DOFbasen on migratory species of national responsibility (for details see Miljø- og Energiministeriet, Skov- og Naturstyrelsen 1999), and selected migrant species (e.g. some raptors and *Charadrius morinellus*) covered by the EEC Birds Directive Annex 1. Numbers given are annual maxima of the species listed. Counting intensity varies over the years. Note: 0 does not necessarily mean the species was absent – rather not counted/reported. Averages are thus computed based on years with numbers reported.

| Species \ Year             | Annual Maxima |      |      |      |      |      | Average |
|----------------------------|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|---------|
|                            | 2004          | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |         |
| <i>Gavia stellata</i>      | 41            | 1    | 9    | 5    | 5    | 4    | 11      |
| <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>  | 195           | 275  | 120  | 210  | 159  | 122  | 180     |
| <i>Podiceps grisegena</i>  | 1             | 1    | 1    | 4    | 3    | 0    | 2       |
| <i>Podiceps auritus</i>    | 1             | 1    | 2    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1       |
| <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> | 1731          | 1115 | 2897 | 2591 | 1713 | 2159 | 2034    |
| <i>Ardea cinerea</i>       | 7             | 0    | 0    | 0    | 19   | 0    | 13      |
| <i>Platalea leucorodia</i> | 0             | 3    | 3    | 16   | 36   | 29   | 17      |

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|                                  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|----------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <i>Cygnus olor</i>               | 2192 | 1899 | 3087 | 2011 | 2019 | 1291 | 2083 |
| <i>Cygnus columbianus</i>        | 33   | 251  | 7    | 328  | 40   | 34   | 116  |
| <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>             | 327  | 505  | 191  | 412  | 272  | 330  | 340  |
| <i>Anser fabalis</i>             | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 32   | 32   |
| <i>Anser fabalis rossicus</i>    | 0    | 1    | 2    | 1    | 1    | 0    | 1    |
| <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>      | 2500 | 2338 | 884  | 2537 | 3101 | 7512 | 3145 |
| <i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i> | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 2    | 0    | 2    |
| <i>Anser anser</i>               | 2180 | 3800 | 6970 | 4978 | 5275 | 7230 | 5072 |
| <i>Branta canadensis</i>         | 7    | 12   | 0    | 36   | 1    | 0    | 14   |
| <i>Branta leucopsis</i>          | 404  | 176  | 303  | 2890 | 2044 | 940  | 1126 |
| <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>  | 254  | 304  | 496  | 487  | 372  | 653  | 428  |
| <i>Branta bernicla brota</i>     | 1230 | 615  | 407  | 406  | 634  | 1080 | 729  |
| <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>           | 319  | 1095 | 960  | 527  | 1392 | 2046 | 1057 |
| <i>Anas penelope</i>             | 1125 | 4887 | 7502 | 4010 | 4195 | 3565 | 4214 |
| <i>Anas strepera</i>             | 0    | 25   | 4    | 1    | 16   | 14   | 12   |
| <i>Anas crecca</i>               | 1035 | 3057 | 2477 | 1580 | 1955 | 3874 | 2330 |
| <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>        | 1305 | 2227 | 1695 | 1386 | 5037 | 2970 | 2437 |
| <i>Anas acuta</i>                | 1310 | 1691 | 3026 | 2324 | 2185 | 2077 | 2102 |
| <i>Anas querquedula</i>          | 0    | 2    | 1    | 2    | 0    | 0    | 2    |
| <i>Anas chpeata</i>              | 26   | 31   | 30   | 67   | 74   | 61   | 48   |
| <i>Netta rufina</i>              | 0    | 3    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 3    |
| <i>Aythya ferina</i>             | 1230 | 526  | 740  | 913  | 400  | 252  | 677  |
| <i>Aythya fuligula</i>           | 801  | 220  | 290  | 1199 | 554  | 545  | 602  |
| <i>Aythya marila</i>             | 169  | 174  | 143  | 176  | 222  | 90   | 162  |
| <i>Somateria mollissima</i>      | 192  | 124  | 133  | 281  | 240  | 714  | 281  |
| <i>Clangula hyemalis</i>         | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 1    | 1    |
| <i>Melanitta nigra</i>           | 28   | 21   | 1    | 15   | 223  | 10   | 50   |
| <i>Melanitta fusca</i>           | 0    | 18   | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 18   |
| <i>Bucephala clangula</i>        | 3185 | 1636 | 1367 | 1498 | 2436 | 1250 | 1895 |
| <i>Mergus albellus</i>           | 8    | 7    | 21   | 1    | 4    | 1    | 7    |
| <i>Mergus serrator</i>           | 350  | 271  | 1438 | 335  | 959  | 146  | 583  |
| <i>Mergus merganser</i>          | 18   | 25   | 4    | 5    | 12   | 53   | 20   |
| <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>      | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 1    | 1    |
| <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>        | 0    | 3    | 7    | 2    | 4    | 4    | 4    |
| <i>Circus cyaneus</i>            | 3    | 5    | 4    | 3    | 4    | 4    | 4    |
| <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>         | 0    | 1    | 1    | 0    | 1    | 1    | 1    |
| <i>Falco columbarius</i>         | 2    | 2    | 3    | 1    | 2    | 3    | 2    |
| <i>Falco rusticolus</i>          | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 2    | 2    |
| <i>Falco peregrinus</i>          | 2    | 3    | 4    | 3    | 7    | 5    | 4    |
| <i>Fulica atra</i>               | 2930 | 5438 | 5250 | 4670 | 6250 | 3553 | 4682 |

|                               |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>  | 31    | 140   | 158   | 261   | 356   | 311   | 210   |
| <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> | 469   | 130   | 118   | 169   | 391   | 379   | 276   |
| <i>Charadrius morinellus</i>  | 0     | 3     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 3     |
| <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>    | 10880 | 12680 | 2450  | 4700  | 7650  | 12440 | 8467  |
| <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>   | 0     | 25    | 11    | 27    | 56    | 28    | 29    |
| <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>      | 0     | 314   | 545   | 690   | 244   | 144   | 387   |
| <i>Calidris canutus</i>       | 522   | 170   | 259   | 209   | 927   | 402   | 415   |
| <i>Calidris alba</i>          | 167   | 40    | 21    | 23    | 327   | 73    | 109   |
| <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>    | 0     | 2     | 12    | 2     | 1     | 7     | 5     |
| <i>Calidris alpina</i>        | 4000  | 10250 | 4190  | 4606  | 6985  | 4363  | 5732  |
| <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>     | 0     | 63    | 19    | 20    | 55    | 41    | 40    |
| <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>    | 0     | 21    | 22    | 29    | 21    | 19    | 22    |
| <i>Limosa limosa</i>          | 0     | 0     | 20    | 4     | 0     | 6     | 10    |
| <i>Limosa lapponica</i>       | 1908  | 1112  | 745   | 1358  | 1980  | 1440  | 1424  |
| <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>      | 0     | 0     | 0     | 1     | 1     | 1     | 1     |
| <i>Numenius arquata</i>       | 22    | 556   | 484   | 592   | 704   | 682   | 507   |
| <i>Tringa erythropus</i>      | 0     | 2     | 15    | 3     | 2     | 0     | 6     |
| <i>Tringa totanus</i>         | 290   | 302   | 478   | 404   | 491   | 755   | 453   |
| <i>Tringa nebularia</i>       | 87    | 56    | 81    | 30    | 139   | 107   | 83    |
| <i>Arenaria interpres</i>     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 11    | 0     | 11    |
| <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>     | 4     | 1     | 8     | 0     | 8     | 6     | 5     |
| <i>Larus argentatus</i>       | 1     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 1     |
| <i>Sterna caspia</i>          | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 1     | 2     | 2     |
| <i>Alca torda</i>             | 0     | 4     | 0     | 5     | 0     | 0     | 5     |
| Sum of annual maxima          | 43522 | 58660 | 50117 | 49046 | 62220 | 63865 | 54572 |

### 23. Social and cultural values:

a) Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g., fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values:

Tourism, boating (incl. windsurfing) and hunting. Fisheries and production of reeds.

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning?

If Yes, tick the box  and describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland:

- ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
- iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:
- iv) sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland:

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**24. Land tenure/ownership:**

- a) within the Ramsar site:

Territorial waters, private, the State represented by the Ministry of public affairs and the Ministry of Environment.

- b) in the surrounding area:

As most other Danish Ramsar-sites, this site is surrounded by a rural landscape composed of a mixture of private owned agricultural areas and forests.

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**25. Current land (including water) use:**

- a) within the Ramsar site:

cattle grazing, farmland

- b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Farmland. There are no larger urban developments (>25,000 people) within 10 km from the site.

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**26. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:**

- a) within the Ramsar site:

It seems that a gradual leaching of salt and a change in the plant communities in and around the large lagoons of Agger and Harboøre Peninsulas is taking place. These lagoons were isolated from the Limfjord by a dam in the mid 1950s.

Overgrowth of salt marshes due to the lack of cattle grazing. Pollution from the "Cheminova" chemical factory. Variable water levels in lagoons. Increasing tourism, boating (incl. windsurfing) and hunting.

- b) in the surrounding area:

Invasive species as mink and raccoon dog are new threats on Agger Tange. The lagoons on both Agger Tange and Harboøre Tange within the Ramsar site have been protected from flooding with salt water by high tide sluices.

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**27. Conservation measures taken:**

- a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site:

In particular, if the site is partly or wholly a World Heritage Site and/or a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, please give the names of the site under these designations.

Nature conservation: Agger and Harboøre Tange (2,400 ha) and Plet Enge (250 ha).

The whole Ramsar site is protected under EU legislation, and included in:

Natura 2000-site No. 28  
Special Protection Areas for Birds (SPA) Nos. 23 and 39, and  
Special Area of Conservation (SAC) No. 28.

Two shooting-free reserves were established on Agger Tange and on Harboør Tange in 1996, as part of the enlarged national network of reserves (Madsen et al. 1998, Clausen et al. 2004). The reserves also involve restrictions in public access on salt- and freshwater marshes and on the lagoons during the breeding season of waterbirds.

Agger Tange became part of the first Danish National Park in 2008.

**b)** If appropriate, list the IUCN (1994) protected areas category/ies which apply to the site (tick the box or boxes as appropriate):

Ia ; Ib ; II ; III ; IV ; V ; VI

**c)** Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?:

For all Danish Ramsar sites, being part of the Danish Natura 2000 network, conservation status base-line reports were finalised in 2006 by the former counties, and published by the regional Environment Centres of the Agency for Spatial and Environmental Planning in 2007. In 2011 Natura 2000 plans were issued by the Danish Ministry of Environment/Danish Nature Agency setting up site-specific nature goals and priorities for all Danish Natura 2000 sites, including all Danish Ramsar sites. Parallel to this initiative on Natura 2000 sites, river basin management plans were likewise issued by the Danish Ministry of the Environment/ Danish Nature Agency for all Danish river basins in 2011, aimed at meeting demands from the EU Water Framework Directive, hence to improve water quality and ecological status in wetland catchments and coastal areas.

National Ramsar site No. 5 is covered by Natura 2000 plan No. 28 (Naturstyrelsen 2011a) and river basin management plan No. 1.2 (Naturstyrelsen 2011b).

**d)** Describe any other current management practices:

Approximately two thirds of the marsh areas at Harboøre Tange are now grazed by cattle. All marsh areas at Harboøre Tange will be grazed by cattle or mowed annually before 2012.

An automatic sluice gate has been established at Harboøre Tange in 2007. The automatic sluice gate allows water levels at the meadows neither to dry out - with the loss of meadow birds' source of food - nor become so wet that nests are flooded. The automatic sluice gate is co-funded from the EU LIFE Nature Fund.

The grazing area of Agger Tange has been enlarged, and the grazing has been optimized for breeding waders.

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## **28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:**

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

For all Danish Ramsar sites, being part of the Danish Natura 2000 network, conservation status base-line reports have been finalised in 2006 by the former counties, and published by the regional Environment Centres of the Agency for Spatial and Environmental Planning in 2007. During 2008-09 Natura 2000 plans setting up local nature management goals and priorities for all Danish Natura 2000 sites including all Danish Ramsar sites are being developed by the Environmental Centres, and after that local Municipalities will have to develop local action plans to meet the goals of the plans. Parallel to this initiative of the Danish Ministry of the Environment on NATURA 2000, water management plans are being developed to meet demands from the EU Water Framework Directive.

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### 29. Current scientific research and facilities:

e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

In 2003 Denmark launched the NOVANA programme. This programme forms the basis for future nature and water quality assessments in Denmark, and as such also supports the administration of the Ramsar site networks. NOVANA is an acronym that could be translated to English as NMWANA (**N**ew **M**onitoring programme for **W**ater quality and **N**ature), and aims at fulfilling the Danish obligations with regards to reporting conservation status of species and habitats covered by the EEC Birds and Habitats Directives annexes, as well as water quality and associated target species covered by the National 3<sup>rd</sup> Action Plan for the Aquatic Environment (Vandmiljøplan 3) as well as the EEC Water Framework Directive. The programme is described by Bijl et al. (2007). A first 'pre'-NOVANA assessment of the national conservation status of birds was published in 2003, and translated to English in 2006 (Pihl et al. 2006). National criteria for assessing favourable conservation status for the listed species and habitats were likewise published in 2003, and translated to English in 2007 (Søgaard et al. 2007), except for marine habitats, published solely in Danish (Dahl et al. 2005a). First assessments of reference conditions and development of Ecological Quality Objectives (EQOs) related to the Water Framework Directive were published in 2005-2006 (Dahl et al. 2005b, Petersen et al. 2006). Water bird monitoring programmes involves complete national mid-winter surveys every third year (e.g. Petersen et al. 2006b), and annual complete counts of selected species groups (e.g. swans, geese, dabbling ducks, rare breeding birds, e.g. e.g. Søgaard et al. 2006, 2007). The dabbling duck monitoring programme is built upon the much more comprehensive reserve monitoring programme from 1994-2001 (Clausen et al. 2004). Annual assessments of water quality are also available (latest summary report, Nordemann Jensen et al. 2010).

Monitoring of staging and wintering waterbirds is currently undertaken on a regular basis by the staff at the state-owned field station at Tipperne.

The ecology and behavior of autumn staging waterbirds in Agger and Harboøre Tange were subject to a major comparable research programme in 1994-2002. All results from this have now been published internationally (Holm 2002, Holm & Clausen 2006, 2009, Holm et al. 2011).

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### 30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:

e.g. visitors' centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

2 information brochures on the wildlife reserves Harboøre Tange and Agger Tange, respectively. An information board has been established at Harboøre Tange. The board raises public awareness about meadow birds and their habitats.

Agger Tange became part of the first Danish national park in 2008. A bird hide with information about the area is planned.

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### 31. Current recreation and tourism:

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

Increasing tourism, boating (incl. windsurfing) and hunting.

On Harboøre Tange bicycle tourism, bird watching and hunting. In part of the area boating is allowed.

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### 32. Jurisdiction:

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

National legislation on Nature Conservation and Hunting regulations, as well as national administration of the Ramsar Convention and EEC Birds and Habitats Directives: *Ministry of the Environment*.

National legislation on Agriculture and Fisheries: *Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries*.

Local administration and implementation of Nature Conservation: Municipalities listed below under point

33.

**33. Management authority:**

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

Municipality

Lemvig Kommune  
Rådhusgade 2  
7620 Lemvig

Thisted Kommune  
Asylgade 30  
7700 Thisted

Local unit of the Nature Agency

Naturstyrelsen, Vestjylland  
Sønderby, Gl. Landevej 35, Fabjerg  
7620 Lemvig  
Tel: +45 72543000  
E-mail: ves@nst.dk

Naturstyrelsen, Thy  
Søholt, Søholtvej 6  
Vester Vandet  
7700 Thisted  
E-mail: thy@nst.dk

**34. Bibliographical references:**

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

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Vandmiljøplan 3. – see <http://www.vmp3.dk/>

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