

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7, as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

Note for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers are strongly urged to provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of maps.

1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:**Joint Nature Conservation Committee**

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

Designated: 14 July 1988 / updated 12 May 2005

3. Country:

UK (Scotland)

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Bridgend Flats, Islay

5. Map of site included:

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

a) hard copy (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): *yes* -or- *no*

b) digital (electronic) format (optional): Yes

6. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

55 46 22 N 06 16 05 W

7. General location:

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

Nearest town/city: Bowmore

Bridgend Flats lies at the head of Loch Indaal, on the south-west coast of Islay, off Scotland's west coast.

Administrative region: Argyll and Bute

8. Elevation (average and/or max. & min.) (metres): **9. Area** (hectares): 331.16

Min. 0
Max. 0
Mean 0

10. Overview:

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

An area of saltmarsh and intertidal flats of international importance as a roosting site for wintering geese. Areas above mean high water include natural vegetation supporting high densities of breeding waders and terns, along with agricultural land frequently used by geese.

11. Ramsar Criteria:

Circle or underline 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).

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Secretariat comment: The RIS provides information requiring the application of Criterion 4. This needs to be included in the next update.

12. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 11. 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).

Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.

Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):

Species with peak counts in winter:

Barnacle goose , *Branta leucopsis*, 6700 individuals, representing an average of 12.3% of the population (Source period not collated)
Greenland/Ireland, UK

Contemporary data and information on waterbird trends at this site and their regional (sub-national) and national contexts can be found in the Wetland Bird Survey report, which is updated annually. See www.bto.org/survey/webs/webs-alerts-index.htm.

13. 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):

Council Directive 92/43/EEC

14. 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.

Soil & geology	neutral, shingle, sand, nutrient-poor
Geomorphology and landscape	lowland, coastal, intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), estuary
Nutrient status	no information
pH	alkaline
Salinity	brackish / mixosaline, saline / euhaline

Soil	mainly mineral
Water permanence	usually permanent
Summary of main climatic features	Annual averages (Dunstaffnage, 1971–2000) (www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/dunstaffnage.html) Max. daily temperature: 12.1° C Min. daily temperature: 6.1° C Days of air frost: 29.4 Rainfall: 1660.9 mm Hrs. of sunshine: 1224.0

General description of the Physical Features:

Bridgend Flats lies in a sheltered location at the head of Loch Indaal and comprises natural saltmarsh and intertidal sand and mudflats.

15. Physical features of the catchment area:

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

Bridgend Flats lies in a sheltered location at the head of Loch Indaal and comprises natural saltmarsh and intertidal sand and mudflats.

16. Hydrological values:

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

Sediment trapping

17. Wetland types

Marine/coastal wetland

Code	Name	% Area
E	Sand / shingle shores (including dune systems)	12.7
G	Tidal flats	67
H	Salt marshes	19.4
Other	Other	0.9

18. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site.

Bridgend intertidal flats consist of sand and silt sediments; saltmarsh - grading into the intertidal area, with *Puccinellia-Festuca* community; improved grassland.

19. Noteworthy flora:

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. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

None reported

20. 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.*

Birds

Species currently occurring at levels of national importance:

Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:

Great northern diver , *Gavia immer*, N Europe 30 individuals, representing an average of 1.2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3 - spring peak)

Red-breasted merganser , *Mergus serrator*, NW & C Europe 180 individuals, representing an average of 1.8% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Species with peak counts in winter:

Slavonian grebe , *Podiceps auritus*, Northwest Europe 24 individuals, representing an average of 3.3% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Greater scaup , *Aythya marila marila*, W Europe 1073 individuals, representing an average of 14.1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Species Information

None reported

21. Social and 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.

- Aesthetic
- Non-consumptive recreation
- Sport fishing
- Tourism

22. Land tenure/ownership:

Ownership category	On-site	Off-site
Private	+	+

23. Current land (including water) use:

Activity	On-site	Off-site
Nature conservation	+	
Tourism	+	
Fishing: recreational/sport		+
Bait collection	+	
Rough or shifting grazing	+	
Permanent pastoral agriculture		+
Sewage treatment/disposal		+
Transport route		+
Urban development		+
Non-urbanised settlements		+

24. Factors adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:

Explanation of reporting category:

1. Those factors that are still operating, but it is unclear if they are under control, as there is a lag in showing the management or regulatory regime to be successful.
2. Those factors that are not currently being managed, or where the regulatory regime appears to have been ineffective so far.

NA = Not Applicable because no factors have been reported.

Adverse Factor Category	Reporting Category	Description of the problem (Newly reported Factors only)	On-Site	Off-Site	Major Impact?
No factors reported	NA				

<p>For category 2 factors only. What measures have been taken / are planned / regulatory processes invoked, to mitigate the effect of these factors?</p>
<p>Is the site subject to adverse ecological change? NO</p>

25. Conservation measures taken:

List national category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it is being implemented.

Conservation measure	On-site	Off-site
Site/ Area of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI/ASSI)	+	
Special Protection Area (SPA)	+	
Management agreement	+	+
Site management statement/plan implemented	+	
Other	+	+

26. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

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

No information available

27. Current scientific research and facilities:

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

None reported

28. Current conservation education:

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

A bird hide is provided for bird watchers on the site.

29. Current recreation and tourism:

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

Activities, Facilities provided and Seasonality.

Birdwatching, horse-riding and bait-collection, but these are currently at sustainable levels which do not pose management problems.

30. Jurisdiction:

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

Scottish Executive, Environment and Rural Affairs Department

31. 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.

Scottish Natural Heritage, 2 Anderson Place, Edinburgh, EH6 5NP

32. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 13 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Site-relevant references

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- Ramsay, DL & Brampton, AH (2000) Coastal cells in Scotland: Cell 5 – Cape Wrath to the Mull of Kintyre. *Scottish Natural Heritage Research Survey and Monitoring Report*, No. **147**
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- Stroud, J, McKay, J & Robertson, F (1984) *A survey of intertidal invertebrates at the head of Loch Indaal, Isle of Islay, 20-24 Jan 1984, and the potential for shorebird feeding*. Islay Natural History Trust and University of Stirling.
- Stroud, DA, Chambers, D, Cook, S, Buxton, N, Fraser, B, Clement, P, Lewis, P, McLean, I, Baker, H & Whitehead, S (eds.) (2001) *The UK SPA network: its scope and content*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough (3 vols.) www.jncc.gov.uk/UKSPA/default.htm
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