

# 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**

Monkstone House

City Road

Peterborough

Cambridgeshire PE1 1JY

UK

Telephone/Fax: +44 (0)1733 – 562 626 / +44 (0)1733 – 555 948

Email: [RIS@JNCC.gov.uk](mailto:RIS@JNCC.gov.uk)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY

--	--	--

Designation date

--	--	--	--	--	--

Site Reference Number

---

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

9 March 2006

---

**3. Country:**

UK (Scotland)

---

**4. Name of the Ramsar site:**

Ronas Hill – North Roe and Tingon

---

**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):

60 33 00 N

01 25 00 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: Lerwick

The site lies in the north-west of Mainland Shetland.

**Administrative region:** Shetland Islands

---

**8. Elevation** (average and/or max. & min.) (metres): **9. Area** (hectares): 5470.2

Min. 16

Max. 393

Mean 157

## 10. Overview:

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

Ronas Hill - North Roe and Tingon Ramsar site comprises two adjacent headlands separated by Ronas Voe in the North Mainland of Shetland. Most of the site is composed of active blanket bog with numerous lochans and pools that support a typical peatland avifauna.

## 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).

1, 2

## 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 1

Supporting outstanding examples of blanket bog with extensive pool systems. The lower ground at North Roe and most of Tingon is covered by deep peat with some of the best preserved active blanket bog in Shetland. The peat layer has remained intact at Tingon with none of the erosion seen in other typical sites on Shetland. Further patches of wet heath and mire are found on the higher ground. The site also contains many oligotrophic lochs and dystrophic lochans and has an unusual formation of peat moulds.

### Ramsar criterion 2

Supports a number of rare species of animal and plant. The mammal fauna includes common seal *Phoca vitulina* and otter *Lutra lutra* and the invertebrate fauna includes the arctic water flea *Eurycercus glacialis* found at only one other site in Britain.

## 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	acidic, peat, nutrient-poor, igneous, granite, sandstone/mudstone
Geomorphology and landscape	lowland, upland, montane, coastal, hilly, slope, open coast (including bay), voe, cave/tunnel, cliffs
Nutrient status	oligotrophic
pH	acidic
Salinity	fresh
Soil	mainly mineral
Water permanence	usually permanent

Summary of main climatic features	Annual averages (Lerwick, 1971–2000) ( <a href="http://www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/lerwick.html">www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/lerwick.html</a> ) Max. daily temperature: 9.3° C Min. daily temperature: 5.0° C Days of air frost: 38.1 Rainfall: 1238.1 mm Hrs. of sunshine: 1065.6
-----------------------------------	--

**General description of the Physical Features:**

Ronas Hill – North Roe and Tingon comprises two adjacent headlands separated by the large Ronas Voe. Most of the site is composed of active blanket bog with numerous lochans and pools. The flatter parts of Tingon and North Roe have many pools and acidic lochans set within an open landscape of blanket bog and maritime heath. The area holds some of the highest-quality blanket bog in Shetland, which is floristically rich and intact.

**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).

Ronas Hill – North Roe and Tingon comprises two adjacent headlands separated by the large Ronas Voe. Most of the site is composed of active blanket bog with numerous lochans and pools. The flatter parts of Tingon and North Roe have many pools and acidic lochans set within an open landscape of blanket bog and maritime heath. The area holds some of the highest-quality blanket bog in Shetland, which is floristically rich and intact.

**16. Hydrological values:**

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

Water supply

**17. Wetland types**

Inland wetland, Marine/coastal wetland

Code	Name	% Area
D	Rocky shores	2.3
M	Rivers / streams / creeks: permanent	0.1
O	Freshwater lakes: permanent	2.5
Tp	Freshwater marshes / pools: permanent	3
U	Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)	32.1
Other	Other	60

**18. General ecological features:**

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

The main habitat type on this site is active blanket bog, which is amongst the most intact in Shetland, showing characteristic features of peatland including permanent and temporary pools fringed with mosses, sedges and rushes. A notable feature of the site is the large number of peat mounds, similar in appearance to arctic palsas. The sub-alpine heaths of the upper slopes of Ronas Hill, Mid Field and Collafirth Hill and the summit of the Beorgs of Skelberry are also of international importance. A smaller area of coastal grassland and dry heath is also present on the north end of the Tingon peninsula.

**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.*

**Assemblage**

The site is internationally important because it supports the following Habitats Directive Annex I wetland features:

- H3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea*  
 H3160 Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds  
 H4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*  
 H7130 Blanket bogs

**Nationally important species occurring on the site.****Higher Plants.**

Shetland endemic *Hieracia*

**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.*

**Species currently occurring at levels of national importance:****Species regularly supported during the breeding season:**

Red-throated diver , <i>Gavia stellata</i> , NW Europe	50 pairs, representing an average of 5.3% of the GB population (Count as at 1994)
Northern fulmar , <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> , North Atlantic	6710 apparently occupied sites, representing an average of 1.3% of the GB population (Seabird 2000 Census)
Whimbrel , <i>Numenius phaeopus islandicus</i> , NE Atlantic	25 pairs, representing an average of 5% of the GB population (not specified)
Arctic skua , <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i> , NE Atlantic	114 apparently occupied territories, representing an average of 5.3% of the GB population (Seabird 2000 Census)
Great skua , <i>Catharacta skua</i> , World	227 apparently occupied territories, representing an average of 1.6% of the breeding population (Seabird 2000 Census)
Black guillemot , <i>Cephus grylle</i> , E Atlantic	774 individuals, representing an average of 1.9% of the breeding population (Seabird 2000 Census)

**Species Information****Nationally important species occurring on the site.****Mammals.**

*Phoca vitulina*, *Lutra lutra* (Habitats Directive Annex II species)

**Invertebrates.**

*Eurycercus glacialis*.

**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**

Aquatic vegetation (e.g. reeds, willows, seaweed)

Environmental education/ interpretation  
 Livestock grazing  
 Non-consumptive recreation  
 Scientific research  
 Sport fishing  
 Tourism  
 Traditional cultural

**22. Land tenure/ownership:**

Ownership category	On-site	Off-site
Non-governmental organisation (NGO)	+	
Local authority, municipality etc.	+	
National/Crown Estate	+	
Private	+	
Public/communal	+	

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

Activity	On-site	Off-site
Nature conservation	+	
Tourism	+	
Recreation	+	
Current scientific research	+	
Fishing: recreational/sport	+	+
Rough or shifting grazing	+	
Hydro-electricity/ water-power	+	
Mineral exploration (excl. hydrocarbons)	+	
Transport route	+	+
Domestic water supply	+	
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				

For category 2 factors only.

What measures have been taken / are planned / regulatory processes invoked, to mitigate the effect of these factors?

Is the site subject to adverse ecological change? NO

**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	+	
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	+	

**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.

**Habitat.**

Research proposed to encourage heather regeneration on the site

All management agreements are subject to compliance monitoring.

**Fauna.**

Annual ringing of red-throated divers, gives rough estimate for productivity.

**28. Current conservation education:**

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

None reported

**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.**

Sport angling: on the lochs for brown trout

Walking: walking on Ronas Hill in particular and at a low level elsewhere.

**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**

- Anon. (1997) *Ronas Hill–North Roe Site of Special Scientific Interest Management Statement*. Scottish Natural Heritage, Shetland
- Barne, JH, Robson, CF, Kaznowska, SS, Doody, JP, Davidson, NC & Buck, AL (eds.) (1997) *Coasts and seas of the United Kingdom. Region 1. Shetland*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough. (Coastal Directories Series.)
- Berry, RJ & Johnston, JL (1980) *The natural history of Shetland*. Collins, London (New Naturalist No. 64)
- Gordon, JE & Sutherland, DG (eds.) (1993) *Quaternary of Scotland*. Chapman & Hall, London, for Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough (Geological Conservation Review Series, No. 6)
- Hulme, PD (1985) The peatland vegetation of the Isle of Lewis and Harris and the Shetland Islands, Scotland. *Aquilo, Series Botanica*, **21**, 81-88
- Johnston, R & Mudge, G (1996) *North Roe & Tingon Proposed Special Protection Area/Ramsar Site (204A) Departmental brief*. Scottish Natural Heritage, Edinburgh
- McLeod, CR, Yeo, M, Brown, AE, Burn, AJ, Hopkins, JJ & Way, SF (eds.) (2004) *The Habitats Directive: selection of Special Areas of Conservation in the UK*. 2nd edn. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough. [www.jncc.gov.uk/SACselection](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/SACselection)
- Ratcliffe, DA (ed.) (1977) *A Nature Conservation Review. The selection of biological sites of national importance to nature conservation in Britain*. Cambridge University Press (for the Natural Environment Research Council and the Nature Conservancy Council), Cambridge (2 vols.)
- 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](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/UKSPA/default.htm)
- Swale, J & Osborn, K (1997) *Tingon Site of Special Scientific Interest Management Statement*. Scottish Natural Heritage, Shetland
- 

Please return to: **Ramsar Secretariat, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland**  
Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • email: [ramsar@ramsar.org](mailto:ramsar@ramsar.org)