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# 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:

September 2013

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### 3. Country:

the Netherlands

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### 4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Rottige Meenthe en Brandemeer (former name **Rottige Meenthe**)

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

This RIS is for:

- 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:**

Nothing particular.

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## 7. Map of site:

**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)

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

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

The Ramsar site Rottige Meenthe has been designated as the European Natura 2000-site 'Rottige Meenthe en Brandemeer'. For this RIS-version, the Ramsar site boundary has been adjusted to the (proposed) Natura 2000-boundary, and the name for the Natura 2000-site has been adopted. Some residential terrain has been excluded, while the Brandemeer in the northwest has been added to the Ramsar site. In total this new boundary resulted in an increase of +233,7 ha.

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

52°51'N - 05°53'E

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## 9. General location:

Province of Friesland, ca. 7.5 km south of Heerenveen (population 43.514 per 1-1-2012; source: CBS, Netherlands Statistics).

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## 10. Elevation: (min & max)

NAP -2 / 2 m

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## 11. Area:

1.368,7 ha

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## 12. General overview of the site:

The Rottige Meenthe belongs to the former peat excavation areas in the south of Friesland province. The area is characterised by an open landscape with small ponds and canals as a result of the peat excavations in the past. The area lies downstream the small rivers of Linde and Tjonger which caused sedimentation of layers of clay in the peat. The site has a broad variety of vegetations like nutrient rich and nutrient poor wet grasslands, wet heath, peat land, reed marshes and bog woodland, mainly alder and birch.

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## 13. Ramsar Criteria:

1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9

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

The Ramsar site 'Rottige Meenthe en Brandemeer' has been designated under Natura 2000 as well. Natura 2000 is the centrepiece of EU nature & biodiversity policy. It is a EUwide network of nature protection areas which aims to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. It is comprised of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated by Member States under the Habitats Directive, and also incorporates Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Birds Directive. Natura 2000 applies to SACs and SPAs which are divided into biogeographical regions. The Ramsar site 'Rottige Meenthe en Brandemeer' applies to both and the justification for the application of each Ramsar criterion below greatly refers to its designation as a SAC and SPA.

##### *Justification criterion 2*

The table below shows Annex II species (HD) and Annex I species (BD) for which the site has been designated as a SAC and SPA respectively, as well as their current status on the National Red List. Some other threatened species of the National Red Lists have also been added to the table.

*Species of Annex II of the European Habitat Directive (HD) and Annex I of the European Bird Directive for which the site has been designated as a SAC and SPA respectively, as well as species of annex IV (HD) and some threatened species of the National Red Lists (- = Not Applicable). Year of adoption of the National Red List between brackets.*

Species(group)	Species code	HD Annex	BD Annex	National RL Category
<b>Vascular plants</b>				(2004)
Fen Orchid <i>Liparis loeselii</i>	H1903	II, IV	-	EN
Marsh Spurge <i>Euphorbia palustris</i>	-	-	-	VU
Marsh Lousewort <i>Pedicularis palustris</i>	-	-	-	VU
<b>Mosses</b>				(2004)
<i>Fissidens adianthoides</i>	-	-	-	VU
<i>Sphagnum contortum</i>	-	-	-	VU
<i>Sphagnum subnitens</i>	-	-	-	VU
<i>Sphagnum teres</i>	-	-	-	VU
<b>Mushrooms</b>				(2004)
<i>Marasmius menieri</i>	-	-	-	VU
<b>Mammals</b>				(2009)
Pond Bat <i>Myotis dasycneme</i>	H1318	II, IV	-	LC
<sup>1</sup> European Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>	S1355	II, IV	-	RE
<b>Breeding birds</b>				(2004)
Great Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	A021	-	I	EN
<b>Fish</b>				(2004)
Bitterling <i>Rhodeus sericeus amarus</i>	H1134	II	-	VU
Spined Loach <i>Cobitis taenia</i>	H1149	II	-	LC
<b>Dragonflies</b>				(2004)
<i>Leucorrhinia pectoralis</i>	H1042	II, IV	-	EN
<i>Libellula fulva</i>	-	-	-	VU
<b>Butterflies</b>				(2004)
Large Copper <i>Lycaena dispar ssp. batavia</i>	H1060	II, IV	-	CR
<i>Boloria selene</i>	-	-	-	EN
<b>Molluscs</b>				(2004)
<i>Lithoglyphus naticoides</i>	-	-	-	VU

<sup>1</sup> The European Otter has been registered for this Ramsar site but the Natura 2000-site Rottige Meenthe & Brandermeer has not been (proposed to be) designated for this species.

### Justification criterion 3

The 'Rottige Meenthe en Brandemeer' is designated as a Natura 2000 site (both SAC and SPA) and can therefore be considered important for maintaining the biodiversity of the Atlantic biogeographic region. Besides the species mentioned under criterion 2, the site has also been designated as a SAC for a range of habitat types (Annex I of HD) and SPA for a bird species that is not on Annex I of the BD. See the tables below.

*Habitat types (according to interpretation manual of EU-Habitat Directive; \* = priority habitat type) for which the site has been designated as a SAC.*

Habitat code	Habitat type
H3150	Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> type vegetation
H4010	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>
H6410	<i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt laden soils ( <i>Molinia caerulea</i> )
H7140	Transition mires and quaking bogs
H7210	*Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i>
H91D0	*Bog woodland

*Bird species (not on Annex I of the BD) for which the site has been designated as a SPA as well as their status on the National Red List (2004).*

Species	Species code	National RL category
<b>Breeding birds</b>		(2004)
Great Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	A298	EN

### Justification criterion 8

The site has among others been designated as a SAC for following fish species: Bitterling *Rhodens sericeus* and Spined Loach *Cobitis taenia* (see criterion 2).

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## 15. Biogeography

### a) biogeographic region:

The Ramsar site belongs to the Atlantic biogeographical region.

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

The bio-geographic regions dataset used, contains the official delineations used in the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and for the EMERALD Network set up under the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)

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## 16. Physical features of the site:

The current landscape was formed by peat excavations, mainly in the 18th and 19th centuries. The site has many different water levels due to the high variation of land use and due to reed polders which are separated from each others. The water levels are maintained by a system of windmills, pumps, dams and small dikes. Polluted seepage water cannot reach the nature reserve as the groundwater levels in the surrounding agricultural area are lower. Drainage of these agricultural areas causes settlement of peat, which will make it more difficult in the future to maintain high water levels at the site.

## 17. Physical features of the catchment area:

The Rottige Meenthe en Brandemeer is locally influenced by the small rivers of Linde and Tjonger. On a larger scale the Rottige Meenthe is part of the Rhine river catchment area. The surface area of the Rhine catchment is 185.000 km<sup>2</sup>. Geologically and geomorphologically it consists mainly of Quarternary, Paleozoic and Mesozoic sediments and Tertiary mountains. The general soil types are: Alluvial, Brown forest soils and montane soils. The climates according to Köppen are rainy (Cbf) and montane (EH).

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## 18. Hydrological values:

This marsh area does not have a hydrological function because it is located 0.5 tot 1 meter above the surrounding polders. Due to continuous drainage for centuries the soil in these polders has set. The ecosystem services mainly refer to the opportunities for water recreation and the ability for agriculture to take fresh water in (for irrigation or livestock drinking water) or drain it off.

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## 19. Wetland Types

### a) presence:

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:

U 4 Xp 9

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## 20. General ecological features:

This site has a broad variety of vegetations like nutrient rich and nutrient poor wet grasslands, wet heath, peat land, reed marshes and bog woodland mainly alder and birch. Permanent freshwater lakes make up to 5%, permanent freshwater marshes 65%, freshwater swamp forest 5% and wet grassland some 25%.

Plant communities of European interest that occur are:

- *Lemno-Nitellatum capillaries*
- *Potametum lucentis*
- *Stratiotetum*
- *Utricularietum vulgaris*
- *Cicuto-Caricetum pseudocyperi*
- *Pallavicinio-Sphagnetum*
- *Sphagno Palustris-ericetum*
- *Carici elongatae alnetum*
- *Thelypterido-alnetum*

The ecosystem services mainly refer to:

- the opportunities for water recreation.
  - the ability for agriculture to take fresh water in (for irrigation or livestock drinking water) or drain it off.
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## 21. Noteworthy flora:

Most noteworthy flora is listed under no. 14.

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## 22. Noteworthy fauna:

Most noteworthy fauna is listed under no. 14.

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## 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:

See 25. Current land use.

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?

No

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## 24. Land tenure/ownership:

a) within the Ramsar site:

The site is owned by Staatsbosbeheer.

b) in the surrounding area:

Several private owners.

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

a) within the Ramsar site:

Boating 5%, Tourism and leisure 5%, Residential (scattered) 2%, Motorways and major roads 5%, Commercial fisheries 5%, Conservation and research 65%, Water management 100%, Reed cutting 25%.

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Land use in the immediate surrounding mainly refers to farming. On a broader scale the Rottige Meenthe belongs to the river Rhine-catchment where the general land-use is forestry, pasture farming, arable farming and unproductive land (high mountains).

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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 = serious threat covering large part of the area; B = moderate threat or local threat; C = minor threat):**

a) within the Ramsar site:

- Recreation (C)

b) in the surrounding area:

- Drainage (A - drainage of neighboring farmland)
- Atmospheric deposition of nutrients from bio-industry (B)
- Nutrient pollution caused by water from surrounding farmland (C).

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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:

- Special Area of Conservation "Rottige Meenthe & Brandemeer" (Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC);
- Natura2000 site "Rottige Meenthe & Brandemeer".

**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?:**

The Ramsar site matches 100% with the designation for Natura2000.

The process for developing the Natura 2000 management plan has not started yet.

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

Nothing particular

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

Nothing particular

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**29. Current scientific research and facilities:**

Ongoing biodiversity monitoring is one of the obligatory activities in relation to the designated Natura2000 habitat types and species. Also bird numbers are counted regularly. This is coordinated by SOVON, the Dutch Bird Research Organisation.

The Department of Botanical Ecology and Population Biology, Utrecht University ([www.biol.uu.nl](http://www.biol.uu.nl)) is an important center of wetland research on the ecosystem level and also is involved in studies of natural bogs and wetland and bog restoration ecology.

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

Visitors centre, excursions, hikes, information booklet.

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**31. Current recreation and tourism:**

The area among others has a 15 km hiking trail and a route for canoeing. The number of visitors is not well known.

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**32. Jurisdiction:**

Municipalities Lemsterland, Skasterlan and Westellingwerf. Functional jurisdiction (conservation purposes): Ministry of Economic Affairs.

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**33. Management authority:**

Main management authority: Staatsbosbeheer, P.O. Box 1300, 3970 BH Driebergen, the Netherlands, tel. +31 (0)30-6926111.

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**34. Bibliographical references:**

- BirdLife International, 2004. Birds in Europe, population estimates, trends and conservation status. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International. (BirdLife Conservation Series No. 12).
- Hornman, M., Hustings, F., Koffijberg, K., Kleefstra, R., Klaassen, O., van Winden, E., SOVON Ganzen- en Zwanenwerkgroep & L. Soldaat, 2012. Watervogels in Nederland 2009/2010. SOVON-rapport 2012/02, Waterdienst-rapport 12.06. SOVON Vogelonderzoek Nederland, Nijmegen.
- Janssen, John, A.M. & Joop, H.J. Schaminée, 2009. Europese Natuur in Nederland. Laag Nederland Natura 2000-gebieden. KNNV-Uitgeverij. 248p.

- Ministerie van EL&I. Ontwerpbesluit Natura 2000 gebied Rottige Meenthe en Brandemeer.
  - Van Roomen M.W.J, Boele A., van der Weide M.J.T., van Winden E.A.J, Zoetebier D. 2000. Belangrijke vogelgebieden in Nederland, 1993-97. Actueel overzicht van Europese vogelwaarden in aangewezen en aan te wijzen speciale beschermingszones en andere belangrijke gebieden. SOVON-informatierapport 2000/01. SOVON Vogelonderzoek Nederland, Beek-Ubbergen.
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