

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

*Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX. 22 of the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).*

## Notes 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. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2nd edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3rd edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.
3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

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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:

Designated: 12 September 1995

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## 3. Country:

UK (England)

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## 4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Dersingham Bog

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

**This RIS is for:** 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:

\*\* 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:

**7. Map of site included:**

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Notes 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) **hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): *yes* ✓ -or- *no* ;
- ii) **an electronic format** (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) *Yes*
- iii) **a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables** *yes* ✓ -or- *no* ;

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.

The site boundary is the same as, or falls within, an existing protected area.

For precise boundary details, please refer to paper map provided at designation

**8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):**

52 49 49 N                      00 29 06 E

**9. 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: King's Lynn

In north-west Norfolk, 10 km north-east of Kings Lynn and 2 km east of The Wash.

**Administrative region:** Norfolk

**10. Elevation (average and/or max. & min.) (metres):    11. Area (hectares): 157.75**

Min.	3
Max.	32
Mean	15

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

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

Dersingham Bog is East Anglia's largest remaining example of a pure acid valley mire, and supports extensive bog, wet heath and transition communities over peat. These are sustained by groundwater, fed via springs and seepage, from the underlying greensand, which in places has caused the development of iron pans. The mire grades into dry heathland along the greensand scarp slope. The scarp slope is a former sea cliff, and the bog habitats are a remnant of the transition mires that formerly existed between this former shoreline and the now mostly land-claimed saltmarshes around The Wash. In addition to its internationally important plant communities, the site also supports important assemblages of birds and British Red Data Book invertebrates.

**13. 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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**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).

Ramsar criterion 2

Supports an important assemblage of invertebrates - nine British Red Data Book species have been recorded.

**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):

Council Directive 92/43/EEC

**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.

Soil & geology	acidic, metalliferous, sand, peat, nutrient-poor, sedimentary, sandstone
Geomorphology and landscape	lowland, valley, slope, escarpment
Nutrient status	oligotrophic
pH	acidic, strongly acidic
Salinity	fresh
Soil	mainly organic
Water permanence	usually permanent
Summary of main climatic features	Annual averages (Marham, 1971–2000) ( <a href="http://www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/marham.html">www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/marham.html</a> ) Max. daily temperature: 13.8° C Min. daily temperature: 5.7° C Days of air frost: 51.9 Rainfall: 621.3 mm Hrs. of sunshine: 1536.6

**General description of the Physical Features:**

No information available

**17. 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).

No information available

**18. Hydrological values:**

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

Recharge and discharge of groundwater, Maintenance of water quality (removal of nutrients)

**19. Wetland types:**

Inland wetland

Code	Name	% Area
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U	Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)	57.6
Other	Other	41.8
Y	Freshwater springs	0.3
Tp	Freshwater marshes / pools: permanent	0.3

## 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 habitats present on the site are acid valley mire, wet heath and transition communities, dry heath, scrub and secondary woodland. The features for which the site is designated as a Ramsar site are the acid valley mire, wet heath and transition communities. The wet mire habitats range from pools of open water, through low-growing bryophyte communities and stands of tussock-forming purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, to wet heath dominated by cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*. Other typical acid mire species present include cottongrass *Eriophorum angustifolium*, bog-mosses *Sphagnum* spp., sundews *Drosera rotundifolia* and *Drosera intermedia*, bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum*, cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccos* and white-beaked sedge *Rhynchospora alba*.

Ecosystem services

## 21. 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

## 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.*

### Birds

### Species Information

#### Nationally important species occurring on the site.

#### Invertebrates.

*Choristoneura lafauryana* RDB1, *Buckleria paludum* RDB3, *Yponomeuta rorrella* RDB3, *Eudorylas terminalis* RDB2, *Allodia angulata* RDB2, *Odinia ornata* RDB2, *Homoneura interstincta* RDB3, *Dichetophora finlandica* RDB3 and *Enochrus isotae* IUCN vulnerable. Following RDB3: *Philanthus triangulum*, *Archips betulana*, *Agathidium confusum*, *Buckleria paludum*, *Opetia nigra*, *Dryophilus anobiodies*, *Helophorus longitarsis*, *Campsicnemus compeditus*, *Periscelis annulata*.

## 23. Social and cultural values:

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.

Aesthetic  
Environmental education/ interpretation  
Livestock grazing  
Non-consumptive recreation  
Scientific research

Sport hunting  
Tourism

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

If Yes, 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:

**24. Land tenure/ownership:**

Ownership category	On-site	Off-site
Local authority, municipality etc.	+	+
National/Crown Estate	+	+
Private	+	+
Public/communal		+
Other	+	

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

Activity	On-site	Off-site
Nature conservation	+	
Tourism	+	+
Recreation	+	+
Current scientific research	+	
Commercial forestry		+
Cutting of vegetation (small-scale/subsistence)	+	
Arable agriculture (unspecified)		+
Grazing (unspecified)	+	
Hunting: recreational/sport	+	+
Industry		+
Transport route		+
Urban development		+
Non-urbanised settlements		+

**26. Factors (past, present or potential) 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

**27. 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)	+	
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	+	
Management agreement	+	
Site management statement/plan implemented	+	
Other		+
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	+	

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

The management of Ramsar sites in the UK is determined by either a formal management plan or through other management planning processes, and is overseen by the relevant statutory conservation agency. Details of the precise management practises are given in these documents.

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

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

No information available

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

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

**Fauna.**

Lepidoptera and Odonata recording.

Breeding bird recording.

**Environment.**

Condition assessments of nationally important features carried out as part of on-going SSSI monitoring.

Hydrological monitoring to determine water resource requirements.

**Miscellaneous.**

Use of site as demonstration of heath/mine management techniques and best practice.

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

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

This site is used for guided walks and for educational groups. It is also used for training conservation volunteers in practical conservation.

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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.

**Activities, Facilities provided and Seasonality.**

Provision of interpretive facilities at a level to cater for existing levels of quiet use, and not to significantly increase visitor pressure. Main activity is walking, dog-walking, nature study etc. Reserve provided interpretive sign boards, nature trails and footpaths.

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**32. Jurisdiction:**

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

Head, Natura 2000 and Ramsar Team, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, European Wildlife Division, Zone 1/07, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6EB

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**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.

Site Designations Manager, English Nature, Sites and Surveillance Team, Northminster House, Northminster Road, Peterborough, PE1 1UA, UK

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**34. Bibliographical references:**

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

**Site-relevant references**

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.)

Shirt, DB (ed.) (1987) *British Red Data Books: 2. Insects*. Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough

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