
Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

(RIS) – 2009-2012 version

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

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

September 2013

3. Country:

the Netherlands

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Alde Feanen

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

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

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:

Ramsar site Alde Faenen has also been designated as the European Natura 2000-site Alde Faenen. For this RIS-version, the Ramsar site boundary has therefore been adjusted to the (proposed) Natura 2000-boundary. Some open water and marshland to the northeast are now included in the Ramsar site. In total this new boundary resulted in a slight increase of 1,0 ha.

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

53°07'N - 05°55'E

9. General location:

Province of Friesland, ca. 10 km west of the city of Drachten within the municipality Smallerland (population 55.456 per 1-1-2012; source: CBS, Netherlands Statistics).

10. Elevation: (min & max)

NAP -1 / 0 m

11. Area:

2124,0 ha

12. General overview of the site:

The site is also called Oude Venen ("Old fens"). An area of lakes (resulting partly from peat diggings), reedbeds, wet meadows and woodland, located south-east of the city of Leeuwarden. Alde Feanen is one of the few remnants of an extensive peat bog landscape. In the second half of the 17th century the excavation of peat started. This resulted in both a small scale landscape with alternating channels and land where the peat was laid to dry ("petgaten" and "legakkers") and larger lakes. Around 1900 the peat digging ended. The people impoldered and drained the small scale landscape and started cattle breeding. The present landscape is the result of this drainage. It is characterised by marsh vegetations, surrounded by "zomerpolders" (polders which only can be used in summer, because of the water level in winter) and "boezemlanden" (polder areas with natural drainage) crossed by many water courses. The site consists of open water, reed lands, peat bogs, wooded marshland and grasslands on remains of peat. See:

<http://www.dealdefeanen.nl/eng/index.html>

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 Alde Feanen has been designated under Natura 2000 as well. Natura 2000 is the centrepiece of EU nature & biodiversity policy. It is an 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 Alde Feanen 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 in parentheses.

Species(group)	Species code	HD Annex	BD Annex	National RL Category
Vascular Plant Species				(2004)
Marsh Lousewort <i>Pedicularis palustris</i>	-	-	-	VU
Bog Orchid <i>Hammarbia paludosa</i>	-	-	-	CR
Mush room species				(2004)
<i>Gyrodon lividus</i>	-	-	-	EN
Mammals				(2009)
Pond Bat <i>Myotis dasycneme</i>	H1318	II, IV	-	LC
Root Vole <i>Microtus oeconomus arenicola</i>	H1340	II, IV	-	VU
Non-breeding birds				
Barnacle Goose <i>Branta leucopsis</i>	A045	-	I	-
Smew <i>Mergus albellu</i>	A068	-	I	-
Breeding birds				(2004)
Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	A021	-	I	EN
Purple Heron <i>Ardea purpurea</i>	A029	-	I	EN
Western Marsh Harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	A081	-	I	LC
Spotted Crake <i>Porzana porzana</i>	A119	-	I	VU
Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	A151	-	I	CR
Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger</i>	A197	-	I	EN
Fish				(2004)
Bitterling <i>Rhodeus sericeus amarus</i>	H1134	II	-	VU
Weatherfish <i>Misgurnus fossilis</i>	H1145	II	-	VU
Spined Loach <i>Cobitis taenia</i>	H1149	II	-	LC
Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i>	H1163	II	-	LC

Dragonflies				(2004)
<i>Leucorrhinia pectoralis</i>	H1042	II, IV	-	EN
<i>Brachytron pratense</i>	-	-	-	VU
Butterflies				(2004)
<i>Boloria selene</i>	-	-	-	EN

Justification criterion 3

The Alde Feanen 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 number of bird species that are 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>Molinion caeruleae</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
Non-breeding birds		
Great Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	A017	-
White-fronted Goose <i>Anser albifrons</i>	A041	-
Greylag Goose <i>Anser anser</i>	A043	-
Eurasian Wigeon <i>Anas [Mareca] Penelope</i>	A050	-
Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i>	A051	-
Common Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>	A052	-
Northern Shoveler <i>Anas chrypeata</i>	A056	-
Common Pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i>	A059	-
Tufted Duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i>	A061	-
Black tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>	A156	-
Breeding birds		(2004)
Great Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	A017	LC
Savi's Warbler <i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	A292	VU
Sedge Warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	A295	LC

Justification criterion 4

The site is of particular importance for many breeding and non-breeding bird species (see criterion 2, 3 and 6), of which several species gather in relatively small areas like breeding colonies of Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Purple Heron *Ardea Purpurea* and Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*.

Justification criterion 5

The site regularly supports more than 20,000 wintering water birds: the average peak number was 25.727 for the period 2005/2006-2009/2010 (source: Sovon, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology).

Justification criterion 6

Species meeting the 1% threshold (WPE-4, Wetlands International 2006; source: Sovon, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology). (NB = nonbreeding, BR = breeding period 2006-2010).

Species (UK)	Species	NB / BR	Biographical population	1% threshold	Average number of birds between 2006-2010	% at site
Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	NB	NW/ Central Europe	400	454	1,1
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	NB	NW-Europe	600	847	1,4
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	NB	Russia/ Germany/ Netherlands	4200	6363	1,5
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>	BR	Northern/Central Europe	3900	15297	3,9

Compared to the period of 1992-98 (previous updated version) the species White-fronted goose *Anser albifrons* (NB) does not meet the 1%-threshold anymore, though the species Gadwall *Anas strepera* (NB) and Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (BR) do.

Justification criterion 8

The site has among others been designated as a SAC for following fish species: Bitterling *Rhodens sericeus amarus*, Weatherfish *Misgurnus fossilis*, Spined Loach *Cobitis taenia*, and Bullhead *Cottus gobio* (see criterion 2).

15. Biogeography:

a) biogeographic region

The Ramsar site belongs to the Atlantic biogeographic 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).

16. Physical features of the site:

The Alde Feanen were formed by peat excavations mainly between 1750 and 1900. In order to compensate for water drainage, water from the IJsselmeer is let in during summer. In winter water is drained to the Wadden Sea. The average water depth is 1,2 meters. The water level is kept at 0,5 m – NAP.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

This wetland is part of the catchment area of the river Rhine. The surface area of the catchment is 185.000 km². 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 general land use is forestry, pasture farming, arable farming,

inproductive land (high mountains). The climates according to Köppen are rainy (Cbf) and montane (EH).

18. Hydrological values:

The hydrological values of the Alde Feanen include flood control and groundwater replenishment.

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:

O 30%; Tp 20%; Xp 10%; 9, 4 (wet grassland) 40%.

20. General ecological features:

Alde Feanen is one of the few remnants of an extensive peat bog landscape. It consists of open water, reed lands, peat bogs, wooded marshland and grasslands on remains of peat. The channels (petgaten), that mostly lay hidden in reed and swamp forests, are in various stages of becoming land. In some channels floating vegetations occur, in other places quaking bog and *Molinia* meadows develop. After termination of the reed cutting activities, most channels close with swamp forest.

Plant communities of European interest that occur are:

- *Lemno-Nitellatum capillaris*
- *Potametum lucentis*
- *Stratiotetum*
- *Cicuto-Caricetum pseudocyperis*
- *Cladietum marisci*
- *Cirsio dissecti-Molinietum*
- *Carici elongatae alnetum*
- *Thelypterido-Alnetum*

The Alde Feanen is also a very important breeding area for birds of peat marshes, some of which occur here on the edge of their distribution in the Netherlands (Black tern) or even Europe (Purple heron). Other important marsh birds are Great Cormorant, Bittern, Marsh Harrier, Spotted Crake, Savi's Warbler and Sedge Warbler. The site is also valuable for birds of wet grasslands like Spotted Crake and Ruff. It is also the only breeding place of the Black-necked Grebe in the peat bog area. For migrating birds it is mainly important as foraging and resting area for Ruff and Black-tailed Godwit, ducks and geese.

Nowadays outdoor recreation is an important source of income for the villages around the Alde Feanen.

21. Noteworthy flora:

Most noteworthy flora is listed under no. 14.

22. Noteworthy fauna:

Most noteworthy fauna is listed under no. 14.

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

24. Land tenure/ownership:

a) within the Ramsar site:

The site is owned by It Fryske Gea (2181 ha) and Natuurmonumenten (3 ha); the remainder is in private ownership.

b) in the surrounding area:

several private owners

25. Current land (including water) use:

a) within the Ramsar site:

Diary farming 5 - 35%, Reed cutting 5 - 35%, Commercial fisheries 5 - 35%, Angling 5 - 35%, Exploration and extraction of oil or gas <5%, Residential (scattered) <5%, Leisure and tourism 5 - 35%, Nautical sports, Water management >95%.

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Agriculture.

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

Drainage (B); Recreation/ tourism (B); Pollution (not Industrial discharge) (A - eutrophication).

b) in the surrounding area:

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

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 Protection Area (Birds Directive 79/409/EEC, 1994)
- Special Area of Conservation (Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC)
- Natura 2000
- Alde Feanen National Park (2006)

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 (proposed) designation for Natura2000.

The Natura2000 management plan is currently under preparation.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

Nothing particular.

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

Nothing particular

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

Ongoing biodiversity monitoring is one of the obligatory activities in relation to the designated Natura2000 habitat types and/or species. SOVON, the Dutch Bird Research Organisation, coordinates for instance a continues national bird monitoring program in which it cooperates with 7000 volunteers, research institutes and organisations in the monitoring of birds throughout the Netherlands (among which the Alde Feanen).

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

Visitors centre, excursions, hide, information booklet.

31. Current recreation and tourism:

See 25. Current land use. Approximately 250,000 visitors a year.

32. Jurisdiction:

Municipalities Boarnsterhim, Smallingerland and Tytsjerksteradiel; Functional jurisdiction (conservation purposes): Ministry of Economical Affairs.

33. Management authority:

Main management authority: It Fryske Gea, P.O. Box 3, 9244 ZN Beetsterzwaag, tel. +31 (0)512 38 14 48.

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.
- Kleefstra R., Broedvogels van de Alde Feanen en it Eilân in 2010, SOVON-inventarisatierapport 2010/026, SOVON Vogelonderzoek Beek-Ubbergen.

- Ministerie van LNV. Ontwerpbesluit Natura 2000-gebied Alde Feanen.
 - Plantinga J.E., K. v.d. Veen en W. Bijkerk. A&W-rapport 1567: De flora en vegetatie van de Alde Feanen 2010-2011. Altenburg & Wymenga, Veenwouden.
 - 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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Please return to: **Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland**

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