

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

NOTE: It is important that you read the accompanying *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document before completing this form.

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

April 2002

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD	MM	YY

Designation date

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

Site Reference Number

2. Country:

Sweden

3. Name of wetland:

Gotland, east coast

4. Geographical coordinates:

- (a) Faludden 57°00'N, 018°22'E
(b) Grötlingboudd-Rone Ytterholme 57°07'N, 018°27'E
(c) Laus holmar 57°18'N, 018°45'E
(d) Skenholmen 57°48'N, 019°03'E
(e) Närsholmen 57°17'N, 018°42'E
(f) Hummelsbosholm 57°14'N, 018°34'E

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.) 0 – 6 m

- a) 0 – 5 m, b) 0 – 5 m,
c) 0 – 2 m, d) 0 – 5 m,
e) 0 – 6 m, f) 0 – 5 m

6. Area: (in hectares) 4 900 ha

- a) 1 320 ha, b) 1 640ha,
c) 540 ha, d) 720 ha,
e) 430 ha, f) 250 ha

7. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

The sites consist of low-lying islands and coastal areas mainly covered by grass vegetation. The wetland complex is of international importance for breeding and resting geese and waterbirds.

8. Wetland Type (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document.)

marine-coastal: A . B . C . D . E . F . G . H . I . J . K

inland: L . M . N . O . P . Q . R . Sp . Ss . Tp . Ts
. U . Va . Vt . W . Xf . Xp . Y . Zg . Zk

man-made: 1 . 2 . 3 . 4 . 5 . 6 . 7 . 8 . 9

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant: A, 4, E, D

9. Ramsar Criteria: (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12, next page.)

1 . 2 . 3 . 4 . 5 . 6 . 7 . 8

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 6

10. Map of site included? Please tick *yes* -or- *no*

(Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits).

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

Eddie von Wachenfeldt and Torsten Larsson, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, S-10648 Stockholm, Sweden

Eva Nohlgren, County Administrative Board of Gävleborg, S- 801 70 Gävle, Sweden

Please provide additional information on each of the following categories by attaching extra pages (please limit extra pages to no more than 10):

12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page. (Please refer to Annex II in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document).

1. A representative example of a near-natural wetland type
 2. >10 redlisted bird species
 5. >20 000 waterbirds, mainly geese and ducks
 6. Supports >20% of the Russian/Germany/Netherlands population of *Branta leucopsis* (40 000 individuals) and >1% of the north-western European population of *Aythya marila* (5 000)
-

13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

The site is located on the East Coast of the large Baltic Island of Gotland, in the County of Gotland, south-eastern Sweden. The site is constituted by several parts: Faludden, Grötlingboud-Rone Ytterholme, Hummelbosholm, Laus holmar (Gräsholmen, Skarpholmen, and Storholmen), Närsholmen, and Skenholmen. Municipality: Gotland.

14. Physical features: (e.g. geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)

Faludden is flat and open with low-lying, long shallow shores of sand and or stone. South of the point of Faludden is Inre Stockviken, a former bay, is now cut off from the sea. Yttre Stockviken is a shallow bay with many sandbars and islets.

A large part of Grötlingboholme consists of shore gravel formed into very distinctive banks, especially at the southern end.

These shore embankments even appear in long series on Rone Ytterholme, where there are extensive shallows with protruding shoals.

On the islands of Laus holmar islands there is a system of natural shore embankments, some of which consist of sand-spurs that have been raised by land elevation.

Närsholmen and Hummelbosholm are two open, almost tree-less and low-lying peninsulas.

Skenholmen is a flat island.

15. Hydrological values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc)

--

16. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

To a great extent the islands and the coastal area have no trees or bushes and they are covered mainly by short grass vegetation. Most of Faludden consists of grazed grasslands with varying degree of moisture and a sandy bay lying adjacent to the Baltic Sea. Reeds cover many parts of Inre Stockviken.

Grötlingboud is mostly made up of open grassland and shore meadows. The islands of Grötlingboholme and Rone Ytterholme are devoid of trees.

Hummelbosholm and Närsholmen are both grazed by cattle.

Skarpholmen and Gräsholmen are not being grazed and therefore covered by well-developed higher plant forms. Storholmen is covered by short grass vegetation since sheep graze it.

Skenholmen is a grassy island almost completely devoid of tree vegetation. Sheep graze here.

17. Noteworthy flora: (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc)

Red-listed species: *Bupleurum tenuissimum*.

18. Noteworthy fauna: (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.)

The site is of international importance for geese, notably as a staging area for migrating barnacle goose *Branta leucopsis* (> 40 000 in spring) and for wintering *Aythya marila* (5 000 wintering).

Various parts of the site are important for breeding waterbirds, including the barnacle goose *Branta leucopsis* (3 000 pairs), eider *Somateria mollissima*, avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* (150 pairs), ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula* (25 pairs), dunlin *Calidris alpina* (30 pairs), ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (100 pairs), black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa* (30 pairs), curlew *Numenius arquata* (50 pairs), arctic tern *Sterna paradisaea* (200 pairs), caspian tern *Sterna caspia*, sandwich tern *S. sandvicensis* and little tern *S. albigrons* (50 pairs). Many waterfowl species stage in the area, including the Bewick's swan *Cygnus columbianus* and smew *Mergus albellus* (150 individuals).

19. Social and cultural values: (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

Närsholmen, Grötlingboud and Faludden are of touristic importance.

20. Land tenure/ownership of: (a) site (b) surroundings area

(a) Protected areas are owned privately and by the state. Unprotected areas are mainly owned privately.

(b) Mainly owned privately.

21. Current land use: (a) site (b) surroundings/catchment

(a) The site is used for grazing of sheep and cattle. Fishing is important and a fishing harbour is situated close to Närsholmen.

(b) Farmland on the main island.

22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects: (a) at the site (b) around the site

(a) The continuation of grazing is essential for the sites' value for breeding and staging birds.

(b) None known.

23. Conservation measures taken: (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made: management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

There are five Nature Reserves, covering a total of 1 555 ha, and three Bird Sanctuaries within the site.

Grötlingboholme Nature Reserve – 219 ha. Protected since 1973 and owned privately. Management plan exists.

Hummelsboholm Bird Sanctuary – 248 ha. Protected since 1971 and owned privately. Management plan does not exist.

Laus holmar Nature Reserve – 489 ha. Protected since 1981 and partly owned privately, partly by the state. Management plan exists.

Närsholmen Nature Reserve – 415 ha. Protected since 1986 and owned by the state. Management plan exists.

Rone Ytterholme – 183 ha. Protected since 1976 and owned privately. Management plan exists.

Skenholmen Bird Sanctuary – 255 ha. Protected since 1999 and owned by the state. Management plan does not exist.

Faludden Bird Sanctuary – 291 ha. Protected since 1996. Privately owned. Management plan does not exist.

24. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

All of the nature reserves and bird sanctuaries are classified as Special Protection Areas according to the Wild Birds Directive:

SE0340016 Hummelsboholm (235 ha)

SE0340017 Närsholmen (414 ha)
SE0340021 Laus holmar (540 ha)
SE0340098 Grötlingbo-Ytteholmen (536 ha)
SE0340099 Faludden (231 ha)
SE0340127 Skenholmen (255 ha)

25. Current scientific research and facilities: (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

Field studies of the breeding biology of the barnacle Goose, the ruff, and the black-tailed godwit are carried out within the site.

26. Current conservation education: (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

No activities.

27. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)

Närsholmen, Grötlingboud, and Faludden are visited by many (>1 000) tourists each year.

28. Jurisdiction: (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment etc.)

County Administrative Board of Gotland

29. Management authority: (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)

County Administrative Board of Gotland
S-621 85 Visby
Sweden

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

Hedgren, S., Kolehmainen, T. & Tydén, L. 1996. Inventering av häckande fåglar på gotländska strandängar. Länsstyrelsen i Gotlands län.

Martinsson, M. 1997. Våtmarker på Gotland. Del 1 och 2. Länsstyrelsen i Gotlands län.

Please return to: **Ramsar Convention Bureau, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 GLAND, Switzerland**

Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • e-mail: ramsar@hq.iucn.org