

# 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:

### 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)

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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: 05 January 1976

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## 3. Country:

UK (England)

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## 4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Lindisfarne

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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):**

55 40 22 N                      01 50 17 W

**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: Berwick-upon-Tweed

The site lies on the east coast of England south of Berwick-upon-Tweed.

**Administrative region:** Northumberland

**10. Elevation (average and/or max. & min.) (metres):    11. Area (hectares): 3679.22**

Min.	-1
Max.	11
Mean	0

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

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

The area comprises a range of coastal habitats, including rocky shore, sand dunes, saltmarsh and intertidal sand and mudflats, that support internationally important numbers of wintering waterfowl.

The extensive intertidal flats of sand and silt contain abundant invertebrates, and also support beds of eelgrass *Zostera* spp., important food sources for wintering birds. There is a large area of saltmarsh, especially around Holy Island Sands. The lower marsh is dominated by the introduced common cord-grass *Spartina anglica*, but at higher levels common saltmarsh-grass and thrift are the main species.

Extensive sand dunes are found on the eastern and northern parts of Holy Island, and on the mainland at Ross Links, between Holy Island and Budle Bay. The foredunes are dominated by marram, with older dunes supporting acidic communities including dune heath. Dominated by creeping willow *Salix arenaria* and cross-leaved heath, the dune slacks are more species-rich.

**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).

**1, 5, 6**

#### 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 1

This site contains extensive intertidal flats, together with a large area of saltmarsh, and major sand dune system with well developed dune slacks.

Ramsar criterion 5

#### Assemblages of international importance:

##### Species with peak counts in winter:

44970 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)

#### Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.

##### Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):

##### Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:

Light-bellied brent goose, <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> , Svalbard	2799 individuals, representing an average of 55.9% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Eurasian wigeon, <i>Anas penelope</i> , NW Europe	10857 individuals, representing an average of 2.6% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Ringed plover, <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> , Europe/Northwest Africa	114 individuals, representing an average of 0.3% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3 - spring peak)
Common redshank, <i>Tringa totanus totanus</i> ,	1572 individuals, representing an average of 1.3% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

##### Species with peak counts in winter:

Greylag goose, <i>Anser anser anser</i> , Iceland/UK, Ireland	750 individuals, representing an average of 0.9% of the GB population (5 year peak mean for 1995/6-1999/2000)
Bar-tailed godwit, <i>Limosa lapponica lapponica</i> , W Palearctic	3757 individuals, representing an average of 3.1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

#### Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6.

##### Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:

Pink-footed goose, <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> , Greenland, Iceland/UK	2531 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
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Contemporary data and information on waterbird trends at this site and their regional (sub-national) and national contexts can be found in the Wetland Bird Survey report, which is updated annually. See [www.bto.org/survey/webs/webs-alerts-index.htm](http://www.bto.org/survey/webs/webs-alerts-index.htm).

Details of bird species occurring at levels of National importance are given in Section 22

**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, basic, neutral, shingle, sand, igneous, sedimentary, metamorphic, limestone, sandstone, sandstone/mudstone, limestone/chalk, mud, boulder
Geomorphology and landscape	lowland, island, coastal, subtidal rock (including rocky reefs), barrier beach, subtidal sediments (including sandbank/mudbank), intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), open coast (including bay), islands, cliffs, pools, intertidal rock
Nutrient status	eutrophic
pH	no information
Salinity	brackish / mixosaline, fresh, saline / euhaline
Soil	mainly mineral, no information
Water permanence	usually permanent, usually seasonal / intermittent
Summary of main climatic features	Annual averages (Boulmer, 1971–2000) ( <a href="http://www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/boulmer.html">www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/boulmer.html</a> ) Max. daily temperature: 11.9° C Min. daily temperature: 5.6° C Days of air frost: 34.5 Rainfall: 651.0 mm Hrs. of sunshine: 1540.4

**General description of the Physical Features:**

As well as the island of Lindisfarne, the site includes extensive mudflats south of Holy Island and at Budle Bay. The area comprises a range of coastal habitats, including rocky shore, sand dunes, saltmarsh and intertidal sand- and mud-flats with extensive beds of eelgrass *Zostera* spp.

**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).

As well as the island of Lindisfarne, the site includes extensive mudflats south of Holy Island and at Budle Bay. The area comprises a range of coastal habitats, including rocky shore, sand dunes, saltmarsh and intertidal sand- and mud-flats with extensive beds of eelgrass *Zostera* spp.

**18. Hydrological values:**

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

Shoreline stabilisation and dissipation of erosive forces, Sediment trapping

**19. Wetland types:**

Marine/coastal wetland

Code	Name	% Area
G	Tidal flats	76.9
E	Sand / shingle shores (including dune systems)	17.6
H	Salt marshes	5.4
Tp	Freshwater marshes / pools: permanent	0.1

**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.

On this site there is a rich marine invertebrate fauna with *Zostera* beds supporting internationally important numbers of waterfowl including pale-bellied brent geese, the only British site where the Svalbard population is found. The dunes have some dune heath and the rare liverwort *Petalophyllum ralfsii* is also present.

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.*

**Internationally important species occurring on the site.**

Lower Plants.

S1395 *Petalophyllum ralfsii* Petalwort (Habitats Directive Annex II species)

Higher plants

Dune helleborine *Epipactis sancta* (endemic on Holy Island)**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 currently occurring at levels of national importance:****Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:**

Black (common) scoter , <i>Melanitta nigra nigra</i> ,	547 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3 - spring peak)
European golden plover , <i>Pluvialis apricaria apricaria</i> , P. a. altifrons Iceland & Faroes/E Atlantic	3322 individuals, representing an average of 1.3% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Grey plover , <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> , E Atlantic/W Africa -wintering	1261 individuals, representing an average of 2.3% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Ruff , <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> , Europe/W Africa	11 individuals, representing an average of 1.5% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Eurasian curlew , <i>Numenius arquata arquata</i> , N. a. <i>arquata</i> Europe (breeding)	1507 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Common greenshank , <i>Tringa nebularia</i> , Europe/W Africa	10 individuals, representing an average of 1.6% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
<b>Species with peak counts in winter:</b>	
Slavonian grebe , <i>Podiceps auritus</i> , Northwest Europe	9 individuals, representing an average of 1.2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Common shelduck , <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> , NW Europe	1455 individuals, representing an average of 1.8% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Common eider , <i>Somateria mollissima mollissima</i> , NW Europe	1241 individuals, representing an average of 1.7% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Red knot , <i>Calidris canutus islandica</i> , W & Southern Africa (wintering)	3532 individuals, representing an average of 1.2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Dunlin , <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> , W Siberia/W Europe	8649 individuals, representing an average of 1.5% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

**Species Information**

None reported

**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
- Archaeological/historical site
- Environmental education/ interpretation
- Fisheries production
- Livestock grazing
- Non-consumptive recreation
- Religious
- Scientific research
- Sport hunting
- Tourism
- Traditional cultural
- Transportation/navigation

**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
Non-governmental organisation (NGO)	+	
Local authority, municipality etc.	+	
National/Crown Estate	+	
Private	+	+

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

Activity	On-site	Off-site
Nature conservation	+	
Tourism	+	
Recreation	+	
Current scientific research	+	
Collection of non-timber natural products: (unspecified)	+	
Collection of non-timber natural products: commercial	+	
Fishing: (unspecified)		+
Fishing: commercial		+
Fishing: recreational/sport	+	
Marine/saltwater aquaculture	+	
Gathering of shellfish	+	
Shell collection	+	
Bait collection	+	
Arable agriculture (unspecified)		+
Shifting arable agriculture		+
Permanent arable agriculture		+
Livestock watering hole/pond	+	+
Grazing (unspecified)	+	+
Rough or shifting grazing	+	+
Permanent pastoral agriculture		+
Hunting: commercial		+
Hunting: recreational/sport	+	+
Sewage treatment/disposal		+
Harbour/port		+
Flood control		+
Transport route		+
Domestic water supply		+
Non-urbanised settlements		+
Military activities	+	

**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?
Introduction/invasion of non-native animal species	1	Pirri pirri burr <i>Acaena</i> invading dunes	+		

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)	+	
Special Protection Area (SPA)	+	
Management agreement		+
Site management statement/plan implemented	+	
Area of Outstanding National Beauty (AONB)	+	+
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.**

Numbers of migratory and wintering wildfowl and waders are monitored annually as part of the national Wetland Birds Survey (WeBS) organised by the British Trust for Ornithology, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

ITE Butterfly transect; Refuge for waterfowl - ongoing project.

**Flora.**

*Spartina* control research; *Zostera* monitoring; *Enteromorpha* study.

**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.

As the site is a National Nature Reserve guided walks, talks and slide shows are available on request. There is a nature trail around the site and two hides. There is a leaflet describing the interest at the site.

**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.**

Land based recreation:

Baitdigging is controlled by bylaw.

Wildfowling: 150 permits issued.

Horsing by free permit only.

Water based recreation:

Watersports zone in Budle Bay is controlled by bylaw.

Over 250,000 visitors to Holy Island each year pass through site.

**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

**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

**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**

Barne, JH, Robson, CF, Kaznowska, SS, Doody, JP & Davidson, NC (eds.) (1995) *Coasts and Seas of the United Kingdom. Region 5 North-east England: Berwick-upon-Tweed to Filey Bay*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough (Coastal Directories Series)

Bennett, TL & Foster-Smith, JL (1998) Chapter 5. South-east Scotland and north-east England (Dunbar to Bridlington) (MNCR Sector 4). In: *Benthic marine ecosystems of Great Britain and the north-east Atlantic*, ed. by K. Hiscock, 123-154. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough. (Coasts and Seas of the United Kingdom. MNCR series)

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- Buck, AL (ed.) (1997) *An inventory of UK estuaries. Volume 5. Eastern England*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough
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- 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. Volume 3: Site accounts*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough [www.jncc.gov.uk/UKSPA/default.htm](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/UKSPA/default.htm)

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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)