

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:

Date of designation: 11/05/99 (date of announcement at COP 7)

10th February, 1999

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

11	05	99
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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Country:

Bermuda (U.K. O.T.)

3. Name of wetland:

LOVER'S LAKE NATURE RESERVE

4. Geographical coordinates:

32° 21' N 64° 42' W

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.) 0.1m - 2.0m

6. Area: (in hectares) 2.084 hectares

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

A 2m deep lake, fringed with (predominantly black) mangroves. The water level is tidal and rises and falls via subterranean channels. Important for an endemic fish and both wintering and passage waterfowl.

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:

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

1a . 1b . 1c . **1d** | ~~2a~~ . ~~2b~~ . ~~2c~~ . **2d** | 3a . 3b . 3c | **4a** . 4b

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 4a

10. Map of site included? Please tick **yes** -or- **no** Use map from Parks Schedule A.
(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:

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12. **Justification of the criteria selected under point 9:**

The site supports the only known population of an endemic killifish and is important for wintering and passage birds, especially Pied-billed Grebe, Belted Kingfisher and Northern Waterthrush. Its saline nature and tidal flows permit the coexistence of marine and brackish species. Only one species of mangrove (*Avicennia germinans*) is represented.

13. **General location:**

Located at Ferry Point, St. George's Island, Bermuda. 3.5 km WSW of St. Georges tours. 3.5 km west south west of St. George's town.

14. **Physical features:**

A saline lake in an enclosed valley on the coast, up to 2m deep, with fringing black mangrove swamp. The water level rises and falls with the tides through subterranean channels.

15. **Hydrological values:**

None.

16. **Ecological features:**

The only saline pond bordered by a pure stand of black mangrove. The open water pond supports a mixed brackish and marine community.

17. **Noteworthy flora:**

Pure stands of fringing black mangrove *Avicennia germinans*; submerged beds of *Ruppia maritima* and *Thalassia testudinum*; the most extensive stands of *Salicornia* sp. and *Sesuvium portulacastrum*. Bermuda is the most northerly location of mangrove growth in the Atlantic.

18. **Noteworthy fauna:**

The site supports the only known population of the endemic killifish *Fundulus relictus*. It is an important wintering area for Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* and the re-introduced Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*. It also provides seasonal habitat for passage waterfowl, and, in winter, for the Belted Kingfisher *Ceryle alcyon*. There is also an interesting invertebrate fauna. The only Bermuda pond/lake where naturalised *Gambusia* sp. has not yet been introduced.

19. **Social and cultural values:**

A walking trail on an abandoned railway bed provides recreational access for walkers and birdwatchers.

20. **Land tenure/Ownership of:**

Government of Bermuda

21. **Current land use:**

- a) Site – managed as a Nature Reserve
 - b) Surroundings – Rural parkland mainly forested with nature trail through it.
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22. **Factors adversely affecting the sites ecological character:**

- a) At the site – occasional illegal use of motorized bicycles on the trails.
 - b) Around the site – None
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23. **Conservation measures taken:**

Site is a nature reserve established in 1980 and an integral part of the larger Ferry Point National Park declared under the Bermuda National Parks Act, 1986.

24. **Conservation measures proposed:**

Reforestation of the surrounding area with native flora is underway.

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

A detailed study of the lake was conducted by Dr. M. Thomas, et al. The Fundulus population has been sampled for Taxonomic study.

26. **Current conservation education:**

Visited by tours from the nearby Bermuda Biological Station.

27. **Current recreation and tourism:**

Accessed via a walking trail through Ferry Reach Park used by locals and tourists.

28. **Jurisdiction:**

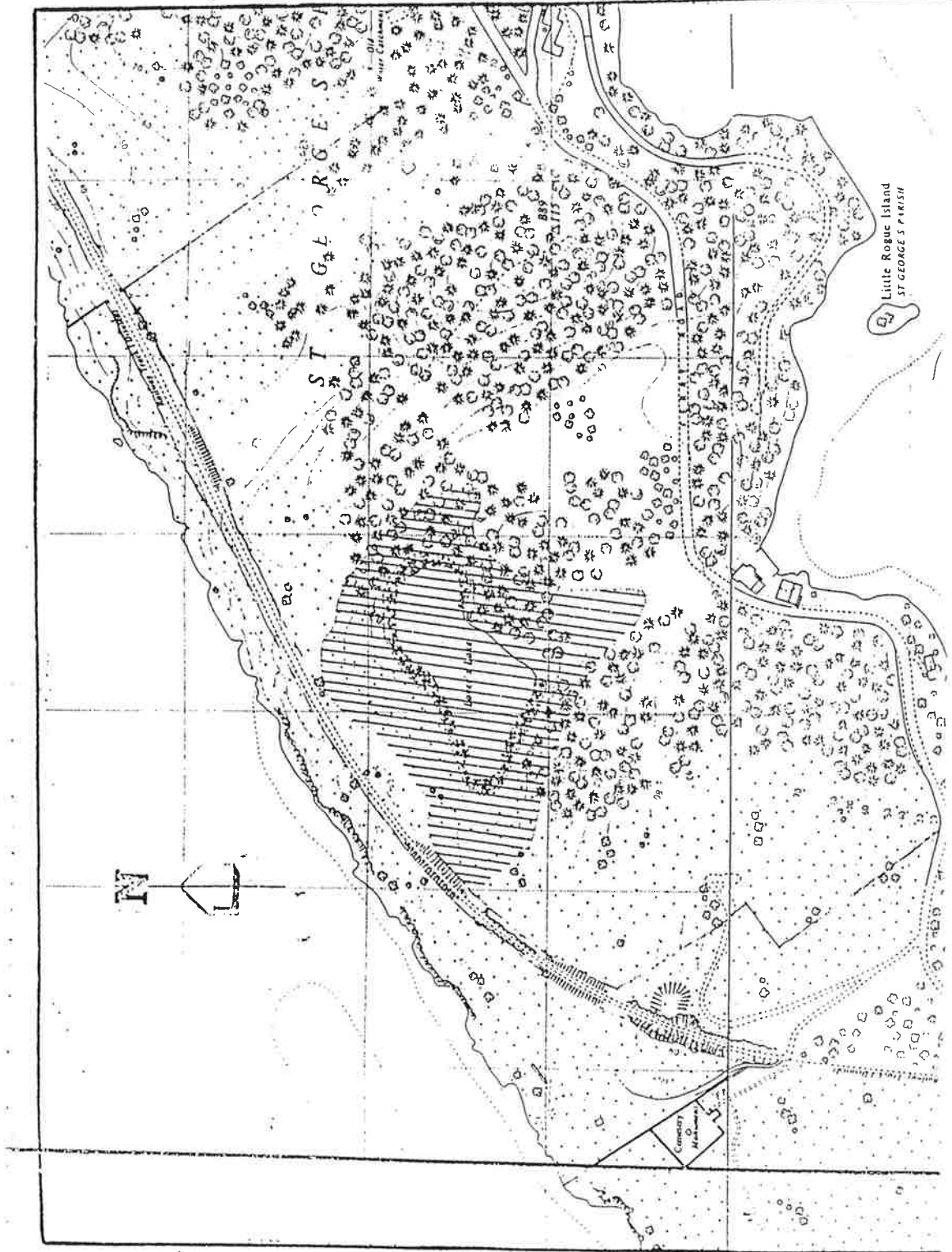
- a) Territorial – Government of Bermuda
 - b) Functional – Conservation Section, Bermuda Government
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29. **Management authority:**
Conservation Section
Bermuda Government
P.O. Box HM 834
Hamilton HM CX
Bermuda

30. **Bibliographical references:**

Scott, R.A. and Carbonell, Compilers. 1986. A Directory of Neotropical Wetlands. IUCN Cambridge and IWRB Slimbridge.

Thomas, M.L.H., Eakins, K.E. and Logan A. 1991. Physical characteristics of the Anchialine Ponds of Bermuda. *Bulletin of Marine Science* 48(1): 125-136.



LOVER'S LAKE NATURE RESERVE - FERRY REACH

SCALE 1/2500 DATE 28/1/80 DWG. NO. 5/9/19

EXTRACT FROM D.O.S. SHEETS NO. 5/9 & 5/13 DRAWN C.H.L.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. - HAMILTON BERMUDA

AREA OF LAND CROSS-HATCHED = 2.084 HA. (5.15AC)

