

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

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Site Reference Number

2. Country:

Sweden

3. Name of wetland:

Kilsviken

4. Geographical coordinates:

59°03'N, 014°04'E

5. Altitude: (average and/or max. & min.) 43 – 50 m

6. Area: (in hectares) 9 090 ha

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

The site includes three bays, with numerous islands, in the northeast of Lake Vänern. It is important for breeding wetland birds and it is also a spawning area for fish. The site is of national importance for nature conservation.

The site was classified as a Ramsar site in 1988 (8 910 ha) and was extended in 2001.

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 . Q . 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: O, Xf, M, 4

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: 3

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:

Lilian Granlund and Torsten Larsson, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, S-106 48 Stockholm, 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 (freshwater lake) in the EU Boreal region
 2. 1 globally redlisted bird species, >5 nationally redlisted bird species, mainly *Anatidae*
 3. Support particular elements of biological diversity that are characteristic of the EU Boreal region
 7. Supports significant proportions of fish species, including *Salmo salar*, *Salmo trutta* and *Esox lucius*, that are representative of wetland benefits.
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13. General location: (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

The site includes three bays; Kilsviken (the main embayment), Kolstrandsviken and Åråsviken. They are situated in the northeastern part of Lake Vänern, Sweden's largest lake, about 25 km south of the town of Kristinehamn. It is located in the Counties of Värmland and, to a lesser extent, Västra Götaland, in central southern Sweden. Municipalities: Gullspång, Kristinehamn.

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)

The nutrient status of the waters varies from oligotrophic to eutrophic. The whole complex of Åråsviken is composed of terminal moraine and ridges of glacio-fluvial deposits. Kolstrandsviken is composed of sand deposits and mudbanks. A large number of islands are included in the site.

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

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

Kilsviken is shallow, nutrient-rich, and has lush submerged vegetation. It is surrounded by broad belts of *Phragmites* and *Scirpus*, giving way to partially grazed meadows with stands of *Carex*. Kolstrandsviken is less rich in nutrients and supports limited areas of *Phragmites*. The inner sections of Åråsviken consist of extensive stands of *Phragmites* and small, forested islands, partly submerged terminal moraines and fluvio-glacial ridges.

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

The vegetation is complex and has elements of species and plant communities that are unusual in the county. Deciduous forests, consisting of among others oak *Quercus robur*, lime *Tilia cordata* and maple *Acer platanoides*, dominate the vegetation on the mainland and on the islands. The cryptogamous flora in the area is diverse.

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

Breeding wetland birds in the area include the black-throated diver *Gavia arctica* (EU Birds directive species), bittern *Botaurus stellaris* (EU Birds directive species), *Anas* spp., marsh harrier *Circus aeruginosus* (EU Birds directive species), osprey *Pandion haliaetus* (EU Birds directive species) and crane *Grus grus* (EU Birds directive species). *Anatidae* (some nationally redlisted) and wader species occur in nationally important numbers while staging on migration. Mammals include the beaver *Castor fiber* and the area, included River Gullspångsälven, is a spawning ground for trout *Salmo trutta* and a local subspecies of Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* (nationally redlisted, EU Habitats directive species). The white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* (globally and nationally redlisted, EU Birds directive species) is seen regularly in the area during all seasons.

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

The waters are frequently used for sport fishing.

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

(a) The area is owned privately.

(b) The surrounding area is mainly owned privately.

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

(a) Human activities in the site include grazing of cattle, recreation, agriculture and fishing.

(b) The surroundings consist of woods that are used for forestry, and some arable land. The open water of Lake Vänern, where fishing is a major activity, is bordering the site.

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) Increasing recreational use of the area may cause disturbance. Some of the sediments in the lake contain mercury originating from a nearby paper mill. However, this seems not to be a serious threat to wildlife in the area.

(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)

The site is listed as being of national importance for nature conservation. It includes three Nature Reserves, covering a total of 2 459 ha.

Nötån-Åråsviken Nature Reserve was established 1971, it covers 2 220 ha.

Inre Kilsviken Nature Reserve was established 1991 and covers 132 ha.

Vallholmen Nature Reserve was established 1985. It covers an area of 107 ha. The County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland manages this reserve.

All three reserves have management plans.

The introduction of deer *Cervus elaphus* in the Kilsviken reserve has increased the level of grazing, with beneficial results for nature conservation.

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

Natura 2000 sites within the area:

Vallholmen, SE0540120, is an approved SPA-site and covers an area of 160 ha.

Nötån-Åråsviken, SE0610010, is an approved SPA-site. The same area has also been proposed as an SCI-site, 2 190 ha.

Inre Kilsviken, SE0610004, has both been approved as SCI and SPA. The area covers 127 ha.

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

No activities.

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

None known.

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

None known.

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

County Administrative Board of Värmland

County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland

29. Management authority: (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)
County Administrative Board of Värmland
S-651 86 Karlstad
Sweden

30. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

- Axelsson, H. 1982. För vassberoende fåglar värdefulla lokaler i Väneren inom Värmlands län. Rapport 1982: 1, Länsstyrelsen i Värmlands län.
- Jonsson, O. 1981. Fortsatt inventering av skalbaggsfaunan inom naturreservatet Nötön-Åråsviken, Värmlands län. Rapport 1981: 5, Länsstyrelsen i Värmlands län.
- Neuendorf, M. 1978. Vegetationskarta över Kilsviken, Väneren. Rapport 1978: 3, Länsstyrelsen i Värmlands län
- Landgren, T. 1978. Inventering av de våtmarksberoende fågelarternas förekomst och fördelning vid Inre Kilsviken, Kristinehamns kommun. Rapport 1978: 1, Länsstyrelsen i Värmlands län.
- Månsson, K., Eriksson, B. & Westman, M. 1972. Nötön-Åråsviken, vegetationsbeskrivning. Rapport hos Länsstyrelsen i Värmlands län.
- Jonsson, O. 1971. Något om skalbaggsfaunan inom det planerade naturreservatet Nötön-Åråsviken. Rapport 1971: 5, Länsstyrelsen i Värmlands län.
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