

7AT 010



Ramsar Information Sheet
Lainsitz Valley Ponds, Peat Bogs and Floodplanes

Design. Date
12/22/1999

1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:
20.9.99

2. Country:
Austria

3. Name of wetland:
(Lainsitz valley ponds, peat bogs and floodplanes)
*RENAMED: "WALDVIERTEL PONDS, PEATBOGS AND FLOODPLAINES"
(LETTER FEB. 2000, SEE COUNTRY/SITE FILE)*

4. Geographical coordinates:
15°59' longitude
48°46' latitude

5. Altitude: (average and/or maximum and minimum)
472m - 870m a.s.l.

6. Area: (in hectares)
13.000 ha

7. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)
The site is situated in the south-easternmost part of the central European mountain region, and contains a number of small and large riverine, peat bog and pond wetlands. All together, it represents the area's water regime with the Lainsitz as common river forming a direct connection to the Czech Ramsar sites "Trebon fish ponds" and "Trebon peat bogs", is of prominent commercial value (ponds for fish production) and consists of semi-natural (river planes, peat bogs) or man-made (fish-ponds) habitats essential for the survival of endangered plant and animal species.

Rivers: Lainsitz, Reißbach, Braunaubach, Romaubach, Schwarzabach and Elexenbach (all contributors to the Lainsitz);
Peat bogs: Karstifter Moore, Gemeindeau, Rottalmoos, Schönauer Moor, Haslauer Moor, Schremser Moor;
Ponds: Bruneiteich, Winkelauer Teich, Haslauerteich, Gebhartsteich and the pond area Pürbach-Hoheneich.

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

- M Permanent rivers/streams/creeks; including waterfalls
- Tp permanent freshwater marshes/pools; ponds (below 8 ha), marshes and swamps on inorganic soils; with emergent vegetation water-logged for at least most of the growing season.
- Ts Seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes/pools on inorganic soil; includes sloughs, potholes, seasonally flooded meadows, sedge marshes
- U non-forested peatlands: includes shrub or open bogs, swamps, fens.
- Xp Forested peatlands: peatswamp forest

man-made:

1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

- 1 Aquaculture (e.g. fish/shrimp) ponds.
- 4 Seasonally flooded agricultural land

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant:

Most dominant: 1, U, M

Less dominant: Tp, Ts, Xp, 4

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

- 1a it is a particularly good representative example of a natural or near-natural wetland, characteristic of the appropriate biogeographical region;
- 1d it is an example of a specific type of wetland, rare or unusual in in the appropriate biogeographical region
- 2a it supports an appreciable assemblage of rare, vulnerable or endangered species or subspecies of plant or animal, or an appreciable number of individuals of any one or more of these species
- 2c it is of special value as the habitat of plants or animals at a critical stage of their biological cycle

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to this site: 1a

10. Map of site included? YES

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

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

The Ramsar site is characterised by a high species diversity, especially in the groups of plants, dragonflies, amphibians and birds. Rare species as the mammals *Lutra lutra* and *Micromys minutus*, the mussels *Margaritifera margaritifera* and *Unio crassus* and the crustacean *Astacus astacus* have to be specially mentioned.

Main parts of the site are designated Natura2000 sites both under the Birds Directive (Dir. 79/409/EEC) and under the Habitats and Species Directive (Dir. 92/43/EEC), the European Union's main nature conservation frameworks.

The site contains two rivers of national importance, with one of the largest floodplane forest areas in Lower Austria by the river Lainsitz.

It contains several peat bogs classified as being of international and national importance.

It is one of Austria's most important breeding areas for waterfowl and resting area for migrating birds and is part of the "Important Bird Area" net according to the EU's Birds Directive mentioned above.

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

Federal County: Lower Austria
District: Gmünd
North, east and South of the town of Gmünd

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 high plateau of the north-west Waldviertel is dominated by granite and gneiss. The annual precipitation is around 700 mm. The area is situated along the European water shed, the Lainsitz river is contributing to the north via the Moldau and Elbe into the North sea. Downstream of the Lainsitz area in Gmünd, the two Ramsar sites "Trebou fish ponds" and "Trebou peat bogs" are situated, around the town of Trebou and along river Lusnice (Czech word for Lainsitz) The fish-ponds date back as far as the 13th century and mostly have been used for fish-production continuously ever since. The ponds are drained annually in autumn, refilled and restocked immediately after harvesting. The production is extensive, the annual net growth of fish between 300 and 500 kg/ha. The depths of the ponds mostly does not exceed 5m. The peat bogs have been exploited by man over the past 200 years, draining peat bogs was common to make digging easier. The peat soil was mainly used as heating material in the glass industry till the end of the 19th century.

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

The rivers' and ponds' main value is flood control and water retention. Ponds and rivers act as hydrological buffer zone.

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

The site contains the following main vegetation types and habitats (as classified in the Dir. 92/43/EEC mentioned under pt. 12), **printed in bold letters are priority habitats under the Dir. 92/43:**

- oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoeto-Nanojuncetea*
- water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation
- Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clay-silt-laden soils (*Molinion careuleae*)
- Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels
- Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*)
- **Active raised bogs**
- Transition mires and quaking bogs
- **Bog woodland**
- Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*)

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

Surveys of the site have found the following species, endangered according to the national Red List)

Mosses

Aulacomnium palustre
Calliergon cordifolium
Calliergon stramineum
Polytrichum strictum
Riccia fluitans
Sphagnum angustifolium
Sphagnum cuspidatum
Sphagnum fallax
Sphagnum fimbriatum
Sphagnum flexuosum
Sphagnum papillosum
Sphagnum russowii
Sphagnum squarrosum
Sphagnum subsecundum

Vascular Plants:

Achillea ptarmica
Agrostis canina
Alchemilla filicaulis
Alopecurus geniculatus
Betula pubescens
Bromus racemosus agg.
Calamagrostis canescens
Calla palustris
Callitriche palustris agg.
Calycocorsus stipitatus
Cardamine matthioli
Carex canescens
Carex echinata
Carex elongata
Carex lasiocarpa
Carex pseudocyperus
Carex rostrata
Carex tumidicarpa
Carex vesicaria
Carex vulpina
Carlina acaulis
Cerastium arvense subsp. *arvense*
Cicuta virosa
Drosera rotundifolia
Eleocharis acicularis
Eleocharis palustris ssp. *palustris*
Epilobium obscurum
Epilobium tetragonum
Equisetum pratense
Eriophorum angustifolium
Eriophorum vaginatum
Glyceria fluitans
Glyceria maxima
Hypericum tetrapterum
Iris pseudoacorus
Juncus conglomeratus

Juncus filiformis
Juncus squarrosus
Leidum palustre
Lotus uliginosus
Lycopus europaeus
Lysimachia thrysiflora
Menyanthes trifoliata
Myosotis nemorosa
Nardus stricta
Nuphar lutea
Nuphar pumila
Nymphaea candida
Oenanthe aquatica
Parnassia palustris
Pedicularis palustris
Pedicularis sylvatica
Pepelis portula
Persicaria bistorta
Peucedanum palustre
Phyteuma nigrum
Pinus rotundata
Potamogeton natans
Potentilla palustris
Ranunculus auricomus
Ranunculus circinatus
Ranunculus flammula
Ranunculus polyanthemus
Rhinanthus serotinus
Salix pentandra
Salix viminalis
Saxifraga granulata
Scorzenera humilis
Scutellaria galericulata
Senecio aquaticus
Sparganium emersum
Spergularia rubra
Spiraea salicifolia
Stellaria palustris
Trifolium spadiceum
Typha angustifolia
Utricularia australis
Vaccinium oxycoccos
Vaccinium uliginosum
Veronica scutellata
Viola palustris

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

Surveys of the site have found the following species (species printed in bold letters are protected under the Birds Directive or Habitat and Species Directive (see pt. 12) and/or included in the European Red List):

Dragonflies:

Zygoptera

Fam. Calopterygidae

Calopteryx splendens

Calopteryx virgo

Fam. Lestidae

Lestes barbarus