

## Site 15 - Reesholm

### 15.1 Change of the site by project activities:

The site is a former Dunlin breeding. Probably due to overgrowth in the salt meadows the specie disappeared. The reintroduction of grazing started already before the project, but the grazing was inhibited by a net of ditches and the general problem of accessibility of the central plots in the site.

The of the project was toe improve the grazing by shifting fences, restore the hydrology by blocking ditches and to improve breeding success by fencing off a peninsula.

During expert visit it turned out that the meadow bird breeding community has nearly disappeared. The peninsula was free from breeding birds, so that the fox fence was not needed at the site.

The fences were removed in the north to allow better accessibility for the cattle to the central plots. This was quite successful and the grazing of the reed beds on overgrown salt meadows showing positive effects.

During the project the ditches have been overgrown so much, that cattle started to walk over the ditches. Cattle passages were not needed in that amount as in the planning phase foreseen.

In 2010 ditches were blocked successfully. By that action one lagoon was reactivated in the south of the peninsula. The material for the ditch blockings was taken from the natural depressions which were improved to retain more fresh water in the upper salt meadow.

Up to now only a few Lapwings and Redshanks are breeding at the site. But in the central area still some reeds are present and these are influencing the attractiveness of the site for meadow birds negatively. Also the ditches in the centre were not filled in because that might lead to a fast increase of water and a reduced grazing pressure in the reeds.

The strategy now for the development of salt meadows is: first to graze away the reed and re-establish a salt meadow and then secondly to re-activate former tidal streams by blocking ditches and scraping the tidal streams slightly to allow natural in- and outflow dynamics.



Aerial photo 2005



Grazed salt meadows 2010



Flood in 2010 at Schlei fjord



Test holes for restoration of depressions

By the grazing regime the spring/ summer grazing in the salt meadows is combined with autumn/ winter grazing both on salt meadows and on the drier parts on the former island of Reesholm. By this regime mat grassland on the former island had been developed into a good conservation status. The grazing of reed beds was improved by a new cattle bridge build in 2010.

### 15.2 Remaining challenges and actions:

The reactivation of the tidal was planned for Sept 2011, but due to very wet July and August the soil dried not again. So the site was too wet for the work. An important cattle bridge has to be replace due to erosion.

### 15.3 Public perception:

Public access to the site that is mainly owned by the Stiftung Naturschutz is limited to a small road and the observation platform at the northern edge. This is fully accepted by the public. The local municipality is cooperating with the Stiftung since many years in a constructive way.

The district nature conservation authority is supporting the project and permissions were donated formerly without problems. The reed mowing and especially the aim of reed removal was criticised by the head department of the conservation authority. Arguments as restoration and improvement of salt meadow habitats especially for the Dunlin, wherefore the site was designated for, were not accepted by that person. The person will be retired in June 2011 and then a new permission for reed mowing will be applied in autumn if necessary.



Open salt meadow with resting lapwings Sep. 2011