

Site 09: Hjelms hoved

9.1 Change of the site by project activities:

The northern half of the island and a strip along the south-coast are salt meadows that have not been grazed or mown for many years and in general they are completely overgrown. Locally around a coastal lagoon to the north, there was still well developed, fairly short salt meadow vegetation.

Although the site had not been grazed for more than 30 years and it was intended to start robust grazing during the project, an unexpected record of the of a short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*) put a preliminary stop to these considerations. As the species is depending on taller vegetation and grass, grazing could have negative effects on the population. Therefore, the idea of grazing is still being discussed but not forced at the moment until it is more clear, what effect on the owls is to be expected.

It is now agreed on to erect the fence and that it will be done in such a way that it both helps Avocets and amphibians but does not harm the short-eared owl.

9.2 Remaining challenges and actions:

To erect the fence and clean up the ponds

9.3 Public perception:

The island is being owned by 4 persons from the island of Hjortø. Previously they took part in fencing 60 hectares and implementing a grazing scheme within the LIFE-Bombina project from 2004 to 2009. They wanted to wait and evaluate the effects of these measures before they decide on the strategy on Hjelms hoved.

As one of the owners is also the inspector of the wildlife refuge at Hjelms hoved (northern part) and well aware of a potential conflict caused by grazing between the short-eared owl on the one hand, and amphibians, wader birds and meadow birds on the other hand, more time is needed to find a good solution for the site. Several visits were undertaken and several more are still foreseen for further discussions on this topic.