



---

## Project site fact sheet

---

### DK-01: Hjarnø

SPA: DK00DY036

pSCI: DK00DY156

Protection status:

- Protected under the Act on Nature Conservation (§3): 10.91 ha (35% of project site)

Habitats (% of project site):

- 1150 \* Coastal lagoons: 63% of project site
- 1330 Atlantic salt meadow (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima*): 37% of project site

Present species of special focus in this project:

- A132 Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*): 0-8 pairs
- Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*): staging
- Natterjack toad (*Bufo calamita*)

Other present species of interest:

- A194 Arctic tern (*Sterna paradisaea*): 50 pairs

Potential nature values:

- Habitat for up to 50 calling males of natterjack toad
- Breeding habitat for common gull
- Habitat for white sticky catchfly

Site description:

The project site *Odden* on Hjarnø consists of a 20 ha coastal lagoon (EU habitat 1150) with direct saltwater influence, bordered to the south by a one km long spit dominated by EU habitat 6210 'species-rich *Nardus* grasslands' (approximately 3 ha) with an extensive stand of Japanese rose (*Rosa rugosa*) and parts with lower vegetation consisting of e.g. sea wormwood (*Artemisia maritima*). East of the large coastal lagoon is an 8 ha fresh-brackish Atlantic salt meadow (EU habitat 1330). In the SE corner of the salt meadow is a small 0.6 ha coastal lagoon. In the large coastal lagoon there are 3 very small overgrown islands.

Species:

Historically common toad (*Bufo bufo*) and common frog (*Rana temporaria*) have both been seen about 50 years ago on the island. At present there is only one toad species left; the natterjack toad (*Bufo calamita*), but it is diminishing due to overgrowing of breeding sites and loss of foraging sites. One of the largest Danish colonies of common gulls (*Larus canus*) is found in the sea wormwood (*Artemisia maritima*) vegetation community on the spit south of the main lagoon, partly within the project site. In the western part of the spit there is a thriving population of white sticky catchfly (*Silene viscosa*), which is a local and quite rare species in Denmark.

#### Current situation:

The whole coastal meadow in the eastern part of the project area is insufficiently grazed. The eastern lagoon that is bordering the coastal meadow is fenced off from the present grazing area. Therefore most of the lagoon is overgrown with tall vegetation, and the grass litter is piling up on the coastal meadow and in the lagoon edges, which are the main breeding and foraging areas for the natterjack toad (*Bufo calamita*). Therefore the main habitat management needs both to keep the coastal lagoon and the Atlantic salt meadow in a good conservation condition and to safeguard the good living conditions of this target species. Thus the proper cattle-grazing regime has to be arranged. The dryer coastal areas are overgrown with Japanese rose. The present management of the Japanese rose is limited to a small area with "ship graves" made by stones in the younger Iron Age and it does not stop this alien species in enlarging its surface cover.

Several of the fields bordering the project site have been changed into permanent grassland during the last few years, which is supposed to limit the nutrient inflow to the eastern lagoon. Hjarnø is kept free of foxes by hunting, and this has the effect that large numbers of gulls and terns and smaller numbers of avocets are able to breed successfully on the island, most species only outside the project site, however.

#### Actions implementation:

1. Grazing of the fresh-brackish meadows surrounding the eastern lagoon
2. Cleaning the eastern lagoon from mud and rank vegetation
3. Digging a breeding pond for amphibians
4. Maintenance of an open coastal lagoon
5. Retaining a suitable salinity for breeding toads