

LIFE-BaltCoast



Project site fact sheet

DK-05: Urehoved, Dejrø

SPA: DK008X071

pSCI: DK008X201

Protection status:

- Protected under the Act on Nature Conservation (§3): 32,11 ha (87% of project site)

Habitats (% of project site):

- 1150 *Coastal lagoons: 22% of project site
- 1330 Atlantic salt meadow (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*): 78% of project site

Present species of special focus in this project:

- A132 Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*): 1 pair
- Green toad (*Bufo viridis*)

Other present species of interest:

- A194 *Sterna paradisaea*: 4 pairs

Potential nature values:

- The green toads have established a small population on Dejrø, which could increase in numbers in coming years. Possibly the natterjack toad could be reintroduced
- Reestablishment of populations of meadowbirds, avocets and tern at Urehoved
- Continued high diversity of the salt meadow vegetation

Site description:

Three large coastal lagoons (EU priority habitat 1150) are found in the project site covering approximately 8 ha in total (not fully included in the project site size calculation above). Of the remaining land area approximately 31 ha are Atlantic salt meadow (EU habitat 1330) with 10 ha on Dejrø and 21 ha on Urehoved, whereas 1 ha on Dejrø is EU habitat 6210 'species-rich *Nardus* grasslands'. The salt meadows, grasslands and the coastal lagoons are all depending on grazing and sometimes additional mowing in order to keep a favourable conservation condition.

Species:

The green toad (*Bufo viridis*) has colonized Dejrø recently and is attempting to colonize Urehoved as one animal was seen on the road here in 2005. However, on Urehoved the large meadow areas, shallow depressions and lagoons – the main breeding and foraging ground for the toads – are overgrown with rank vegetation. Moreover, there are no suitable breeding ponds for the amphibians available on Dejrø. Avocets (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) are irregular breeders on the island of Dejrø. Both sites are classified as very high botanical importance.

Current situation:

Urehoved: Agricultural use was abandoned some time in the 1970es or 1980es and the area grew over. The municipality of Ærøskøbing owned part of the land and was very interested in the correct management of the Urehoved wetland complex, which is situated very close to the town. In 1992 a fence was erected financed by Funen county, and grazing with ponies and sheep owned by the inhabitants of the nearby town of Ærøskøbing was initiated. Locally this grazing kept the vegetation low on the Atlantic salt meadows. However, later on it has been established that the grazing was far from sufficient to provide an open coastal lagoon habitat complex. Overgrowing of the lagoons and the depressions is preventing meadow birds and toads to use the area optimally.

Dejrø: Dejrø has several owners that use the island as a common grazing ground. In 2006, 14 young meat cattle grazed the island with a release date around 1 July. The lowest areas were well grazed, whereas the higher parts were more overgrown. The main northern coastal lagoon is connected to the sea by a pipe that allows draining of the lagoon when sea level is low and saltwater influence when sea water level is high.

Actions implementation:

1. Introduction of cattle grazing and increase and expansion of grazing on meadows in the project site at Urehoved
2. Increase the number of cattle grazing on Dejrø
3. Restoration of coastal lagoons by grazing at Urehoved
4. Restoration of a coastal lagoon by scraping at Urehoved
5. Digging and restoration of breeding ponds for toads on Dejrø
6. Blocking of ditches at Urehoved