



Project site fact sheet

DK-06: Halmø

SPA: DK008X071

pSCI: DK008X201

Protection status:

- Protected under the Act on Nature Conservation (§3): 12,91 ha (60% of project site)

Habitats (% of project site):

- 1150 *Coastal lagoons: 10% of project site
- 1330 Atlantic salt meadow (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*): 90% of project site

Present species of special focus in this project:

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

Other present species of interest:

- A194 *Sterna paradisaea*: 3 pairs
- A195 *Sterna albifrons*: 1 pair

Potential nature values:

- The large shallow sun-exposed lagoon on the west coast of the island has a great potential as the main breeding ground for the toads
- Re-establishment of good cattle grazing is of major importance for the possible future breeding of meadow birds, avocets and terns
- Re-establishment of cattle grazing is vital in order to keep the high diversity of the salt meadow vegetation

Site description:

Four larger coastal lagoons (EU priority habitat 1150) are found in the project site covering approximately 2 ha in total. Another app. 19 ha consists of Atlantic salt meadow (EU habitat 1330). Both the saltmarshes and the coastal lagoons need grazing and/or mowing in order to keep a favourable conservation condition.

Species:

The project site on Halmø is housing green toad (*Bufo viridis*) and natterjack toad (*Bufo calamita*), and in the past also a small number of avocets (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) were breeding. In addition the site has populations of hairy seablite (*Bassia hirsute*) and small red goosefoot (*Chenopodium botryodes*). Taking this into account, the habitat management at the site should be designed to favour these species.

Current situation:

The coastal meadows on Halmø were grazed until 1982. After 1982 traditional agriculture was abandoned and the island got new owners. Due to lack of management the coastal lagoons became overgrown and silted up. At the same time, the large meadow areas gradually became covered with rank vegetation and bushes. In 1992 summer grazing was reintroduced but due to problems with cattle transport to the island, it lasted only in some years. In 2004 the first meat cattle were brought to the island. In 2006, grazing with currently 15 Scottish highland cattle has opened and restored two coastal lagoons and parts of the meadows. Also the unwanted bush vegetation on the higher part of the island was affected negatively by grazing. Nevertheless, in order to restore all the coastal lagoons and the entire area of coastal meadows (saltmarshes) it will be necessary to increase the number of cattle and enlarge the area with grazing including two newly restored coastal lagoons, which were not grazed for 25 years since traditional agriculture was abandoned.

Actions implementation:

1. Increase and expansion of cattle grazing on Halmø
2. Restoration of three silted-up lagoons, digging and restoration of breeding ponds for toads
3. Cutting and burning of bushes on the higher part of the meadows