



---

## Project site fact sheet

---

### DK-12: Saltholm

SPA: DK002X110

pSCI: DK002X110

#### Protection status:

- Protected under the Act on Nature Conservation (§3): 368,75 ha (97% of project site)
- Protected by conservation order OFN 14/11-1990: 380,20 ha (100 % of project site)
- Protected by conservation order as state reserve No. 9: 14,15 ha (4 % of project site)
- Protected as reserve, conservation order of 2078-1993: 8,41ha (2 % of project site)

#### Habitats (% of project site):

- 1150 \* Coastal lagoons: 4% of project site
- 1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines: >1% of project site
- 1310 *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand covers: 1% of project site
- 1330 Atlantic salt meadow (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*): 95% of project site

#### Present species of special focus in this project:

- A132 Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*): 76 pairs
- A151 Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*): 9 pairs
- Baltic Dunlin (*Calidris alpina schinzii*): 3 pairs
- Natterjack toad (*Bufo calamita*)
- Green toad (*Bufo viridis*)

#### Other present species of interest:

- A045 (*Branta leucopsis*): 161 pairs
- Godwit (*Limosa limosa*): 19 pairs
- A193 Sandwich tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*): 0-1 pair
- A193 Common tern (*Sterna hirundo*): 40-45 pairs
- A194 Arctic tern (*Sterna paradisaea*): 88 pairs
- A195 Little tern (*Sterna albifrons*): 40-50 pairs
- A222 Short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*): 2 pairs
- Blue iris (*Iris spuria*)

#### Potential nature values:

- With the right management, this will also in the future be a key site for water birds and amphibians
- With increased public awareness, the site could be of great recreational value

#### Site description:

The island is mostly covered with Atlantic salt meadows and with numerous Coastal lagoons. Saltholm only rises about 1 m above sea level and large parts of the island are flooded annually during winter storms.

#### Species:

On the island are important bird colonies, e.g. the biggest colony of common eider (*Somateria mollissima*) in Europe. The site is of international importance as a breeding site for avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*), ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), and common tern (*Sterna hirundo*). Arctic tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) and little tern (*Sterna albifrons*) also breed at the site. Since 1992 barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*) has established a small breeding colony and today Saltholm harbour contains nearly the whole Danish breeding population of barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*). The breeding population of avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) is of international significance. Since 1995 marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) has been found breeding, and baltic dunlin (*Calidris alpina schinzii*), which is on the Danish red list, is also breeding at the site. During winter and especially migration period huge numbers of water birds are resting in the shallow sea surrounding the island. In addition, Saltholm is one of only two places near Copenhagen with breeding natterjack toad (*Bufo calamita*). The population is considered highly endangered, though. The population of green toad (*Bufo viridis*) is significantly larger at present. In the northern part of the island are growing the highly endangered sea mouse-ear (*Cerastium diffusum subtetrandum*) and blue iris (*Iris spuria*) (both species are on the Danish red list of plants).

#### Current situation:

The island is used as summer pasture for cattle, horses, sheep and geese, which are ferried to the island. The island is made of limestone, and large areas are characterized by shallow ponds created by partly infilling of former lime quarries. Quarrying was largely discontinued around 1890 and the last attempt was abandoned in 1934. At the east coast small agricultural plots (abandoned today) are surrounded by stonewalls to keep cattle out of the fields.

During storms most of the island may be flooded by seawater, except few artificial hills constructed by former army activities or by farmers as rescue sites for the life stock. Flooding, evaporation, precipitation etc. create highly dynamic salinity in the wetlands on Saltholm. Lagoons along the coast are always close to salinity level in the sea, whereas wetlands in the central parts of the island normally are low with high variation depending on season and weather. During hot summers nearly all wetlands dries out and the life stock must seek water in few deep waterholes and pumping facilities.

Presently, the lagoons and natural depressions are overgrowing due to lack of maintenance. The area would benefit from a changed grazing regime.

#### Actions implementation:

1. Continued mowing
2. Cattle grazing