



NATURA 2000 - STANDARD DATA FORM

For Special Protection Areas (SPA),
Proposed Sites for Community Importance (pSCI),
Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and

for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SITE BG0002024
SITENAME Ribarnitsi Mechka

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [1. SITE IDENTIFICATION](#)
- [2. SITE LOCATION](#)
- [3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION](#)
- [4. SITE DESCRIPTION](#)
- [5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS](#)
- [6. SITE MANAGEMENT](#)
- [7. MAP OF THE SITE](#)

1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type	1.2 Site code	Back to top
A	BG0002024	

1.3 Site name

Ribarnitsi Mechka

1.4 First Compilation date	1.5 Update date
2005-10	2022-11

1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation:	Ministry of Environment and Water, "National Nature Protection Service" Directorate
Address:	Sofia Kn. Maria Luiza Blvd. 22 1000 Sofia
Email:	natura2000@moew.government.bg

1.7 Site indication and designation / classification dates

Date site classified as SPA:	2007-03
National legal reference of SPA designation	Site classified as SPA by Council of Ministers Decision No. 122/02.03.2007 (promulgated SG 21/2007).

Explanation(s):	Site classified as SPA by Council of Ministers Decision No. 122/02.03.2007 (promulgated SG 21/2007). Issued designation order by the Minister of Environment and Water with prohibitions and restrictions on activities contradicting the conservation objectives of the site - Order No. RD - 561/05.09.2008 (promulgated SG 84/2008), amended and supplemented by Order No RD - 1041/3.11.2022 (promulgated SG 89/2022).
------------------------	--

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

[Back to top](#)

Longitude 25.7097 Latitude 43.6831

2.2 Area [ha]: 2.3 Marine area [%]

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code

Region Name

BG32

Северен централен / Severen tsentralen

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Continental (100.0
%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

[Back to top](#)

3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them

3.2 Species referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC and site evaluation for them

Species					Population in the site					Site assessment				
G	Code	Scientific Name	S	NP	T	Size		Unit	Cat.	D. qual.	A B C D	A B C		
						Min	Max				Pop.	Con.	Iso.	Glo.
B	A402	Accipiter brevipes			c	1	10	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A086	Accipiter nisus			p	1	1	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A086	Accipiter nisus			c				P	DD	C	B	C	C
B	A086	Accipiter nisus			w		1	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A294	Acrocephalus paludicola			c		1	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A229	Alcedo atthis			c	1	2	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A229	Alcedo atthis			p	2	6	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A054	Anas acuta			w		129	i		G	B	B	C	B
B	A054	Anas acuta			c	10	40	i		G	B	B	C	B
B	A050	Anas penelope			w		400	i		G	B	C	C	A
B	A050	Anas penelope			c	23	40	i		G	C	C	C	A
B	A053	Anas platyrhynchos			w		5000	i		G	B	B	C	C
B	A053	Anas platyrhynchos			p	1	2	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A053	Anas platyrhynchos			c	2	628	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A394	Anser albifrons albifrons			w	30	3000	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A394	Anser albifrons albifrons			c		90	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A043	Anser anser			c		9	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A043	Anser anser			w		26	i		G	B	B	C	B
B	A042	Anser erythropus			w		1	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A039	Anser fabalis			w	1	2	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A091	Aquila chrysaetos			c		2	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A404	Aquila heliaca			c		2	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A773	Ardea alba			c	3	76	i		G	B	B	C	B
B	A773	Ardea alba			w	1	12	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A028	Ardea cinerea			r	1	5	p		G	C	B	C	C

B	A230	Merops apiaster			c	10	50	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A230	Merops apiaster			r	50	150	p		G	C	A	C	B
B	A875	Microcarbo pygmaeus			r		17	p		G	C	C	C	C
B	A875	Microcarbo pygmaeus			c	66	140	i		M	C	B	C	C
B	A875	Microcarbo pygmaeus			w	1	20	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A073	Milvus migrans			r	1	1	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A073	Milvus migrans			c				P	DD	C	B	C	C
B	A160	Numenius arquata			c		2	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A023	Nycticorax nycticorax			r		37	p		G	B	B	C	B
B	A023	Nycticorax nycticorax			c	10	77	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A094	Pandion haliaetus			c	2	4	i		G	B	B	C	C
B	A020	Pelecanus crispus			w	12	55	i		G	B	A	B	A
B	A072	Pernis apivorus			r	1	1	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A072	Pernis apivorus			c				P	DD	C	B	C	C
B	A391	Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis			c	40	1400	i		G	B	B	C	C
B	A391	Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis			r		220	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A034	Platalea leucorodia			r		24	p		G	B	A	C	B
B	A034	Platalea leucorodia			c	1	20	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A032	Plegadis falcinellus			c	1	22	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A141	Pluvialis squatarola			c		40	i		G	A	B	C	C
B	A005	Podiceps cristatus			w	3	25	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A005	Podiceps cristatus			r		1	p		G	C	B	C	B
B	A005	Podiceps cristatus			c	28	150	i		G	B	B	C	B
B	A006	Podiceps grisegena		X	r		3	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A006	Podiceps grisegena			c		5	i		G	C	C	C	C
B	A008	Podiceps nigricollis			c		2	i		G	C	C	C	C
B	A008	Podiceps nigricollis		X	r		1	p		G	C	A	C	C
B	A119	Porzana porzana			r	2	2	p		G	C	B	C	B
B	A132	Recurvirostra avosetta			c	6	25	i		G	C	A	C	C
B	A249	Riparia riparia			r	150	250	p		G	C	A	C	C
B	A857	Spatula clypeata			c	22	50	i		G	C	C	C	B
B	A856	Spatula querquedula			c	78	120	i		G	A	B	C	B
B	A856	Spatula querquedula			r		1	p		G	C	B	C	B
B	A193	Sterna hirundo			c	2	15	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A885	Sternula albifrons			c		7	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A004	Tachybaptus ruficollis			c	6	42	i		G	B	B	C	C
B	A004	Tachybaptus ruficollis			r		1	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A004	Tachybaptus ruficollis			w	2	4	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A397	Tadorna ferruginea			r		1	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A397	Tadorna ferruginea			c	6	12	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A048	Tadorna tadorna			c		20	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A161	Tringa erythropus			c	28	45	i		G	B	B	C	C
B	A166	Tringa glareola			c	10	40	i		G	B	B	C	B
B	A164	Tringa nebularia			c	7	15	i		G	B	B	C	B
B	A165	Tringa ochropus			r		1	p		G	C	B	C	C

B	A165	Tringa ochropus			c	2	20	i		G	B	B	C	B
B	A163	Tringa stagnatilis			c	18	20	i		G	B	A	C	C
B	A162	Tringa totanus			c	5	50	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A142	Vanellus vanellus			c	15	600	i		G	A	B	C	A
B	A142	Vanellus vanellus			r		8	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A893	Zapornia pusilla			c	2	2	i		G	C	B	C	A
B	A893	Zapornia pusilla			r	1	1	p		G	C	B	C	A

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, I = Invertebrates, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Type:** p = permanent, r = reproducing, c = concentration, w = wintering (for plant and non-migratory species use permanent)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the Standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting (see [reference portal](#))
- **Abundance categories (Cat.):** C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present - to fill if data are deficient (DD) or in addition to population size information
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation); VP = 'Very poor' (use this category only, if not even a rough estimation of the population size can be made, in this case the fields for population size can remain empty, but the field "Abundance categories" has to be filled in)

3.3 Other important species of flora and fauna (optional)

Species					Population in the site				Motivation					
Group	CODE	Scientific Name	S	NP	Size		Unit	Cat.	Species Annex		Other categories			
					Min	Max		C R V P	IV	V	A	B	C	D
B	A218	Athene noctua			1	1	p						X	
B	A251	Hirundo rustica			5	5	p						X	
B	A383	Miliaria calandra			55	55	p						X	
B	A214	Otus scops			2	2	p						X	

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, Fu = Fungi, I = Invertebrates, L = Lichens, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **CODE:** for Birds, Annex IV and V species the code as provided in the reference portal should be used in addition to the scientific name
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting, (see [reference portal](#))
- **Cat.:** Abundance categories: C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present
- **Motivation categories:** IV, V: Annex Species (Habitats Directive), A: National Red List data; B: Endemics; C: International Conventions; D: other reasons

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

4.1 General site character

[Back to top](#)

Habitat class	% Cover
N06	45.0
N09	10.0
N07	
N23	3.0
N08	7.0
N12	1.0
N21	1.0
N16	30.0
N15	1.0

N20	2.0
N22	
Total Habitat Cover	NaN

Other Site Characteristics

Former marshlands near the Danube that have been turned into fishponds, overgrown with marsh vegetation, together with the mouth of a small river in the areas western end and the section of the Danube River between km 522 516, including two islands. It is located at about 4-5 km west of the village of Mechka. On the north the site limit follow the state border, on the south and west it is surrounded by the slopes of the high Danube bank, on the east it reaches the summer residential area of Stulpishte. Batin island is located against the western end of the fishponds, and Bezimenen Island against their eastern end. The appearance of the site is determined by the fishponds, overgrown with marsh hygrophytes and hydrophytes, mostly reed *Phragmites australis*, *Trapa natans*, *Nymphaea alba*, at places reed mace *Typha* spp., different grasses and shrubs. Orchard and poplar trees are planted on the dykes, including on the Danube dyke. The fishponds are surrounded by wet meadows, dominated by *Festuca pratensis*, *Poa sylvicola* etc. Their slopes are overgrown with mixed broadleaved woods of *Fraxinus ornus*, *Tilia tomentosa*, *Ulmus minor*, at places *Acer campestris* (Bondev 1991). South of the slopes the terrain is plain, occupied by farmland.

4.2 Quality and importance

Mechka fishponds together with the two islands next to it are typical complex along the Danube River, which provides valuable habitats for waterbirds during the breeding, wintering and migration. It supports 177 bird species, 62 of which are listed in the Red Data Book for Bulgaria (1985). Of the birds occurring there 84 species are of European conservation concern (SPEC) (BirdLife International, 2004), 12 of them being listed in category SPEC 1 as globally threatened, 19 in SPEC 2 and 53 in SPEC 3 as species threatened in Europe. The area provides suitable habitats for 71 species, included in Annex 2 of the Biodiversity Act, which need special conservation measures, of which 63 are listed also in Annex I of the Birds Directive. Mechka fishponds are of global importance for the breeding Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* and of international importance for the breeding Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*. It is one of the four places in Bulgaria where the Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* breeds. During migration and in winter they are of considerable value for the Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* and Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* (both globally threatened species), as well as for the Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*. Although rarely, 5 more globally threatened species can be observed there the Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga*, the Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* and Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* during migration and the Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* and the Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis* in winter. The fishponds are one of the most important sites in the country at European Union level for the Ferruginous Duck, the Little Bittern, the Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*, the Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*, the Dalmatian Pelican, the Pygmy Cormorant and the Cormorant.

4.3 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

Negative Impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
M	F02.03		o
M	A05.01		o
M	A04		i
M	A04		o
H	F03.01		i
H	K01.03		i
M	B01		o
L	F03.02.03		o
H	K01.02		i
M	F02.01.02		o
M	C01.01		o
H	F02.01.02		i
L	F03.02.01		i
M	F03.02.03		i
H	A03		i
M	F03.02.01		o
H	A07		o
M	A03		o
M	A05.02		o
L	D03.02		o
H	B02.02		i
L	B02.04		i

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside /outside [i o b]
L	F03.02.01		i
M	A03		o
M	A05.01		o
M	A04		o
M	A05.02		o
M	A05.02		i
L	E01.02		i
L	D01.02		i
M	A04		i
M	F03.01		o
M	F03.02.01		o
M	C01.01		o
H	A07		o
L	B02.04		i
M	F02.03		i
M	B01		o
M	F02.03		o
M	F02.01.02		o
H	B02.02		i

L	E01.02		i
M	F03.01		o
M	F02.03		i
L	D01.02		i
M	A05.02		i

Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low

Pollution: N = Nitrogen input, P = Phosphor/Phosphate input, A = Acid input/acidification,

T = toxic inorganic chemicals, O = toxic organic chemicals, X = Mixed pollutions

i = inside, o = outside, b = both

4.4 Ownership (optional)

4.5 Documentation

Initial proposal and description of the site made by Viktor Vasilev, Ivan Mitev - Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds, Bulgaria, 1111 Sofia, P.O.Box 50, phone (+359 2) 9715855, fax (+359 2) 9715856, www.bspb.org .Data revised by a team of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (http://www.bas.bg).Documents: BDZP/BirdLife Balgariya. 2005. Nacionalna banka za ornitologichna informacia 1988-2005, Balgarsko Druzhestvo za zastita na pticite;Bondev, I. 1991. Rastitelnostta na Balgariya. S. Universitetsko izdatelstvo Sv. Kliment Ohridski, 183 s.;Botev, B. and Tz. Peshev, (eds). 1985. Red Data Book of Republic Bulgaria. 2: Animals. Sofia: Bulgarian Academy of Science. (In Bulgarian.);Iankov, P. 2002.(red.). Svetovno zastrasheni vidove ptitsi v Balgariya. Natsionalni planove za deystvie za opazvaneto im. Chast 1. BDZP-MOSV, Prirodozashtitna poreditsa, Kn. 4, Sofiya: 204-219.;Kostadinova, I. (sast.) 1997. Ornitologichno vazhni mesta v Balgariya. BDZP, Prirodozashtitna poreditsa. Kniga 1, BDZP, Sofiya, 176 s.;Nikolov, Hr., S. Marin, A. Darakchiev. 1999. Malkiyat kormoran v Balgariya. Razprostranenie, chislenost i zaplahi. Nauch. Tr. Plov. Univ., Animaliya, 35, 6, 67-81.;Petkov, N. 1997b. Savremenno sastoyanie na belookata potapnitsa (Aythya nyroca) v Balgariya. Diplomna rabota, Biologicheski Fakultet pri SU Sv. Kl. Ohridski, Sofiya, 104 s.;Petrov, .Ts 1997b. Belyat shtarkel (Ciconia ciconia) v Balgariya. Prirodozashtitna poreditsa, Kniga 2, BDZP, Plovdiv.;BirdLife International. 2000. Threatened birds of the world. Barcelona and Cambridge, UK: Lynx Edicions and BirdLife International, 695pp.;Birdlife International (2004) Birds in Europe: Population estimates, trends and conservation status. Cambridge, UK: Birdlife International (Birdlife Conservation Series No. 12).;BirdLife International. 2005. World Bird Database Important Birds Areas.Bulgaria. Cambridge. (unpublished);Grimmet, R. F. A., R. T. A. Jones. 1989. Important Bird Areas in Europe. Cambridge, U.K.: ICBP (ICBP Technical Publication No9);Heath, M.F. and Evans, M.I., eds. 2000. Important Bird Areas in Europe: Priority sites for conservation, vol. 2 Southern Europe. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International (BirdLife Conservation Series No. 8).;Iankov, P., N. Petkov, A. Kovachev, D. Plachiisky. (in print). Pygmy Cormorant in Bulgaria 2001/2002. Final Report.;Kouzmanov, G. 1996. L`Aigle pomarin Aquila pomarina en Bulgarie. In: Meyburg, B.-U. & R. D. Chancellor eds. Eagle Studies. World Working Group on Birds of Prey (WWGBP), Berlin, London & Paris, 319-326.;Kostadinova, I., S.Dereliev. 2001. Results the Mid-Winter Counts of Waterbirds in Bulgaria for the period 1997- 2001. BSPB Conservation Series. Book 3, BSPB, Sofia, BG;Kostadinova, I., M. Mihailov, (comp.) 2002. Guide for NATURA 2000 in Bulgaria. BSPB nature conservation series No5. BSPB, Sofia, 80pp. (In Bulgarian.);Kostadinova, I. 2005. Application of C criteria for Identification of Important Bird Areas of European Union importance in Bulgaria. Preliminarily implementation and analysis of the gaps. In: Petrova, A. (ed.), Current state of Bulgarian biodiversity problems and perspectives. Pp. 533-548. Bulgarian Bioplatform, Sofia;MOEW. 1998. CORINE Biotopes Database of the sites of European Importance for the biodiversity. Bulgaria, MOSV (nepubl.);Osieck, E. 2000 Filling in the requirements of the EU Birds Directive: Lessons from the Dutch Case. In: European IBA Workshop. 29 March - 2 April 2000, Brussels, Belgium. Proceedings. BirdLife International, 86-99;Petkov, N. 1998a. Current Status of the Ferruginous Duck (Aythya nyroca) in Bulgaria. Partimadar, 6-7, MME, Budapest, 4449.;Waliczky, Z. 2000 Important Bird Areas of European Union Importance: explanation of the EU Criteria applied in IBA 2000 In: European IBA Workshop. 29 March - 2 April 2000, Brussels, Belgium. Proceedings. BirdLife International, 12-16;Site-specific Conservation Objectives for Natura 2000 site BG000002024.

Link(s): <http://natura2000.moew.government.bg/Home/ProtectedSite?code=BG0002024&siteType=BirdsDirective>

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

[Back to top](#)

Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
BG06	0.6	BG03		BG00	99.4

5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

designated at national or regional level:

Type code	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
BG03	DEKILI TASH	/	
BG06	DOYCHOV OSTROV	+	0.6

designated at international level:

Type	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
Other	IBA	=	100.0

5.3 Site designation (optional)

The area does not have legal protection by the national conservation legislation. In 1998 the fishponds themselves and the Batin Island are appointed as CORINE Sites because of their European value for habitats, rare and threatened plant and animal species, including birds. The CORINE Sites cover more than 60% of the area proposed as SPA. In 1997 the area is appointed as Important Bird Area by BirdLife International. The proposed SPA borders a proposed Special Protection Area in Romania.

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

[Back to top](#)

Organisation:	Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water -Ruse;Danubean River Basin Directorate
Address:	
Email:	

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> No, but in preparation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

7. MAP OF THE SITES

[Back to top](#)

INSPIRE ID:

Map delivered as PDF in electronic format (optional)

Yes No

Reference(s) to the original map used for the digitalisation of the electronic boundaries (optional).