



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 **BG0002018**
SITENAME **Ostrov Vardim**

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

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1.1 Type	1.2 Site code
C	BG0002018

1.3 Site name

Ostrov Vardim

1.4 First Compilation date	1.5 Update date
2005-10	2018-12

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).
Date site proposed as SCI:	2007-03
Date site confirmed as SCI:	2008-12
Date site designated as SAC:	No data

National legal reference of SAC designation:

No data

Explanation(s):

Site classified as SPA by Council of Ministers Decision No. 122/02.03.2007 (promulgated SG 21/2007) overlapping with pSCI BG0000204 "Vardim" adopted by the same Council of Ministers Decision. Issued designation order by the Minister of Environment and Water with prohibitions and restrictions on activities contradicting the conservation objectives of the SPA – Order No. RD – 560/05.09.2008 (promulgated SG 84/2008). With Council of Ministers Decision № 335/26.05.2011 (promulgated SG 41/2011) changes in the boundaries of SCI BG0000204 "Vardim" were adopted, so that its boundaries completely coincide with those of SPA BG00002018 "Ostrov Vardim" and a C-type site was formed. After the change only the name and site code of the SPA are retained.

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2. SITE LOCATION

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2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude

25.4803

Latitude

43.6294

2.2 Area [ha]:

1167.5509

2.3 Marine area [%]

0.0

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

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3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them

Annex I Habitat types						Site assessment			
Code	PF	NP	Cover [ha]	Cave [number]	Data quality	A B C D	A B C		
						Representativity	Relative Surface	Conservation	Global
6430F			3.07		M	A	C	B	B
91E0F			151.86		M	A	C	B	A
91F0F			128.31		M	A	C	B	A

PF: for the habitat types that can have a non-priority as well as a priority form (6210, 7130, 9430) enter "X" in the column PF to indicate the priority form.

NP: in case that a habitat type no longer exists in the site enter: x (optional)

Cover: decimal values can be entered

Caves: for habitat types 8310, 8330 (caves) enter the number of caves if estimated surface is not available.

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)

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	A168	Actitis hypoleucos			c		1	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A229	Alcedo atthis			p	4	10	p		G	C	A	C	C
F	4125	Alosa immaculata			r	13453	13453	i	P	G	C	B	C	B
B	A053	Anas platyrhynchos			w		305	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A053	Anas platyrhynchos			c	9	350	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A041	Anser albifrons			c		68	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A041	Anser albifrons			w		123	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A043	Anser anser			w		15	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A089	Aquila pomarina			r	1	1	p		G	C	A	C	C
B	A028	Ardea cinerea			r	8	20	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A028	Ardea cinerea			w		1	i		G	C	B	C	C
F	1130	Aspius aspius			p	1789	1789	i	C	G	C	A	B	A
A	1188	Bombina bombina			p	5	5	localities	R	M	C	A	C	B
B	A136	Charadrius dubius			c	4	13	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A031	Ciconia ciconia			r	2	2	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A031	Ciconia ciconia			c	10	10	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A030	Ciconia nigra			c	4	10	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A080	Circaetus gallicus			c	10	10	i		G	C	B	C	C
F	1149	Cobitis taenia			p	4545240	4545240	area	P	G	C	A	C	A
I	4045	Coenagrion ornatum			p	1	1	localities	R	G	C	B	C	B
B	A231	Coracias garrulus			r	3	7	p		G	C	A	C	C
B	A236	Dryocopus martius			p	1	2	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A027	Egretta alba			w		2	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A027	Egretta alba			r		3	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A026	Egretta garzetta			r		25	p		G	C	B	C	A
B	A026	Egretta garzetta			c	10	10	i		G	C	B	C	A
R	5194	Elaphe sauromates			p			localities	P	DD	C	C	C	C
R	1220	Emys orbicularis			p	4	4	localities	V	P	C	A	C	B
F	2484	Eudontomyzon mariae			p	2489500	2489500	area	V	P	C	A	A	A
B	A511	Falco cherrug			r		1	i		G	B	B	B	B
B	A099	Falco subbuteo			c				P	DD	C	B	C	C
B	A099	Falco subbuteo			r	3	3	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A096	Falco tinnunculus			c				P	DD	C	B	C	C
B	A096	Falco tinnunculus			p	1	1	p		G	C	B	C	C

B	A097	Falco vespertinus			c				P	DD	C	B	C	C
F	2555	Gymnocephalus baloni			p	3923430	3923430	area	P	P	C	A	B	B
F	1157	Gymnocephalus schraetzer			p	4378800	4378800	area	P	P	C	A	B	A
B	A075	Haliaeetus albicilla			p		1	p		G	C	B	C	B
B	A022	Ixobrychus minutus			c		1	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A338	Lanius collurio			r	20	20	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A339	Lanius minor			r	6	6	p		G	C	A	C	C
B	A459	Larus cachinnans			c	40	48	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A182	Larus canus			c		1	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A176	Larus melanocephalus			c	1	2	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A179	Larus ridibundus			c	30	750	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A179	Larus ridibundus			w		3	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A156	Limosa limosa			c	5	5	i		G	C	B	C	C
M	1355	Lutra lutra			p	1	2	i	C	G	C	A	C	A
B	A070	Mergus merganser			w		8	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A230	Merops apiaster			c				P	DD	C	B	C	C
B	A073	Milvus migrans			r	1	1	p		G	C	A	C	C
B	A023	Nycticorax nycticorax			r		1	p		G	B	A	C	A
B	A094	Pandion haliaetus			c	1	1	i		G	C	B	C	C
F	2522	Pelecus cultratus			p	4480000	4480000	area	P	P	C	B	B	B
B	A072	Pernis apivorus			c	10	10	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A072	Pernis apivorus			r	1	1	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A017	Phalacrocorax carbo			w	1	98	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A017	Phalacrocorax carbo			r		31	p		G	B	A	C	A
B	A393	Phalacrocorax pygmeus			w		35	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A393	Phalacrocorax pygmeus			r		2	p		G	C	A	C	C
B	A034	Platalea leucorodia			r		3	p		G	B	B	C	A
B	A005	Podiceps cristatus			c		1	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A005	Podiceps cristatus			w		1	i		G	C	B	C	C
F	5339	Rhodeus amarus			p	4520000	4520000	area	P	G	C	A	C	B
F	5329	Romanogobio vladykovi			p	4483600	4483600	area	C	P	C	A	B	A
R	1219	Testudo graeca			p	1	1	localities	V	P	C	C	C	C
B	A165	Tringa ochropus			c		1	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A163	Tringa stagnatilis			c		1	i		G	C	B	C	C

B	A162	Tringa totanus			c	1	9	i		G	C	B	C	C
A	1993	Triturus dobrogicus			p			localities	P	DD	C	A	C	A
F	1160	Zingel streber			p	4476600	4476600	area	P	P	C	A	B	A
F	1159	Zingel zingel			p	4476600	4476600	area	P	P	C	A	B	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
F		Acipenser gueldenstaedti						P					X	
F		Acipenser ruthenus						P					X	
F		Acipenser stellatus						P					X	
B		Acrocephalus arundinaceus						P			X			
B		Acrocephalus schoenobaenus						P			X			
B		Acrocephalus scirpaceus						P			X			
B		Asio otus						P			X			
F		Barbus barbus						C						X
A		Bufo viridis						P			X			
B		Carduelis carduelis						P			X			
B		Carduelis spinus						P			X			
B		Coccothraustes coccothraustes						P			X			
R		Coluber caspius						P			X			
M		Crocodylus leucodon						C					X	
M		Crocodylus suaveolens						C					X	
B		Cuculus canorus						C			X			
F		Cyprinus carpio						C			X			
B		Dendrocopos major						P			X			

B		Dendrocopos minor						P			X			
B		Emberiza cia						P			X			
M		Erinaceus concolor						P			X			
M		Felis silvestris						P			X			
I		Glaucopsyche alexis						P						X
I		Heteropterus morpheus						P						X
F		Huso huso						P					X	
A		Hyla arborea						C			X			
R		Lacerta trilineata						P					X	
R		Lacerta viridis						C					X	
B		Locustella luscinioides						P			X			
B		Luscinia luscinia						P			X			
B		Motacilla alba						C			X			
B		Motacilla flava						C			X			
M		Mustela nivalis						C			X			
M		Nannospalax leucodon						P					X	
R		Natrix tessellata						C					X	
M		Neomys anomalus						C					X	
B		Oriolus oriolus						P			X			
B		Parus major						P			X			
A		Pelobates fuscus						P			X			
A		Pelobates syriacus						C					X	
B		Phylloscopus bonelli						P			X			
B		Phylloscopus collybita						P			X			
B		Phylloscopus sibilatrix						P			X			
B		Phylloscopus trochilus						P			X			
R		Podarcis taurica						C					X	
B		Prunella modularis						P			X			
A		Rana dalmatina						R					X	
F		Silurus glanis						C					X	
B		Sitta europaea						P			X			
F		Stizostedion volgense						R			X			
B		Sylvia borin						P			X			
B		Sylvia communis						P			X			
B		Sylvia curruca						P			X			
F		Syngnathus abaster						P					X	

B		Troglodytes troglodytes						P			X			
R		Vipera ammodytes						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

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Habitat class	% Cover
N15	1.0
N08	10.0
N06	41.0
N04	3.0
N09	0.0
N16	45.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

The site includes an island on the Danube river and an adjacent smaller island. The island of Vardim is the third biggest Bulgarian island along the Danube. It is situated on the Danube River from km 546 to km 542, east of the town of Svishtov and north of the village of Vardim. Some of its banks are surrounded by sand shallows. It is formed by fluvial alluvium. In case of high waters it is overflowed. It is covered by willows, hybrid poplars, elms and Vardim Oaks. Vardim Island is almost entirely covered with natural riparian forest, which in its western part was cut and turned into poplar plantation. The main habitat on the island is a natural floodplain forest with complex structure. Unique for the site is the association of *Quercus robur*, *Quercus pedunculiflora* and *Ulmus laevis*. In the oak part of the forest there is undergrowth with the participation of *Amorpha fruticosa*, etc. The rest of the island is dominated by White /*Populus alba*/ and Black Poplar /*Populus nigra*/ and the vegetation there has poorer species composition compared with that on the Danube banks. The open grasslands occupy a relatively small area. In the period of high spring waters the island gets flooded, but during the rest of the year it remains dry. Temporary sand strips with no vegetation appear in its western and eastern parts (Doykov 1990; Ivanov 1993).

4.2 Quality and importance

Floodplain forests of oak and Field Elm in combination with willow galleries. The only floodplain oak forests in this region, although they are with highly fragmented distribution on the island. Vardim Island is included in the Strategy for restoration of the Bulgarian islands along the Danube. Despite the long delay its implementation is necessary. In section "Environmental information - other important species", species justified by "A-National" are not necessarily included in the Red Data Book of Bulgaria as its latest edition is too old (1985), not updated and with no legal value. Species indicated by "A-National" are protected species of flora and fauna by the Bulgarian Biodiversity Act, and therefore this motivation is given highest priority. The *Sabanejewia aurata* found within the site has recently been identified as *Sabanejewia balcanica*, derived from *Sabanejewia aurata balcanica* subspecies. Vardim Island is a representative area for birds dependent on riverine forests habitats. It supports 75 bird species, 21 of which are listed in the Red Data Book for Bulgaria (1985). Of the birds occurring there 31 species are of European conservation concern (SPEC) (BirdLife International, 2004), 2 of them being listed in category SPEC 1 as globally threatened, 11 in SPEC 2 and 18 in SPEC 3 as species threatened in Europe. The international importance of Vardim Island is determined by the

fact, that it is one of the five most valuable Bulgarian sites for the breeding Cormorant /Phalacrocorax carbo/, Night Heron /Nycticorax nycticorax/ and Spoonbill /Platalea leucorodia/, that form considerable colonies there. By 1985 the Pygmy Cormorant /Phalacrocorax pygmeus/, Squacco Heron /Ardeola ralloides/ and Glossy Ibis /Plegadis falcinellus/ also used to breed there (Grimmett, Jones 1989), but in recent years this is no longer the case. Recently the White-tailed Eagle /Haliaetus albicilla/ breeds again on the island.

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	B03		o
H	B02.03		o
M	G01.01		o
M	A03		o
M	E03.02		o
H	F02.01.02		o
H	B01.02		i
H	B02.02		i
H	B		o
H	A03		i
M	E03		o
H	B03		i
H	F03.02.03		o
H	B02.03		i
H	F04		i
H	B02.02		o
H	C01.01		o
H	F02.03		o
H	B		i
M	B02.01		o
H	B02.04		i
H	J02.04		i
M	B01		i
H	F03.02.03		i
M	B01		o
H	B02.04		o
H	F03.02.02		i
H	K04.01		i
H	F03.01		o
H	B01.02		o
H	F03.01		i
L	H05		o
M	E02.01		o
H	F03.02.01		i

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
M	E02.01		o
L	H05		o
M	B01		o
M	B03		o
M	B01		i
M	G01.01		o
M	A03		o
H	B01.02		o
H	B02.04		o
M	E03		o
M	E03.02		o
H	B02.02		o
M	B02.01		o
H	B		o
H	B02.03		o

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 Emil Todorov, Svilen Cheshmedjiev - Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds, 1111 Sofia, P.O.Box 50, www.bspb.org; Valentina Fidanova, Mladen Angelov - Green Balkans Federation, Plovdiv, office@greenbalkans.org. Initially listed documents: BDZP/BirdLife Bulgariya. 2005. "Nacionalna banka za ornitologichna informacia 1988-2005", Balgarsko Druzhestvo za zastita na pticite; Botev, B. and Tz. Peshev, (eds). 1985. Red Data Book of Republic Bulgaria. 2: Animals. Sofia: Bulgarian Academy of Science. (In Bulgarian.); Doykov, V. 1990. Ostrov Vardim. – Priroda. S., BAN, 2, 43-44; Iankov, P. 2002. (red.). Svetovno zastrasheni vidove ptitsi v Bulgariya. Natsionalni planove za deystvie za opazvaneto im. Chast 1. BDZP-MOSV, Prirodzashtitna poreditsa, Kn. 4, Sofiya: 204-219.; Ivanov, B. 1993. Belenski kompleks. – V: Natsionalen plan za prioritetni deystviya za opazvane na nay-znachimite vlahzni zoni v Bulgariya. Michev, T. (red.). 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Link(s): <http://natura2000.moew.government.bg/Home/ProtectedSite?code=BG0002018&siteType=HabitatDirective>
<http://natura2000.moew.government.bg/Home/ProtectedSite?code=BG0002018&siteType=BirdsDirective>

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

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5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
BG00	91.5	BG06	8.5		

5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

designated at national or regional level:

Type code	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
BG06	STARIYAT DAB	+	8.5

designated at international level:

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

5.3 Site designation (optional)

About 9% of the area is protected by law through designation of the “Staria Dab” protected area in 1971. The aim is to protect the unique oak forest. In 1998 Vardim Island is appointed as CORINE Site because of its European value for habitats, rare and threatened plant and animal species, including birds. In 1989 the area was designated as Important Bird Area by BirdLife International.

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

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Organisation:	Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water: Veliko Tàrnovo; Danube River Basin Directorate; Forestry Department - Svishtov;
Address:	
Email:	

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

☐	Yes
☐	No, but in preparation
☒	No

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

7. MAP OF THE SITES

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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).