



This European Conservation Area covering 90.18 ha is situated within the Natura 2000-Bird Conservation Area “Mattersburger Hügelland“ (Mattersburg Hills) and thus also designated as Natura2000-Area according to the Bird Sanctuary Directive. The European Conservation Area comprises several parts with different legal status.

The Landscape Protection Area “Hangwiesen Rohrbach-Schattendorf-Loipersbach“ (Provincial Law Gazette No 58/1979) covers the largest area with 84.04 ha. In the middle of the Landscape Protection Area there is the 15.17 ha large Nature Protection and Landscape Protection Area ”Teichwiesen“ (Provincial Law Gazette No 58/1979). Together with the adjacent 5.28 ha large Nature Protection Area “Rohrbacher Kogel“ (Provincial Law Gazette No 32/1973) these three areas form a unit with regard to their landscape in spite of their legally different status. The Protected Habitat “Mattersburger Kogel“ ('Kogel' is the German word for round hilltop), a remotely situated and with 0.86 ha very small site (ruling of the Provincial Government of Burgenland, number: IV-U-34/4-1997, LABI. No 263/1997), is part of the European Conservation Area as well.

The importance of the European Conservation Area in the hills of the “Mattersburger Hügelland“ is based on the diversity of the different habitat types ranging from dry grassland over different variants of hay meadows to bogs and water surfaces and on its enormously rich varieties of species of partly severely endangered animal and plant species. In the centre wetlands mainly covered with reeds surrounded by flood meadows which turn into extensively used lean and dry grassland in higher areas, into “Hangwiesen“, which means sloping meadows. Changing landscape and soil conditions form the basis for different meadows. Water outlets on slopes feed small calcerous blanket moors, thus enriching the variety of habitat types. The dry grasslands of “Rohrbacher and Mattersburger Kogel“ are characterized by a great diversity of orchids, many species of dry bushland borders and small sites of pubescent oak shrubs.

Protected Features:

Six representative habitat types of the Annex I of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC could be

identified in the Natura 2000-Area, with greenland habitats predominating in the area. The main part of the greenland consists of oligotrophic, dry to poikilophilic semi-dry grassland of the habitat type 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometea) and a little bit more eutrophic, moderately dry to poikilophilic False Oat meadows of the type 6510 Lowland haymeadows (*Alopecurus pratensis*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*).

The aquatic habitat of the Rohrbacher ponds corresponds to type 3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation. The adjacent flood and slope meadows consist of types 6210 * Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (*important orchid sites), 6510 Lowland Haymeadows (*Alopecurus pratensis*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*) and very small sites of 7230 Alkaline fens. The dry grasslands of Rohrbacher and Mattersburger Kogel correspond to type 6210 * Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (*important orchid sites). On the Rohrbacher Kogel small sites of pubescent oak shrubs and oak forests occur, which belong to the habitat types 91H0 *Pannonian woods with *Quercus pubescens* and 91I0 *Euro-sibirian steppic woods with *Quercus* spp. The only Annex species with representative occurrence in that area is the Woolly of the Sloe Moth (*Eriogaster catax*), a thermophilic moth that can be found at the edges of woods, clearings and in dry grasslands with sloebush and hawthorn. In the European Conservation Area it can mainly be found in the hawthorn hedges near the Rohrbacher Pond. The dry grassland is also habitat for a high number of plants of the Greater Pasque Flower (*Pulsatilla grandis*).