



Cranes form small groups and remain in the area over the winter. They do not migrate south to Spain like the majority of related species

### Cranes in the Großes Moor bei Barnstorf

Just as has been the case in other moors within the natural environmental area, the cranes on their migration flights soon discovered the area which has been re-wetted after all the peat has been cut. The birds make stop here because the flat, flooded Leegmoor area, the name given to areas where the peat has been partially cut away, are very suitable as a place for the cranes to rest overnight. The tradition of the cranes using the Großes Moor (great moor) near Barnstorf to overnight goes back over 15 years.

The moor is attractive for the cranes thanks to its large territory and many areas of water where they can rest. In the autumn of 2014 more than 21,000 cranes could be counted that rested overnight on the moor. There were excellent views of the birds to be had from the viewing point at "NIZ" as they flew in from the north.

In the area of the Großes Moor, and as far east as the River Hunte, cranes that stop here to spend the winter can be regularly spotted from December to February. Due to the mild winters over the past number of years, the number of cranes attempting to spend the winter here is increasing.

From the car park at the Natural Protection and Information Centre (NIZ), the viewing platform of the observation tower Moorbioskopion is 200 metres away on foot. In order to find the location you can use the following address: Arkeburger Str. 22, 49424 Goldenstedt.



Created within the framework of the EU funded project "Kranichschutz & Kranich erleben II". Funded by the Federal State of Lower Saxony with financial funding from the European Union within the framework of the funding guideline "Natur- und Landschaftsentwicklung und Qualifizierung für Naturschutz"



**BUND Diepholzer Moorniederung**  
Auf dem Sande 11  
49419 Wagenfeld-Ströhen  
Tel.: 05774/997 87-0 Fax: 05774/1313  
info@bund-dhm.de | www.bund-dhm.de



The BUND Diepholzer Moorniederung is an institution belonging to BUND Niedersachsen e.V.

2nd updated version 2016, realised by the BUND Diepholzer Moorniederung on behalf of NLWKN Hannover and the Naturpark Dümmer e.V.; Photos: BUND-DHM, W. Rolfes, NIZ; Layout and maps: J.-M. Kühn; 100% FSC® certified recycled paper

# Großes Moor bei Barnstorf

Life after the peat has gone





# Profile

» **Size:** 3,135 hectares with a 30-cm layer of peat (raised bog size); over 9 kilometres in length and 5 kilometres wide

» **Cutting peat:** peat was cut by hand here until the 1960s; large-surface industrial peat cutting is planned to continue until 2035; peat is cut to a depth of up to 3.2 metres

» **Renaturation:** at the beginning of the 1980s, the first measures to rewet the Dreiecksmoor were undertaken; after all the peat had been cut away, the renaturation started at various places across the entire moor

» **Conservation status:** 740 hectares are designated as a nature reserve, of those 653 hectares have been declared an Habitats Directive area; the majority of the area does not have any conservation status up to now



## Life after the peat has gone

Decades ago, the peat in the Großes Moor near Barnstorf was cut away by hand by the local farmers and used as fuel to heat their homes. Today it is the industrial-scale peat-cutting that defines the area with the peat predominantly being used in horticulture. Commercial operations employing peat-cutting and peat-milling processes completely harvested all the peat on the moor that had taken thousands of years to form. All that was left were surfaces hostile to life. It was only after all the peat had been cut away and harvested that the surfaces were levelled. Once the drainage ditches were closed and peat dams were built, the area became a wetland once again through the accumulation of rainfall. New life slowly began to conquer these areas. These areas still, however, have very little to do with the original raised moor – the consequences of human intervention had simply been too significant.



Just like in other raised moors, moor-burning methods were used to reclaim the moorland and cultivate it. In these extremely infertile areas it was predominantly buckwheat that was the crop planted (a polygonaceae). This pseudo cereal could only be sown at intervals of over 20 years. This is because this is the period of time required until enough nutrients have accumulated in the ground once again to allow another sowing. Today visitors to the “Haus im Moor” (house in the moor) can experience the forgotten taste of buckwheat. The building that was erected in the 1990s together with the Natural Protection and Information Centre (NIZ) is a viewing point for visitors interested in nature and the moor.

**Left:** The Dreiecksmoor to the north of the Barnstorf Moor is a nature reserve. **Right:** During the season, the moor train travels into the moor almost on a daily basis; the journey is also accompanied with lots of interesting information.

