Central part of Dobrzyńskie Lakeland is an area of intensive transformation of wetlands by settlement and agriculture. The basic measure leading to the elimination of wetlands was drainage by ditches. Thanks to well-preserved cartographic materials in detailed scales, the process of wetland transformation and the network of draining ditches can be tracked since the beginning of the 18th century. Despite long-lasting impact on wet sites in the study region, various types of small water bodies and mid-field wetlands remained. The rate of wetland disappearance depended on the area and the study period, for which the changes were calculated. Nowadays, the share of wetlands in the total area amounts approximately 11% and is smaller than the mean for Poland (14%). The remains of small wetlands in agricultural areas, as valuable sites, should be protected from being built-up, improperly managed and devastated. Since local authorities do not have access to expert reports and other elaborations, local analyses of archival plans and maps may be useful in planning spatial development and environmental protection.