



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 IE0000138
SITENAME Durnesh Lough SAC

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code IE0000138	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Durnesh Lough SAC

1.4 First Compilation date 1999-12	1.5 Update date 2020-10
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1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation:	National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Address:	90 King Street North, Dublin 7, D07 N7CV, Ireland
Email:	datadelivery@chg.gov.ie

Date site proposed as SCI:	1999-12
Date site confirmed as SCI:	No data
Date site designated as SAC:	2018-10
National legal reference of SAC designation:	415/2018

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

[Back to top](#)

B		Cygnus olor			91	91	i							X	
I		Gammarus chevreuxi													X
I		Jaera nordmanni													X
I		Neomysis integer													X
I		Palaemonetes varians													X
I		Philonthus furcifer													X
P		Ruppia cirrhosa													X
P		Ruppia maritima													X
I		Schistoglossa gemina													X
I		Sigara stagnalis													X
I		Stenus lustrator													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	2.0
N07	20.0
N23	1.0
N05	1.0
N02	22.0
N10	27.0
N08	3.0
N14	1.0
N04	20.0
N09	3.0

Other Site Characteristics

Situated along the southern part of Donegal Bay, site comprises a range of coastal and wetland habitats. The underlying geology is limestone but this is covered by a thick layer of clay drift deposits in the form of drumlins. Durnesh Lough is a large, low salinity (0-7 ppt), shallow (<1.5 m) sedimentary lagoon of a very unusual type in that the barrier is composed of a combination of drumlins, high sand dunes and a remnant cobble barrier. The inlet is now an artificial pipe which runs through the sandhills and allows sea water to enter through a malfunctioning sluice. Swamp vegetation, freshwater marsh, poor fen and wet grassland occurs around the lagoon and also in low-lying areas to the west and south of Durnesh Hill. Site also includes sand dunes, a cobble storm beach and intertidal sand flats. Some improved pasture is included for the benefit of geese and swans.

4.2 Quality and importance

An important example of a sedimentary lagoon noted for its large size. Despite the artificial inlet channel, the lagoon is relatively well conserved. Flora is diverse, with two species of *Ruppia* and the Red Data Book charophyte *Chara canescens*. Fauna is also diverse, with 48 taxa recorded including six lagoonal specialists and at least two rare species (*Gammarus chevreuxi*, *Cordylophora caspia*). Based on geomorphology, flora and fauna, the lagoon is ranked amongst the best 10 lagoons in the country. Site also has a good example of *Molinia* meadows. A nationally important population of *Anser albifrons flavirostris* is regular at the site. *Cygnus cygnus* is also regular and at times occurs in numbers of international importance. A range of other waterfowl species occur in numbers of regional or local importance, though numbers of *Cygnus olor* often exceed national importance.

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	E01.03		o
L	F03.01		i
M	A08		o
L	G01		i
L	E03.01		o

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
L	A04.02.01		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

4.5 Documentation

Costello, M.J., Holmes, J.M.C., McGrath, D. and Myers, A.A. (1989). A review and catalogue of the Amphipoda (Crustacea) in Ireland. Irish Fisheries Investigations Series B (Marine), 33: 3-70 Colhoun, K. (1998). I-WeBS Report 1996-97. BirdWatch Ireland, Dublin. Curtis, T.G.F. (1991a). A site inventory of the sandy coasts of Ireland. In Quigley, M.B. (ed.) A Guide to the Sand Dunes of Ireland. E.U.C.C. Dublin. De Grave, S. and A.A. Myers. (1997). The occurrence of *Pontocrates arcticus* in Ireland and the confirmation of *Gammarus chevreuxi* as an Irish species (Crustacea: Amphipoda). Ir. Nat. J. 25: 10 Fox, A.D., Norriss, D.W., Stroud, D.A. & Wilson, H.J. (1994). Greenland White-fronted Geese in Ireland and Britain 1982/83 - 1993/94. Greenland White-fronted Goose Study research report no. 8. Greenland White-fronted Goose Study, Wales and National Parks & Wildlife Service, Dublin. Good, J.A. (1999). Irish coastal lagoon survey, 1998. Vol V. Dúchas. Good, J.A. and Butler, F.T. (1998). Coastal lagoon shores as a habitat for Staphylinidae and Carabidae (Coleoptera) in Ireland. Bull. Ir. biogeogr. Soc. 21: 21-66. Hatch, P. and Healy, B. (1998). Aquatic vegetation of Irish coastal lagoons. Bull. Ir. biogeogr. Soc. 21: 2-21. Healy, B. (1999). Irish coastal lagoon survey, 1998. Vol 1, Part 1. Background, Description and summary of the surveys. Dúchas. Healy, B. and Oliver, G.A. (1998). Irish coastal lagoons: summary of a survey. Bull. Ir. biogeogr. Soc. 21: 116-151. Healy, B., Oliver, G.A., Hatch, P. and Good, J.A. (1997). Coastal lagoons in the Republic of Ireland. Vol. 2. Inventory of lagoons and saline lakes. Report to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Merne, O.J. (1989). Important bird areas in the Republic of Ireland. In: Grimmett, R.F.A. and Jones, T.A. (eds) Important

Bird Areas in Europe. ICBP Technical Publication No. 9. Cambridge. Oliver, G.A. (1999). Irish coastal lagoon survey, 1998. Vol IV. Dúchas. Oliver, G.A. and Healy B. (1998). Records of aquatic fauna from coastal lagoons in Ireland. Bull. Ir. biogeogr. Soc. 21: 66-115. Roden, C. (1999). Irish coastal lagoon survey, 1998. Vol III. Dúchas. Sheppard, R. (1993). Ireland's Wetland Wealth. IWC, Dublin. Young, R. (1973). Report on Areas of Ecological and Geological Interest in County Donegal. An Foras Forbartha, Dublin.

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

[Back to top](#)

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

- Yes
 No, but in preparation
 No

7. MAP OF THE SITES

[Back to top](#)

INSPIRE ID:

IE.NPWS.PS.NATURA2000.SAC.IE0000138

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).