



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 IE0000194
SITENAME Tranarossan and Melmore Lough SAC

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code IE0000194	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Tranarossan and Melmore Lough SAC

1.4 First Compilation date 1999-07	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:	1999-07
Date site confirmed as SCI:	No data
Date site designated as SAC:	2019-11
National legal reference of SAC designation:	604/2019

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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			32.68		M	B		C	B	B
2190			0.08		M	C		C	B	C
21A0	X		100.8659		M	A		C	B	A
3140			3.4226		M	A		C	B	B
4030			163.41		M	B		C	B	B
4060			32.68		M	C		C	B	C

- **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	A103	Falco peregrinus			p	1	1	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A009	Fulmarus glacialis			r	20	20	p		M	C	B	C	C
P	1395	Petalophyllum ralfsii			p	20	20	area		G	C	B	C	B
B	A017	Phalacrocorax carbo			r	60	70	p		G	C	A	C	B
B	A346	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax			p	6	6	p		G	C	A	C	B

- **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
P		Draba incana									X			
B		Larus marinus			10	20	p							X
M		Lepus timidus hibernicus											X	
M		Lepus timidus hibernicus										X		
M		Lepus timidus hibernicus								X				
P		Ligusticum scoticum								X				
P		Mertensia maritima								X				
B		Phalacrocorax aristotelis			50	60	p						X	
A		Rana temporaria								X				
A		Rana temporaria											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

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4.1 General site character

Habitat class	% Cover
N01	2.0
N04	30.0
N05	16.0
N16	1.0
N08	35.0
N07	4.0
N02	2.0

N10	8.0
N06	1.0
N22	1.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

The site comprises the Tranarossan/Melmore headland and a long stretch of sea-cliff to the south-west, which has been included for both its ornithological and botanical value. Geologically, the site is dominated by granite and schists, with extensive plains of blown sand at Tranarossan and north of Melmore Lough. These areas of machair are confined by low rocky hills dominated by dry heath vegetation. The most extensive habitats at the site are dry heath, sand dune, machair and sea-cliff. Habitats of smaller extent include lake, shingle beach, dune slacks, sandy intertidal shore, blanket bog, acid grassland and flush. Livestock grazing is the main land use within the site, while amenity and recreational activities are frequent, especially in the eastern sector.

4.2 Quality and importance

This site has an excellent diversity of sand dune and heath habitats. Of particular importance are the fixed dunes and machair, which are extensive in area and generally of good quality. Also of note is a good example of decalcified fixed dunes with *Empetrum nigrum*, a rare habitat in Ireland, and humid dune slacks. Other habitats present of particular note are intertidal sandflats, stony banks with perennial vegetation, vegetated sea cliffs and dry heath. Melmore Lough, which has considerable depth (>10 m) despite its small size, is a good example of a hard water lake and supports a diverse charophyte community. Noteworthy populations of the Red Data Book plant species *Mertensia maritima*, *Ligusticum scoticum* and *Draba incana* have been recorded recently, as has a small population of the rare liverwort *Petalophyllum ralfsii*. The site has breeding *Falco peregrinus* and *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*, both Annex I Birds Directive species. A scattering of breeding seabirds occur.

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	A04		i
L	A10		i
M	A05.02		i

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

Bassett, J.A. and Curtis T.G.F. (1985). The nature and occurrence of sand-dune machair in Ireland. *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* 85B: 1-20. Berrow, S.D., Mackie, K.L., O'Sullivan, O., Shepperd, K.B., Mellon, C. and Coveney, J.A. (1993). The second International Chough Survey in Ireland, 1992. *Irish Birds* 5: 1-10. Curtis, T.G.F. (1991). 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. Farrell, L. and Randall, R.E. (1992). The distribution of *Mertensia maritima* (L.) Gray, Oyster Plant in Ireland. *The Irish Naturalists' Journal* 24: 135-140. Fay, P. (1996). The Rare and Protected Flora of Coastal Areas in Counties Galway, Mayo, Sligo and Donegal. Unpublished report to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Hart, H.C. (1898). *Flora of County Donegal*. Dublin. Holyoak, D.T. (1999). Report on surveys of *Petalophyllum ralfsii* in Co. Sligo and Co. Donegal, Western Ireland, 31 July-7 August 1999. Unpublished report to National Parks & Wildlife Service, Dublin. Holyoak, D.T. (2002). Rare plant report: *Petalophyllum ralfsii* in Tranarossan and Melmore Lough cSAC. Unpublished report to National Parks & Wildlife Service, Dublin. Lloyd, C. (1982). Inventory of Seabird Breeding Colonies in the Republic of Ireland. Unpublished report, Forestry and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Madden, B., Cooney, T., O'Donoghue, A., Norriss, D.W. and Merne, O.J. (1998). Breeding waders of

machair systems in Ireland in 1996. Irish Birds 6: 177-190. McConnell, B.J. and Long, C.B. (1997). Geology of North Donegal. A Geological Description to Accompany the Bedrock Geology 1: 10,000 Scale Map Series, Sheet 1 and Part of Sheet 2, North Donegal. Geological Survey of Ireland, Dublin. Roden, C.M. (1999). A Survey of Coastal Lakes in Counties Galway, Mayo, Sligo and Donegal. Report prepared for the Heritage Council, Kilkenny. Young, R. (1973). Report on Areas of Ecological and Geological Interest in County Donegal. An Foras Forbartha, Dublin.

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

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6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No, but in preparation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No |

7. MAP OF THE SITES

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INSPIRE ID:

IE.NPWS.PS.NATURA2000.SAC.IE0000194

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).
