



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 IE0000299
SITENAME Lough Cutra SAC

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code IE0000299	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Lough Cutra SAC

1.4 First Compilation date 2003-03	1.5 Update date 2015-12
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1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation:	National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Address:	7 Ely Place, Dublin 2, Ireland
Email:	datadelivery@ahg.gov.ie

Date site proposed as SCI:	2003-03
Date site confirmed as SCI:	No data
Date site designated as SAC:	No data
National legal reference of SAC designation:	No data

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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Longitude
-8.787976782

Latitude
53.03066668

2.2 Area [ha]:

659.02

2.3 Marine area [%]

0.0

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code

Region Name

IE01	Border, Midland and Western
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2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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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	A053	Anas platyrhynchos			w	95	95	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A061	Aythya fuligula			w	53	53	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A067	Bucephala clangula			w	31	31	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A038	Cygnus cygnus			w	9	9	i		G	C	C	C	C
B	A017	Phalacrocorax carbo			r	34	34	p		G	C	B	C	B
B	A017	Phalacrocorax carbo			w	20	20	i		G	C	B	C	C
M	1303	Rhinolophus hipposideros	Yes		w	93	93	i		G	C	B	B	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
B		Cygnus olor			2	2							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
N14	15.0
N10	1.0
N16	2.0
N06	55.0
N19	21.0
N23	1.0
N07	5.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

Lough Cutra is a large oligo-mesotrophic lake lying on limestone but with much sediment washed down from the sandstone hills to the east (Slieve Aughty Mountains). The Owendalulleagh River is the main inflowing river. The shoreline is often stony or sandy, though in places it is peat fringed. Marginal wetland vegetation includes well-developed reed beds in sheltered bays, as well as localised patches of swamp and fen vegetation. Woodland occurs around much of the lake shore. Much of this is planted though wet woodland with native species is also represented. The lake has a number of islands, some of which are wooded. Lough

Cutra Castle is included in the site as it supports hibernating bats. The winter bat roosts comprise a passageway underneath the Castle and a wine cellar. Parkland in the vicinity of the castle is included in the site for the benefit of the bats.

4.2 Quality and importance

The site supports an internationally important winter roost for *Rhinolophus hipposideros*. Maximum number recorded has been 93 individuals. Good quality foraging habitat surround the roost sites. The bats' summer roosting sites have not yet been established. Lough Cutra is a long-established breeding site for *Phalacrocorax carbo*. The colony is of regional importance though has been of national importance in the past. Lake supports wintering waterfowl, including *Cygnus cygnus*, though numbers are relatively low.

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]
H	E06.02		i
M	A10		b
M	H06.02		i
L	H06.01		i
H	B02.02		i
H	A10.01		b
H	B03		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

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
H	B02.01.01		i
H	B01.01		b
H	E06.02		i
L	E01.03		b

4.5 Documentation

Curtis, T.G.F. and Mc. Gough, N. (1981). A Survey of the Wetlands of the Fergus Catchment and Adjoining Areas. Unpublished report to the Forest and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Hunt, J., Derwin, J., Coveney, J. and Newton, S. (2000). Republic of Ireland. Pp. 365-416 in Heath, M.F. and Evans, M.I., (eds.) Important Bird Areas in Europe: Priority Sites for Conservation 1: Northern Europe. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International (BirdLife Conservation Series No. 8). Jennings O'Donovan & Partners and Southern Water Global (1997). An Investigation of the Flooding Problems in the Gort-Ardrahan Area of South Galway. Volumes 1 & 2. Unpublished report prepared for the Office of Public Works, Dublin. Lloyd, C. (1982). Inventory of Seabird Breeding Colonies in Republic of Ireland. Unpublished report, Forest and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Macdonald, R.A. (1987). The breeding population and distribution of the Cormorant in Ireland. Irish Birds 3: 405-416. O'Sullivan P. (1994). Bats in Ireland. Irish Naturalists' Journal Special Zoological Supplement, 21pp.

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

6.2 Management Plan(s):

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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

INSPIRE ID:

IE.NPWS.PS.NATURA2000.SAC.IE0000299

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).