



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 IE0000428
SITENAME Lough Melvin SAC

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code IE0000428	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Lough Melvin SAC

1.4 First Compilation date 1999-12	1.5 Update date 2021-12
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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

1.7 Site indication and designation / classification dates

Date site classified as SPA:	0000-00
National legal reference of SPA designation	No data
Date site proposed as SCI:	1999-12
Date site confirmed as SCI:	No data
Date site designated as SAC:	2021-10
National legal reference of SAC designation:	520/2021

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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Longitude -8.184708149 Latitude 54.43304269

2.2 Area [ha]:

2.3 Marine area [%]

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
M		Martes martes									X			
P		Salix phylicifolia									X			
F		Salmo trutta												X
F		Salmo trutta											X	
F		Salvelinus alpinus									X			
P		Trollius europaeus									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

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Habitat class	% Cover
N23	1.0
N10	3.0
N01	1.0
N08	1.0
N05	1.0
N06	87.0
N20	1.0
N16	3.0
N07	1.0
N09	1.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

Lough Melvin is a large lake, over 12 km in length and up to 3 km in width. The lake lies in a glaciated valley, with average depth of 8.5 m and a maximum of 45 m. The underlying rock is limestone. The lake is fed by several main rivers - the Ballagh, the Glenaniff, the County and the Roogagh (lies in Northern Ireland), plus numerous small streams. The lake drains into Donegal Bay via the Drowes River. Marginal vegetation is mainly wet grassland, but there are significant areas of wet woodland and some swamp and fen vegetation. Several large islands occur. Landuse in surrounding areas is mainly agricultural though there are substantial areas of forestry. Some areas of bog and heath occur in the catchment.

4.2 Quality and importance

Lough Melvin, part of which lies in Northern Ireland, is an important example of an oligotrophic-mesotrophic lake system. Sections of the main inflowing rivers and all of the outflowing river are included in site. It has a typical aquatic and emergent flora. The site is of great importance for fish conservation, with three genetically distinct populations of brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) - ?ferox?, ?gillaroo?, ?sonaghen? as well as *Salvelinus alpinus*, and important populations of *Salmo salar*. It may be one of the last examples in north-western Europe of a natural post-glacial salmonid lake. The site supports a population of *Lutra lutra* and has four Red Data Book plant species, notably *Trollius europaeus*. *Martes martes* has been reported from the site in recent times.

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	I01		i
M	B02		b
M	A10.01		i
M	A08		i
M	H01.05		b
M	A04		i

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside /outside [i o b]
M	B02		b

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

4.4 Ownership (optional)

4.5 Documentation

Bowman, J.J., Clabby, K.J., Lucey, J., Mc Garrigle, M.L. and Toner, P.H. (1996). Water Quality in Ireland 1991-1994. Environmental Protection Agency, Wexford. Central Fisheries Board (1993). A Baseline Survey of the Glenaniff and Ballagh Rivers, Lough Melvin Catchment and Recommendations for Fisheries Development. Central Fisheries Board, Dublin. Central Fisheries Board (2001). Irish Salmon Catches 2000. <http://www.cfb.ie/>: February 2001. Doris, Y., McGarrigle, M.L., Clabby, K.J., Lucey, J., Neill, M., Flanagan, M., Quinn, M.B., Sugrue, M. and Lehane, M. (1999). Water Quality in Ireland 1995-1997. Statistical compendium of River Quality Data. Electronic Publication on Disk. Environmental Protection Agency, Wexford. Ferguson, A. and Mason, F.M. (1981). Allozyme evidence for reproductively isolated sympatric populations of brown trout, *Salmo trutta* L., in Lough Melvin, Ireland. *Journal of Fish Biology* 18: 629-642. Ferguson, A. (1986). Lough Melvin - a unique fish community. *Occasional papers in Irish Science and Technology*, No. 1. Went Memorial Lecture. Royal Dublin Society, Dublin. Ferguson, A. (1989). Genetic differences among brown trout *Salmo trutta* and their importance for conservation and management of the species. *Freshwater Biology* 21: 35-46. Goodwillie, R. (1973). A Preliminary Report on Areas of Scientific Interest in County Leitrim. An Foras Forbartha, Dublin. Lawrie, E.W., Wolfe-Murphy, S.A. and Gibson, C.E. (1992). Northern Ireland Lakes Survey. 7: Large Lakes. A Botanical Survey of the Eight Largest Lakes in Northern Ireland. Unpublished report for the Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland. Lucey, J., Bowman, J.J., Clabby, K.J., Cunningham, P., Lehane, M., MacCarthaigh, M., McGarrigle, M.L. and Toner, P.F. (1999). Water Quality in Ireland 1995-1997. Environmental Protection Agency, Wexford. O'Reilly, P. (1991). Trout and Salmon Rivers of Ireland: An Angler's Guide. Merlin Unwin books, London. Praeger, R.L. (1934). *The Botanist in Ireland*. Hodges, Figgis & Co, Dublin. Sheppard, R. (1993). Ireland's Wetland Wealth. IWC, Dublin.

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

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5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

5.3 Site designation (optional)

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the 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

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

7. MAP OF THE SITES

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INSPIRE ID:

IE.NPWS.PS.NATURA2000.SAC.IE0000428

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).