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	**IE0000440**
SITENAME	**Lough Ree SAC**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

Back to top

1.1 Type	1.2 Site code
B	IE0000440

1.3 Site name

Lough Ree SAC

1.4 First Compilation date	1.5 Update date
1995-08	2020-10

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:	2002-01
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

Back to top

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude	Latitude
-7.9767	53.5498

2.2 Area [ha]:

2.3 Marine area [%]

14365.02572 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
IE01	Border, Midland and Western

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Back to top

3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them

Annex I Habitat types						Site assessment			
Code	PF	NP	Cover [ha]	Cave [number]	Data quality	A|B|C|D	A|B|C		
						Representativity	Relative Surface	Conservation	Global
3150			12934.12		M	A	A	A	A
6210	X		143.71		M	B	C	B	C
7110			5.9		G	C	C	B	C
7120			44.72		G	B	B	C	A
7230			143.71		M	A	C	A	B
8240			143.71		M	C	C	C	C
91D0			143.71		M	C	C	B	C
91E0			2.65		G	B	C	A	B

- **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	A056	Anas clypeata			w	40	40	i		G	C	A	C	C
B	A052	Anas crecca			w	584	584	i		G	C	A	C	C
B	A050	Anas penelope			w	1306	1306	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A053	Anas platyrhynchos			w	362	362	i		G	C	A	C	C
B	A395	Anser albifrons flavirostris			w	92	92	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A059	Aythya ferina			w	179	179	i		G	C	A	C	C

B	A061	Aythya fuligula			w	1317	1317	i		G	B	A	C	B
B	A061	Aythya fuligula			r	200	200	p		M	B	A	C	B
B	A067	Bucephala clangula			w	97	97	i		G	C	A	C	C
B	A038	Cygnus cygnus			w	32	32	i		G	C	A	C	C
B	A125	Fulica atra			w	798	798	i		G	B	A	C	B
M	1355	Lutra lutra			p				P	DD	C	A	C	A
B	A065	Melanitta nigra			r	30	40	p		G	A	A	B	A
B	A160	Numenius arquata			w	178	178	i		G	C	A	C	C
B	A140	Pluvialis apricaria			w	1350	1350	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A193	Sterna hirundo			r	86	86	p		G	B	A	C	B
B	A142	Vanellus vanellus			r	5	10	p		G	C	A	C	C
B	A142	Vanellus vanellus			w	1751	1751	i		G	C	A	C	C

- **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		Cephalanthera longifolia						P			X			
P		Chara tomentosa						P			X			
F		Coregonus autumnalis pollan						P					X	
B		Cygnus olor			30		p							X
P		Frangula alnus						P			X			
P		Lathyrus palustris						P			X			
B		Mergus serrator			10	15	p							X
I		Mysis relicta						P						X
P		Ophrys apifera						P			X			
B		Phalacrocorax carbo			91	91	i							X
B		Podiceps cristatus			30		p							X
P		Prunus padus						P			X			
A		Rana temporaria						P					X	
A		Rana temporaria						P			X			
P		Stachys officinalis						P			X			
B		Tachybaptus ruficollis			10	20	p							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

Back to top

4.1 General site character

Habitat class	% Cover
N10	2.0
N22	1.0
N16	3.0
N09	1.0
N06	89.0
N07	4.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

A large mesotrophic moderate-eutrophic lake situated in an ice deepened depression in carboniferous limestone on the River Shannon. Greater part is less than 10 m in depth but there are deep troughs from north to south of depths between 17-33 m. Lough Ree has a long and much indented shoreline, mostly stony with some gravel and sand. In parts, reed swamp, alkaline fen, bog, freshwater marshes, wet and dry grassland and wet woodland occurs. Numerous islands, some wooded, occur in the lake. Dry broad-leaved woodland of good quality is included in site. Lough Ree is surrounded by agricultural land of moderate to high intensity and is close to Athlone town. Eutrophication may be a problem but at present Lough Ree is less affected than other midland lakes, notably Lough Derg.

4.2 Quality and importance

One of the largest and most important lakes in Ireland, Lough Ree is an excellent example of a natural eutrophic system. The woodlands at the site are considered the best in the midlands. The site also contains very good examples of degraded raised bog much of which retain a typical raised bog flora and which could be improved by restoration works. Bog woodland is also represented though some of this is planted Pinus species. A further area of wet woodland on cutover peat is notable for the abundance of Frangula alnus. Good to moderate examples of alkaline fens and calcareous dry grasslands also occur. Limestone pavement with species-rich woodland occurs at Rathcline. Several Red Data plant species occur. Lutra lutra is frequent on the site and the fish Coregonus autumnalis pollan has been recorded. It is an important bird site for wintering and breeding waterfowl, and has a colony of Sterna hirundo. It is of particular importance for the breeding population of Melanitta nigra, as it is one of only three sites for the species in Ireland. Water quality of the lake is considered good.

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	J02.11.02		o
M	H01.08		b
H	K03.05		i
M	A04		i
M	F03.01		i
M	B02		b
M	H02.06		b
M	G01.01		i
L	G01.02		i
L	J02.04		b
L	L08		i
M	A03.03		i
L	D03.01.02		i
L	H06.03		o

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside /outside [i|o|b]
L	G02.09		b

M	E01.03		o
M	F02.03		i
M	A08		b
H	I01		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

Barrington, R.M. and Vowell, R.P. (1887). Report on the flora surrounding the shores of Lough Ree. Proceedings of Royal Irish Academy, Series 2: 14: 693-708Bowman, J.J. (1996). Lough Ree: an investigation of eutrophication and its causes. Environmental Protection Agency Wexford. Clabby, K.J., Lucey, J., McGarrigle, M.L., Bowman, J.J., Flanagan, P.J. and Toner, P.F. (1992). Water Quality In Ireland : 1987-1990. E.R.U. Dublin. Curtis, T.G.F. (1977). Species List of the Pteridophyta, Gymnospermae and Angiospermae, Hare Island, Lough Ree. Bulletin of the Irish Biogeographical Society. 1: 17-19.Daly, O.H., O'Neill, F.H. & Barron, S.J. (in prep.) The monitoring and assessment of four EU Habitats Directive Annex I woodland habitats. Irish Wildlife Manuals, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin.Doogue, D. (1977). Woodlice in the Lough Ree district. Bulletin of the Irish Biogeographical Society. 1: 25-27.Duigan, C. (1988). The Cladocera (Crustacea) of Lough Ree and neighbouring waterbodies in Ireland. Bulletin of the Irish Biogeographical Society. 11: 100-113.Dunford, B. (2003). LIFE-Nature Woodland Restoration Project Proposal 2003 - Ecologists Report. Unpublished Internal Report prepared for Coillte Teo.European Commission (2013) Interpretation manual of European habitats. EUR 28. European Commission DG Environment, Brussels. Flanagan, P.J. and Toner, P.J. (1975). A Preliminary Survey of Irish Lakes. An Foras Forbartha, Dublin.Fossitt, J.A. (2000) A guide to habitats in Ireland. The Heritage Council, Kilkenny.Gittings, T. and Delany, S. (1996). A pre-breeding census of Common Scoters in Ireland in 1995. Irish Birds 5: 413-422.Hannon, C., Berrow, S.D., and Newton S.F. (1997). The status and distribution of breeding Sandwich Sterna sandvicensis, Roseate S. dougallii, Common S. hirundo, Arctic S. paradisaea and Little Terns S. albifrons in Ireland in 1995. Irish Birds 6: 1-22.Kelly, D.L. and Fuller, S. (1988). Ancient Woodland In Central Ireland : Does It Exist? In: Favio Salvitano (Ed.) Human Influence On Forest Ecosystem Development In Europe: 363-369. ESS Fern-Cnr. Pittgoria Editrices, Bologne.Kelly, D.L. and Iremonger, S.F. (1997). Irish wetland woods: the plant communitites and their ecology. Biology and Environment - Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, Section B. 1-32. Levinge, D.E.S. (1977). A general description of Lough Ree and surround. Bulletin of the Irish Biogeographical Society. 1: 4-6.Levinge, D.E.S. (1977). Hare Island, Lough Ree. Bulletin of the Irish Biogeographical Society. 1: 6-9.Lovatt, J.K. (1997). Occurrence of the Garden Warbler Sylvia borin around Lough Ree and County Cavan. Irish Birds 6: 58-60.O'Connor, J.P. and Norton, M.A. (1976). Preliminary notes on the aquatic invertebrate fauna of Hare Island and environs. Bulletin of the Irish Biogeographical Society. 1: 20-25.O'Neill, F.H. & Barron, S.J. (2013) Results of monitoring survey of old sessile oak woods and alluvial forests. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 71. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin.Parnell, J. & Curtis, T. (2012) Webb's an Irish flora. 8th edition. Cork University Press, Cork.Perrin, P., Martin, J., Barron, S., O'Neill, F., McNutt, K. & Delaney, A. (2008) National Survey of Native Woodlands. Volume I: Main report. Report submitted to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin.Perrin, P. M. & Daly, O.H. (2010) A provisional inventory of ancient and long-established woodland in Ireland. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 46. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin.Praeger, R.L. (1934). The Botanist In Ireland. Hodges Figgis, Dublin.Rubers, W.V. (1975). Notes on some bryophytes from the Lough Ree area. Irish Naturalists' Journal. 18: 177-187. Ruttledge, R.F. (1997). The breeding distribution of Common Scoter in Ireland. Irish Birds 3: 417-426.Sheppard, R. (1993). Irelands' Wetland Wealth. Irish Wildbird Conservancy, Dublin. Speight, M.C.D. (1977). Insects collected on and near the shores of Lough Ree. Bulletin of Irish Biogeographic Society. 1: 27-36.

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

Back to top

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

5.3 Site designation (optional)

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

Back to top

6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No, but in preparation
- [x] No

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

7. MAP OF THE SITES

Back to top

INSPIRE ID: IE.NPWS.PS.NATURA2000.SAC.IE0000440

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).