



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 IE0000585
SITENAME Sharavogue Bog SAC

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code IE0000585	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Sharavogue Bog SAC

1.4 First Compilation date 1995-05	1.5 Update date 2018-09
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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:	1998-05
Date site confirmed as SCI:	No data
Date site designated as SAC:	2017-05
National legal reference of SAC designation:	225/2017

2. SITE LOCATION

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2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude

-7.929949814

Latitude

53.03549704

2.2 Area [ha]:

236.3945807

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

3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them

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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
7110			25.8		G	B	C	C	B
7120			14.7		G	B	C	B	B
7150			1.3		M	C	C	C	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

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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.

- **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		Eriophorum gracile			0	0		P			X			
P		Frangula alnus						P			X			
B		Lagopus lagopus						P						X
B		Lagopus lagopus						P			X			
P	5213	Sphagnum austinii			0	0		P		X				X
P		Sphagnum fuscum			0	0		P		X				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

Habitat class	% Cover
N14	3.0
N19	12.0
N10	8.0
N06	2.0
N23	1.0
N07	74.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

Sharavogue Bog (SAC) (236.55 ha) is located about 8km south of Birr, Co. Offaly, in the Little Brosna Valley. It consists of 2 raised bog sites. The main area, Sharavogue Bog, covers 223.43 ha while a smaller outlier, Cangort (Kilfrancis) Bog, is located 4km further south, and comprises 13.12 ha. Sharavogue Bog is situated between the River Little Brosna and an elevated ridge of Carboniferous limestone. Sharavogue includes 137 ha of uncut raised bog and 86.43 ha of surrounding areas which include cutover bog, wet grassland, semi-natural woodland, and an area of wet lagg vegetation in the cutover along the eastern margin of the bog. The bog is underlain by low permeability limestone and limestone till. Groundwater upwells at the base of the ridge that occurs to the east of the bog. Cangort (Kilfrancis) Bog is the part of Cangort Bog NHA (000890) and it has been restored as part of an EU LIFE project. The site consists of 2.53 ha of high bog and 10.59 ha of cutover, most of which was afforested in the 1970s. The underlying geology is carboniferous limestone. Sharavogue Bog is one of the few remaining raised bogs in Ireland situated on a floodplain. It has a well-developed dome of uncut peat which is long and relatively narrow. Active Raised Bog (ARB) is confined to the more southern central part of the dome, covers 25.8 ha, but lacks any areas of central ecotope as a result of long-term drying out caused by peat cutting and marginal and river drainage. In addition, drains were inserted across about 60% of the high bog dome in the early 1990s. All the drains on the high bog and many of the drains on the south eastern area of the cutover were dammed in the late 1990s as part of an EU Cohesion project to restore peat forming conditions on the high bog and cutover. The bog surface has also been damaged by burning in the past and there are invasive native and non-native species are present on the bog dome. The dominant micro-topography consists of Sphagnum hummocks and hollows. Pools are scarce and Sphagnum cuspidatum filled lawn-like depressions are very occasional. Rhynchosporion depressions (7150) are open pioneer type vegetation communities of wet depressions on acid peat, in both natural and man modified situations. Rhynchosporion vegetation occurs along pool edges (very scarce in Sharavogue Bog), on lawns and hollows underlain by deep, wet and quaking peat. Cangort Bog NHA is a remnant of a larger area of bog much of which has now been cutover and reclaimed for forestry and agriculture. In the SAC section of the NHA all the afforested areas on the high bog and cutover were clear-felled and the associated drains blocked in 2014. Site specific conservation objectives have been set for Sharavogue Bog SAC for Active Raised Bog. One of the key targets is to restore the area of Active Raised Bog to 40.9 ha and it has been determined, using modelling techniques, that there is potential for 14.7 ha of Degraded Raised Bog to be restored to Active Raised Bog on the high bog following restoration measures. There is also long-term potential for 0.4 ha of Bog peat-forming habitats (BPFH) to develop if restoration measures are undertaken on cutover areas. A restoration plan has been developed to achieve these targets. Detailed objectives have yet to be developed for the Cangort (Kilfrancis) subsite of the SAC but will be produced as part of the restoration plan for the Cangort Bog NHA site. Cangort (Kilfrancis) Bog is being actively managed for conservation by the landowner, Coillte, as part of an EU LIFE Project and most of the required restoration measures have already been carried out. Sharavogue Bog is part of the current NPWS Restoring Active Raised Bog in Irelands SAC Network 2016-2020 (LIFE NAT/IE/000032).

4.2 Quality and importance

Sharavogue Bog SAC is a site of considerable conservation significance comprising two subsites: Sharavogue Bog and Cangort (Kilfrancis) Bog which contain raised bog, a rare habitat in the EU and one that is becoming increasingly scarce and under threat in Ireland. It contains good examples of the EU Habitats Directive Annex I habitats Active Raised Bog (7110), Degraded Raised Bog (7120) and Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion (7150). The site already supports a good diversity of raised bog microhabitats including some hummock/hollow complexes, and rewetted cutover bog. Ireland has a high proportion of the total EU resource of Atlantic raised bog (over 50%) and so has a special responsibility for its conservation at an international level. Along the eastern margins of Sharavogue there is upwelling of base-rich water into the lagg zone and these areas now support carr woodland and calcareous fen

vegetation. Areas of wet lagg vegetation such as this are very rare in Western Europe and the lagg system at Sharavogue is one of the best developed in the country. The protected semi-aquatic plant species Slender Cottongrass (*Eriophorum gracile*) is growing in fen vegetation in the lagg zone, while the nationally rare shrub Alder Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*) occurs in dry bog woodland on cutaway. Although the Cangort (Kilfrancis) Bog subsite of the SAC is small (13.12 ha) and currently lacks annex habitats full restoration measures have been implemented and it has the potential to support the retention of Degraded Raised Bog in Cangort Bog NHA (000890).

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	A08		b
M	I02		b
L	J01.01		b
H	J02.15		b

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
H	J02.15		i
H	B02.02		i
M	I02		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)

Type	[%]	
Public	National/Federal	0
	State/Province	10
	Local/Municipal	0
	Any Public	0
Joint or Co-Ownership	0	
Private	90	
Unknown	0	
sum	100	

4.5 Documentation

CEC (2007). The Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 27. European Commission, DG Environment, Brussels, Nature and Biodiversity.
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/docs/2007_07_im.pdf Cross, J.R. (1990). The Raised Bogs of Ireland: their Ecology, Status and Conservation. Report to the Minister of State at the Department of Finance. Stationery Office, Dublin. Conaghan J.P. (1995). The ecology of *Eriophorum gracile* and *Eriophorum latifolium* in Ireland. Ph.D. thesis, National University of Ireland. Conaghan J.P. (1998a). The vegetation and conservation of lagg zones associated with Sharavogue Bog, Co. Offaly and Clonfinane Bog, Co. Tipperary. Draft report prepared for the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Conaghan, J.P. (1998b). A study of the Vegetation and Ecohydrology of Sharavogue Bog, Co. Offaly. Internal report to the National Parks and Wildlife. Dúchas, Dublin. Conaghan J.P. (2014). A resurvey of vegetation associated with a lagg area at Sharavogue Bog, Birr, Co. Offaly. Report prepared for the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht (2014). National Raised Bog SAC Management Plan - Draft for Consultation - 17 January 2014. This is available at: <http://www.npws.ie/peatlandsturf-cutting/nationalraisedbogsacmanagementplan/> Derwin, J. and Mac Gowan, F. (2000). Raised Bog Restoration Project: A Continuation of the Investigation into the Conservation and Restoration of Selected Raised Bog sites in Ireland. Unpublished report, NPWS, Dublin. Derwin J., Gabbett M., Keane S., Long, M. and Martin, J. (2002). Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas Project. Unpublished report, NPWS, Dublin. Fernandez, F., Connolly K., Crowley W., Denyer J., Duff K. & Smith G. (2014) Raised Bog Monitoring and Assessment Survey 2013. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 81. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland. Fernandez, F., Crowley W. & Wilson S. (2012) Raised Bog Monitoring Survey. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Environment,

Heritage and Local Government, Dublin. Fernandez Valverde, F.; Fanning, M.; McCorry, M.; Crowley, W., (2005). Raised bog monitoring project 2004-2005: Part 1 - Summary Report. Report to NPWS. Fernandez Valverde, F.; MacGowan, F.; Farrell, M.; Crowley, W.; Croal, Y.; Fanning, M.; McKee, A-M., (2006). Assessment of impacts of turf cutting on designated raised bogs. A Report to the Research Section of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. This is available at:
http://www.npws.ie/publications/archive/Valverde_et_al_2006_Turf_cutting_assessment_Vol_1_-_Summary.pdf
 Fossitt, J. (2000). A Guide to Habitats in Ireland. The Heritage Council, Ireland. Kelly, L.; Doak, M. and Dromey, M. (1995). Raised Bog Restoration Project, an investigation into the conservation and restoration of selected raised bog sites in Ireland. Internal report to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin. This is available at:
http://www.npws.ie/publications/archive/Kelly_et_al_1995_Raised_Bog_Restoration_Vol_3_-_Site_reports.pdf
 Moorkens, E.A. (1998). An inventory of Mollusca in potential SAC sites, with special reference to *Vertigo angustior*, *V. moulinsiana* and *V. geyeri*. Unpublished report to Duchas The Heritage Service, Dublin. NPW (1995 - 2002). Natura 2000 SAC Site Assessment Form. Unpublished report, National Parks and Wildlife, Dublin. NPWS (1992 - 1994). National ASI Re-survey. Unpublished report, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin. NPWS (2015a). Sharavogue Bog SAC (site code 000585) Conservation objectives. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Ireland. NPWS (2015b). Sharavogue Bog SAC (site code 000585) Conservation objectives supporting document - raised bog habitats. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Ireland. NPWS (in prep.) Sharavogue Bog SAC (site code 000585) Draft Raised Bog Restoration Plan. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Ireland. O'Connell, C. and Mooney, E. (1983). Survey to Locate Raised Bogs of Scientific Interest. Internal Report to the Forest and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Schouten M.G.C. (2002). Conservation and Restoration of Raised Bogs: Geological, Hydrological and Ecological Studies. Department of Environment and Local Government, Dublin, Ireland/ Staatsbosbeheer, The Netherlands. Link(s): Coillte LIFE Project website - Demonstrating Best Practice in Raised Bog Restoration in Ireland:
<http://www.raisedbogrestoration.ie/>

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

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Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
IE98	6.0				

5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

designated at national or regional level:

Type code	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
IE98	Cangort Bog NHA (000890)	*	6.0

5.3 Site designation (optional)

The Cangort (Kilfrancis) section of the SAC is within Cangort Bog NHA (000890), which was designated in 2002.

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

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Organisation:	Coillte
Address:	Coillte, Dublin Road, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow, A63 DN25, Ireland
Email:	info@coillte.ie

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

- Yes
 No, but in preparation
 No

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

Most of the restoration work has been completed at both bogs but some drain blocking is required on the northern end of Sharavogue. Tree-felling and most of the drain-blocking have been completed at Cangort Bog. The blocking of boundary drains will require ongoing consultation with other stakeholders. The control of regenerating conifers and birch at Cangort, and dam maintenance and vegetation monitoring at both sites is ongoing. When the restoration management plan is completed for Cangort Bog NHA (000890), it will include the management requirements of the section of the SAC at Cangort. The restoration plan for Sharavogue has been finalised and it is being currently implemented as part of the NPWS Active Raised Bog Restoration Project 2016-2020 (LIFE NAT/IE/000032).

7. MAP OF THE SITES

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INSPIRE ID:

IE.NPWS.PS.NATURA2000.SAC.IE0000585

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).