



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 IE0000679
SITENAME Garriskil Bog SAC

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [1. SITE IDENTIFICATION](#)
- [2. SITE LOCATION](#)
- [3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION](#)
- [4. SITE DESCRIPTION](#)
- [5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS](#)
- [6. SITE MANAGEMENT](#)
- [7. MAP OF THE SITE](#)

1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code IE0000679	Back to top
----------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------

1.3 Site name

Garriskil Bog SAC

1.4 First Compilation date 1995-05	1.5 Update date 2018-09
--	-----------------------------------

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:	2017-10
National legal reference of SAC designation:	450/2017

2. SITE LOCATION

[Back to top](#)

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude

-7.4526

Latitude

53.6555

2.2 Area [ha]:

351.290787

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
------	-----------------------------

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them

[Back to top](#)

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			50.87		G	B	B	B	B
7120			31.6		G	B	C	B	B
7150			2.5		G	B	C	B	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	A395	Anser albifrons flavirostris			w	60	60	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A098	Falco columbarius			r	1	1	p	P	M	C	B	C	C
B	A153	Gallinago gallinago			r	1	1	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A160	Numenius arquata			r	2	2	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A162	Tringa totanus			r	2	2	p	P	M	C	B	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		Rhynchospora fusca						P						X
P	5213	Sphagnum austini			0	0		P		X				X
P	5223	Sphagnum fuscum			0	0		P		X				X
B		Tyto alba						P					X	
B		Tyto alba						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	8.0
N23	1.0
N06	2.0
N16	2.0
N07	84.0
N14	3.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

Garriskil Bog SAC (347.71 ha) consists of two raised bog sites. The main area is Garriskil Bog, which covers 324.81 ha and lies 3 km east of Rathowen in Co. Westmeath. A small outlier, Derrya Bog, covers 22.90 ha and lies 2.2 km to the east of Garriskil on the northern shore of Lough Derravaragh. Both bogs are remnants of the large river floodplain bogs which developed where the River Inny enters and leaves Lough Derravaragh. Garriskil Bog is considered to be an excellent example of a Midland raised bog and it includes 170.26 ha of uncut raised bog and 154.55 ha of surrounding hinterland which includes 109 ha of cutover bog. Derrya Bog, which is part of Lough Derravaragh Bog NHA (000684), has been restored as part of an EU LIFE project. The site consists of 2.5 ha of high bog and 20.4 ha of cutover most of which was afforested in the 1970s. All the conifer plantations were recently clear-felled and restored by drain-blocking. The bedrock geology of both sites is carboniferous limestone. Garriskil Bog is a large raised bog with 51.7% of the original bog still present. It contains a large, wet high quality central core of Active Raised Bog (ARB) amounting to 50.87 ha. There are extensive, well developed systems of pools and hummocks present. Outside the Active Raised Bog area pool complexes are rare and where they do occur they tend to be dominated by shallow open water or algal mats. In a number of places the high bog is being invaded by Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) and pines. The large areas of old cutover bog provides an additional habitat where Purple Moor-grass and Heather dominate, along with cottongrasses, while in some parts Downy Birch woodland is developing. Along the north-east margin of the high bog a narrow band of fen-grassland occurs. Past drainage of the bog, associated with arterial drainage of the Inny and Riffey rivers and peat cutting, has unfavourably impacted on the site and led to widespread subsidence and drying out. The northern area of the site was also affected in the 1990s by intensive surface drainage which directly affected the area of Active Raised Bog reducing it from 71.23 to 45.12 ha. Those drains were blocked by NPWS in the late 1990s and by 2014 the area of Active Raised Bog had increased by 5.75 ha to 50.87 ha. There has been no turf cutting since the 1990s and though burning has caused damage in the past, there has been no severe fire in recent years. Grazing cattle have caused some local poaching damage to the bog surface. The Derrya outlier is within Lough Derravaragh Bog NHA (000684). Lough Derravaragh Bog is a remnant of a larger area of bog much of which has now been cutover and reclaimed for forestry and agriculture with only 48 ha (approximately 40%) of high bog remaining. A small area of Active Raised Bog habitat (4.61 ha) is present and, based on hydrological modelling, an area of 2.1 ha is considered to be Degraded Raised Bog. In Derrya Bog both the high bog and cutover were planted with a closed canopy plantation of Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) in the 1980s. This conifer plantation was clear-felled in 2011 and the drains were blocked with peat dams in 2013 as part of an EU LIFE project. As a consequence water-levels have risen and some raised bog vegetation has returned to the wetter areas of the high bog. These areas contain Ling Heather, Hare's tail Cotton-grass (*Eriophorum vaginatum*), Bilberry, Purple Moor-grass and Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*) with the Bog mosses *Sphagnum palustre* and, in the wet drains, *Sphagnum recurvum*. There is some scattered Birch and Sitka Spruce regenerating and these are being controlled. On the cutover, now that the conifers have been clear-felled, it is expected that most of this area will develop into dry native broadleaf woodland, but 4.5 ha may be wet enough to support Wet Birch woodland and 1.44 ha of Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) - Willow (*Salix* spp.) woodland along the western cutover. A site specific restoration plan has been developed for

Garriskil Bog SAC to help meet the national conservation objectives for raised bogs. One of the key objectives of that plan is to restore the area of Active Raised Bog to 84.9 ha. The area of Active Raised Bog was reported as 50.9 ha during the latest monitoring survey (Fernandez et al, 2014a) and it has been concluded that there is 31.6 ha of Degraded Raised Bog on the high bog which can be restored to Active Raised Bog with the appropriate restoration measures. There is also long-term potential for 2.4 ha of bog peat-forming habitats (BPFH) to develop if restoration measures are undertaken on cutover areas. Detailed conservation objectives have yet to be developed for the Derrya Bog subsite of the SAC but will be produced as part of the restoration plan for the Lough Derravaragh Bog NHA site. Derrya 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. An After LIFE management plan is being developed by Coillte for the future conservation management of that part of the SAC. Garriskil 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

Garriskil Bog SAC is a site of considerable conservation significance comprising two subsites, Garriskil Bog and Derrya 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, covering significant areas, of the EU Habitats Directive Annex I habitats Active Raised Bog (7110), Degraded Raised Bog (7120), which is being restored to the priority Annex 1 habitat Active raised bog (7110), and Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion (7150). The site already supports a large area of high quality raised bog microhabitats, which is unusual for a site in the east Midlands, including some very well developed hummock/hollow complexes and has a large area with the potential for restoration to Active Raised Bog. Although the Derrya Bog subsite of the SAC is small (22.3 ha) and lacks annex habitats it has been restored and has the potential to support the retention of Active Raised Bog and the restoration of Degraded Raised Bog to Active Raised Bog in Lough Derravaragh Bog NHA (000684). 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.

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]
L	C01.03.02		o
L	J01.01		b
L	A04.02.01		i
H	J02.15		b
M	I02		b
L	I01		b

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
M	I02		i
L	I01		b
H	J02.15		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

4.4 Ownership (optional)

Type	[%]	
Public	National/Federal	0
	State/Province	70
	Local/Municipal	0
	Any Public	0
Joint or Co-Ownership	0	
Private	30	
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. 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., Gabbett M., Keane S., Long, M. and Martin, J. (2002). Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas Project. Unpublished report, NPWS, Dublin. Douglas, C. and Grogan, H. (1986). Survey to locate raised bogs of scientific interest in Counties Longford, Westmeath and Mayo. Unpublished report to the Forest and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Fernandez, F., Connolly K., Crowley W., Denyer J., Duff K. & Smith G. (2014a) Raised Bog Monitoring and Assessment Survey 2013 - Garriskil Bog – Site Report. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 81. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland. Fernandez, F., Connolly K., Crowley W., Denyer J., Duff K. & Smith G. (2014b) 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. Fox, A.D., Norriss, D.W., Stroud, D.A. & Wilson, H.J. (1994). Greenland White-fronted Geese in Ireland and Britain 1982/83 - 1993/94. Greenland White-fronted Goose Study research report no. 8. Greenland White-fronted Goose Study, Wales and National Parks & Wildlife Service, Dublin. 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 National Parks and Wildlife Service (1992-1994). National Areas of Scientific Interest Survey. Unpublished report, National Parks and Wildlife 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 (2008). Conservation Plan 2004-2009: Garriskil Bog cSAC and SPA. Draft 2. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. NPWS (2013). The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Version 1.0. Unpublished Report, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland. NPWS (2015a). Garriskil Bog SAC (site code 000679) Conservation objectives. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Ireland. NPWS (2015b). Garriskil Bog SAC (site code 000679) Conservation objectives supporting document - raised bog habitats. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Ireland. NPWS (in prep.) Garriskil Bog SAC (site code 000679) Draft Raised Bog Restoration Plan. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Ireland. 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. Wilson, H.J. (in prep.). Birds of Raised Bogs. Review document in preparation. National Parks & Wildlife, Dublin. Link(s): Coillte LIFE Project website - Demonstrating Best Practice in Raised Bog Restoration in Ireland: <http://www.raisedbogrestoration.ie/>

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

[Back to top](#)

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
IE98	6.56				

5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

designated at national or regional level:

Type code	Site name	Type	Cover [%]

5.3 Site designation (optional)

The Derrya Bog section of the SAC is within Lough Derravaragh Bog NHA (000684), which was designated in 2002.

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

[Back to top](#)

6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

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:

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

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

Restoration work has been carried out at both bogs but significant amounts of drain blocking is required on the cutover at Garriskil. Tree-felling and most of the drain-blocking have been completed at Derrya Bog except for the boundary drains. The blocking of cutover and boundary drains will require ongoing consultation with other stakeholders. The control of regenerating conifers and birch at Derrya, and dam maintenance and vegetation monitoring at both sites is ongoing. When the restoration management plan is completed for Lough Derravaragh Bog NHA (000684), it will include the management requirements of the section of the SAC at Derrya. The restoration plan for Garriskil has been finalised and it is being currently being implemented as part of the NPWS Active Raised Bog Restoration Project 2016-2020 (LIFE NAT/IE/000032).

7. MAP OF THE SITES

[Back to top](#)

INSPIRE ID:

IE.NPWS.PS.NATURA2000.SAC.IE0000679

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).

--