

Group	CODE	Scientific Name	S	NP	Size		Unit	Cat.	Species Annex		Other categories			
					Min	Max			C R V P	IV	V	A	B	C
P		Acinos arvensis									X			
P		Erigeron acer									X			
P		Vicia orobus									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

[Back to top](#)

Habitat class	% Cover
N08	5.0
N09	30.0
N06	1.0
N16	6.0
N14	5.0
N23	1.0
N07	52.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

This site comprises a series of glacial esker ridges situated c.5 km west of the town of Clonaslee and to the north of the Slieve Bloom Mountains. Calcareous grassland, mostly unimproved, is a principal habitat and is noted for high species diversity. Calcareous springs at the base of the esker ridges have resulted in the formation of alkaline fen. Native deciduous woodland also occurs on the ridges. A raised bog, Derry Bog, now mostly cutaway, is included in site. Owing to the diversity of habitats present, the site is noted for its unusual mixture of calcicole and calcifuge species.

4.2 Quality and importance

The alkaline fen at this site is a good representative of the habitat and contains some examples of petrifying springs. The site contains a relict population of *Vertigo geyeri* and is one of a small number of known sites for this mollusc in the country. The site also contains two legally protected and Red Data plant species, *Vicia orobus* and *Acinos arvensis*, plus a number of scarce species such as *Erigeron acer*, *Sesleria albicans* and *Ophrys insectifera*.

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	H05.01		i
L	E01.03		o
M	K02.01		i
L	J01.01		i
H	C01.03.02		i
M	J02.15		i

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside /outside [i o b]
H	J02.05		i
H	A04.02.03		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)

4.5 Documentation

Farrell, L. (1972). A Preliminary Report on Areas of Scientific Interest in County Laois. An Foras Forbartha, Dublin. Foss, P.F. (1986). Field excursion to the Derry Hills, Co. Laois - 6 July 1985. Bulletin of the Irish Biogeographical Society 9: 57-62 Foss, P.F. (1986). *Acinos arvensis* (Lam) Dandy refound in County Laois (H14). Irish Naturalists' Journal 22: 25-27. 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, National Parks and Wildlife, Dublin. Webb, D.A. (1950). The fly orchid in Leix. Irish Naturalists' Journal 10: 107. Webb, D.A. (1957). *Neotinia* in Roscommon and *Sesleria* in Leix. Irish Naturalists' Journal 12: 199. Webb, D.A. (1958). New county records for *Vicia orobus*, *Epilobium roseum* and *Pyrola minor*. Irish Naturalists' Journal 12: 249.

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

[Back to top](#)

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:

[Back to top](#)

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

- Yes
 No, but in preparation
 No

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

7. MAP OF THE SITES

[Back to top](#)

INSPIRE ID:

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).