



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 IE0001774
SITENAME Lough Carra/Mask Complex SAC

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code IE0001774	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Lough Carra/Mask Complex SAC

1.4 First Compilation date 1996-07	1.5 Update date 2015-12
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1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation:	National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Address:	7 Ely Place, Dublin 2, Ireland
Email:	datadelivery@ahg.gov.ie

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

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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Longitude

-9.334943476

Latitude

53.62784867

2.2 Area [ha]:

13515.550746

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[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
3110 			1000.0		P	C	C	C	C
3130 			3600.0		P	C	C	C	C
3140 			1623.21		M	A	B	A	A
4030 			135.27		M	B	C	B	B
6210 	X		135.27		M	A	C	B	B
7210 			135.27		M	B	C	B	C
7230 			135.27		M	A	C	B	B
8240 			405.8		M	A	C	A	A
91E0 			135.27		M	B	B	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

[illegible]

B	A142	vanellus			w	233	233	i		G	C	B	C	C
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- **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		Allium schoenoprasum						P			X					
P		Chara curta						P			X					
P		Chara rudis						P			X					
P		Frangula alnus						P			X					
P		Gentiana verna						P							X	
P		Hypericum canadense						P			X					
P		Logfia minima						P			X					
M		Martes martes						P			X					
M		Martes martes						P					X			
I		Niphargus sp.						P							X	
P		Pilularia globulifera						P			X					
F		Salmo trutta						P							X	
F		Salvelinus alpinus						P			X					
P		Spiranthes romanzoffiana						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

4.1 General site character

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Habitat class	% Cover
N06	78.0
N10	2.0
N19	2.0
N22	3.0
N14	1.0
N09	1.0
N20	1.0
N08	3.0
N16	3.0
N23	1.0
N07	5.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

General geological character of the area is carboniferous limestones, with some shales and sandstones. Lough Mask dominates the site being the sixth largest lake in Ireland and one of the deepest (maximum depth 58m). The eastern side of Mask is edged by a mosaic of limestone pavement, scrub and woodland. The paving floods. In contrast, the western shore is backed by high mountains from which the fast flowing Owenbrin river flows, and where it enters the lake it forms an extensive delta of coarse sandy sediment. Lough Carra is generally shallow (maximum depth 9m) and surrounded by limestone pavement with a diversity of other habitats, both limestone related and wetland type. A feature of the lakes are the many islands. Loughs Mask and Carra are hydrologically linked, while the main outflowing river in Mask connects to Lough Corrib.

4.2 Quality and importance

This site is of immense importance for the occurrence of scarce and specialised habitats, as well as animal and plant species. Lough Carra is one of the best examples of a marl lake in the country, while Mask is one of the largest lowland oligotrophic systems. The site is the northern limit of the western limestones. The limestone pavement, which is one of the most important examples outside of the Burren, occurs in mosaic with good examples of dry heath and calcareous grassland rich in orchids. Alkaline fens and calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* are a feature of the marginal wetland vegetation and both are well represented. Alluvial forest is well-developed at Lough Mask, especially at Ballykine and Clonbur. *Taxus baccata* occurs as a component of the woodland at Clonbur. An internationally important population of *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, which is at the northern limit of the species' distribution in Ireland, is also present. A population of *Drepanocladus vernicosus* on the shoreline of Lough Mask is the only known example of a lake-shore population in Ireland. Several Red Data Book plant species occur. Also supports *Lutra lutra*, the glacial relict *Salvelinus alpinus*, and a rare shrimp *Niphargus* spp. Important for wintering and breeding birds, with *Anser albifrons flavirostris*, *Sterna hirundo* and *Larus* gulls.

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			
	Threats and	Pollution (optional)	inside/outside

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management	Pollution (optional)	inside/outside

Rank	pressures [code]	[code]	[i o b]
H	H01		i
M	A03.03		i

	[code]	[code]	[i o b]
L	X		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

4.5 Documentation

Bonham, F.R.H. (1978). An Interim Report on the State of Knowledge of the Natural History of an Area in South Mayo. Internal Report, Forest and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Clabby, K.J., Lucey, J., McGarrigle, M.L., Bowman, J.J., Flanagan, P.J. and Toner, P. (1992). Water Quality in Ireland, 1987-1990. Environmental Research Unit, Dublin. Cross, J. (1976). Conservation Report on Cong Forest. Forest and Wildlife Service, unpublished. Cross, J. (1982). Proposed Nature Reserve at Ballykine and Rosshill Woods, Cong Forest. Internal Document, Forest and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Dunford, B. (2003). LIFE-Nature Woodland Restoration Project Proposal 2003 - Ecologists Report. Unpublished Internal Report prepared for Coillte Teo. Flanagan, P.J. and Toner, P.F. (1975). A Preliminary Survey of Irish Lakes. An Foras Forbartha, Dublin. Fras, De.V and Kane, W.M. (1903). Race of blind amphipod from Lough Mask. Irish Naturalist 12: 273-274. Hannon, K. et al. (in preparation). 1995 All Ireland Tern Survey. IWC/NPW. Heuff, H. (1984). The Vegetation of Irish Lakes. Internal Report, Forest and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Hunt, J., Derwin, J., Coveney, J. and Newton, S. (2000). Republic of Ireland. Pp. 365-416 in M.F. Heath and M.I. Evans (eds.). Important Bird areas in Europe: Priority Sites for Conservation 1: Northern Europe. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International (BirdLife Conservation Series No. 8). Igoe, F., O'Grady, M.F., Tierney, D. and Fitzmaurice, P. (2003). Arctic char *Salvelinus alpinus* (L.) in Ireland - a millenium review of its distribution and status with conservation recommendations. Biology and Environment 103B: 9-22. Kelly, D.L. and Iremonger, S.F. (1997). Irish wetland woods: the plant communities and their ecology. Biology and the Environment, Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy 97B: 1-32. King, J.J. and Champ, W.S.T. (2000). Baseline water quality investigations on Lough Carra, western Ireland, with references to water chemistry, phytoplankton and aquatic plants. Biology and Environment 100B: 13-26. McAney, C.M. (1994). The Lesser Horseshoe Bat In Ireland - Past, Present and Future. Folia Zoologia. (1314) : 387-392. McGarrigle, M.L. and Champ, W.S.T. (1999). Keeping pristine lakes clean: Lough Conn and Mask, western Ireland. Hydrobiologia 395/396: 455-469. McGarrigle, M.L., Bowman, J.J., Clabby, K.J., Lucey, J., Cunningham, P., MacCarthaigh, M., Keegan, M., Cantrell, B., Lehan, M., Clenaghan, C. and Toner, P.F. (2002). Water Quality in Ireland 1998-2000. Environmental Protection Agency, Wexford. O'Sullivan, P. (1994). Bats In Ireland. The Irish Naturalists' Journal. Special Zoological Supplement. 21 pp. Praeger, R.L. (1906). On the botany of Lough Carra. Irish Naturalist 15: 207-214. Praeger, R.L. (1934). The Botanist in Ireland. Hodges Figgis, Dublin. Shackleton, J. (1975). A Study of Certain Aspects of the Vegetation of Lough Carra, Co. Mayo. Unpublished Report, Forest and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Sheppard, R. (1993). Ireland's Wetland Wealth. Irish Wildbird Conservancy, Dublin. Webb, D.A. (1957). *Hypericum canadense* L. A new American plant in Western Ireland. Irish Naturalists' Journal. 12: 112-116. Webb, D.A. and Halliday, G. (1973). The distribriution, habitat and status of *Hypercium canadense* L. In Ireland. *Watsonia* 9: 333-344. Whilde, A., Cotter, D.C.F. and Sheppard, R. (1993). A Repeat Survey of Gulls Breeding Inland in Counties Donegal, Sligo, Mayo and Galway, with Recent Counts from Leitrim and Fermanagh. Irish Birds 5: 67-72.

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

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5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
IE05	73.0				

5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

designated at national or regional level:

Type code	Site name	Type	Cover [%]

IE05	Lough Carra No Shooting Area	+	12.0
IE05	Lough Mask No Shooting Area	+	61.0

6. 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

7. MAP OF THE SITES

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INSPIRE ID:

IE.NPWS.PS.NATURA2000.SAC.IE0001774

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).

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