



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 IE0001776
SITENAME Pilgrim's Road Esker SAC

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code IE0001776	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Pilgrim's Road Esker SAC

1.4 First Compilation date 1995-08	1.5 Update date 2020-10
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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:	1997-11
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

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The site comprises an impressive, steep-sided esker ridge which is composed of glacial sands and gravels and situated on the north side of Mongan raised bog and to the east of the River Shannon. Species-rich calcareous grassland is the dominant vegetation of the site; areas of *Corylus avellana*/*Fraxinus excelsior* woodland, scrub, improved grassland and gravel pit are also included in the site.

4.2 Quality and importance

The importance of the site lies in the relatively large area of high quality, species-rich calcareous grassland that occurs. This grassland supports a suite of orchid species including *Orchis morio*, of which this site holds probably the largest population of the species in the country. The occurrence of woodland on the site is notable; esker woodland is becoming increasingly rare in Ireland.

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	A08		i
H	D01		i
M	A04.01		i
H	A07		i
L	E03.03		i
H	A05.02		i
H	K02.01		i
L	A02.01		i
L	A04.03		i

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
M	A10.01		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

Ó Críodáin, C. (1992). Conservation of Grassland Sites of Scientific Interest in Ireland. A Preliminary Report. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Fitzgerald, R. (1990-94). National Parks and Wildlife Service Protected and Threatened Flora Survey. Unpublished report to National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Tubridy, M. (Ed.) (1984). Creation and Management of a Heritage Zone at Clonmacnoise, Co Offaly, Ireland. Unpublished report to E.E.C., contract No. 6611/12. Environmental Sciences Unit, Trinity College, Dublin. Cross, J.R. (1992). The distribution, character and conservation of woodlands on esker ridges in Ireland. Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy 92B: 1-19. Tubridy, M. (Ed.) (1987). The Heritage of Clonmacnoise. Environmental Sciences Unit, Trinity College, Dublin.

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

designated at international level:

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Type	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
Other	Mongan Bog Nature Reserve	/	
	Mongan Bog Nature Reserve	/	

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

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6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

- Yes
 No, but in preparation
 No

7. MAP OF THE SITES

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INSPIRE ID:

IE.NPWS.PS.NATURA2000.SAC.IE0001776

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).