



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 IE0001898
SITENAME Unshin River SAC

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code IE0001898	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Unshin River SAC

1.4 First Compilation date 1995-11	1.5 Update date 2019-09
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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

1.7 Site indication and designation / classification dates

Date site classified as SPA:	0000-00
National legal reference of SPA designation	No data
Date site proposed as SCI:	1998-05
Date site confirmed as SCI:	No data
Date site designated as SAC:	2019-03
National legal reference of SAC designation:	99/2019

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude -8.468005 Latitude 54.160091

2.2 Area [ha]:

2.3 Marine area [%]

[Back to top](#)

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

[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
3260 B			36.68		M	A	C	A	A
6210 B	X		2.2		G	C	C	C	C
6410 B			10.0		G	C	C	C	C
91E0 B			9.17		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

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	A229	Alcedo atthis			p				P	DD	C	A	C	B
B	A052	Anas crecca			w	347	347	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A050	Anas penelope			w	93	93	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A053	Anas platyrhynchos			w	101	101	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A038	Cygnum cygnum			w	32	32	i		G	C	B	C	C
M	1355	Lutra lutra			p				P	DD	C	C	C	C
F	1106	Salmo salar			r				C	DD	C	A	C	A

- **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
M		Meles meles						P			X			
M		Meles meles						P					X	
P		Poa palustris						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

[Back to top](#)

Habitat class	% Cover
N16	11.0
N08	2.0
N09	1.0
N20	1.0
N06	6.0
N07	4.0
N23	1.0
N14	1.0
N10	73.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

The Unshin River has a spring-fed lake, Lough Arrow, as its source and flows north-westwards for some 24 km to reach the sea at Ballysadare Bay. The river supports a rich aquatic and emergent flora and runs beside or through a wide variety of habitats. The site also includes the Ballysadare and Owenboy/Owenbeg rivers. The whole site is underlain by Carboniferous limestone.

4.2 Quality and importance

The Unshin River is an excellent example of a pristine, unmanaged, undrained lowland limestone river and is extremely important as it represents one of only four remaining undrained limestone rivers in Ireland. Such rivers as this are otherwise almost unknown in Europe. It is unpolluted for almost its entire length and supports a species-rich, diverse aquatic flora, several important bird species, fish and several rare riverbank plant species, including *Poa palustris*. Of particular importance is the population of *Salmo salar*. The site is used by *Lutra lutra*. A good diversity of adjacent habitats is found along its length, including alluvial woodland.

4.3 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

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Negative Impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
L	B02		o
M	A02.01		i
L	J02.10		i
H	I01		i

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside /outside [i o b]
M	A04.02.02		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

Browne, A., Dunne, F. and Roche, N. (2000). A Survey of Broadleaf Woodlands in three SACs: Barrow-Nore, River Unshin and Lough Forbes. Unpublished report to National Parks and Wildlife, Dublin. Central Fisheries Board (2001). Irish Salmon Catches 2000. <http://www.cfb.ie/>: February 2001. Doris, Y., McGarrigle, M.L., Clabby, K.J., Lucey, J., Neill, M., Flanagan, M., Quinn, M.B., Sugrue, M. and Lehane, M. (1999). Water Quality in Ireland 1995-1997. Statistical Compendium of River Quality Data. Electronic Publication on Disk. Environmental Protection Agency, Wexford. Goodwillie, R.N., Buckley, P. and Douglas, C. (1992). Owenmore River Proposed Arterial Drainage Environmental Impact Assessment. Botanical and Ornithological Surveys. Unpublished report to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Office of Public Works, Dublin. Holmes, N.T. H. (1996). River Unshin - Macrophyte Community. Notes of Records Made During May 1996 RHS Surveys. Unpublished report. O'Reilly, P. (1991). Trout and Salmon Rivers of Ireland: An Anglers Guide. Merlin Unwin Books, London.

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:

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

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

7. MAP OF THE SITES

[Back to top](#)

INSPIRE ID:

IE.NPWS.PS.NATURA2000.SAC.IE0001898

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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