



# 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 IE0002165  
SITENAME Lower River Shannon SAC

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## 1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

<b>1.1 Type</b> B	<b>1.2 Site code</b> IE0002165	<a href="#">Back to top</a>
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### 1.3 Site name

Lower River Shannon SAC

<b>1.4 First Compilation date</b> 1998-01	<b>1.5 Update date</b> 2017-09
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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

<b>Date site proposed as SCI:</b>	2002-01
<b>Date site confirmed as SCI:</b>	No data
<b>Date site designated as SAC:</b>	No data
<b>National legal reference of SAC designation:</b>	No data

## 2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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**Longitude**

-9.4271

**Latitude**

52.5841

**2.2 Area [ha]:**

68300.00972

**2.3 Marine area [%]**

87.488

**2.4 Sitelength [km]:**

0.0

**2.5 Administrative region code and name****NUTS level 2 code****Region Name**

IE02	Southern and Eastern
IEZZ	Extra-Regio
IE02	Southern and Eastern

**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	Glob
1110			1353.2786		M	B	C	B	C
1130			24273.2751		M	A	A	B	A
1140			8808.3004		M	A	A	B	A
1150			33.3752		M	A	C	B	A
1160			35288.2146		M	A	B	A	B
1170			21421.3014		M	B	C	A	C
1220			683.3		M	A	C	A	A
1230			683.3		M	A	B	A	A



B	A169	<a href="#">interpres</a>		w	107	107	i		G	C	A	C	C
B	A061	<a href="#">Aythya fuligula</a>		r				P	DD	C	A	C	B
B	A061	<a href="#">Aythya fuligula</a>		w	272	272	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A062	<a href="#">Aythya marila</a>		w	121	121	i		G	C	A	C	C
B	A046	<a href="#">Branta bernicla</a>		w	246	246	i		G	C	A	C	A
B	A149	<a href="#">Calidris alpina</a>		w	20100	20100	i		G	A	A	C	A
B	A149	<a href="#">Calidris alpina</a>		c				P	DD	A	A	C	A
B	A143	<a href="#">Calidris canutus</a>		w	800	800	i		G	B	A	C	B
B	A010	<a href="#">Calonectris diomedea</a>		c				P	DD	D			
B	A137	<a href="#">Charadrius hiaticula</a>		r				P	DD	B	A	C	A
B	A137	<a href="#">Charadrius hiaticula</a>		w	240	240	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A082	<a href="#">Circus cyaneus</a>		c				P	DD	D			
B	A037	<a href="#">Cygnus columbianus bewickii</a>		w				P	DD	C	B	C	C
B	A038	<a href="#">Cygnus cygnus</a>		w	201	201	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A098	<a href="#">Falco columbarius</a>		p				P	DD	D			
B	A103	<a href="#">Falco peregrinus</a>		p	3	3	p		G	C	A	C	B
B	A009	<a href="#">Fulmarus glacialis</a>		r	66	66	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A153	<a href="#">Gallinago gallinago</a>		r				P	DD	C	A	C	A
B	A153	<a href="#">Gallinago gallinago</a>		w	719	719	i		G	C	A	C	A
B	A003	<a href="#">Gavia immer</a>		w	3	3	i		G	D			
B	A001	<a href="#">Gavia stellata</a>		c				P	DD	D			
B	A251	<a href="#">Hirundo rustica</a>		c				P	DD	C	A	C	C
B	A251	<a href="#">Hirundo rustica</a>		r				P	DD	C	A	C	C
F	1099	<a href="#">Lampetra fluviatilis</a>		c				P	DD	C	B	C	B
F	1099	<a href="#">Lampetra fluviatilis</a>		r				P	DD	C	B	C	B
F	1096	<a href="#">Lampetra planeri</a>		p				P	DD	C	B	C	B
B	A182	<a href="#">Larus canus</a>		w	366	366	i		G	C	A	C	C
B	A183	<a href="#">Larus fuscus</a>		r				P	DD	C	A	C	C
B	A183	<a href="#">Larus fuscus</a>		w	100	100	i		G	C	A	C	C
B	A179	<a href="#">Larus ridibundus</a>		w	2216	2216	i		G	C	A	C	C
B	A179	<a href="#">Larus ridibundus</a>		r				P	DD	C	A	C	C

B	A157	<a href="#">Limosa lapponica</a>		w	476	476	i		G	B	A	C	B
B	A156	<a href="#">Limosa limosa</a>		c	16400	16400	i		G	B	B	C	A
B	A156	<a href="#">Limosa limosa</a>		w	1062	1062	i		G	B	B	C	A
B	A290	<a href="#">Locustella naevia</a>		r	3	3	p		G	C	B	C	C
M	1355	<a href="#">Lutra lutra</a>		p				P	DD	C	A	C	A
I	1029	<a href="#">Margaritifera margaritifera</a>		p				P	DD	C	B	C	B
B	A160	<a href="#">Numenius arquata</a>		w	1504	1504	i		G	C	A	C	A
B	A015	<a href="#">Oceanodroma leucorhoa</a>		c				P	DD	D			
F	1095	<a href="#">Petromyzon marinus</a>		c				P	DD	C	B	C	B
F	1095	<a href="#">Petromyzon marinus</a>		r				P	DD	C	B	C	B
B	A017	<a href="#">Phalacrocorax carbo</a>		r	13	13	p		G	B	A	C	B
B	A017	<a href="#">Phalacrocorax carbo</a>		w	321	321	i		G	B	A	C	B
B	A140	<a href="#">Pluvialis apricaria</a>		w	4708	4708	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A141	<a href="#">Pluvialis squatarola</a>		w	750	750	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A346	<a href="#">Pyrhacorax pyrrhocorax</a>		p	14	41	p		G	B	A	C	A
B	A249	<a href="#">Riparia riparia</a>		r				P	DD	C	A	C	C
B	A249	<a href="#">Riparia riparia</a>		c				P	DD	C	A	C	C
B	A188	<a href="#">Rissa tridactyla</a>		r	690	690	p		G	C	B	C	B
F	1106	<a href="#">Salmo salar</a>		r				C	DD	C	A	C	B
B	A193	<a href="#">Sterna hirundo</a>		r	15	15	p		G	C	B	C	B
B	A194	<a href="#">Sterna paradisaea</a>		r				P	DD	D			
B	A191	<a href="#">Sterna sandvicensis</a>		r	34	34	p		G	C	A	C	B
B	A048	<a href="#">Tadorna tadorna</a>		w	1060	1060	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A048	<a href="#">Tadorna tadorna</a>		r				P	DD	B	A	C	A
B	A164	<a href="#">Tringa nebularia</a>		w	36	36	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A164	<a href="#">Tringa nebularia</a>		c				P	DD	B	A	C	A
B	A162	<a href="#">Tringa totanus</a>		r				P	DD	B	A	C	A
B	A162	<a href="#">Tringa totanus</a>		w	3228	3228	i		G	B	A	C	A
M	1349	<a href="#">Tursiops truncatus</a>		p	128	152	i		G	C	B	C	A

B	A199	<a href="#">Uria aalge</a>			r	4010	4010	i		G	B	B	C	A
B	A142	<a href="#">Vanellus vanellus</a>			w	24581	24581	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A142	<a href="#">Vanellus vanellus</a>			r				P	DD	B	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
P		<a href="#">Agrostemma githago</a>						P			X			
I		<a href="#">Archidistoma aggregatum</a>						C						X
P		<a href="#">Atropa belladonna</a>						P						X
P		<a href="#">Chara canescens</a>						P			X			
P		<a href="#">Chara cf. connivens</a>						P			X			
F		<a href="#">Coregonus autumnalis pollan</a>						P			X			
I		<a href="#">Diazona violacea</a>						C						X
P		<a href="#">Eleocharis parvula</a>									X			
P		<a href="#">Groenlandia densa</a>						P			X			
P		<a href="#">Hordeum secalinum</a>						P			X			
P		<a href="#">Leucojum aestivum</a>						P						X
P		<a href="#">Limonium recurvum ssp. Pseudotranswallianum</a>						P				X		
P		<a href="#">Mentha pulegium</a>						P			X			
F		<a href="#">Osmerus eperlanus</a>						P			X			
I		<a href="#">Paracentrotus lividus</a>						C						X
P		<a href="#">Rumex maritimus</a>						P			X			
P		<a href="#">Scirpus triquetar</a>						P			X			
I		<a href="#">Thymosia guernei</a>						C						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
N09	1.0
N04	1.0
N10	2.0
N03	2.0
N16	1.0
N01	39.0
N07	1.0
N08	2.0
N20	1.0
N02	44.0
N05	1.0
N06	2.0
N14	3.0
<b>Total Habitat Cover</b>	<b>100</b>

### Other Site Characteristics

A very large, long site approximately 14 km wide and 120 km long, encompassing: the drained river valley which forms the River Shannon estuary; the broader River Fergus estuary, plus a number of smaller estuaries e.g. Poulmasherry Bay; the freshwater lower reaches of the Shannon River, between Killaloe and Limerick, plus the freshwater stretches of much of the Feale and Mulkear catchments; a marine area at the mouth of the Shannon estuary with high rocky cliffs to the north and south; ericaceous heath on Kerry Head and Loop Head; and several lagoons. The underlying geology ranges from Carboniferous limestone (east of Foynes) to Namurian shales and flagstones (west of Foynes) to Old Red Sandstone (at Kerry Head). The salinity of the system varies daily with the ebb and flood of the tide and with annual rainfall fluctuations seasonally.

### 4.2 Quality and importance

The site contains many Annexed habitats, including the most extensive area of estuarine habitat in Ireland. A good range of Annexed species are also present, including the only known resident population of *Tursiops truncatus* in Ireland, all three Irish species of lamprey, and a good population of *Salmo salar*. A number of birds listed on the EU Birds Directive either winter or breed in the site. The site is internationally important for waterfowl with more than 50,000 individuals occurring in winter. Several species listed in the Irish Red Data Book are present, perhaps most notably the only known Irish populations of *Scirpus triquetus*.

### 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	I01		i
M	A08		o
M	E01		o
M	H04		o
M	A08		i
M	E03		o
L	D01.01		i
M	K02.03		o
L	G01.01		i
L	B		i
L	F01		i
L	F03.01		i
L	C01.01.02		i
M	E03		i
L	C01.03.01		i
M	A04		i
L	J02.12.01		i
M	J02.01.01		i
L	J02.10		i
M	J02.01.02		o

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
L	D01.01		i
L	F02.03		i
L	G01.01		i
L	F01		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

Anonymous (1996). Limerick Main Drainage EIS: Flora and Fauna, Nature Conservation and Fisheries. A report to Limerick Corporation by Natural Environmental Consultants. Anonymus (1997). Fisheries Conservation Report: Jan. 1996 - April 1997. ESB, Dublin. Berrow, S.D., Holmes, B. and Kiely, O.R. (1996). Distribution and abundance of Bottlenose Dolphins, *Tursiops truncatus* (Montagu) in the Shannon Estuary. Biology and Environment: Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy 96B 1:1-9. Berrow, S.D., Mackie, K.L., O' Sullivan, O., Shepherd, K.B., Mellon, C. and Coveney, J.A. (1993). The second International Chough Survey in Ireland, 1992. Irish Birds 5: 1-10. Berrow, S.D. and Holmes, B. (1999). Tour boats and dolphins: A note on quantifying the activities of whale watching boats in the Shannon estuary, Ireland. Journal of Cetacean Research and Management 1(2): 199-200. Berrow, S.D., McHugh, B., Glynn, D., McGovern, E., Parsons, K., Baird, R.W. and Hooker, S.K. (2002). Organochlorine concentrations in resident bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) in the Shannon estuary, Ireland. Marine Pollution Bulletin 44: 1296-1313. Berrow, S. (2003). Developing sustainable whalewatching in the Shannon estuary. In Marine Ecotourism: Issues and Experiences. Eds. Garrod, B and Wilson. J. Channel View Publications. ISBN 1-853150-42-3. p198-203. Berrow, S.D., O'Brien, J. and Holmes, B. (2006). Whistle production by Bottlenose Dolphins *Tursiops truncatus* in the Shannon Estuary. Irish Naturalists' Journal. 28(5): 208-213. Bowman, J.J., Clabby, K.J., Lucey, J., McGarrigle, M.L. and Toner, P.F. (1996). Water Quality in Ireland 1991 - 1994. Environmental Protection Agency, Wexford. Brennan, P. (1990). Loop Head 1989/1990. Report on bird sightings and ringing. Brennan, B.M. and Wilson, J.G. (1993). Spatial and temporal variation in sediments and their nutrient concentrations in the unpolluted Shannon Estuary, Ireland, Arch. Hydrobiol./Suppl.: 75: 4551-486. Central Fisheries Board (2001). Irish Salmon Catches 2000. <http://www.cfb.ie/>:February 2001. Clabby, K.J., Lucey, J., McGarrigle, M.L., Bowman, J.J., Flanagan, P.J. and Toner, P.F. (1992). Water Quality in Ireland 1987-1990. Environmental Research Unit, Dublin. Curtis, T.G.F. and McGough, H.N. (1988). The Irish Red Data Book: 1 Vascular Plants. Stationery Office, Dublin. Delany, S. (1996). I-WeBS Report 1994-94: Results of the first



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## 5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

### 5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

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Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
IE05	1.0				

### 5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

designated at national or regional level:

Type code	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
IE05	City of Limerick (part)	*	1.0
IE05	Islandavanna	+	1.0

## 6. SITE MANAGEMENT

### 6.2 Management Plan(s):

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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.IE0002165

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).