



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 IE0002170
SITENAME Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code IE0002170	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC

1.4 First Compilation date 1998-09	1.5 Update date 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

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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B	A130	ostralegus			w	340	340	i		G	C	C	C	C
F	1099	Lampetra fluviatilis			r				P	DD	C	B	C	C
F	1096	Lampetra planeri			p				P	DD	C	A	C	E
B	A183	Larus fuscus			w	172	172	i		G	C	C	C	C
B	A179	Larus ridibundus			w	5206	5206	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A157	Limosa lapponica			w	130	130	i		G	C	C	C	C
B	A156	Limosa limosa			w	1692	1692	i		G	A	A	C	A
M	1355	Lutra lutra			p				P	DD	C	A	C	A
I	1029	Margaritifera margaritifera			p				P	DD	C	B	C	A
B	A160	Numenius arquata			w	1336	1336	i		G	C	B	C	E
F	1095	Petromyzon marinus			r				P	DD	C	A	C	E
B	A017	Phalacrocorax carbo			w	431	431	i		G	B	B	C	E
B	A140	Pluvialis apricaria			w	5000	5000	i		G	B	B	C	E
B	A141	Pluvialis squatarola			w	36	36	i		G	C	B	C	E
F	1106	Salmo salar			r				C	DD	C	B	C	A
B	A048	Tadorna tadorna			r	10	10	p		G	C	B	C	E
B	A048	Tadorna tadorna			w	137	137	i		G	C	B	C	E
P	1421	Trichomanes speciosum	Yes		p				P	DD	C	B	C	C
B	A162	Tringa totanus			w	340	340	i		G	C	B	C	E
B	A142	Vanellus vanellus			w	2560	2560	i		G	C	B	C	E

- **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
I		Anodonta cygnea						P						X

B		Ardea cinerea						P						X
B		Asio otus						P						X
P		Carex depauperata						P			X			
B		Cinclus cinclus						P						X
B		Cygnus olor						P						X
M		Lepus timidus hibernicus						P				X		
M		Lepus timidus hibernicus						P					X	
M		Lepus timidus hibernicus						P			X			
M		Martes martes						P					X	
M		Martes martes						P			X			
M		Meles meles						P			X			
M		Meles meles						P					X	
P		Mentha pulegium						P			X			
I		Metrioptera roselii						P						X
M		Myotis daubentoni						P			X			
M		Myotis daubentoni						P					X	
M		Myotis mystacinus						P			X			
M		Myotis mystacinus						P					X	
M		Myotis nattereri						P					X	
M		Myotis nattereri						P			X			
M		Pipistrellus pipistrellus						P			X			
M		Pipistrellus pipistrellus						P					X	
M		Plecotus auritus						P					X	
M		Plecotus auritus						P			X			
P		Prunus padus						P			X			
A		Rana temporaria						P					X	
A		Rana temporaria						P			X			
B		Tyto alba						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

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4.1 General site character

Habitat class	% Cover
N09	3.0
N07	7.0
N05	1.0
N02	10.0
N16	2.0
N03	1.0
N17	4.0
N06	13.0
N08	7.0
N10	12.0
N14	25.0
N01	1.0
N19	5.0
N22	1.0
N12	6.0
N23	1.0
N04	1.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

The River Blackwater is one of the largest rivers in Ireland, draining a major part of Co. Cork and parts of Cos. Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary and Waterford. The site consists of most of the freshwater stretches of the system as well as the estuarine component at Youghal. Tidal influence extends almost to Cappoquin. The Blackwater rises in the east Kerry uplands where Namurian grits and shales build the low heather-covered plateaux. In the lowlands in the Mallow district it passes over limestone and later cuts through ridges of Old Red Sandstone to the south of Cappoquin. Main tributaries include the Rivers Lickey, Bride, Allow and Awbeg. A wide range of habitats associated with the rivers are included within the site, including substantial areas of woodland (deciduous, mixed), scrub, wet grassland, swamp and marsh vegetation, bog, salt marshes and intertidal sand and mud flats. Areas of improved grassland, arable land and coniferous plantations are included in the site for water quality reasons.

4.2 Quality and importance

The site supports important examples of a range of Annex I habitats, notably estuaries, intertidal mudflats and sandflats, perennial vegetation of stony banks, salt meadows, floating river vegetation, alluvial forests

and oak woodlands. Most of these are of good quality and extensive in area. The Blackwater system is an important salmonid fishery and is of high conservation value for *Salmo salar*. Also supports important populations of *Lampetra planeri*, *L. fluviatilis*, *Petromyzon marinus* and *Alosa fallax fallax*. Substantial populations of *Margaritifera margaritifera* occur, while *Austroptamobius pallipes* is found in the Awbeg River. *Lutra lutra* is widespread throughout the site and has been subject to detailed surveys. *Trichomanes speciosum* occurs at one location. Annex I bird species present in the site include breeding *Egretta garzetta*, *Alcedo atthis* and *Falco peregrinus* and wintering *cygnus cygnus* and *Pluvialis apricaria*. A good diversity of other winter waterfowl species also occurs.

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]
M	E02		o
H	A08		o
H	A03		i
L	C01.01		o
M	J02.01		o
M	E01		o
L	B		i
L	D01.04		i
H	A04		i
L	E03.01		i
M	I01		o
L	G02		o
M	I01		i
H	A08		i
L	J02.01		i
L	K01.01		i
L	G01.01		i
M	B		o
M	F02.03		i
H	A04		o
L	D01.02		i

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
M	F02.03		i
H	A04		i
L	D01.04		i
H	A04		o
L	D01.02		i
L	G02		o

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

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Heritage Council, Kilkenny. Salmon, D.G. and Black, J.M. (1986). The January 1986 Whooper Swan census in Britain, Ireland and Iceland. *Wildfowl* 37: 172-174. Scannell, M.J.P. and Synnott, D.M. (1987). Census Catalogue of the Flora of Ireland. Stationery Office, Dublin. Seaward, M.R.D. (1976). Further recent records of *Lobaria* from SE Ireland. *Irish Naturalists Journal* 18: 336. Seaward, M.R.D. (1975). Some observations on the status of the lichen genus *Lobaria* in south east Ireland. *The Irish Naturalists' Journal* 18: 248-250. Sharrock, J.T.R. (1976). *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland*. Poyser, Berkhamstead. Sheppard, R. (1993). Ireland's Wetland Wealth. Irish Wildbird Conservancy, Dublin. Smiddy, P. (1991). Bats and Bridges. *The Irish Naturalists' Journal* 10: 425-426. Smiddy, P. (1993). The status of the Otter in east Cork and west Waterford. *The Irish Naturalists' Journal* 25: 236-240. Smiddy, P. (1996). The waterfowl of the Blackwater Estuary (Youghal Harbour), Cos. Waterford and Cork. *The Irish Naturalists' Journal* 25: 157-165. Smiddy, P. (1997). Report on Cormorant numbers on the Blackwater River an estuary between Youghal and Cappoquin. Unpublished report to National Parks and Wildlife, Dublin. Smiddy, P. and O'Sullivan, O. (1996). Forty-third Irish Bird Report, 1995. *Irish Birds* 5: 445-474. Smiddy, P. and Duffy, B. (1997). Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*: a new breeding bird for Ireland. *Irish Birds* 6: 55-56. Smiddy, P. and O'Mahony, B. (1997). The status of the Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* in Ireland. *Irish Birds* 6: 23-28. Smiddy, P. (2002). The status of the freshwater mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera* (L.) in east Cork and part of Waterford, Ireland. *Bulletin of the Irish Biogeographical Society* 24: 153-158. Smiddy, P. (2002). Breeding of the Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* in Ireland, 1997-2001. *Irish Birds* 7: 57-60. SRFB. (1991). Electro-fishing survey of the Blackwater Catchment. Unpublished. SRFB. (1995). Electro-fishing survey in Munster Blackwater. Unpublished. SRFB. (1999). Electro-fishing survey in areas of the Munster Blackwater. Unpublished. Sullivan, Tom. (2002). (personal communication to Duchas) SRFB, Clonmel. Sweeney, P. (2002). An Ecological Assessment of the Licky River. Unpublished report commissioned by the Licky Concern Group. Waters, R.J., Cranswick, P.A., Evans, J. and Politt, M.S. (1996). *The Wetland Bird Survey 1994-1995: Wildfowl and Wader Counts*. BTO/WWT/RSPB/JNCC, Slimbridge. Webb, D.A., Parnell, J. and Doogue, D. (1996). *An Irish Flora* (7th edn). Dundalgan Press, Dundalk. Went, A.E.J. and Kennedy, M. (1976). *List of Irish Fishes*. (3rd edn). Stationery Office, Dublin. Whilde, A. (1993). *Threatened Mammals, Birds, Amphibians and Fish in Ireland*. Irish Red Data Book 2: Vertebrates. HMSO, Belfast. Wilson, J. and Smiddy, P. (1988). Bottle-nose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus* (Montagu). *The Irish Naturalists' Journal* 22: 542. Young, R. (1972). A Report on Areas of Scientific Interest in County Waterford. An Foras Forbartha, Dublin. Young, R. (1976). A Preliminary Report on Areas of Scientific Interest in County Waterford. An Foras Forbartha, Dublin.

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	11.0	IE11	2.0		

5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

designated at national or regional level:

Type code	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
IE11	River Bride (Waterford)	*	1.0
IE05	River Blackwater Wildfowl Sanctuary	+	11.0
IE11	River Blackwater (Munster)	*	1.0

designated at international level:

Type	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
Other	Blackwater Estuary		

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.IE0002170

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).