



# 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 IE0002176  
SITENAME Leannan River SAC

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## 1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

<b>1.1 Type</b> B	<b>1.2 Site code</b> IE0002176	<a href="#">Back to top</a>
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### 1.3 Site name

Leannan River SAC
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<b>1.4 First Compilation date</b> 1997-03	<b>1.5 Update date</b> 2020-10
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### 1.6 Respondent:

<b>Name/Organisation:</b>	National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
<b>Address:</b>	90 King Street North, Dublin 7, D07 N7CV, Ireland
<b>Email:</b>	datadelivery@chg.gov.ie

<b>Date site proposed as SCI:</b>	1997-08
<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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					Min	Max				Pop.	Con.	Iso.	Glo.
M	1355	<a href="#">Lutra lutra</a>		p				P	DD	C	C	C	C
I	1029	<a href="#">Margaritifera margaritifera</a>		p	1000	1000	i		G	C	A	C	B
P	1833	<a href="#">Najas flexilis</a>		p	1000	1000	i		G	B	A	C	A
F	1106	<a href="#">Salmo salar</a>		r				C	DD	C	B	C	B

- **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="#">Carum verticillatum</a>						P						X
M		<a href="#">Nyctalus leisleri</a>			67	67	i				X			
P		<a href="#">Omalotheca sylvatica</a>						P			X			
P		<a href="#">Pilularia globulifera</a>						P			X			
P		<a href="#">Prunus padus</a>						P			X			
P		<a href="#">Pseudorchis albida</a>						P			X			
F		<a href="#">Salvelinus alpinus</a>						P			X			
P		<a href="#">Trollius europaeus</a>						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
N16	2.0
N10	10.0
N12	1.0
N06	60.0
N17	1.0
N08	7.0
N23	1.0
N07	5.0
N14	13.0
<b>Total Habitat Cover</b>	<b>100</b>

### Other Site Characteristics

The site comprises the River Leannan and its main tributaries and lakes. The river from source to sea measures 46 km and drains a catchment area of 282 km. The Bullaba River drains off the Glendowan Mountains and flows into Lough Gartan. The Leannan River flows from Lough Gartan in a north-easterly direction, passes through Lough Fern, and then onwards in an easterly direction through the town of Rathmelton and into Lough Swilly. The main tributaries within the site are the lower Glashagh and Lurgy. Lough Gartan and the connected Lough Akibbon are oligotrophic lakes while Lough Fern is a mesotrophic or naturally eutrophic system. After leaving the higher ground in the vicinity of Gartan Lough, the River flows mostly through agricultural lands. Other habitats within the site include wet grassland, improved grassland, broad-leaved deciduous woodland, scrub, wet heath, and freshwater marsh.

### 4.2 Quality and importance

Gartan Lough and Lough Akibbon are excellent examples of oligotrophic lakes of sandy plains. The aquatic flora is diverse and includes an important population of the rare and legally protected *Najas flexilis*, as well as scarce species such as *Pilularia globulifera*. Habitat quality is good. The site supports an important population of *Margaritifera margaritifera*, with over 1000 individuals estimated in 1995 and an age range from comparatively young to elderly (c.80+ years). The system is of importance for the conservation of *Salmo salar* and is notable as a good spring and grilse salmon river with extensive spawning habitats and good water quality. *Lutra lutra* is well distributed throughout. Lough Gartan has a population of *Salvelinus alpinus*. A number of Red Data Book plant species occur within the site, including *Trollius europaeus*, *Pseudorchis albida* and *Omalotheca sylvatica*. An important roost for *Nyctalus leisleri* occurs at Ramelton. *Gavia stellata*, an extremely rare breeding bird in Ireland, nests within the site.

### 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	A02.01		b
H	C01		o
H	H02		b

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
L	X		i

H	J02.10		b
H	H01.05		b

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

Central Fisheries Board (1994). A survey of salmonid stocks in the Leannan catchment, with management recommendations for the spring salmon fishery. Central Fisheries Board. Unpublished. 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. Cromie, J. (2002). Breeding status of Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata* in Ireland. Irish Birds 7: 13-20. Doris, Y., Clabby, K.J., Lucey, J. and Lehane, M. (2002). Water Quality in Ireland 1998-2000. Statistical Compendium of River Quality Data. Electronic Publication on Disk. Environmental Protection Agency, Wexford. Heuff, H. (1984). The Vegetation of Irish Lakes. Unpublished report to Forest and Wildlife Service, Dublin. 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* 103 B: 9-22. Lindsey Clarke. Northern Regional Fisheries Board, provided information in a letter to EcoServe received in February 2003. McGarrigle, M.L., Bowman, J.J., Clabby, K.J., Lucey, J., Cunningham, P., MacCarthaigh, M., Keegan, M., Cantrell, B., Lehane, M., Clenaghan, C. and Toner, P.F. (2002). Water Quality in Ireland 1998-2000. Environmental Protection Agency, Wexford. Moorkens, E.A. (1995). Mapping of Proposed SAC Rivers for *Margaritifera margaritifera*. Unpublished report to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin. O'Reilly, P. (1998). Trout and Salmon Rivers of Ireland: an anglers guide. Merlin Unwin Books, London. Roden, C. (2002). The Distribution of *Najas flexilis* in County Donegal in 2002. Report prepared for Dúchas the Heritage Service, Dublin.

## 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.IE0002176

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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