



# 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 IE0002299  
SITENAME River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC

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## 1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

<b>1.1 Type</b> B	<b>1.2 Site code</b> IE0002299	<a href="#">Back to top</a>
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### 1.3 Site name

River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC

<b>1.4 First Compilation date</b> 2003-06	<b>1.5 Update date</b> 2015-12
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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>	2003-06
<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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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	A038	<a href="#">Cygnaus cygnus</a>			w	50	200	i		G	C	B	C	B		
F	1099	<a href="#">Lampetra fluviatilis</a>			r				P	M	C	B	C	B		
M	1355	<a href="#">Lutra lutra</a>			p				P	M	C	A	C	A		
F	1106	<a href="#">Salmo salar</a>			r				C	M	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="#">Dactylorhiza traunsteineri</a>													X
P		<a href="#">Juncus compressus</a>									X				
M		<a href="#">Lepus timidus hibernicus</a>											X		
M		<a href="#">Lepus timidus hibernicus</a>										X			
M		<a href="#">Lepus timidus hibernicus</a>									X				
M		<a href="#">Martes martes</a>									X				
M		<a href="#">Martes martes</a>											X		
M		<a href="#">Meles meles</a>											X		
M		<a href="#">Meles meles</a>									X				
M		<a href="#">Mustela erminea hibernica</a>												X	
M		<a href="#">Mustela erminea hibernica</a>										X			

P		<a href="#">Poa palustris</a>									X			
P		<a href="#">Pyrola rotundifolia</a>									X			
A		<a href="#">Rana temporaria</a>									X			
A		<a href="#">Rana temporaria</a>											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
N06	30.0
N12	8.0
N02	1.0
N08	4.0
N23	1.0
N07	12.0
N10	10.0
N20	1.0
N19	7.0
N15	1.0
N09	1.0
N14	22.0
N16	2.0
<b>Total Habitat Cover</b>	<b>100</b>

### Other Site Characteristics

This site comprises most of the freshwater element of the River Boyne from upriver of the Boyne Aqueduct at Drogheda, the Blackwater River as far as Lough Ramor and the principal Boyne tributaries, notably the Deel, Stoneford and Tremblestown Rivers. This system drains a considerable area of Cos. Meath and Westmeath and smaller areas of Cavan and Louth. The underlying geology is Carboniferous Limestone for the most part with areas of Upper, Lower and Middle well represented. In the vicinity of Kells Silurian Quartzite is present while close to Trim are Carboniferous Shales and Sandstones. The rivers flow through a landscape dominated by intensive agriculture, mostly of improved grassland but also cereals. Much of the river channels were subject to arterial drainage schemes in the past. Natural flood-plains now exist along only limited stretches of river, though often there is a fringe of reed swamp, freshwater marsh, wet grassland or deciduous wet woodland. Along some parts, notably between Drogheda and Slane, are stands of tall, mature

mixed woodland. Substantial areas of improved grassland and arable land are included in site for water quality reasons. There are many medium to large sized towns adjacent to but not within the site.

## 4.2 Quality and importance

The main channel of the Boyne contains a good example of alluvial woodland of the *Salicetum albo-fragilis* type which has developed on three alluvium islands. Alkaline fen vegetation is well represented at Lough Shesk, where there is a very fine example of habitat succession from open water to raised bog. The Boyne and its tributaries is one of Ireland's premier game fisheries and offers a wide range of angling, from fishing for spring salmon and grilse to sea trout fishing and extensive brown trout fishing. The site is one of the most important in eastern Ireland for *Salmo salar* and has very extensive spawning grounds. The site also has an important population of *Lampetra fluviatilis*, though the distribution or abundance of this species is not well known. *Lutra lutra* is widespread throughout the site. Some of the grassland areas along the Boyne and Blackwater are used by a nationally important winter flock of *Cygnus cygnus*. Several Red Data Book plants occur within the site, with *Pyrola rotundifolia*, *Poa palustris* and *Juncus compressus*. Also occurring are a number of Red Data Book animals, notably *Meles meles*, *Martes martes* and *Rana temporaria*. The River Boyne is a designated Salmonid Water under the EU Freshwater Fish Directive.

## 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	G02.10		i
M	J02		i
L	G05.06		i
M	E03.02		i
H	E02		i
M	D01.02		i
H	E03.04		i
H	I01		i
L	G05		i
M	J02.10		i
L	D01.05		i
H	J02.15		i
H	H01		i
M	A10.01		i
M	A07		i
M	A01		i
L	G01		i
M	A05.02		o
M	A10.01		i
M	J02.11		i
M	B01.02		i
M	C01.01		i
M	E01.04		i
M	A08		i
M	E05		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

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
H	J02.05.02		i
M	A03		i

## 4.5 Documentation

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## 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.IE0002299

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).

