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	**IE0002301**
SITENAME	**River Finn SAC**

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

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1.1 Type	1.2 Site code
B	IE0002301

1.3 Site name

River Finn SAC

1.4 First Compilation date	1.5 Update date
2003-06	2020-10

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

Date site proposed as SCI:	2003-06
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

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2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude
-7.954357

Latitude
54.788023

2.2 Area [ha]:

5498.464905

2.3 Marine area [%]

0.247

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code	Region Name
IE01	Border, Midland and Western
IEZZ	Extra-Regio

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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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	Global
3110			880.29		M	B	B	B	B
4010			165.05		M	B	C	C	C
7130	X		880.29		M	B	C	C	B
7140			55.02		M	B	C	B	B

- **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	A052	Anas crecca			w	573	573	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A050	Anas penelope			w	64	64	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A053	Anas platyrhynchos			w	349	349	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A043	Anser anser			w	1	349	i		M	B	B	C	B
B	A061	Aythya fuligula			w	87	87	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A067	Bucephala clangula			w	78	78	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A067	Bucephala clangula			w	133	133	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A037	Cygnus columbianus bewickii			w	1	13	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A038	Cygnus cygnus			w	1	571	i		M	B	B	C	B
B	A098	Falco columbarius			p	1	2	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A103	Falco peregrinus			p	2	2	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A183	Larus fuscus			r	500	500	p		G	B	A	C	A
M	1355	Lutra lutra			p				P	DD	C	A	C	A
B	A069	Mergus serrator			w	27	27	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A160	Numenius arquata			w	457	457	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A140	Pluvialis apricaria			w	371	371	i		G	C	B	C	C
F	1106	Salmo salar			r				C	DD	C	A	C	A
B	A162	Tringa totanus			w	56	56	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A282	Turdus torquatus			r	1	2	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A142	Vanellus vanellus			w	401	401	i		G	C	B	C	C

- **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
B		Ardea cinerea			24	24	i						X	
P		Cephalanthera longifolia									X			
B		Cygnus olor			30	30	i						X	
R		Lacerta vivipara											X	
B		Lagopus lagopus									X			
B		Lagopus lagopus											X	
M		Lepus timidus hibernicus										X		
M		Lepus timidus hibernicus											X	
M		Lepus timidus hibernicus									X			
M		Meles meles									X			
M		Meles meles											X	
A		Rana temporaria											X	
A		Rana temporaria									X			
F		Salvelinus alpinus									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	1.0
N10	10.0
N23	1.0
N19	1.0
N20	1.0
N07	25.0
N08	7.0
N06	27.0
N12	5.0
N14	15.0
N02	6.0
N22	1.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

This site comprises almost the entire freshwater element of the River Finn and its tributaries - the Corlacky, the Reelan sub-catchment, the Sruhamboy, Elatagh, Cummirk and Glashagh, and also includes Lough Finn, where the river rises. Lough Derg and a section of River Derg, and the tidal stretch of the Foyle north of Lifford to the border, are also part of the site. The underlying geology is Dalradian Schists and Gneiss for the most part though quartzites and Carboniferous Limestones are present in the vicinity of Castlefinn. The hills around Lough Finn are also on quartzite. The mountains of Owendoo and Cloghervaddy are of granite felsite and other intrusive rocks rich in silica. The rivers in the western, upland part of the site flow mainly through peat based soils, while eastwards of the Ballybofey area the main Finn channel passes though fairly intensive agricultural land. In addition to rivers, lakes, bog and heath, the site includes native broad-leaved and mixed woodland, scrub, wet grassland and freshwater marsh. Intertidal mudflats and extensive reedbeds occur along the River Foyle. Improved grassland and arable land are included for water quality reasons. The Finn passes through a number of medium sized towns, notably Lifford, Castlefinn, Stranolar and Ballybofey.

4.2 Quality and importance

This extensive site contains good examples of the Annex 1 habitats lowland oligotrophic lakes, blanket bog, transition mires and wet heath. Water quality of the lakes is good, as is that in most of the rivers and streams (majority classified as unpolluted). The blanket bog, which is best developed in the Owendoo/Cloghervaddy area, is typical upland bog and is fairly extensive in area. The Finn is an important system for Salmo salar, being an excellent grilse river with extensive spawning habitats. The Finn system sustains one of the only stable spring salmon populations in the country. The rivers and lakes support important populations of Lutra lutra. The upland habitats support a number of important bird species, notably Falco peregrinus and Falco columbarius (Annex I species) and Lagopus lagopus and Turdus torquatus (both Red Data Book species). Lough Derg supports the largest colony of Larus fuscus in Ireland. The section of the River Foyle within the site, along with a contiguous stretch in of the river in Northern Ireland, supports important populations of waterfowl in autumn and winter, with an internationally important population of Cygnus cygnus, and nationally important numbers of Anser anser, Anas crecca and Phalacrocorax carbo. Salvelinus alpinus occurs in Lough Finn and possibly Lough Derg. A Red Data Book plant species, Cephalanthera longifolia, is known from 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			
	Threats	Pollution	

Positive Impacts			
	Activities,	Pollution	inside/outside

Rank	and pressures [code]	(optional) [code]	inside/outside [i|o|b]
L	E04		i
L	F05.04		i
M	E03.01		i
M	H01.05		i
H	A04.01		i
M	K01.01		i
H	B02.02		i
H	C01.01		i
H	C01.03.01		i

Rank	management [code]	(optional) [code]	[i|o|b]
H	B02.01.01		i
M	J02.05		i
M	B02.01.01		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

Bracken, J. J. and O'Grady, M. E. (1992). A review of freshwater fisheries research in Ireland. In Feehan, J. (ed.) Environment and Development in Ireland, pp 499-510. The Environmental Institute, UCD, Dublin. Colhoun, K. (2001). I-WeBS Report 1998-99. BirdWatch Ireland, Dublin. Central Fisheries Board (2001). Irish Salmon Catches 2000. http://www.cfb.ie/: February 2001. Creme, G.A., Walsh, P.M., O'Callaghan, M. and Kelly, T.C. (1997). The changing status of the lesser black-backed gull Larus fuscus in Ireland. Biology and Environment. Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy 97B: 149-156. 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. Doris, Y., Clabby, K.J., Lucey and Lehane, M. (2002). Water Quality in Ireland 1998-2000. Statistical Compendium of River Quality Data. Electronic Publication on Disk. Environmental Protection Agency, Wexford. Douglas, C., Dunnells, D., Scally, L. and Wyse Jackson, M. (1990). A Survey to Locate Blanket Bogs of Scientific Interest in Counties Donegal, Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon. Unpublished report to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Flanagan, P.J. and Toner, P. F. (1975). A Preliminary Survey of Irish Lakes. An Foras Forbartha, Dublin. Hunt, J., Derwin, J., Coveney, J. and Newton, S. (2000). Republic of Ireland. Pp. 365-416 in Heath, M.F. and Evans, M.I., (eds.) Important Bird Areas in Europe: Priority Sites for Conservation 1: Northern Europe. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International (BirdLife Conservation Series No. 8). Lloyd, C. (1982). Inventory of Seabird Breeding Colonies in Republic of Ireland. Unpublished report, Forest and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Loughs Agency (2000). Mr P. Boylan provided information in a letter to Duchas dated the 4th September 2000. Loughs Agency, 2001. Personal correspondence from Danny Loughridge to Marie Dromey, Duchas. McGarrigle M.L., Bowman J.J., Clabby K.J., Lucey J., Cunningham P., MacCarthaigh M., Keegan M., Cantrell B., Lehane M., Clenaghan C. & Toner P.F. (2002). Water Quality in Ireland 1998-2000. Environmental Protection Agency, Wexford. Merne, O.J. (1989). Important Bird Areas in the Republic of Ireland. In: Grimmett, R.F.A. and Jones, T.A. (eds.). Important Bird Areas in Europe. ICBP Technical Publication No. 9, Cambridge. Mooney, E., Goodwillie, R.N. and Douglas, C. (1991). Survey of Mountain Blanket Bogs of Scientific Interest. Unpublished draft to the National Parks & Wildlife Service, Dublin. O'Reilly, P. (1998). Trout and Salmon Rivers of Ireland: an Anglers Guide. Merlin Unwin Books, London. Praeger, R.L. (1934) . The Botanist in Ireland. Hodges, Figgis & Co, Dublin. Reynolds, J.D. (1998). Ireland's Freshwaters. The Marine Institute, Dublin 1998. Sheppard, R. (1993). Ireland's Wetland Wealth. IWC, Dublin. Young, R. (1973). A Preliminary Report on Areas of Scientific Interest in County Donegal. An Foras Forbartha, Dublin.

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

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6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No, but in preparation
- [X] No

7. MAP OF THE SITES

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INSPIRE ID: IE.NPWS.PS.NATURA2000.SAC.IE0002301

Map delivered as PDF in electronic format (optional)

[ ] Yes [X] No

Reference(s) to the original map used for the digitalisation of the electronic boundaries (optional).