



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 IE0004058
SITENAME Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type A	1.2 Site code IE0004058	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA

1.4 First Compilation date 2004-04	1.5 Update date 2020-10
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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

1.7 Site indication and designation / classification dates

Date site classified as SPA:	2019-07
National legal reference of SPA designation	331/2019

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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Longitude
-8.324537138

Latitude
52.96092387

2.2 Area [ha]:
12709.92352

2.3 Marine area [%]
92.5

2.4 Sitelength [km]:
0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code **Region Name**

IE02	Southern and Eastern
IE01	Border, Midland and Western

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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

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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	342	342	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A050	Anas penelope			w	272	272	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A053	Anas platyrhynchos			w	417	417	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A395	Anser albifrons flavirostris			w				P	DD	C	B	C	C
B	A059	Aythya ferina			w	61	61	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A061	Aythya fuligula			w	1029	1029	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A061	Aythya fuligula			r	326	326	i		G	B	B	C	B
B	A067	Bucephala clangula			w	215	215	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A038	Cygnus cygnus			w	18	18	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A125	Fulica atra			w	229	229	i		G	C	A	C	C

B	A179	Larus ridibundus			w	814	814	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A179	Larus ridibundus			r				P	DD	C	B	C	C
B	A017	Phalacrocorax carbo			w	120	120	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A017	Phalacrocorax carbo			r	122	122	p		G	B	A	C	A
B	A005	Podiceps cristatus			r	47	47	p		G	B	A	C	A
B	A193	Sterna hirundo			r	55	55	p		G	B	B	C	B
B	A142	Vanellus vanellus			w	1346	1346	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		Cygnus olor			235	235	i						X	
B		Tachybaptus ruficollis			14	14	i						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

Habitat class	% Cover
N06	95.0
N09	1.0
N19	1.0
N07	2.0
N10	1.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

Lough Derg is the largest of the Shannon Lakes, being some 40 km long. Its maximum breadth across the Scarriff Bay-Youghal Bay transect is 13 km but for most of its length it is less than 5 km wide. The lake is relatively shallow at the northern end being mostly 6 m in depth but in the middle region it has an axial trench and descends to over 25 m in places. The narrow southern end of the lake has the greatest average depth, with a maximum of 34 m. The greater part of the lake lies on Carboniferous limestone but the narrow southern section is underlain by Silurian strata. Most of the lower part of the lake is enclosed by hills on both sides, the Slieve Aughty Mountains to the west and the Arra Mountains to the east. The northern end is bordered by relatively flat, agricultural country. The lake shows the high hardness levels and alkaline pH to be expected from its mainly limestone catchment basin and it has most recently been classified as a mesotrophic system. The lake has many small islands, especially on its western and northern sides. The shoreline is often fringed with swamp vegetation. Aquatic vegetation includes a range of charophyte species.

4.2 Quality and importance

Lough Derg is of importance for both breeding and wintering birds. The islands support nationally important breeding colonies of *Sterna hirundo*, *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Podiceps cristatus* and probably *Aythya fuligula*. It is a traditional site for nesting *Larus ridibundus* but there is no recent survey information. In winter, the lake is particularly important for diving ducks, with nationally important populations of *Aythya fuligula* and *Bucephala clangula* occurring. *Cygnus olor* also has a population of national importance, whilst a range of other species occur in lesser numbers, including *Cygnus cygnus*, *Anas crecca*, *Fulica atra* and *Vanellus vanellus*. A flock of *Anser albifrons flavirostris* has traditionally used the site, where they feed on grassy islands, but birds have seldom been recorded in recent years.

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	A08		o
H	G01.01		i
M	F03.01		i
M	F02.03		i

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
M	F03.01		i
M	F02.03		i
H	G01.01		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

Colhoun, K. (2001). I-WeBS Report 1998-99. BirdWatch Ireland, Dublin. Fox, A.D., Norriss, D.W., Stroud, D.A. and Wilson, H.J. (1994). Greenland White-fronted Geese in Ireland and Britain 1982/83 - 1993/94. Greenland White-fronted Goose Study research report no. 8. Greenland White-fronted Goose Study, Wales

and National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Hannon, C. (1997). The 1995 All-Ireland Tern Survey. BirdWatch Ireland Conservation Report No. 97/1. Hannon, C., Berrow, S.D., and Newton S.F. (1997). The status and distribution of breeding Sandwich Sterna sandvicensis, Roseate S. dougallii, Common S. hirundo, Arctic S. paradisaea and Little Terns S. albifrons in Ireland in 1995. Irish Birds 6: 1-22. Heery, S. (1996). Birds in Central Ireland - Mid Shannon Bird Report 1992-1995. Birdwatch Ireland, Dublin. Heery, S. (ed.) (2000). Birds in Central Ireland: Mid-Shannon Bird Report 1996-1999. BirdWatch Ireland, 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). Irish Wetland Birds Survey (I-WeBS) Database, 1994/95-2000/01. BirdWatch Ireland, Dublin. Lloyd, C. (1982). Inventory of Seabird Breeding Colonies in Republic of Ireland. Unpublished report, Forest and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Macdonald, R.A. (1987). The breeding population and distribution of the Cormorant in Ireland. Irish Birds 3: 405-416. 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. 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. Minchin, D., Maguire, C. and Rosell, R. (2003). The zebra mussel (Dreissena polymorpha Pallas) invades Ireland: human mediated vectors and the potential for rapid intra-national dispersal. Biology and Environment, Proceedings of the Royal Irish academy 103B: 23-30. Mitchell, P.I., Newton, S., Ratcliffe, N. and Dunn, T. (2004). Seabird 2000: The Status of Breeding Seabirds in Britain and Ireland. Poyser, London. Reynolds, J.V. (1990). The breeding gulls and terns of the islands of Lough Derg. Irish Birds 4: 217-226. Ruttledge, R.F. and Ogilvie, M.A. (1979). The past and current status of the Greenland White-fronted Goose in Ireland and Britain. Irish Birds 1: 293-363. Sheppard, R. (1993). Ireland's Wetland Wealth. IWC, Dublin.

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

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5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
IE05	90.0				

5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

designated at national or regional level:

Type code	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
IE05	Lough Derg (parts) Wildfowl Sanctuary	+	90.0

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.SPA.IE0004058

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).