



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 IE0004063
SITENAME Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type A	1.2 Site code IE0004063	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Poulaphouca Reservoir 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:	1995-11
National legal reference of SPA designation	No data

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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Longitude -6.520597288 **Latitude** 53.13032055

2.2 Area [ha]: 2009.496527 **2.3 Marine area [%]:** 0.0

2.4 Sitelength [km]:
0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code

Region Name

IE02	Southern and Eastern
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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

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			
						Min	Max				Pop.	Con.	Iso.	Glo.
B	A052	Anas crecca			w	107	107	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A050	Anas penelope			w	180	180	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A053	Anas platyrhynchos			w	186	186	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A043	Anser anser			w	701	701	i		G	A	B	C	A
B	A067	Bucephala clangula			w	22	22	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A038	Cygnus cygnus			w	22	22	i		G	C	C	C	C
B	A182	Larus canus			w	183	183	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A183	Larus fuscus			w	651	651	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A179	Larus ridibundus			w	915	915	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A160	Numenius arquata			w	86	86	i		G	C	C	C	C
B	A017	Phalacrocorax carbo			w	11	11	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A005	Podiceps cristatus			w	8	8	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
B		Cygnus olor			11	11	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

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Habitat class	% Cover
N07	1.0
N10	1.0
N06	98.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

Poulaphouca Reservoir, located in the western foothills of the Wicklow Mountains, was created in 1944 by damming of the River Liffey for the purpose of generating electricity from hydropower. The reservoir covers an area of approximately 20 square kilometres and is the largest inland water body in the mid-east and south-east regions. The reservoir receives water from two main sources, the River Liffey at the northern end, and the Kings River at the southern end. The exit is into the Liffey gorge at the western end. Underlying the reservoir are sands and gravels deposited during the last glaciation. The shores of the lake are mostly sandy. When water levels are low exposed lake muds are colonised by an ephemeral flora of annual plant species.

4.2 Quality and importance

The site is of national importance for its population of *Anser anser*, which is one of the largest in the country. The site provides the main roost for the birds, with feeding mostly on improved grassland outside of the site. A range of other waterfowl species occur in relatively low numbers, including *Cygnus cygnus*, *Anas penelope* and *Bucephala clangula*. The reservoir attracts roosting gulls during winter, most notably a large population of *Larus fuscus*, which in Ireland is rare in winter away from the south coast.

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]
L	F02.03		i
H	B01		o
M	G01.01		i
H	D01.05		i
L	F03.01		i

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
M	G01.01		i
L	F02.03		i
L	F03.01		i
H	D01.05		i
H	B01		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

4.4 Ownership (optional)

4.5 Documentation

Colhoun, K. (2001). I-WeBS Report 1998-99. BirdWatch Ireland, Dublin. 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. Crowe, O. (2005). Ireland's Wetlands and their Waterbirds: Status and Distribution. BirdWatch Ireland, Newcastle, Co. Wicklow. Crowe, O., Austin, G.E., Colhoun, K., Cranswick, P.A., Kershaw, M. and Musgrove, A.J. (2008). Estimates and trends of waterbird numbers wintering in Ireland 1994/95 to 2003/04. *Bird Study* 55: 66-77. Hearn, R.D. and Mitchell, C.R. (2004). Greylag Goose *Anser anser* (Iceland population) in Britain and Ireland 1960/61 -1999/2000. *Waterbird Review Series*, The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust/Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Slimbridge. 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. 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. Robinson, J.A., Colhoun, K., McElwaine, J.G. and Rees, E.C. (2004). Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* (Iceland

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	100.0				

5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

designated at national or regional level:

Type code	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
IE05	Poulaphouca Wildfowl Sanctuary	=	100.0

5.3 Site designation (optional)

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the 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

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

7. MAP OF THE SITES

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INSPIRE ID:

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).