



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 IE0004064
SITENAME Lough Ree SPA

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type A	1.2 Site code IE0004064	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Lough Ree 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 -7.96848253 **Latitude** 53.54304735

2.2 Area [ha]: 12347.97571 **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
IE01	Border, Midland and Western
IE01	Border, Midland and Western

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		A B C	
						Min	Max				Pop.	Con.	Iso.	Glo.
B	A054	Anas acuta			w	35	35	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A056	Anas clypeata			w	40	40	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A052	Anas crecca			w	912	912	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A050	Anas penelope			w	1475	1475	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A053	Anas platyrhynchos			w	675	675	i		G	C	A	C	C
B	A395	Anser albifrons flavirostris			w	92	92	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A059	Aythya ferina			w	65	65	i		G	C	A	C	C
B	A061	Aythya fuligula			w	661	661	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A061	Aythya fuligula			r	265	265	i		G	B	B	C	B
B	A067	Bucephala clangula			w	137	137	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A038	Cygnus cygnus			w	89	89	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A125	Fulica atra			w	250	250	i		G	C	A	C	C
B	A179	Larus ridibundus			r	100	100	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A065	Melanitta nigra			r	30	35	p		G	A	A	B	A
B	A160	Numenius arquata			w	167	167	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A017	Phalacrocorax carbo			w	64	64	i		G	C	A	C	C
B	A140	Pluvialis apricaria			w	2035	2035	i		G	C	C	C	C
B	A005	Podiceps cristatus			w	23	23	i		G	C	A	C	C
B	A005	Podiceps cristatus			r	89	89	p		G	B	A	C	A
B	A193	Sterna hirundo			r	90	90	p		G	B	B	C	B
B	A142	Vanellus vanellus			w	3870	3870	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
P		Chara tomentosa									X			
F		Coregonus autumnalis pollan											X	
F		Coregonus autumnalis pollan									X			
B		Cygnus olor			93	93	i						X	
B		Tachybaptus ruficollis			34	34	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
N16	1.0
N09	1.0
N06	95.0
N10	1.0
N07	2.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

Situated on the River Shannon between Lanesborough and Athlone, Lough Ree is the third largest lake in the Republic of Ireland. It lies in an ice-deepened depression in Carboniferous Limestone. Some of its features (including the islands) are based on glacial drift. The main inflowing rivers are the Shannon, Inny and Hind, and the main outflowing river is the Shannon. The greater part of Lough Ree is less than 10 m in depth, but there are six deep troughs running from north to south, reaching a maximum depth of about 36 m just west of Inchmore. The lake has a very long, indented shoreline and hence has many sheltered bays. It also has a good scattering of islands, most of which are included in the site. The lake is classified as a mesotrophic system. The water of Lough Ree tends to be strongly peat-stained, restricting macrophytes to depths of less than 2 m. Swamp vegetation, especially of *Phragmites australis*, occurs in the sheltered areas around the lake. The swamp often grades to species-rich calcareous fen or freshwater marsh. Lowland wet grassland, some of which floods in winter, is found in abundance around the shore. Some of the islands are wooded.

4.2 Quality and importance

Lough Ree is one of the most important Midland sites for wintering waterfowl, with nationally important populations of *Anas penelope*, *Anas crecca*, *Anas acuta*, *Anas clypeata*, *Aythya fuligula* and *Bucephala clangula*. Nationally important populations of *Pluvialis apricaria* and *Vanellus vanellus* are also associated with the lake. Regionally important numbers of *Cygnus cygnus* and *Anser albifrons flavirostris* are also found in the vicinity of the lake. The site supports a nationally important population of *Sterna hirundo*. *Larus ridibundus* breeds (nationally important) and *Larus fuscus* and *Larus canus* have bred in the past (recent census information is poor). Lough Ree is an important site for breeding duck and grebes, with *Aythya fuligula* and *Podiceps cristatus* having populations of national importance. Of particular note is that it is one of the two main sites in the country for breeding *Melanitta nigra*, a Red Data Book species. The woodland around the lake is a stronghold for *Sylvia borin* and this scarce species probably occurs on some of the islands within the SPA. *Lutra lutra* is frequent within the site and the fish *Coregonus autumnalis pollan* occurs.

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	F03.01		i
M	A04		o
L	B		o
M	F02.03		i
M	G01.02		o
M	I01		i
H	G01.01		i
M	A08		o

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside /outside [i o b]
M	G01.02		o
M	F03.01		i
M	A04		o
M	F02.03		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

4.4 Ownership (optional)

4.5 Documentation

Bowman, J.J. (1996). Lough Ree: an investigation of eutrophication and its causes. Environmental Protection Agency, Wexford. 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. Gittings, T. and Delany, S. (1996). A pre-breeding census of Common Scoters in Ireland in 1995. Irish Birds 5: 413-422. 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. (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. Levinge, D.E.S. (1977). A general description of Lough Ree and surroundings. Bulletin of the Irish Biogeographical Society 1: 4-6. Lloyd, C. (1982). Inventory of Seabird Breeding Colonies in Republic of Ireland. Unpublished report, Forest and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Lovatt, J.K. (1997). Occurrence of the Garden Warbler Sylvia borin around Lough Ree and County Cavan, 1995-1997. Irish Birds 6: 58-60. 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. Ruttledge, R.F. (1987). The breeding distribution of the Common Scoter in Ireland. Irish Birds 3: 417-426. 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. Tierney, T.D., Dunne, J. and Callanan, T. (2000). The Common Scoter Melanitta nigra nigra breeding in Ireland, range expansion or site relocation? Irish Birds 6: 447-452.

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

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5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

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:

- Yes
- No, but in preparation
- No

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

7. MAP OF THE SITES

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INSPIRE ID:

IE.NPWS.PS.NATURA2000.SPA.IE0004064

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).