



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 IE0004096
SITENAME Middle Shannon Callows SPA

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type A	1.2 Site code IE0004096	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Middle Shannon Callows SPA

1.4 First Compilation date 2004-05	1.5 Update date 2015-10
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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

1.7 Site indication and designation / classification dates

Date site classified as SPA:	1996-10
National legal reference of SPA designation	No data

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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Longitude

Latitude

2.2 Area [ha]:

5817.37

2.3 Marine area [%]

2.62

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
IE01	Border, Midland and Western

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION[Back to top](#)**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	A056	Anas clypeata			r	1	12	p		M	B	B	B	B
B	A052	Anas crecca			w	77	77	i		G	C	A	C	C
B	A050	Anas penelope			w	2972	2972	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A395	Anser albifrons flavirostris			w	21	21	i		G	C	C	C	C
B	A061	Aythya fuligula			w	33	33	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A149	Calidris alpina			w	369	369	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A082	Circus cyaneus			w	1	5	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A082	Circus cyaneus			c	1	5	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A113	Coturnix coturnix			r	1	15	i		G	A	A	B	A

P		Groenlandia densa										X		
M		Lepus timidus hibernicus											X	
M		Lepus timidus hibernicus												X
M		Lepus timidus hibernicus										X		
A		Rana temporaria												X
A		Rana temporaria										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
N07	5.0
N06	15.0
N16	1.0
N09	1.0
N23	1.0
N14	27.0
N10	50.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

The site follows the River Shannon from Athlone, just below Lough Ree, to Portumna, just above Lough Derg, a distance of over 50 km. It includes much of the flood plain of the river, varying in width from approximately 0.5 km to up to 1.5 km in places. A weir at Meelick divides the flooding regime. The main habitat present is humid grassland, improved to varying extents, that is seasonally flooded. The less improved areas are species-rich. The grassland is used mainly for pasture but some is used for hay-making. The river channel is fringed by swamp and marsh vegetation. There is an extensive system of drainage channels, many of which support a diverse flora. The callows often border raised bogs, some of which are still intact.

4.2 Quality and importance

This site is the largest area of semi-natural floodplain grassland in Ireland and has very many features of a natural ecosystem. Along with its main tributaries the River Suck and River Brosna, it represents one of the most important wetland systems in the country. It is of International Importance for wintering waterfowl as

numbers regularly exceed the 20,000 threshold (mean of 34985 for the 5 winters 1994/94-1998/99). Of particular note is the presence of an Internationally Important population of *Cygnus cygnus*. A further five species have populations of national importance: *Cygnus olor*, *Anas penelope*, *Pluvialis apricaria*, *Vanellus vanellus* and *Limosa limosa*. There is a well documented spring passage of *Limosa limosa* along the river valley. The Shannon callows are also of high importance for breeding birds. In particular, it has the largest concentration of *Crex crex* in Ireland. Since 1991, a conservation programme involving annual monitoring of population size, practical habitat management and publicity has been in operation. *Coturnix coturnix*, a very rare species in Ireland, also breeds in the grasslands. Several wader species, notably *Vanellus vanellus*, *Gallinago gallinago* and *Tringa totanus*, have important breeding populations though these have declined substantially since the 1980s. The scarce breeding species, *Anas clypeata*, nests in small numbers each year. The callows is one of the very few sites in Ireland where *Limosa limosa* has bred. The habitats also support a range of ground nesting passerine species, notably *Locustella naevia* and *Alauda arvensis*. In autumn and winter, *Circus cyaneus* is a regular visitor.

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	G01.01		i
L	A04.03		i
H	D01.05		i
H	E01		o
M	A08		o
M	F02.03		i
L	F03.01		i
M	G01.02		i
L	A08		i
H	A04		i
L	D01.01		i

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
H	G01.01		i
H	D01.05		i
H	A03		i
M	F02.03		i
M	G01.02		i
L	A04.03		i
H	A04		i
L	D01.01		i
L	F03.01		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

Casey, C. (1998). Distribution and conservation of Corncrake in Ireland, 1993-1998. *Irish Birds* 6: 159-176.

Colhoun, K. (2001). I-WeBS Report 1998-99. BirdWatch Ireland, Dublin.

Copeland, A. (2002). Delivering Corncrake *Crex crex* conservation in Ireland: Past, present and future. *Irish Birds* 7: 33-42.

Copeland, A. and Madden, D. (2002). Corncrake Fieldwork in the Shannon Callows 2002. Unpublished report, 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.

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Heery, S. and Cooney, T. (1997). A Part Re-survey of the Breeding Waders on the Shannon/Little Brosna Callows. Unpublished report to National Parks and Wildlife Service, 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).

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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.

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5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

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Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
IE21	1.0				

5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

designated at national or regional level:

Type code	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
IE21	Bullock Island and Bishop's Island Reserve	+	1.0

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

6.2 Management Plan(s):

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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:

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).

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