



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 IE0004168
SITENAME Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [1. SITE IDENTIFICATION](#)
- [2. SITE LOCATION](#)
- [3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION](#)
- [4. SITE DESCRIPTION](#)
- [5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS](#)
- [6. SITE MANAGEMENT](#)
- [7. MAP OF THE SITE](#)

1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type A	1.2 Site code IE0004168	Back to top
---------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------

1.3 Site name

Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA

1.4 First Compilation date 2010-03	1.5 Update date 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

1.7 Site indication and designation / classification dates

Date site classified as SPA:	2007-03
National legal reference of SPA designation	No data

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

[Back to top](#)

Longitude -8.605451061 Latitude 53.02027481

2.2 Area [ha]: 59457.15682 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
IE02	Southern and Eastern

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them

[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	A082	Circus cyaneus			p	27	27	p		G	B	A	C	A
B	A098	Falco columbarius			p	5	5	p		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		Lagopus lagopus			4	4	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

[Back to top](#)

Habitat class	% Cover

N14	15.0
N06	2.0
N16	1.0
N08	14.0
N07	14.0
N10	7.0
N20	47.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

The Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA is a very large site that extends southwards from just south of Loughrea, County Galway to Scarriff in County Clare. The peaks are not notably high or indeed pronounced; this site rises to a maximum of 400 m at Maghera west of Lough Graney. The site includes many small- and medium-sized lakes, notable Lough Graney and Lough Atorick; several important rivers rise in the site, including the Owendalulleagh and Graney. Lough Derg occurs immediately to the south-east. The Slieve Aughty mountains are predominantly comprised of Old Red Sandstone, but outliers of Lower Palaeozoic rocks provide occasional outcrops capping the hills. The site consists of a variety of upland habitats, though approximately half is afforested. The coniferous forests include first and second rotation plantations, with both pre-thicket and post-thicket stands present. Substantial areas of clear-fell are also present at any one time. Almost one-third of the site is unplanted blanket bog and heath, with both wet and dry heath present. Well-developed blanket bog occurs at several locations, notable Sonnagh, Loughatorick South and Glendree. The remainder of the site is mostly rough grassland that is used for hill farming.

4.2 Quality and importance

The site supports over 12% of the all Ireland population of *Circus cyaneus* and is among the top five sites in the country for this species. It provides excellent habitat for both nesting and foraging. The site also supports a breeding population *Falco columbarius*. The population size is not well known but is likely to exceed five pairs. *Lagopus lagopus* is found on many of the unplanted areas of bog and heath - this is a species that has declined in Ireland and is now Red-listed

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	A04		i
L	D01.02		i
L	D01.01		i
L	E01.03		i
M	C01.03		i
H	B		i

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside /outside [i o b]
H	B		i
L	D01.01		i
L	D01.02		i
M	A04		i
L	E01.03		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

Barton, C., Pollock, C., Norriss, D.W., Nagle, T., Oliver, G.A. and Newton, S. (2006). The second national survey of breeding Hen Harriers *Circus cyaneus* in Ireland 2005. *Irish Birds* 8: 1-20. Duff, N. (2004). Survey of Hen Harriers in the Slieve Aughties, Counties Galway and Clare in 2003. Unpublished report for National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Hardey, J., Crick, H., Wernham, C., Riley, H., Etheridge, B. and Thompson, D. (2009). *Raptors, A Field Guide for Surveys and Monitoring*. Scottish National Heritage. Heery, S. (2009). *Birds in Central Ireland. Fourth Mid-Season Bird Report 2004-2007*. BirdWatch Ireland, Kilcoole. Lynas, P., Newton, S.F. and Robinson, J.A. (2009). The status of birds in Ireland: an analysis of conservation concern 2008-2013. *Irish Birds*, 8(2): 149-166. Norriss, D.W., Marsh, J., McMahon, D. and Oliver, G.A. (2002). A national survey of breeding Hen Harriers *Circus cyaneus* in Ireland 1998-2000. *Irish Birds* 7: 1-12. O'Flynn, W.J. (1983). Population changes of the Hen Harrier in Ireland. *Irish Birds* 2: 337-343. Oliver, G. (2005). Survey of Breeding Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* in the Slieve Aughty Mountains, 2005. Unpublished report for National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Wilson, M., Gittings, T., O'Halloran, J., Kelly, T. and Pithon, J. (2005). The Distribution of Hen Harriers in Ireland in Relation to Land-use Cover and Forest Cover in Particular. COFORD, Dublin.

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
IE01	1.0	IE99	5.0		

5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

designated at national or regional level:

Type code	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
IE99	Oystermans Marsh NHA	+	1.0
IE01	Derrycrag Wood Nature Reserce	+	1.0
IE99	Derryoover Bog NHA	+	2.0
IE99	Ayle Lower Bog NHA	*	1.0
IE01	Rosturra Wood Nature Reserve	+	1.0
IE99	Slieve Aughty Bog NHA	+	2.0
IE99	Maghera Mountains Bog NHA	+	1.0
IE01	Caher Murphy Nature Reserve	+	1.0
IE01	Pollnaknockaun Wood Nature Reserve	+	1.0
IE99	Lough Atorick District Bog NHA	+	1.0

5.3 Site designation (optional)

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

[Back to top](#)

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

[Back to top](#)

INSPIRE ID:

IE.NPWS.PS.NATURA2000.SPA.IE0004168

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).

--