



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 IE0004228
SITENAME Lough Conn and Lough Cullin 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 IE0004228	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA

1.4 First Compilation date 2010-09	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:	2010-03
National legal reference of SPA designation	No data

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

[Back to top](#)

Longitude -9.23761848 **Latitude** 54.02797919

2.2 Area [ha]: 6457.576086 **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
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2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

[Back to top](#)

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	108	108	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A050	Anas penelope			w	207	207	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A053	Anas platyrhynchos			w	95	95	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A395	Anser albifrons flavirostris			w	95	95	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A059	Aythya ferina			w	182	182	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A061	Aythya fuligula			w	428	428	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A067	Bucephala clangula			w	87	87	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A038	Cygnus cygnus			w	23	23	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A125	Fulica atra			w	464	464	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A182	Larus canus			r	40	40	p		G	B	B	C	A
B	A065	Melanitta nigra			r	32	32	p		G	A	B	B	B
B	A160	Numenius arquata			w	92	92	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A017	Phalacrocorax carbo			w	17	17	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A140	Pluvialis apricaria			w	177	177	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A005	Podiceps cristatus			w	6	6	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A142	Vanellus vanellus			w	290	290	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			110	110	i						X	
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- **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
N08	1.0
N06	97.0
N14	1.0
N10	1.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

Lough Conn and Lough Cullin are situated in north Co. Mayo and are connected by a narrow inlet near Pontoon. The main inflowing rivers to Lough Conn are the Deel, the Addergoole and the Castlehill while the main outflowing river from Lough Cullin is the River Moy. The lakes have a number of small islands. Fringing swamp vegetation occurs in some sheltered areas. Both Lough Conn and Lough Cullin are part of an important salmonid fishery.

4.2 Quality and importance

Lough Conn and Lough Cullin is one of only four breeding sites in the country for *Melanitta nigra* (supporting 40% of the all-Ireland total), a species that in Ireland is at the south-west end of its European range. Recent surveys have recorded a considerably reduction in breeding pairs. Lough Conn and Lough Cullin is also of importance for wintering waterfowl, with a nationally important population of *Aythya fuligula* (1% of all-Ireland total). The lakes attract other species in lesser numbers, including *Cygnus olor*, *Cygnus cygnus*, *Anas crecca*, *Pluvialis squatarola*, *Bucephala clangula*, *Vanellus vanellus* and *Podiceps cristatus*. Lough Conn is also one of the sites utilised by a population of *Anser albifrons flavirostris*. The geese feed mainly on Annagh Island and at a shoreline site near Cloonaghmore Point.

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	I01		i
M	A08		o
H	F02.03		i
M	B		o

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside /outside [i o b]
H	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

Champ, W.S.T. and King, J.J. (1988). The Trophic Status of Lough Conn: An Extended Study. Central Fisheries Board, Dublin. Colhoun, K. (2001). I-WeBS Report 1998-99. BirdWatch Ireland, Dublin. 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. 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. 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). Igoe, F., O'Grady, M.F., Byrne, C., Gargan, P., Roche, W. and O'Neill, J. (2001). Evidence for the recent extinctions of Arctic char *Salvelinus alpinus* from two catchments in the west of Ireland. *Aquatic conservation; marine and freshwater ecosystems* 2: 445-485. Irish Wetland Birds Survey (I-WeBS) Database, 1994/95-2000/01. BirdWatch Ireland, Dublin. 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. McGarrigle, M.L. and Champ, W.S.T. (1999). Keeping pristine lakes clean: Loughs Conn and Mask, western Ireland. *Hydrobiologia* 395/396: 455-469. McGarrigle, M.L., Champ, T., Norton, R., Moore, M. and Larkin, P. (1993). The Trophic Status of Lough Conn. Mayo County Council. McGarrigle, M.L., Kilmartin, L. and Hallissey, R. (1997). Phosphorus loss from agriculture to water - a twin-catchment analysis in the Lough Conn catchment. In Collins, J. (ed.). *Proceedings of the Irish Soil Science Association, University College Dublin, April 1997*. Mitchell, P.I., Newton, S.F., Ratcliffe, N. and Dunn, T.E. (2004). *Seabird Populations of Britain and Ireland*. Poyser, London. 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. O'Grady, M. (1992). A review of fish stocks in Lough Conn 1978-1990. In: *The Future of the Moy Fisheries, Integrated Management and Development Plan for the River Moy System*. North Western Fisheries Board, Ballina, Dublin. Robinson, J.A, Colhoun, K., McElwaine, J.G. and Rees, E.C. (2004). Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* (Iceland population) in Britain and Ireland 1960/61 - 1999/2000. *Waterbird Review Series, The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust/Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Slimbridge*. 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. Whilde, A. (1978). A survey of gulls breeding inland in the west of Ireland in 1977 and 1978 and a review of the inland breeding habit in Ireland and Britain. *Irish Birds* 1: 134-160. Whilde, A. (1985). *The All Ireland Tern Survey 1984*. Unpublished report for the Irish Wildbird Conservancy, Dublin. Whilde, A., Cotton, D.C.F. and Sheppard, J.R. (1993). A repeat survey of gulls breeding inland in Counties Donegal, Sligo, Mayo and Galway, with recent counts from Leitrim and Fermanagh. *Irish Birds* 5: 67-72.

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

[Back to top](#)

Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
IE05	60.0				

5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

designated at national or regional level:

Type code	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
IE05	Lough Conn Wildfowl Sanctuary	+	100.0

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:

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).