

Site Name: Kindrum Lough SAC

Site Code: 001151

This site is situated 22 km north of Millford on the Fanad Peninsula, Co. Donegal and comprises Kindrum Lough and the smaller Fallaneas Lough. The catchment of these loughs contains rounded hills with outcropping schists. The whole site lies close to the sea and receives some wind-blown sand and salt spray, particularly on those areas of grassland nearest to the sea on the north side of the site. Kindrum Lough has a stony bottom and is in sharp contrast to the nearby machair lakes, which lie on sand.

The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

[3130] Oligotrophic to Mesotrophic Standing Waters [1833] Slender Naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>)
--

Kindrum Lough is an example of an oligotrophic to mesotrophic lake, a habitat listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. In the bays of Kindrum Lough a partial fringe of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) occurs, with a more extensive area of reedswamp at the south-western end, with species such as Great Fen-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*), Common Sedge (*Carex nigra*) and Slender Sedge (*Carex lasiocarpa*) also found. A wet area of fen, rich in sedge species and aquatic herbs occurs between this reedbed and Fallaneas Lough. Fallaneas Lough contains a diversity of marginal vegetation types, including fen, rushy fields and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) scrub. Its outflow flows into Kindrum Lough.

Two rare, Red Data Book plant species have been recorded from Kindrum Lough, Slender Naiad (*Najas flexilis*) and the stonewort, *Nitella spanioclema*. The former is listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive as well as the Flora (Protection) Order, 2015, while the latter is an extremely rare species that is endemic to Ireland, where it has been recorded only from Kindrum Lough and another nearby lough.

The lake supports a population of Arctic Char (*Salvelinus alpinus*), a Red Data Book fish species.

Up to 40 Whooper Swan, a species listed on Annex I of E.U. Birds Directive, have been recorded from the site. Tufted Duck also occur here.

Kindrum Lough is used as a reservoir but the drawdown appears to be quite small. The surrounding semi-improved fields are used for grazing of sheep and cattle.

Further improvement of these fields could lead to a reduction in the quality of the water on the site and threaten the survival of the rare plant and fish populations.

Kindrum Lough is of considerable conservation significance as an oligotrophic lake, a habitat that is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive, for Slender Naiad (*Najas flexilis*), listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive , and also for the presence of rare fish.