Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
Offaly County Council

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT FOR PART 8 APPLICATION

(site outlined in red)

4 No. Housing Units at Sr. Senans Avenue in Edenderry, Co. Offaly.

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT FOR P8 APPLICATIONS

(A) DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AND LOCAL SITE:			
Proposed development:	A Part 8 Planning Application will be made for the proposed construction of 4 no. semi-detached bungalows on a site at Sr. Senans Avenue, Edenderry, County Offaly. It is proposed to construct 4no. units in this development, including the construction of access and all internal access roadways, Public Lighting, Foul Sewers, Surface Water Sewers, Watermain's and all associated ancillary site development works.		
Site location:	Sr. Senans Avenue, Edenderry, County Offaly		
Site size:	0.1780 Ha	Floor Area of Proposed Development:	*67.5m²*
Identification of nearby Natura 2000 Site(s):	The Long Derries, Edenderry (SAC 000925) River Boyne & River Blackwater (SPA OO4232) Mount Hevey (SAC 002342)		
Distance to Natura 2000 Site(s):	The Long Derries Edenderry 5.16 km River Boyne & River Blackwater 14.5 km Mount Hevey (SAC) 14.7 kM		
The characteristics of existing, proposed or other approved plans / projects which may cause interactive / cumulative impacts with the project being assessed and which may affect the Natura 2000 site:	None		
Is the application accompanied by an EIS?	Yes: ☐	No: X	
(B) IDENTIFICATION OF THE RELEVANT NATURA 2000 SITE(S):			
The reasons for the designation of the Natura 2000 site(s):			

The Long Derries Edenderry SAC (000925) **River Boyne & River Blackwater SPA (OO4232)** **Mount Hevey SAC (002342)**
The conservation objectives / qualifying interests of the site and the factors that contributes to the conservation value of the site: (which are taken from the Natura 2000 site synopses and, if applicable, a Conservation Management Plan; all available on www.npws.ie) **(ATTACH INFO.)**
To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat and/or the Annex II species

(C) NPWS ADVICE:	
Advice received from NPWS over phone:	No
Summary of advice received from NPWS in written form **(ATTACH SAME):**	No

(D) ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS:	
*(The purpose of this is to identify if the effect(s) identified could be significant – if **uncertain** assume the effect(s) are significant).*	
If the answer is 'yes' to any of the questions below**,** then the effect is significant. *(Please justify your answer. 'Yes' / 'No' alone is insufficient)*	
Would there be… … any impact on an Annex 1 habitat? (Annex 1 habitats are listed in Appendix 1 of AA Guidance).	No - The proposed development is not located within an SPA or SAC. The closest Natura 2000 site is the Long Derries approximately 5.16Km to the South East of the proposed development.
… a reduction in habitat area on a Natura 2000 site?	No - The proposed development is not located within a SPA or SAC. There will be no reduction of the habitat area due to the proposed scheme.
… direct / indirect damage to the physical quality of the environment (e.g. water quality and supply, soil compaction) in the Natura 2000 site?	No- as above
… serious / ongoing disturbance to species / habitats for which the Natura 2000 site is selected (e.g. because of increased noise, illumination and human activity)?	No- as above
… direct / indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the Natura 2000 site?	No-as above

Would the project interfere with mitigation measures put in place for other plans / projects. [Look at *in-combination effects* with completed, approved but not completed, and proposed plans / projects. Look at projects / plans within and adjacent to Natura 2000 sites and identify them]. Simply stating that there are no cumulative impacts' is insufficient.	No-as above

(E) SCREENING CONCLUSION:	
Screening can result in:	
1.	*AA is not required b*ecause the project is directly connected with/necessary to the nature conservation management of the site.
2.	*No potential for significant effects - AA is not required.*
3.	*Significant effects are certain, likely or uncertain.* (In this situation seek a Natura Impact Statement from the applicant, or reject the project. Reject if too potentially damaging / inappropriate.

Therefore, does the project fall into category 1, 2 or 3 above?	2
Justify why it falls into relevant category above:	

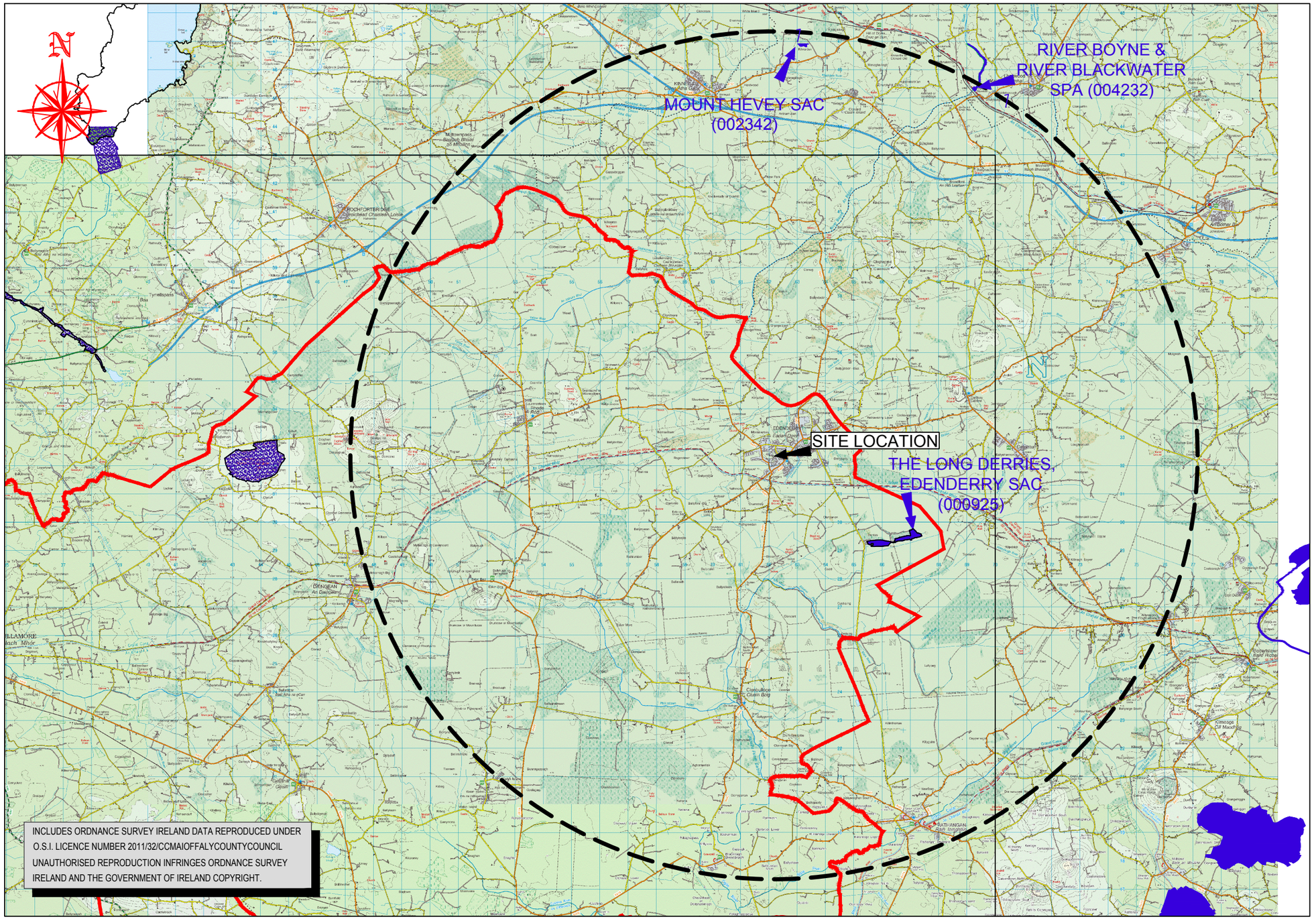
Proposed Housing Development is not located within SPA or SAC. Works will take place on and around Agricultural Fields, Domestic Dwellings and on the Public Road. It is considered due to the distance of the proposed development from the SAC (5.16 Km) that there would be unlikely significant affects to the integrity of the Natura 2000 site.

Name:	**Paul McDonald**		
Position:	**Senior Executive Technician**	**Date:**	**14th Sept 2020**

OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL

PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT SR. SENAN AVENUE, EDENDERRY, CO OFFALY

ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGNATED SITES



LEGEND

SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION (SAC)

SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA)

15Km BOUNDARY FROM THE SITE

NOTE:

THE SAC AND SPA DATA IS DOWNLOADED FROM THE NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (NPWS) WEBSITE(www.npws.ie) THE DATA ON THE WEBSITE IS THE LAST UPDATED ON THE 15/01/2015

DESCRIPTION	DATE	INT.	REV

Offaly County Council
Tel. (057) 9346800

Mr. Tom Shanahan
Director of Services
Aras an Chontae,
Charleville Rd., Tullamore.

PROJECT
Proposed Housing Development at Sr. Senan Avenue, Edenderry, Offaly

TITLE
Environmental Designated Sites

SCALE	ROAD NO	PROJECT NO	DRAWING NO
NTS	N/A	AA	001
	DATE	DRAWN BY	CHECKED
	20/09/19	PC	P.McD

Offaly County Council
Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT for Planning Part 8 Application for 4 No. Housing Units at Sr Senan Avenue, Edenderry, Co. Offaly

SITE:

The Long Derries Edenderry SAC (000925)

- **Conservation Objectives**
- **Natura 2000 – Standard Data Form**
- **Site Synopsis**

Conservation objectives for The Long Derries, Edenderry SAC [000925]

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:

Code	**Description**
6210	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)

* denotes a priority habitat

Citation: *NPWS (2018) Conservation objectives for The Long Derries, Edenderry SAC [000925]. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.*

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 **IE0000925**

SITENAME **The Long Derries, Edenderry SAC**

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- 1. SITE IDENTIFICATION
- 2. SITE LOCATION
- 3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION
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- 6. SITE MANAGEMENT
- 7. MAP OF THE SITE

1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

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1.1 Type	1.2 Site code
B	IE0000925

1.3 Site name

The Long Derries, Edenderry SAC

1.4 First Compilation date	1.5 Update date
1995-08	2017-09

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

Date site proposed as SCI:	1997-11
Date site confirmed as SCI:	No data
Date site designated as SAC:	2016-10
National legal reference of SAC designation:	528/2016

2. SITE LOCATION

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2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude
-7.003652749

Latitude
53.31076985

2.2 Area [ha]:

30.3664873

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

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

Annex I Habitat types						Site assessment			
Code	PF	NP	Cover [ha]	Cave [number]	Data quality	A|B|C|D	A|B|C		
						Representativity	Relative Surface	Conservation	Global
6210	X		12.4		M	B	C	B	B

- **PF:** for the habitat types that can have a non-priority as well as a priority form (6210, 7130, 9430) enter "X" in the column PF to indicate the priority form.
- **NP:** in case that a habitat type no longer exists in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Cover:** decimal values can be entered
- **Caves:** for habitat types 8310, 8330 (caves) enter the number of caves if estimated surface is not available.
- **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)

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.
		Caprimulgus												

B	A224	europaeus			r	1	1	p		G	B	B	B	B

- **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		Acinos arvensis						R			X			
P		Erigeron acer						R			X			
B		Falco tinnunculus			1	1								X
M		Meles meles						P			X			
M		Meles meles						P					X	
P		Orchis morio			350						X			
B		Perdix perdix						P			X			
B		Perdix perdix						P					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
N08	24.0

N06	1.0
N10	17.0
N09	41.0
N23	2.0
N07	1.0
N22	14.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

The site forms part of a low esker ridge which primarily consists of glacial gravels interspersed with loam and peat soils. The site comprises a mosaic of dry esker grassland (calcareous), Cretaegus scrub, gravel quarries (used and disused) and humid grassland. The north-eastern side of the site grades into peatland and here an interesting mixture of acid and base loving plants occurs. Much of the western half of the site was previously used as a golf course. A wide variety of activities occur on the site and the western half is the most disturbed.

4.2 Quality and importance

This is an important site for several reasons. It supports good quality dry, calcareous esker grassland in which occurs a substantial population of the rare and protected Orchis morio. An interesting transition between this habitat and acid, peaty grassland is found on the eastern side of the site. Gravel quarries on the site support other rare plant species: Acinos arvensis (a protected species) and Erigeron acer, as well as the uncommon, introduced Minuartia hybrida. The site is an important ornithological site; the most notable species, Caprimulgus europaeus (Nightjar) of which only about thirty pairs are known to breed in Ireland, breeds on the site. Several other important bird species also occur.

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	A04.03		i
H	K02.01		i
H	G01.03.02		i
H	K01.01		i
M	E05		i
H	D01		i

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

Fitzgerald, R. (1990-94). National Parks and Wildlife Service Protected and Threatened Flora Survey. Unpublished report to National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Ó Críodáin, C. (1992). Conservation of Grassland Sites of Scientific Interest in Ireland. A preliminary report. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin.

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

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6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

☐	Yes
☐	No, but in preparation
☒	No

7. MAP OF THE SITES

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INSPIRE ID: IE.NPWS.PS.NATURA2000.SAC.IE0000925

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).

SITE SYNOPSIS

Site Name: The Long Derries, Edenderry SAC

Site Code: 000925

The Long Derries is located approximately 5 km south-east of Edenderry in Co. Offaly and is part of a low esker ridge running from Edenderry to Rathdangan. It consists primarily of glacial gravels interspersed with loam and peat soil.

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):

[6210] Orchid-rich Calcareous Grassland*

The dominant habitat at the Long Derries is dry calcareous grassland. This can be observed towards the north-western end where Carline Thistle (*Carlina vulgaris*), Marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*), Wild Thyme (*Thymus praecox*) and Cowslip (*Primula veris*) grow. An interesting feature is a number of used and unused gravel pits which are host to plants such as Mountain Everlasting (*Antennaria dioica*) and the rare Fine-leaved Sandwort (*Minuartia hybrida*), among others.

In places, invading Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) forms blocks of scrub interspersed with open areas of calcareous grassland, as can be viewed in the eastern section. The eastern boundary grades into peatland where calcareous runnels are interspersed with miniature peat flushes. Here calcicole plant species are mixed with calcifuge ones such as Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), Lousewort (*Pedicularis sylvatica*) and Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*).

An important aspect of this site is the presence of the rare, Red Data Book species Blue Fleabane (*Erigeron acer*) and Green-winged Orchid (*Orchis morio*), as well as the legally protected (Flora (Protection) Order, 1999), Basil Thyme (*Acinos arvensis*). A large population of the latter species occurs in the grassland communities, including those in the transition to peatland zone. Blue Fleabane is found in grassland and gravel pits on the site, the latter habitat also supporting Basil Thyme.

The summer birdlife of this area includes Sand Martin, Whinchat, Whitethroat and Cuckcoo. Nightjar, a rare species listed in Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive, breeds on the site. Partridge, an endangered species in Ireland and one listed in the Red Data Book, is known from the site. Badgers have setts along some of the mature hedgerows.

At the western section of this site activities connected with the harvesting of peat occur. The eastern section of the site is grazed by cattle and horses. Grazing is

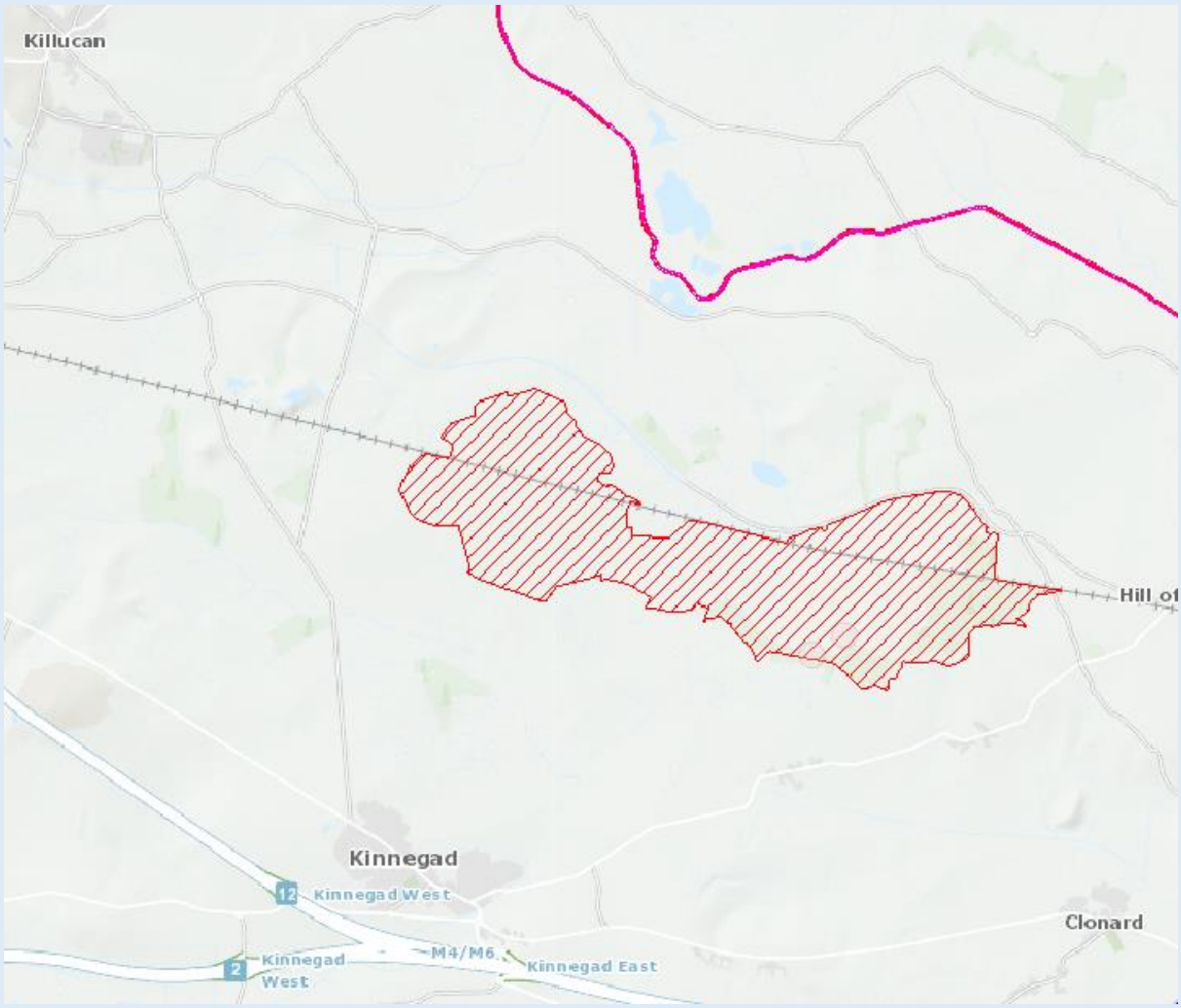
essential for the preservation of the rare orchid, but over-grazing needs to be avoided. Shooting and motorbike scrambling are other activities occurring. Although gravel extraction has helped create habitats for some plant species, this could result in excessive damage if uncontrolled. Dumping of rubbish and old railway tracks is undesirable, as is interference with Badger setts.

The Long Derries is of botanical importance due to the presence of good quality dry, calcareous grassland, an interesting gravel pit flora and the presence of three rare plant species, two of which are legally protected. The presence of an interesting transition habitat from esker to peatland, and a varied bird population, including the rare Nightjar and Partridge, adds to the importance of the site.

SITE:

Mount Hevey Bog SAC (0002342)

- **Conservation Objectives**
- **Natura 2000 – Standard Data Form**
- **Site Synopsis**



ISSN 2009-4086

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Conservation Objectives Series

Mount Hevey Bog SAC 002342

An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta
Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

National Parks and Wildlife Service,
Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht,

7 Ely Place, Dublin 2, Ireland.

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Citation:

NPWS (2016c) Conservation Objectives: Mount Hevey Bog SAC 002342. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

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Introduction

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

A site-specific conservation objective aims to define favourable conservation condition for a particular habitat or species at that site.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Notes/Guidelines:

1. The targets given in these conservation objectives are based on best available information at the time of writing. As more information becomes available, targets for attributes may change. These will be updated periodically, as necessary.
2. An appropriate assessment based on these conservation objectives will remain valid even if the targets are subsequently updated, providing they were the most recent objectives available when the assessment was carried out. It is essential that the date and version are included when objectives are cited.
3. Assessments cannot consider an attribute in isolation from the others listed for that habitat or species, or for other habitats and species listed for that site. A plan or project with an apparently small impact on one attribute may have a significant impact on another.
4. Please note that the maps included in this document do not necessarily show the entire extent of the habitats and species for which the site is listed. This should be borne in mind when appropriate assessments are being carried out.
5. When using these objectives, it is essential that the relevant backing/supporting documents are consulted, particularly where instructed in the targets or notes for a particular attribute.

Qualifying Interests

**** indicates a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive***

002342	Mount Hevey Bog SAC
7110	Active raised bogs*
7120	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration
7150	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion

Supporting documents, relevant reports & publications

Supporting documents, NPWS reports and publications are available for download from: www.npws.ie/Publications

NPWS Documents

Year :	2014
Title :	National raised bog SAC management plan
Author :	Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Series :	Draft for consultation. 15 January 2014
Year :	2016
Title :	Mount Hevey Bog SAC (site code: 2342) Conservation objectives supporting document- raised bog habitats V1
Author :	NPWS
Series :	Conservation objectives supporting document

Other References

Year :	2011
Title :	Review and revision of empirical critical loads and dose-response relationships. Proceedings of an expert workshop, Noordwijkerhout, 23-25 June 2010
Author :	Bobbink, R.; Hettelingh, J.P.
Series :	RIVM report 680359002, Coordination Centre for Effects, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)
Year :	2014
Title :	Nitrogen deposition and exceedance of critical loads for nutrient nitrogen in Irish grasslands
Author :	Henry, J.; Aherne, J.
Series :	Science of the Total Environment 470–471: 216–223

Spatial data sources

Year :	2014
Title :	Scientific Basis for Raised Bog Conservation in Ireland
GIS Operations :	RBSB13_SACs_ARB_DRB dataset, RBSB13_SACs_2012_HB dataset, RBSB13_SACs_DrainagePatterns_5k dataset and RBSB13_SAC_LIDAR_DTMs dataset clipped to SAC boundary. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising
Used For :	potential 7110; digital elevation model; drainage patterns (maps 2 and 4)
Year :	Digitised 2003
Title :	Raised Bog Restoration Project 1999
GIS Operations :	Ecotope dataset clipped to SAC boundary. Appropriate ecotopes selected and exported to new dataset. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising
Used For :	7110 ecotopes (map 3)

7110 Active raised bogs

To restore the favourable conservation condition of Active raised bogs in Mount Hevey Bog SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Restore area of active raised bog to 77.8ha, subject to natural processes	Active Raised Bog (ARB) habitat is estimated to be 60.0ha. Area of Degraded Raised Bog (DRB) on the High Bog (HB) has been modelled as 24.5ha. See map 2. However, it is estimated that only 12.3ha is potentially restorable to ARB by drain blocking. The total potential ARB on the HB is therefore estimated to be 72.3ha. Eco-hydrological assessments of the cutover estimates that an additional 5.5ha of bog forming habitats could be restored. The long term target for ARB is therefore 77.8ha. See raised bog supporting document for further details on this and following attributes
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	Restore the distribution and variability of active raised bog across the SAC. See map 3 for distribution in 2000	ARB habitat at Mount Hevey Bog comprises central and sub-central ecotopes and active flush and occurs on both parts of the bog. DRB also occurs on both parts of the bog, which will require restoration measures. There is also potential for ARB restoration on cutover areas of the bog (see area target above)
High bog area	Hectares	No decline in extent of high bog necessary to support the development and maintenance of active raised bog. See map 2	The area of high bog within Mount Hevey Bog SAC in 2012 (latest figure available) was 217.5ha (DAHG 2014)
Hydrological regime: water levels	Centimetres	Restore appropriate water levels throughout the site	For ARB, mean water level needs to be near or above the surface of the bog lawns for most of the year. Seasonal fluctuations should not exceed 20cm, and should only be 10cm below the surface, except for very short periods of time
Hydrological regime: flow patterns	Flow direction; slope	Restore, where possible, appropriate high bog topography, flow directions and slopes. See map 4 for current situation	ARB depends on mean water levels being near or above the surface of bog lawns for most of the year. Long and gentle slopes are the most favourable to achieve these conditions. Changes to flow directions due to subsidence of bogs can radically change water regimes and cause drying out of high quality ARB
Transitional areas between high bog and adjacent mineral soils (including cutover areas)	Hectares; distribution	Restore adequate transitional areas to support/protect active raised bog and the services it provides	No natural margins remain around Mount Hevey Bog. In places, bog vegetation is regenerating on long abandoned cutover. Eco-hydrological assessments have evaluated the potential for ARB restoration on cutover areas (see note for habitat area attribute above)
Vegetation quality: central ecotope, active flush, soaks, bog woodland	Hectares	Restore 38.9ha of central ecotope/active flush/soaks/bog woodland as appropriate	At least 50% of active raised bog habitat should be high quality (i.e. central ecotop, active flush, soaks, bog woodland. Target area of active raised bog for the site has been set at 77.8ha (see area target above)
Vegetation quality: microtopograph-ical features	Hectares	Restore adequate cover of high quality microtopographical features	Hummock and hollow microtopography is well developed in the western part of Mount Hevey Bog. Previous drainage efforts associated with a forestry plantation (which has since been clear felled) on the high bog on the eastern side have had a negative effect on the surface microtopography
Vegetation quality: bog moss (*Sphagnum*) species	Percentage cover	Restore adequate cover of bog moss (*Sphagnum*) species to ensure peat-forming capacity	*Sphagnum* cover varies naturally across Ireland with relatively high cover in the east to lower cover in the west. Hummock forming species such as *Sphagnum austinii* are particularly good peat formers. *Sphagnum* cover and distribution also varies naturally across a site

Typical ARB species: flora	Occurrence	Restore, where appropriate, typical active raised bog flora	Typical flora species include widespread species, as well as those with more restricted distributions but typical of the habitat's subtypes or geographical range
Typical ARB species: fauna	Occurrence	Restore, where appropriate, typical active raised bog fauna	Typical fauna species include widespread species, as well as those with more restricted distributions but typical of the habitat's subtypes or geographical range
Elements of local distinctiveness	Occurrence	Maintain features of local distinctiveness, subject to natural processes	The main feature of interest is a small lough that occurred on the west side of the bog(Cloncrave Lough), which has infilled and now corresponds with active flush
Negative physical indicators	Percentage cover	Negative physical features absent or insignificant	Negative physical indicators include: bare peat, algae dominated pools and hollows, marginal cracks, tear patterns, subsidence features such as dry mineral mounds /ridges emerging or expanding and evidence of burning
Vegetation composition: native negative indicator species	Percentage cover	Native negative indicator species at insignificant levels	Native negative indicator species that suggest drying out include abundant bog asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*), deergrass (*Trichophorum germanicum*) and harestail cotton-grass (*Eriophorum vaginatum*) forming tussocks; abundant magellanic bog-moss (*Sphagnum magellanicum*) in pools previously dominated by *Sphagnum* species typical of very wet conditions (e.g. feathery bog-moss (*S. cuspidatum*)). Indicators of frequent burning events include abundant *Cladonia floerkeana* and high cover of carnation sedge (*Carex panicea*) (particularly in true midlands raised bogs)
Vegetation composition: non-native invasive species	Percentage cover	Non-native invasive species at insignificant levels and not more than 1% cover	Most common non-native invasive species on raised bogs include lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*), rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*), and pitcherplant (*Sarracenia purpurea*)
Air quality: nitrogen deposition	kg N/ha/year	Air quality surrounding bog close to natural reference conditions. The total N deposition should not exceed 5kg N/ha/yr	Change in air quality can result from fertiliser drift; adjacent quarry activities; or other atmospheric inputs. The critical load range for ombrotrophic bogs has been set as between 5 and 10kg N/ha/yr (Bobbink and Hettelingh, 2011). The latest N deposition figures for the area around Mount Hevey Bog suggest that the current level is approximately 15.7kg N/ha/yr (Henry and Aherne, 2014)
Water quality	Hydrochemical measures	Water quality on the high bog and transitional areas close to natural reference conditions	Water chemistry within raised bogs is influenced by atmospheric inputs (rainwater). However, within soak systems, water chemistry is influenced by other inputs such as focused flow or interaction with underlying substrates. Water chemistry in marginal areas and lagg zone surrounding the high bog varies due to influences of different water types (bog water, regional groundwater and run-off from surrounding mineral lands)

7120 **Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration**

The long-term aim for Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration is that its peat-forming capability is re-established; therefore, the conservation objective for this habitat is inherently linked to that of Active raised bogs (7110) and a separate conservation objective has not been set in Mount Hevey Bog SAC

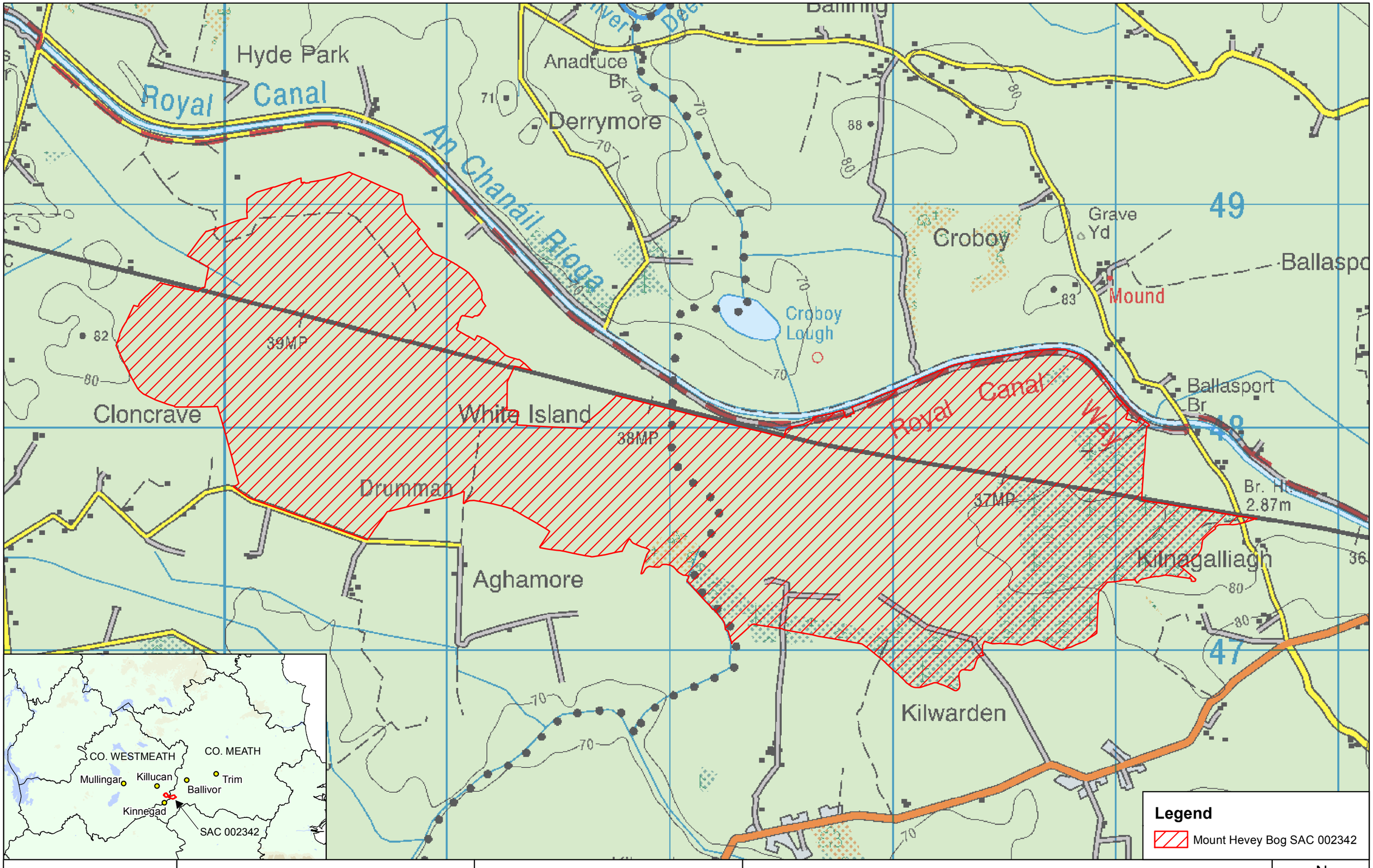
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes

Conservation Objectives for : Mount Hevey Bog SAC [002342]

7150	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion

Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion is an integral part of good quality Active raised bogs (7110) and thus a separate conservation objective has not been set for the habitat in Mount Hevey Bog SAC

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes



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Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

MAP 1:
MOUNT HEVEY BOG SAC
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES
SAC DESIGNATION

Map to be read in conjunction with the NPWS Conservation Objectives Document.

SITE CODE:
SAC 002342; version 3.01. Co. Meath / Westmeath

0 250 500 750 1,000 m

N

Map Version 1
Date: Jan 2016

Legend

- Mount Hevey Bog SAC 002342
- High Bog Boundary
- Potential 7110 *Active Raised Bogs
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundary

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MAP 2:
MOUNT HEVEY BOG SAC
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES
EXTENT OF POTENTIAL
ACTIVE RAISED BOGS

Map to be read in conjunction with the NPWS Conservation Objectives Document.

SITE CODE:
SAC 002342; version 3.01. Co. Meath / Westmeath

0 250 500 750 1,000 m

N

Map Version 1
Date: Jan 2016

Legend

- Mount Hevey Bog SAC002342
- High Bog Boundary
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundary

Active Raised Bog Ecotopes

- Central ecotope
- Soaks / active flush
- Sub-central ecotope

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MAP 3:
MOUNT HEVEY BOG SAC
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES
ACTIVE RAISED BOGS
ECOTOPES

Map to be read in conjunction with the NPWS Conservation Objectives Document.

SITE CODE:
SAC 002342; version 3.01. Co. Meath / Westmeath

0 250 500 750 1,000 m

N

Map Version 1
Date: Jan 2016

Legend

- Mount Hevey Bog SAC 002342
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundary
- High Bog Boundary
- Drainage Patterns
- Contours

Elevation

80.94 m

68.90 m

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Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

MAP 4:
MOUNT HEVEY BOG SAC
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES
RAISED BOG
DIGITAL ELEVATION MODEL
& DRAINAGE PATTERNS

Map to be read in conjunction with the NPWS Conservation Objectives Document.

SITE CODE:
SAC 002342; version 3.01. Co. Meath / Westmeath

0 250 500 750 1,000 m

N

Map Version 1
Date: Jan 2016

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 **IE0002342**

SITENAME **Mount Hevey Bog SAC**

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- 1. SITE IDENTIFICATION
- 2. SITE LOCATION
- 3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION
- 4. SITE DESCRIPTION
- 6. SITE MANAGEMENT
- 7. MAP OF THE SITE

1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

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1.1 Type	1.2 Site code
B	IE0002342

1.3 Site name

Mount Hevey Bog SAC

1.4 First Compilation date	1.5 Update date
2003-03	2018-01

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

Date site proposed as SCI:	2003-03
Date site confirmed as SCI:	No data
Date site designated as SAC:	2017-12
National legal reference of SAC designation:	621/2017

2. SITE LOCATION

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2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude
-7.06746512

Latitude
53.47769026

2.2 Area [ha]:

483.5827019

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

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3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them

Annex I Habitat types						Site assessment			
Code	PF	NP	Cover [ha]	Cave [number]	Data quality	A|B|C|D	A|B|C		
						Representativity	Relative Surface	Conservation	Glo
7110			60.0		G	B	B	C	A
7120			12.27		G	B	C	C	B
7150			3.137839254		M	B	C	C	B

- **PF:** for the habitat types that can have a non-priority as well as a priority form (6210, 7130, 9430) enter "X" in the column PF to indicate the priority form.
- **NP:** in case that a habitat type no longer exists in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Cover:** decimal values can be entered
- **Caves:** for habitat types 8310, 8330 (caves) enter the number of caves if estimated surface is not available.
- **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)

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.

- **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		Sphagnum fuscum												X
P		Sphagnum imbricatum												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
N14	1.0
N07	69.0
N08	15.0
N10	4.0

N16	1.0
N20	10.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

Mount Hevey is a large midland raised bog, which is situated 3 km north-east of Kinnegad village and lies on the border of counties Meath and Westmeath. The bog overlies Carboniferous limestone bedrock and occurs in four sections. Two of these are small and lie to the north of a railway line while two larger lobes lie to the south of the railway line. These two larger lobes are of higher ecological value due to the presence of active bog. Cutover bog surrounds the uncut high bog. Part of the high bog and also part of the cutover has been afforested with conifers. Other parts of the cutover has been invaded by Betula pubescens scrub and small amounts of broad-leaved woodland. Some of the cutover has been converted to semi-improved grassland.

4.2 Quality and importance

Mount Hevey Bog is one of the most easterly, relatively intact raised bogs in Ireland and represents one of the largest bog areas in the eastern half of the country. Although more than half of the site area consists of cutover bog, there is a large area of active raised bog. The active areas support well-developed pool areas and have a high Sphagnum cover which include the rare species Sphagnum fuscum and S. imbricatum. A soak area, which has developed from an infilled lake and now supports some Betula pubescens trees, adds diversity to the bog surface. A substantial area of uncut high bog that is classified as degraded raised big is present. The degraded bog supports a wide range of plant communities, depending on factors such as height of water table and past burning events. The bog, and especially the active parts, contains substantial areas of Rhynchosporion vegetation which have a typical species composition and generally exist in a well-preserved condition. The cutover areas which surround the high bog contain large areas of scrub woodland dominated by Betula pubescens.

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	D01.01		i
M	I03		i
L	J02.03		b
M	J02.01		i
L	D01.04		i
M	I01		i
L	C01.03.02		i
M	E03.01		i
L	K04.02		i

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i|o|b]
M	J02.05		i
H	B02.02		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

Cross, J.R. (1990). The Raised Bogs of Ireland: their Ecology, Status and Conservation. Report to the Minister of State at the Department of Finance. Stationery Office, Dublin. Derwin, J. and MacGowan, F. (2000). Raised Bog Conservation Project. Unpublished report, Dúchas The Heritage Service, Dublin. Goodwillie, R. (1972). A Preliminary Report on Areas of Scientific Interest in County Westmeath. Unpublished report, An Foras Forbartha, Dublin. National Parks and Wildlife Service (1992-1994). National Areas of Scientific Interest Survey. Unpublished report, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Young, R. (1972). A Preliminary Report on Areas of Scientific Interest in County Meath. Unpublished report, An Foras Forbartha, Dublin.

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

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6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No, but in preparation
- [X] No

7. MAP OF THE SITES

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INSPIRE ID: IE.NPWS.PS.NATURA2000.SAC.IE0002342

Map delivered as PDF in electronic format (optional)

- [ ] Yes
- [X] No

Reference(s) to the original map used for the digitalisation of the electronic boundaries (optional).

SITE SYNOPSIS

Site Name: Mount Hevey Bog SAC

Site Code: 002342

Mount Hevey Bog is situated approximately 4 km north-east of Kinnegad, in the townlands of Cloncrave, White Island, Aghamore, Kilwarden and Kilnagalliagh. The Meath-Westmeath County boundary runs through the centre of the bog. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. The Dublin-Sligo railway runs through the northern part of the bog isolating two northern lobes. The northern lobes are adjacent to the Royal Canal.

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):

[7110] Raised Bog (Active)*
[7120] Degraded Raised Bog
[7150] Rhynchosporion Vegetation

Active raised bog comprises areas of high bog that are wet and actively peat-forming, where the percentage cover of bog mosses (*Sphagnum* spp.) is high, and where some or all of the following features occur: hummocks, pools, wet flats, *Sphagnum* lawns, flushes and soaks. Degraded raised bog corresponds to those areas of high bog whose hydrology has been adversely affected by peat cutting, drainage and other land use activities, but which are capable of regeneration. The Rhynchosporion habitat occurs in wet depressions, pool edges and erosion channels where the vegetation includes White Beak-sedge (*Rhynchospora alba*) and/or Brown Beak-sedge (*R. fusca*), and at least some of the following associated species, Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*), sundews (*Drosera* spp.), Deergrass (*Scirpus cespitosus*) and Carnation Sedge (*Carex panicea*).

The site consists of a long, narrow bog separated into four sub-sections; the larger eastern section supports a wet quaking area with hummock/hollows and pool complex. Hummock/hollow complex also occurs in the south-west lobe and the north-west lobe of the site. An infilled lake is now a soak system. Forestry occurs on the most easterly section of the site. There is abandoned cutover bog all around the bog and particularly on the western section. There are some wet and actively regenerating areas of the cutover along the southern margins of the western lobe and along the railway.

Much of the high bog has vegetation typical of the Midlands Raised Bog type. The vegetation consists of Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), cottongrasses (*Eriophorum angustifolium* and *E. vaginatum*), Bog Asphodel, White Beak-sedge and midland

indicator species Bog-rosemary (*Andromeda polifolia*) and the bog moss *Sphagnum magellanicum*. The wet quaking area in the eastern section of the bog has pools that support the bog moss *Sphagnum cuspidatum,* with White Beak-sedge, cottongrasses and Heather at the edges. The hummock/hollow complex supports a range of hummock-forming bog mosses, including *Sphagnum imbricatum* and *S. fuscum*, as well as other species such as *S. capillifolium, S. magellanicum and S. papillosum*. Other plants found in the hummock/hollow complexes are Bog-rosemary, Cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*), Bog Asphodel and Deergrass.

The infilled lake is wet and quaking and the vegetation is dominated by Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*), Bog-myrtle (*Myrica gale*) and Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), along with the bog mosses *Sphagnum palustre* and *S. papillosum*. The Downy Birch trees appear to be between 20 and 30 years old, and the Bog-myrtle is over 150 cm high. The edge of the former lake is clearly marked by robust plants of Heather. Some areas of old abandoned cutover bog on the site are very wet and regenerating well, with a good cover of bog mosses, including species such as *S. cuspidatum, S. papillosum*, *S. capillifolium*, *S. auriculatum* and *S. subnitens.*

Current land use on the site consists of limited mechanised peat-cutting, mostly on the eastern end of the high bog. There are areas of old peat cuttings all around the site with some very old abandoned regenerating cutover along the edge of the railway. The area to the east of the site has been afforested. Areas of cutover have been reclaimed for agricultural purposes. Damaging activities associated with these land uses include drainage throughout the site (both old and recent) and burning of the high bog. These are all activities that have resulted in loss of habitat and damage to the hydrological status of the site, and pose a continuing threat to its viability.

Mount Hevey Bog is a site of considerable conservation significance as it comprises a raised bog, a rare habitat in the E.U. and one that is becoming increasingly scarce and under threat in Ireland. The site supports a good diversity of raised bog microhabitats, including hummock/hollow complexes, pools, flushes and regenerating cutover, as well as a number of scarce plant species. Active raised bog is listed as a priority habitat on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. Priority status is given to habitats and species that are threatened throughout the E.U. Ireland has a high proportion of the total E.U. resource of this habitat type (over 60%) and so has a special responsibility for its conservation at an international level.

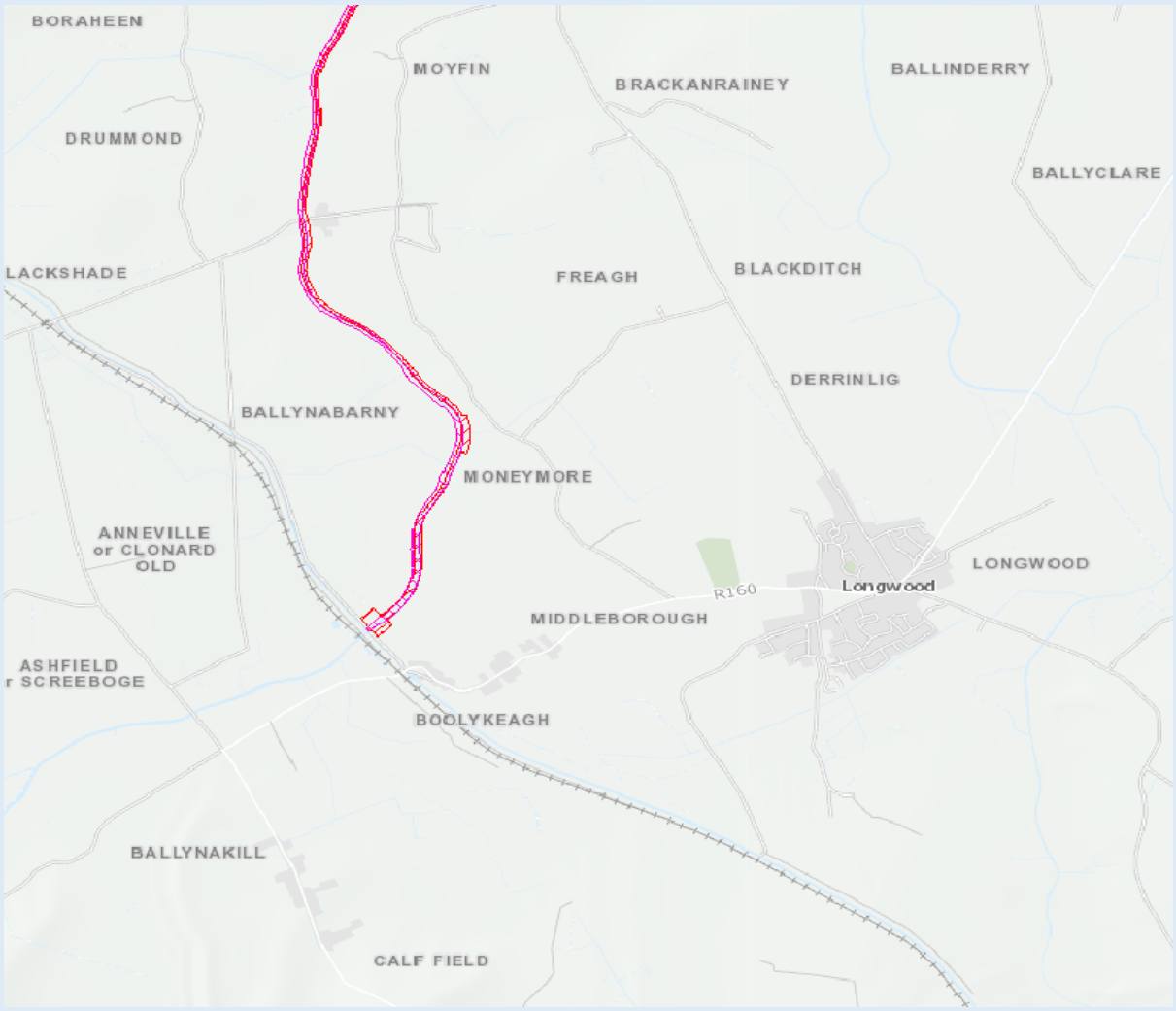
Offaly County Council
Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT for Planning Part 8 Application for 4 No. Housing Units at Sr Senan Avenue, Edenderry, Co. Offaly

SITE:

River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA (004232)

- **Conservation Objectives**
- **Natura 2000 – Standard Data Form**
- **Site Synopsis**



Conservation objectives for River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA [004232]

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Objective: To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:

Bird Code	Common Name	Scientific Name
A229	Kingfisher	*Alcedo atthis*

Citation: *NPWS (2018) Conservation objectives for River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA [004232]. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.*

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 **IE0004232**

SITENAME **River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA**

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- 1. SITE IDENTIFICATION
- 2. SITE LOCATION
- 3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION
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- 6. SITE MANAGEMENT
- 7. MAP OF THE SITE

1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

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1.1 Type	1.2 Site code
A	IE0004232

1.3 Site name

River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA

1.4 First Compilation date	1.5 Update date
2010-11	2017-09

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:	2010-11
National legal reference of SPA designation	No data

2. SITE LOCATION

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2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude	Latitude
-6.663890967	53.63502434

2.2 Area [ha]:

460.1428457

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
IE02	Southern and Eastern

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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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	A229	Alcedo atthis			r	19	19	p		G	C	B	C	B
B	A052	Anas crecca			w	166	166	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A053	Anas platyrhynchos			w	219	219	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A028	Ardea cinerea			w	44	44	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A017	Phalacrocorax carbo			w	36	36	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
B		Cygnus olor			90	90							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
N15	2.0
N23	6.0
N12	10.0
N10	5.0
N14	12.0
N08	8.0
N07	5.0
N06	50.0
N09	2.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

The River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA is a long linear site that comprises stretches of the River Boyne and several of its tributaries: most of the site is in Co Meath but it extends also into Counties Cavan, Louth and Westmeath. It includes the following river sections: The River Boyne from the M1 motorway bridge, west of Drogheda, to the junction with the Royal Canal, west of Longwood, Co Meath; the River Blackwater from its junction with the River Boyne in Navan to the junction with Lough Ramor in Co Cavan; the Tremblestown River (and Athboy River) from the junction with the River Boyne at Kilnagross Bridge to the bridge in Athboy, Co Meath; the Stoneyford River from its junction with the River Boyne to Stonestone Bridge in Co. Westmeath; the River Deel from its junction with the River Boyne to Cummer Bridge, Co.Westmeath. The site includes the river channel and marginal vegetation.

4.2 Quality and importance

The River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA supports nationally important numbers of Alcedo atthis. Other species which occur within the site include Cygnus olor, Anas crecca, Anas platyrhynchos, Phalacrocorax carbo, Ardea cinerea, Gallinula chloropus, Gallinago gallinago and Riparia riparia.

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	E01		o
M	J02		i
H	D01.02		i
H	E01.03		o
H	D01.02		o

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

Crowe, O. (2005). Ireland's Wetlands and their Waterbirds: Status and Distribution. BirdWatch Ireland, Newcastle, Co. Wicklow. 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. Crowe, O., Webb, G., Collins, E. and Smiddy, P. (2008). Waterway Bird Survey 2008. Unpublished report to the NPWS. Cummins, S., Fisher, J., McKeever, R.J., McNaghten, L., and Crowe, O. (2010). Assessment of the distribution and abundance of Kingfishers Alcedo atthis and other riparian birds on six SAC. Unpublished report to the NPWS. Gibbons, D.W., Reid. J.B. and Chapman. R.A. (1993). The New Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991. T.& A.D. Poyser, London. 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). Newton, S., Donagh, A., Allen, D. and Gibbons, D. (1999). Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland. Irish birds 6: 333-344.

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

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6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No, but in preparation
- [X] No

7. MAP OF THE SITES

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INSPIRE ID: IE.NPWS.PS.NATURA2000.SPA.IE0004232

Map delivered as PDF in electronic format (optional)

[ ] Yes [X] No

Reference(s) to the original map used for the digitalisation of the electronic boundaries (optional).

SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: RIVER BOYNE AND RIVER BLACKWATER SPA

SITE CODE: 004232

The River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA is a long, linear site that comprises stretches of the River Boyne and several of its tributaries; most of the site is in Co. Meath, but it extends also into Cos Cavan, Louth and Westmeath. It includes the following river sections: the River Boyne from the M1 motorway bridge, west of Drogheda, to the junction with the Royal Canal, west of Longwood, Co Meath; the River Blackwater from its junction with the River Boyne in Navan to the junction with Lough Ramor in Co. Cavan; the Tremblestown River/Athboy River from the junction with the River Boyne at Kilnagross Bridge west of Trim to the bridge in Athboy, Co. Meath; the Stoneyford River from its junction with the River Boyne to Stonestown Bridge in Co. Westmeath; the River Deel from its junction with the River Boyne to Cummer Bridge, Co. Westmeath. The site includes the river channel and marginal vegetation.

Most of the site is underlain by Carboniferous limestone but Silurian quartzite also occurs in the vicinity of Kells and Carboniferous shales and sandstones close to Trim.

The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive of special conservation interest for the following species: Kingfisher.

A survey in 2010 recorded 19 pairs of Kingfisher (based on 15 probable and 4 possible territories) in the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA. A survey conducted in 2008 recorded 20-22 Kingfisher territories within the SPA. Other species which occur within the site include Mute Swan (90), Teal (166), Mallard (219), Cormorant (36), Grey Heron (44), Moorhen (84), Snipe (32) and Sand Martin (553) – all figures are peak counts recorded during the 2010 survey.

The River Boyne and River Blackwater Special Protection Area is of high ornithological importance as it supports a nationally important population of Kingfisher, a species that is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive.

25.11.2010