
RAMSAR INFORMATION SHEET

FOR WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Site reference number

- 1** **Compilation date** 15/03/2002
2 **Country** UK (Northern Ireland)
3 **Name of wetland** Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs
4 **Site centre location:** Latitude: 54 24 00 N Longitude: 07 43 20 W
5 **Altitude (m)** **Min: 70 Max: 120 Mean 80**
6 **Area (ha)** 43.1

7 Overview

The turloughs of the Ely Lodge district are the only ones in Northern Ireland and are the most northerly occurrence of these lake types in Ireland and the UK. There are three turloughs in the group: Roosky Lough is the southernmost, Green Lough lies to the north, with Fardrum Lough between the two, all lying within a basin formed in the Ballyshannon Limestones. In general, inflowing water comes through the limestone via risings, especially noticeable at Roosky Lough. Outflow is also through the limestone, via sinks, which can be clearly seen during dry periods at Roosky and Green Loughs. The turloughs all exhibit distinctive vegetation communities associated with the inundation zone, including some rare species records. Permanently wet basins within the turloughs support vegetation typical of lakes and lake-shores, with some of these forming very extensive swards. The turloughs support a range of water beetles, with the species *Rhantus frontalis* being typical of such ephemeral waterbodies. Green Lough supports a very rich ground beetle fauna including the carabids *Blethisa multipunctata* and *Pelophila borealis*. In total, these wetlands have contributed records of nine beetles that are new to Fermanagh.

- 8 Wetland type** Inland wetland

Code	Name	% Area
Ts	Freshwater marshes / pools: seasonal / intermittent	6
U	Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)	9
Xf	Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands	14
4	Seasonally flooded agricultural land	55
Other	Improved agricultural land	16

- 9 Ramsar Criteria** 1
10 Map of the site ✓
11 Compiler **Joint Nature Conservation Committee**
Monkstone House
City Road
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire PE1 1JY
UK
Telephone/Fax : +44(0) 1733 562626 / +44(0) 1733 555948

12 Justification of criteria

Criterion 1 - the site is important as the most northerly examples of turloughs in Ireland, with distinctive, naturally impoverished, vegetation communities.

13 General location

The Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs are sited some 7 kms north-west of Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, in the west of Northern Ireland.

Administrative Region: Fermanagh

14 Physical Features

Soil & Geology	basic, clay, limestone/chalk, mud
Geomorphology and Landscape	lowland, valley
Nutrient status	eutrophic, mesotrophic
pH	alkaline, circumneutral
Salinity	fresh
Soil	mainly mineral
Water permanence	usually seasonal / intermittent
Summary of main climatic features	"Rainy, temperate climate with a mild winter and periodic frost. Mean minimum temperature approximately 6.7°C. Mean maximum temperature approximately 13.4°C. Mean annual precipitation approximately 818.7mm, with a winter maximum." "

15 Hydrological values

Recharge and discharge of groundwater, Flood water storage / desynchronisation of flood peaks

16 Ecological features

The turloughs all exhibit distinctive vegetation communities associated with the inundation zone, including Silverweed *Potentilla anserina*, Marsh Pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, Selfheal *Prunella vulgaris* and Creeping-Jenny *Lysimachia nummularia*, as well as two mosses characteristic of turloughs are present, namely *Cinclidotus fontinaloides* and *Fontinalis antipyretica*. Permanently wet basins within the turloughs support vegetation typical of lakes and lake-shores, with the more common species including White Water-Lily *Nymphaea alba*, Bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*, Amphibious Bistort *Persicaria amphibia*, Fine-leaved Water-Dropwort *Oenanthe aquatica* and Pond Water-Crowfoot *Ranunculus peltatus*. Some of the land adjoining the turloughs also contains notable habitats - areas of dense scrub dominated by Hazel *Corylus avellana* which have a flushed, calcicolous (base-rich) ground flora, dominated by Wood Anemone *Anemone nemorosa* and Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*. More open scrub contains the uncommon shrubs Buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica* and Spindle *Euonymus europaeus*. The invertebrate fauna is diverse, with an especially rich ground beetle fauna including *Blethisa multipunctata* and *Pelophila borealis* at Green Lough.

17 Noteworthy flora

Nationally important Habitat type

Inundation zone

Turlough

Nationally important species occurring at this site

Higher Plants

Fen Violet *Viola persicifolia*

Lower Plants

Cinclidotus fontinaloides, *Fontinalis antipyretica*

18 Noteworthy fauna

Species occurring at levels of national importance

Rove beetle *Philonthus corvinus*

19 Social and Cultural Values

Conservation education

Current scientific research

Livestock grazing

20 Land tenure/ownership

Ownership category	On-Site	Off-Site
Private	+	+
Public/communal	+	+

21 Current land use

Activity	On-Site	Off-Site	Scale
Nature conservation	+		Large-Scale
Research	+		Large-Scale
Commercial forestry		+	Large-Scale
Arable agriculture (unspecified)		+	Large-Scale
Livestock watering hole/pond	+		Large-Scale
Grazing (unspecified)	+	+	Large-Scale

22 Adverse factors affecting the ecological character of the site

Activity	On-Site	Off-Site	Scale
Overgrazing by domestic livestock	+	+	Large-Scale
Vegetation succession	+		Large-Scale
Eutrophication	+		Large-Scale

23 Conservation measures taken

Conservation measure	On-site	Off-site
Management agreement	+	+
Site management statement/plan implemented	+	
ASSI	+	
SAC	+	
Environmentally sensitive area	+	+

24 Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented

see below

Site vulnerability and management statement

Management Plan and Conservation Objectives identified problems and actions required through Management Agreement.

25 Current scientific research/survey/monitoring and facilities

Further dye-tracing to identify water sources.

Monitoring by EHS staff.

26 Current conservation education

No current conservation educational activities

27 Current recreation and tourism

No public access – site not utilised for recreation or tourism

28 Functional jurisdiction

Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland, Clarence Court, 10-18 Adelaide St, Belfast

29 Management authority

Environment and Heritage Service, Commonwealth House, 35 Castle Street, Belfast, BT1 1GU

30 Bibliography

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Specific References