



# Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 6 July 2022

Update version, previously published on : 30 May 1990

## Ireland Easky Bog



Designation date	30 May 1990
Site number	471
Coordinates	54°11'19"N 08°48'46"W
Area	607,00 ha

## Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

## 1 - Summary

### Summary

Easky Bog is located in County Sligo, west of Ballina Town and the Moy Estuary. It is a blanket bog site which is part of a much larger area of blanket bog together with other peatland habitats which dominate the Ox Mountains range. The Easky Bog Ramsar site lies on the northern part of the Ox Mountains and was designated as a Nature Reserve in 1990. The site supports one of the few extensive areas of intermediate blanket bogs in Ireland. It stretches between lowland and mountain blanket bog; the area grades into mountain blanket bog to the south while an extensive area of lowland blanket bog occurs about 2 km to the west. It is one of the few places in the county where all three blanket bog types are more or less juxtaposed. The Nature Reserve and Ramsar Site is now part of the Ox Mountains Bogs SAC (Site Code: 002006) which extends over a much larger area and includes a range of peatland and other wetland habitats, plant and animal species.

## 2 - Data & location

### 2.1 - Formal data

#### 2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

##### Responsible compiler

Institution/agency	National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Postal address	National Parks and Wildlife Service, 90 North King Street, Smithfield, Dublin, Ireland D07 N7CV

##### National Ramsar Administrative Authority

Institution/agency	National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Postal address	National Parks and Wildlife Service, 90 North King Street, Smithfield, Dublin, Ireland D07 N7CV

#### 2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year

To year

#### 2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)

#### 2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

(Update) A. Changes to Site boundary Yes  No

(Update) B. Changes to Site area the area has increased

(Update) The Site area has been calculated more accurately

(Update) The Site has been delineated more accurately

(Update) The Site area has increased because of a boundary extension

(Update) The Site area has decreased because of a boundary restriction

(Update) For secretariat only. This update is an extension

#### 2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS? No

## 2.2 - Site location

### 2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

#### b) Digital map/image

<2 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps

Boundaries description

The Ramsar Sites are presented on the Ordnance Survey of Ireland Discovery series maps. The legend for these maps can be found at Ordnance Survey Ireland; <https://osi.ie>

The boundaries for this site were defined using the boundaries of the Easky Bog Nature Reserve, which was designated in 1990. Easky Bog Ramsar site is a small part of and lies within the Ox Mountains Bogs SAC (002006) and is an integral part of this wider wetland system. Details of the SAC can be found on the NPWS website at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites>.

A number of GIS data layers were used to define the Ramsar habitats within the site. These included:

- NPWS data (Site-Specific Conservation Objectives)
- CORINE (Co-Ordinated Information on the Environment) land cover data sets (2012).
- Bing Maps Aerial - © Harris Corp, Earthstar Geographics LLC © 2017 Intermap Earthstar Geographics SIO © 2017 Microsoft Corporation.
- Environmental Protection Agency of Ireland Rivers and Lakes layers data layers.

Habitat areas were subsequently estimated by reference to the available imagery and layers and should be considered representative but approximate. Discrepancies between the original boundary for the Ramsar site and the current boundary are likely as a result of mapping projection anomalies.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?

b) What is the nearest town or population centre?

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes  No

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes  No

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha):

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW)	Atlantic
EU biogeographic regionalization	Atlantic

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

British Isles, Irish Sea  
Palearctic (WWF Terrestrial Ecoregions), Northern British Isles (FEOW).

### 3 - Why is the Site important?

#### 3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

- Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Hydrological services provided

Blanket bog habitat provides a number of key hydrological services. Easky bog supports a number of lakes and river waterbodies. The blanket bog is important in terms of protecting the quality of water in these lakes and in terms of regulating water flow. The ability of blanket bog to protect water quality and regulate flow within a river catchment is important at both site level and at the wider catchment level. The ability of this habitat to provide these services depends on the condition of the bog i.e. intact blanket bog has a greater capacity to store, filter and regulate surface and ground water than those which are degraded. The capacity of blanket bog habitat to store water and regulate flow is also important with regards to high rainfall events and the potential to mitigate downstream flooding.

Other ecosystem services provided

Intact blanket bogs store and sequester carbon and have a role in climate regulation. Blanket bogs which are degraded (e.g. over-grazing, forestry, turf cutting, land reclamation) contribute to CO2 emissions.

Other reasons

Easky Bog Ramsar site is part of the Ox Mountains Bogs SAC which is designated for a number of peatland habitats and species: Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletalia uniflorae*) [3110], Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160], Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [4010], European dry heaths [4030], Blanket bogs (\* if active bog) [7130], Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140], Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion* [7150], *Vertigo geyeri* (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013], *Saxifraga hirculus* (Marsh Saxifrage) [1528]. All of the habitats for which the SAC is selected are present within the Easky Bog Ramsar Site.

There are fifty SAC's in Ireland which have been selected for the protection of blanket bog. Easky bog and the wider wetland and peatland complex of the Ox Mountains SAC supports both upland and lowland blanket bog habitats together with a range of other associated peatland habitats and species. The climatic conditions required for the formation of blanket bogs are only found in limited locations around the globe, for example, Scotland and Norway in the northern hemisphere. Easky Bog is of biodiversity value for the range of peatland habitats present at this site, within the Ox Mountains Bogs SAC and within the biogeographical area.

- Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

#### 3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

<no data available>

#### 3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
<b>Others</b>																	
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Lepus timidus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II (Habitats Directive)	Annex II (Habitats Directive), suitable habitat for foraging and shelter at this site.
<b>Birds</b>																	
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I (Birds Directive)	
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-listed (BoCCI)	National BoCCI listing, known to breed in the Ox Mountains
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I (Birds Directive) Red-listed (BoCCI)	National BoCCI listing, known to breed in the Ox Mountains

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Red Grouse, Golden Plover and Greenland White-fronted Geese have been recorded from the Ox Mountains. The habitat within the Easky Bog Ramsar site is suitable for these species (breeding and/or foraging). There are no specific records of their occurrence within the Easky Bog Ramsar site however as it is an integral part of the wider Ox Mountains peatland complex, where they are known to occur.

### 3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Annex I (Habitats Directive) *Priority habitat where active
Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Annex I (Habitats Directive)
Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Annex I (Habitats Directive)
Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Annex I (Habitats Directive)
European dry heaths [4030]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Annex I (Habitats Directive)
Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Annex I (Habitats Directive)

## 4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

### 4.1 - Ecological character

Easky bog Ramsar Site is a small part of the extensive Ox Mountains range. The site extends from a height of 420m down to 230m. The upper slopes of the site are steep but below 300m the topography is gentle and the land plateaus in places. There are a number of small lakes (Belcloghy Loughs) and the site is drained by several watercourses which flow from the steep upper slopes of the Ox Mountains and down to the flat plains of Counties Mayo and Sligo. The underlying rock is largely composed of metamorphic schists and gneisses. The topography, geology and prevailing climatic conditions (high rainfall) favour blanket bog development, a process which began at this and other sites in Ireland 10,000 years ago. Owing to the height gradient this site supports both upland or mountain blanket bog (above 200m altitude) and lowland blanket bog (sea level to 200m altitude). The site is bound on two sides by river waterbodies (the Owenduff River and the Lugnaveeoghoge River). The blanket bog to north and west of the Ramsar site has been planted with conifers and the Ramsar site is bound by conifer plantation on all sides except to the south east where the site rises to uplands of the Ox Mountains. The Ramsar site is separated from the conifer plantations by the Owenduff River and the Lugnaveeoghoge River. This separation is likely to have protected the Ramsar site from some of the damaging effects of conifer plantations where they occur on peatland habitats.

### 4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

#### Inland wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> O: Permanent freshwater lakes		2	2	Representative
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes/pools		3	0.5	Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on peat soils >> U: Permanent Non-forested peatlands	Blanket bog	1	577	Unique

### 4.3 - Biological components

#### 4.3.1 - Plant species

##### Optional text box to provide further information

The Marsh Saxifrage (*Saxifraga hirculus*) is listed under Annex II and IV of the Habitats Directive and is a Qualifying Interest of the Ox Mountains Bogs SAC. In Ireland this rare perennial herbaceous plant is found to be restricted to mineral flushes in blanket bog. The location of this species within the Ox Mountains SAC, does not overlap with the Ramsar Site (Muldoon et al, 2015).

#### 4.3.2 - Animal species

##### Optional text box to provide further information

*Vertigo geyeri* (Geyer's Whorl Snail) [1013] is an Annex II species of the Habitats Directive and a Qualifying Interest of the Ox Mountains Bogs SAC. There is one site within the SAC for Geyer's Whorl Snail; it is not within the Ramsar site.

### 4.4 - Physical components

#### 4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
C: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with mild winters	Cfb: Marine west coast (Mild with no dry season, warm summer)

In their natural state peatlands act as long-term sinks for atmospheric carbon dioxide. A persistently high water table is necessary for this function. Peatlands are the most important long-term carbon store in the terrestrial biosphere. It is highly likely that continued global warming will impact this habitat in the future. In Ireland the long-term carbon storage function of 47% of our original peatland area has been severely diminished through domestic and mechanical peat extraction (Irish Peatland Conservation Council).

#### 4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)

- Entire river basin
- Upper part of river basin
- Middle part of river basin
- Lower part of river basin
- More than one river basin
- Not in river basin
- Coastal

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

Part of the Buncrowey River Sub Basin and the Easky Sub Catchment.

#### 4.4.3 - Soil

Organic

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change  Increase  Decrease  Unknown

No available information

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes  No

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

The soil type is dominated by peat, which can accumulate to considerable depths where the topography is suitable (e.g. basin, plateau). Thinner peats support wet and dry heath communities at this site which is otherwise dominated by deeper peat with blanket bog.

#### 4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	unknown

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Water inputs from surface water	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change
Water inputs from precipitation	<input type="checkbox"/>	unknown
Water inputs from groundwater	<input type="checkbox"/>	unknown

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
To downstream catchment	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels largely stable	unknown

#### 4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Significant erosion of sediments occurs on the site

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change  Increase  Decrease  Unknown

Significant accretion or deposition of sediments occurs on the site

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change  Increase  Decrease  Unknown

Significant transportation of sediments occurs on or through the site

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change  Increase  Decrease  Unknown

Sediment regime is highly variable, either seasonally or inter-annually

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change  Increase  Decrease  Unknown

Sediment regime unknown

#### 4.4.6 - Water pH

Acid (pH<5.5)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change  Increase  Decrease  Unknown

Unknown



4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change  Increase  Decrease  Unknown

Unknown

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Unknown

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself: i) broadly similar  ii) significantly different

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development

Surrounding area has higher human population density

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use

Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types

Please describe other ways in which the surrounding area is different:

The site is surrounded on three sides by conifer plantations. To one of these sides a wind farm with access road has been constructed within and adjacent to the conifer plantation. These developments are separated hydrologically (by two rivers) from the Ramsar site which will mitigate direct effects on the hydrology of the blanket bog habitat. Wider landscape and other potential effects (sediment run off, regeneration of conifers into the blanket bog, nutrient enrichment) remain.

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Maintenance of hydrological regimes	Groundwater recharge and discharge	Medium
Pollution control and detoxification	Water purification/waste treatment or dilution	Low
Climate regulation	Local climate regulation/buffering of change	Medium
Climate regulation	Regulation of greenhouse gases, temperature, precipitation and other climactic processes	Medium

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	High
Spiritual and inspirational	Inspiration	Medium
Spiritual and inspirational	Cultural heritage (historical and archaeological)	Medium
Spiritual and inspirational	Contemporary cultural significance, including for arts and creative inspiration, and including existence values	Low
Spiritual and inspirational	Spiritual and religious values	Low
Spiritual and inspirational	Aesthetic and sense of place values	High
Scientific and educational	Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)	High

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	High
Soil formation	Sediment retention	Medium
Soil formation	Accumulation of organic matter	Medium
Nutrient cycling	Carbon storage/sequestration	High
Nutrient cycling	Storage, recycling, processing and acquisition of nutrients	Low

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes  No  Unknown

#### 4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

i) the site provides a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland

ii) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland

iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples

iv) relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland

<no data available>

#### 4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

## 5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

### 5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

#### 5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

##### Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
National/Federal government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

##### Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Foundation/non-governmental organization/trust	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### 5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:

National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS), Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Sligo County Council.  
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).  
Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.

Provide the name and/or title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:

Maurice Eakin

Postal address:

National Parks and Wildlife Service,  
90 North King Street,  
Smithfield, Dublin,  
Ireland  
D07 N7CV

E-mail address: maurice.eakin@housing.gov.ie

### 5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

#### 5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

##### Water regulation

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Drainage		unknown impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	unknown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unknown

##### Agriculture and aquaculture

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Livestock farming and ranching	unknown impact	unknown impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unknown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unknown

##### Energy production and mining

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Renewable energy	unknown impact	unknown impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	increase

##### Transportation and service corridors

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Utility and service lines (e.g., pipelines)	unknown impact	unknown impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	increase

##### Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Recreational and tourism activities	unknown impact		<input type="checkbox"/>	unknown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unknown

##### Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Agricultural and forestry effluents		unknown impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unknown

#### 5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

Regional (international) legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
EU Natura 2000	Ox Mountains Bogs SAC	<a href="https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/002006">https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/002006</a>	whole

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
nature reserve			whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

- Ia Strict Nature Reserve
- Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection
- II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation
- III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features
- IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention
- V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation
- VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Habitat

Measures	Status
Hydrology management/restoration	Implemented
Land conversion controls	Implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Research	Implemented
Livestock management/exclusion (excluding fisheries)	Implemented
Harvest controls/poaching enforcement	Implemented

Other:

The Easky Bog Ramsar site lies within the Ox Mountains Bogs SAC (002006). Under European and national legislation, Ireland must maintain at favourable conservation status sites designated as Special Protection Areas. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites. Conservation objectives have been set for this SAC and can be accessed on NPWS.ie (specifically at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/002006>)

It is Departmental policy that no hunting occurs on State-owned lands, such as Easky Bog Nature Reserve.

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? No

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes  No

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes  No

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No need identified

Further information

Part of the Ox Mountains SAC is part of the 'Cooperation Across Borders for Biodiversity Project' (CABB). Under this project Birdwatch Ireland are helping to restore an important area of active blanket bog at Fiddandarry. The project involves blocking the drains and allow the bog to slowly return to its former condition. This will be done with a series of dams in each drain, typically made with peat that stops the water flow out of the bog and raises the water levels. The wetter conditions will then encourage sphagnum mosses to recolonise the drains and allow the process of peat-building to begin. <https://birdwatchireland.ie/our-work/species-habitat-conservation/countryside-wetlands/cabb-bog-restoration/>

The Ox Mountains Bogs SAC is a project area of the Wild Atlantic Nature Life Project <https://www.wildatlanticnature.ie/project-areas-sligo>

#### 5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Water regime monitoring	Implemented
Water quality	Implemented
Plant community	Implemented
Plant species	Implemented

Under the Water Framework Directive biological monitoring of national surface waters is completed every three years with annual monitoring taking place in priority areas and acid sensitive areas. The catchment within which this site lies is monitored as part of this national monitoring programme.

As a EU Natura 2000 site, it is required under Article 12 and 17 of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives respectively, that the status and trends of the conservation objectives within the site are monitored and reported on every 6 years.

## 6 - Additional material

### 6.1 - Additional reports and documents

#### 6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Colhoun, K. and Cummins, S. 2013. Birds of conservation concern in Ireland 2014-2019. Irish Birds 9: 523-544

Cummins, S., Bleasdale, A., Douglas, C., Newton, S., O'Halloran, J. & Wilson, H.J. (2010) The status of Red Grouse in Ireland and the effects of land use, habitat and habitat quality on their distribution. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 50. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin, Ireland.

EPA, 2021. Ireland's National Water Framework Directive Monitoring Programme. 2019 - 2021. Environmental Protection Agency.

IUCN 2017. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2017-2. <http://www.iucnredlist.org>. Downloaded on 14 October 2017.

Moorkens, E.A. & Killeen, I.J. (2011) Monitoring and Condition Assessment of Populations of *Vertigo geyeri*, *Vertigo angustior* and *Vertigo moulinsiana* in Ireland. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 55. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland.

Muldoon, C.S., Waldren, S. & Lynn, D. (2015) Monitoring recommendations for Marsh Saxifrage (*Saxifraga hirculus* L.) in the Republic of Ireland. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 88. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Ireland.

NPWS 2016. Conservation Objectives: Ox Mountains Bogs SAC 002006. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

NPWS, 2016. Site Synopsis for the Ox Mountains Bogs SAC. Site Code: 002006. Version date: 20.07.2016

NPWS, 2016. Ox Mountains Bogs SAC (site code 2006) Conservation Objectives supporting document - upland habitats. NPWS.

BirdwatchIreland.ie  
<http://www.ramsar.org>  
<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu>  
 NPWS.ie  
 EPA Maps.ie

#### 6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)

<no file available>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)

<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory

<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports

<no file available>

v. site management plan

<no file available>

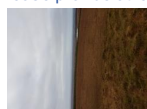
vi. other published literature

<no file available>

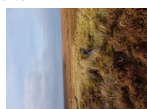
<no data available>

#### 6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

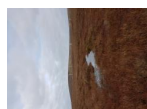
Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



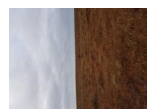
Blanket bog with adjacent and distant conifer plantation. ( David McDonagh, 08-02-2021 )



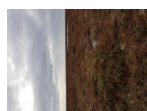
stream within expanse of blanket bog ( David McDonagh, 08-02-2021 )



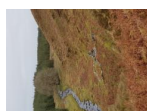
Pool within blanket bog, wind turbines in the background (not within the Ramsar site) ( David McDonagh, 08-02-2021 )



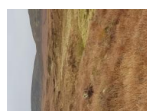
Intact blanket bog ( David McDonagh, 08-02-2021 )



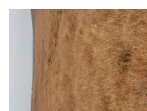
Intact blanket bog with pool system ( David McDonagh, 08-02-2021 )



River and old settlement along Ramsar Site boundary. Forestry is separated from the Ramsar Site by the river. ( David McDonagh, 08-02-2021 )



Ox Mountains, stream and blanket bog habitats. ( David McDonagh, 08-02-2021 )



Blanket bog with tip of wind turbine from development next to the Ramsar Site ( David McDonagh, 08-02-2021 )

#### 6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation 1990-05-30