

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7, as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

Note for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers are strongly urged to provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of maps.

1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:**Joint Nature Conservation Committee**

Monkstone House
City Road
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire PE1 1JY
UK
Telephone/Fax: +44 (0)1733 – 562 626 / +44 (0)1733 – 555 948
Email: RIS@JNCC.gov.uk

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY

--	--	--

Designation date

--	--	--	--	--	--

Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

Designated: 04 June 1999 / update 12 May 2005

3. Country:

UK (Northern Ireland)

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Garry Bog

5. Map of site included:

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps.

a) hard copy (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): yes -or- no

b) digital (electronic) format (optional): Yes

6. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

55 06 30 N 06 31 40 W

7. General location:

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s), and the location of the nearest large town.

Nearest town/city: Coleraine.

Garry Bog is situated in County Antrim in the north of Northern Ireland about 10 km south-east of Coleraine.

Administrative region: Antrim; Coleraine

8. Elevation (average and/or max. & min.) (metres): **9. Area** (hectares): 154.76

Min. 0
Max. 0
Mean 50

10. Overview:

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

Garry Bog is one of the largest lowland raised bogs in Northern Ireland. The raised bog which covers most of the site exhibits the full range of characteristic vegetation and structural features associated with this type of habitat such as bog pools and hummock complexes with extensive *Sphagnum*-rich bryophyte carpets. The lagg surrounding the bog has been cut for turf, creating a mosaic of waterlogged cuttings at different levels, separated by elevated 'ramparts'.

11. Ramsar Criteria:

Circle or underline each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11).

1

12. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 11. above:

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

Ramsar criterion 1

The site is a large and relatively intact example of a lowland raised bog and one of the best examples of this habitat in the UK.

13. Biogeography (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

a) biogeographic region:

Atlantic

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

Council Directive 92/43/EEC

14. Physical features of the site:

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

Soil & geology	acidic, peat, nutrient-poor, basalt
Geomorphology and landscape	lowland
Nutrient status	oligotrophic
pH	acidic, strongly acidic
Salinity	fresh
Soil	mainly organic
Water permanence	usually permanent
Summary of main climatic features	Annual averages (Carmony, 1971–2000) (www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/carmony.html) Max. daily temperature: 12.1° C Min. daily temperature: 5.9° C Days of air frost: 27.6 Rainfall: 993.0 mm Hrs. of sunshine: 1179.0

General description of the Physical Features:

Garry Bog is a large active raised bog with an exceptionally extensive and well-developed pool complex and partially intact lagg.

15. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, general land use, and climate (including climate type).

Garry Bog is a large active raised bog with an exceptionally extensive and well-developed pool complex and partially intact lagg.

16. Hydrological values:

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

No special values known

17. Wetland types

Inland wetland

Code	Name	% Area
U	Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)	100

18. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site.

The raised bog features a pool and hummock complex with an extensive *Sphagnum*-rich bryophyte carpet. Occasional hummocks of *S. imbricatum* and *S. fuscum* occur. The pools support a characteristic growth of aquatic *Sphagnum* mosses with frequent stands of bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata* in the deeper pools. Their margins support extensive growth of the rare *Sphagnum pulchrum*. The surrounding waterlogged 'lawns' of bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum* support an abundance of white beak-sedge *Rhynchospora alba*, interspersed with low *Sphagnum papillosum* hummocks.

The raised bog surrounding the pool system is characterised by a greater abundance of dwarf-shrubs, particularly heather *Calluna vulgaris* and cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* over a *Sphagnum*-rich bryophyte carpet. Bog asphodel *N. ossifragum* and white beak-sedge *R. alba* are still prominent in the sward, together with common cottongrass *Eriophorum angustifolium*, hare's-tail cottongrass *E. vaginatum* and deergrass *Trichophorum cespitosum*.

The lagg surrounding the bog has been cut for turf, creating a mosaic of waterlogged cuttings at different levels, separated by elevated 'ramparts'. The waterlogged cuttings are dominated by cross-leaved heath *E. tetralix*, with deergrass *T. cespitosum* and common cottongrass *E. angustifolium* over a dense *Sphagnum* moss carpet. The ramparts are much drier and are dominated by rank heather *C. vulgaris* with frequent *Cladonia portentosa*.

19. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Assemblage.

The site is internationally important for supporting the following Habitats Directive Annex I feature:

H7110 Active raised bogs

20. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Species Information

None reported

21. Social and cultural values:

e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values.

No special values known

22. Land tenure/ownership:

Ownership category	On-site	Off-site
National/Crown Estate	+	+
Private		+

23. Current land (including water) use:

Activity	On-site	Off-site
Nature conservation	+	
Rough or shifting grazing		+
Mineral exploration (excl. hydrocarbons)	+	

24. Factors adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:

Explanation of reporting category:

1. *Those factors that are still operating, but it is unclear if they are under control, as there is a lag in showing the management or regulatory regime to be successful.*
2. *Those factors that are not currently being managed, or where the regulatory regime appears to have been ineffective so far.*

NA = Not Applicable because no factors have been reported.

Adverse Factor Category	Reporting Category	Description of the problem (Newly reported Factors only)			
			On-Site	Off-Site	Major Impact?
No factors reported	NA				

For category 2 factors only.
What measures have been taken / are planned / regulatory processes invoked, to mitigate the effect of these factors?

Is the site subject to adverse ecological change? NO

25. Conservation measures taken:

List national category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it is being implemented.

Conservation measure	On-site	Off-site
Site/ Area of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI/ASSI)	+	
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	+	
Management agreement	+	
Site management statement/plan implemented	+	
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	+	

26. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

No information available

27. Current scientific research and facilities:

e.g. details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

The site was subject to detailed habitat and species surveys prior to its designation as an ASSI

The integrity of the site is regularly monitored

A basin profiling and hydrological survey was carried out in 1996

28. Current conservation education:

e.g. visitor centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

None reported

29. Current recreation and tourism:

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

None reported

30. Jurisdiction:

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept. of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland), Environment and Heritage Service,
Commonwealth House, Castle Street, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT1 1GU

31. Management authority:

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland), Environment and Heritage Service,
Commonwealth House, Castle Street, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT1 1GU

32. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 13 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Site-relevant references

ASSI Survey report – Habitat Survey Team, Environment and Heritage Service

Cooper, EA, Crawford, I, Malloch, AJC & Rodwell, JS (1992) *Coastal vegetation survey of Northern Ireland*. (Contractor: University of Lancaster, Unit of Vegetation Science). Unpublished report to Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland), Belfast

Corbett, P. McM & Seymour, GR (1997) The conservation of peatland in Northern Ireland. In: *Conserving peatlands*, ed by L Parkyn, RE Stoneman & HAP Ingram. CAB International, Wallingford, for Scottish Wildlife Trust

Curtis, TGF & McGough, HN (1988) *The Irish Red Data Book. 1 Vascular plants*. Stationery Office, Dublin

Frazer, JS, Cruickshank, MM & Tomlinson, RW (1988) *Northern Ireland Peatland Survey*. Unpublished report to Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland), Countryside and Wildlife Branch, Belfast

Grant, M, Tomlinson, RW, Harvey, J & Murdy, C (1997) Report from the Peatland Survey and Profiling Project 1996/97. Vol 4. Garry Bog. *Environment and Heritage Service Research and Development Series*, No. **RC97/5**

McLeod, CR, Yeo, M, Brown, AE, Burn, AJ, Hopkins, JJ & Way, SF (eds.) (2004) *The Habitats Directive: selection of Special Areas of Conservation in the UK*. 2nd edn. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.
www.jncc.gov.uk/SACselection

Wolfe-Murphy, SA, Lawrie, EW, Smith, SJ & Gibson, CE (1993) *Northern Ireland Lakes Survey*. Unpublished report to Northern Ireland Department of Environment, Countryside and Wildlife, Belfast

Please return to: **Ramsar Secretariat, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland**
Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • email: ramsar@ramsar.org