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:

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY

Designation date | Site Reference Number

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

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

Designated: 24 March 2002 / Updated: May 2005

3. Country:

UK (Northern Ireland)

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs

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)**:**

54 24 00 N 07 43 20 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.

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

Administrative region: Fermanagh

8. Elevation (average and/or max. & min.) (metres)**:**

Min. 70
Max. 120
Mean 80

9. Area (hectares)**:** 43.1

10. Overview:

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

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.

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).

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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 important as the most northerly examples of turloughs in Ireland, with distinctive, naturally impoverished, vegetation communities.

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	basic, mud, clay, limestone
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	Annual averages (Carmoney, 1971–2000) (www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/carmoney.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:

No information available

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).

No information available

16. Hydrological values:

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

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

17. Wetland types

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	Other	16

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 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.

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.*

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

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

Species occurring at levels of national importance
Rove beetle *Philonthus corvinus*

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.

Conservation education
Current scientific research
Livestock grazing

22. Land tenure/ownership:

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

23. Current land (including water) use:

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

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?
Overgrazing by domestic livestock	2		+		+
Eutrophication	2		+		+

For category 2 factors only.
What measures have been taken / are planned / regulatory processes invoked, to mitigate the effect of these factors?
Overgrazing by domestic livestock - Site management Plan established and habitat management scheme being presented to land owners. This is to address overgrazing and grassland nutrient status.

Eutrophication - Site management Plan established and habitat management scheme being presented to land owners. This is to address overgrazing and grassland nutrient status.

Is the site subject to adverse ecological change? YES

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
SSSI / ASSI	+	
Management agreement	+	+
Site management statement/plan implemented	+	
ESA	+	+
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.

Further dye-tracing to identify water sources.

Monitoring by EHS staff.

28. Current conservation education:

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

No current conservation educational activities

29. Current recreation and tourism:

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

No public access – site not utilised for recreation or tourism

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

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

Gunn, J (2003) *Karst hydrological investigations at Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs, County Fermanagh. An interim report on research funded by the Environment and Heritage Service*. (Contractor: University of Huddersfield, Limestone Research Group) Unpublished report to Environment and Heritage Service, Belfast (LRG Report, No. 2003/01)

Kelly, JG, Enlander, I, Kelly, AM & Fogg, T (2002) The geological setting, hydrology and ecology of Roosky Turlough, Ely, Co. Fermanagh, Northern Ireland. *Cave and Karst Science*, **29**(3), 105-110. www.bcra.org.uk/candks/v29_3.html#papers

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

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