



Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 7 March 2023

Update version, previously published on : 1 June 1987

Ireland Owenboy



Designation date	1 June 1987
Site number	371
Coordinates	54°05'34"N 09°27'22"W
Area	397,00 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

The Owenboy Ramsar Site is situated between Bellacorrick and Crossmolina in north County Mayo. The site is part of an extensive blanket bog complex which extends to the north, west and south. Owenboy Ramsar Site supports active blanket bog habitat, with some wet heath on sloping or elevated ground, an extensive pool system, including dystrophic lakes along with springs and flushes. Alkaline fen known from the eastern side of this wider blanket bog complex may also be present. Owenboy Ramsar site is bound along its eastern boundary by the Shanvolahan River and tributaries of the Fiddaunatooghaun River flows from the bog itself. Conifer plantation once present present on the sites northern boundary was removed under an EU Life Bog Restoration Project. Forestry plantation remains along the sites south eastern boundary. Generally, the site is surrounded by a mosaic of blanket bog (cut and uncut), agricultural grassland, conifer plantation and wind farms. There are a few scattered single dwellings and small settlements in the area. The nearest villages are Bangor Erris 10km to the west and Crossmolina 10km to the east. This Ramsar site is part of the larger Bellacorrick Bog Complex SAC which has been selected for the following Annex I habitats: blanket bog, dystrophic lakes, Rhynchosporion vegetation, wet heath and alkaline fen. It is has also been selected for Geyer's Whorl Snail (*Vertigo geyeri*) and Marsh Saxifrage (*Saxifraga hirculus*). The Bellacorrick Bog Complex SAC contains some of the most extensive areas of lowland blanket bog remaining in Ireland, with outstanding pool development.

Part of an extensive area of undulating lowland blanket bog consisting of domes, pool complexes, flushes, spring-fed fens, swallowholes and subterranean and surface streams. Vegetation includes Sphagnum species and many species of sedges and mosses. The wetter domes and flushes are a feeding site for the wintering globally vulnerable goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*.

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? Not evaluated

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image

<3 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps

Boundaries description

The boundary for this Ramsar site is that of the Owenboy Nature Reserve. The Owenboy Nature Reserve is part of the Bellacorrick Bog Complex SAC. The Ramsar site boundary borders part of and lies within the much larger Bellacorrick Bog Complex SAC. Details of the SAC can be found on the NPWS website at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites>. Within this area, 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.
- NPWS data layers (Marine community mapping).

The mapped layers were inspected by a Site visit to confirm the presence of the habitats. Habitat areas were subsequently estimated by reference to the available imagery and layers and should be considered representative but approximate.

The mapped area, as calculated from the GIS boundary, differs slightly from the official boundary of the Ramsar site. This is due to historic mapping issues generally as a result of differing mapping projections.

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

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 bogs cover approximately 13% of Ireland. They contain in excess of 90% water and act as vast water reservoirs. Blanket bog habitat with associated pool systems and connected lake and river habitats as present at this Ramsar site (and in the wider SAC) provide a number of key ecosystem and hydrological services. In terms of hydrological services blanket bogs host high status water bodies, regulate stream flow and act as source areas for high quality drinking water. An Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funded study “Quantification of blanket bog ecosystem services to water”, was carried out jointly by researchers from Queen’s University Belfast and University College Dublin, and sought to raise awareness of the wider contributions provided by healthy blanket bog ecosystems to society and the environment, while also examining the wider cost of their degradation. The study found that habitat condition influences stream flow and water quality, with more intact areas of blanket bog having more stable flow and water quality regimes, and with more stable hydrogeological regimes in peat ensuring more consistent contributions of bog water to stream flow, while maintaining terrestrial biodiversity (EPA, 2021). See also <https://www.catchments.ie/blanket-bogs-hydrology-ecosystem-services-water/>

Other ecosystem services provided

Blanket bogs provide a range of ecosystem services (in addition to hydrological). • they provide a refuge for a rich biodiversity of species including several rare plants, birds and invertebrate species. • are commonly used as rough grazing land for sheep and cattle, grouse shooting, deer stalking and fishing. • they preserve prehistoric farming landscapes beneath the peat as well as a diverse range of artefacts within the peat mass. • the patterns of pools on the flatter areas of blanket bog is of particular conservation significance. The pools support a specialised range of mosses (especially species of Sphagnum) and plants and they provide essential feeding habitats for wetland birds. • within their peat layers, blanket bogs preserve a record of their own growth and development and on a larger scale, they provide insights into regional vegetation change, climate change, atmospheric pollution and act as chronometers for other events such as volcanic eruptions. • they accumulate and store millions of tonnes of carbon and have a vital function in controlling the green house gases that cause climate change. • their utilisation for recreation can have positive benefits on the health of people. See <http://www.ipcc.ie/a-to-z-peatlands/blanket-bogs/> <https://www.wildatlanticnature.ie/>

Other reasons

This Ramsar Site supports several Annex I habitats (Blanket bog, Dystrophic Lakes, Wet Heath, Rhynchosporion Vegetation) which are representative of the biogeographical area and which contribute to regional and national biodiversity. The extensive open habitats of blanket bog and pool system are important for invertebrates and flora and potentially for breeding birds, and for summer and winter foraging birds. Mammals such as Hare and Otter are also known from the site. Bats may forage along watercourses. Owenboy is part of a large EU Natura 2000 site, the Bellacorick Bog Complex which is an Special Area of Conservation (SAC, 001922) due to the presence of active blanket bog (a priority habitat as listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive), Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds, Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix, Rhynchosporion vegetation, Alkaline Fen, Geyer’s Whorl snail and Marsh saxifrage.

Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

Optional text box to provide further information

This site is important for the peatland communities which it supports, which are representative of an intact blanket bog system and which lies within a much larger area of intact blanket bog which is Bellacorrick Bog Complex SAC. Bellacorrick Bog Complex contains some of the most extensive areas of lowland blanket bog remaining in Ireland.

Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification

The Bellacorrick Bog SAC contains some of the most extensive areas of lowland blanket bog remaining in Ireland, with outstanding pool development. As well as typical lowland blanket bog vegetation, areas with intermediate bog characteristics are particularly well represented. These areas are typified by domes with raised bog species such as the bog mosses *Sphagnum imbricatum*, *S. magellanicum* and *S. fuscum*, and without Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*). Owenboy Ramsar site is one such area which supports characteristic intermediate bog vegetation. The wider Bellacorrick Bog complex within which this Ramsar site lies is known to support excellent examples of dystrophic lakes. These lakes are typically species-poor, and many are completely devoid of macrophyte vegetation. Rhynchosporion vegetation is a feature of many of the pool areas and also of areas of wet, quaking peat where White Beak-sedge (*Rhynchospora alba*) is typically dominant. Spring-fed species-rich flushes occur throughout the bog complex. The vegetation supported by these flushes include poor fen, rich fen and swamp carr communities. The Bellacorrick Bog Complex within which Owenboy lies, contains the largest assemblage of intact fen vegetation in Ireland. The flushes are also notable for the presence of several boreal relict mosses and liverworts, particularly *Homalothecium nitens*, *Leicolea rutheana* and *Paludella squarrosa*. The moss *Sphagnum warnstorffii* has been reported from a fen south-west of Brackloon Lough. A rare vascular plant species, Marsh Saxifrage (*Saxifraga hirculus*), occurs here at one of only very few known locations in Ireland. This species is listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive, as well as on the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999. While there are no records for these species from within the Ramsar site, the Ramsar site is part of the Bellacorrick Bog Complex SAC; an internationally important peatlands system where these species are found.

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

While Marsh Saxifrage (*Saxifraga hirculus*) is known from the wider Bellacorrick Bog Complex SAC, there are no records for the Owenboy Nature Reserve and Ramsar Site.

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								
Others																	
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Lutra lutra</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II species (Habitats Directive)	Suitable freshwater foraging habitat.
Birds																	
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Circus cyaneus</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"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I (Birds Directive) and Red Listed (Birds of Conservation Concern Ireland)	Likely to forage over the site during the winter months (winter roost in this area)
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Falco peregrinus</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"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I (Birds Directive)	Foraging habitat.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Falco tinnunculus</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"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red Listed (Birds of Conservation Concern Ireland)	Foraging habitat
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Lagopus lagopus hibernicus</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 (Birds of Conservation Concern Ireland)	Suitable breeding habitat for this species which is known to occur at nearby sites.
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"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I (Birds Directive) and Red Listed (Birds of Conservation Concern Ireland)	Winter roosting (potentially) and breeding (potentially)

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Historically Greenland white fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) were known to winter at this site, however there are no recent records for the site or for other known feeding sites nearby. The numbers of Greenland White-fronted Geese wintering on blanket bog habitat in the west of Ireland have declined dramatically over the last 20-30 years.

While the wider Bellacorrick Bog Complex SAC supports the Geyer's Whorl Snail (*Vertigo geyeri*), there are no known records from which the Owenboy Nature Reserve and Ramsar Site.

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"/>	Lowland blanket bog	Annex I (Habitats Directive)
Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds [3160]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lakes and pool system within blanket bog habitat	Annex I (Habitats Directive)
Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Peatland community within blanket bog mosaic, with abundant White-beaked sedge.	Annex I (Habitats Directive)
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wet heath	Annex I (Habitats Directive)
Alkaline fens [7230]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alkaline fen	Annex I (Habitats Directive); known from the east side of Bellacorrick Bog Complex SAC. Owenboy Ramsar site lies on the east of the SAC.

Optional text box to provide further information

The site is part of the Bellacorrick Bog Complex SAC which is larger than the Ramsar site.

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

4.1 - Ecological character

Owenboy Ramsar Site is an extensive area of blanket bog which includes intermediate type bog lying in a broad basin, and contains a number of low domes resembling raised bogs and numerous flushes. The site is part of Bellacorrick Bog SAC which contains some of the most extensive areas of lowland blanket bog remaining in Ireland. Areas such as Owenboy with intermediate bog characteristics are particularly well represented within the SAC. These areas are typified by domes with raised bog species such as the bog mosses *Sphagnum imbricatum*, *S. magellanicum* and *S. fuscum*, and without Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*). Owenboy and the wider SAC has some excellent examples of dystrophic lakes with the numerous lakes and inter-connecting pool systems. The lake systems are typically species-poor, and many are completely devoid of macrophyte vegetation. Those with vegetation contain species such as Bog-sedge (*Carex limosa*), Bogbean, Many-stalked Spike-rush (*Eleocharis multicaulis*) and bladderworts (*Utricularia* spp.). Pool size and pattern is diverse, ranging from concentric strings of pools to large, irregularly shaped lakes with eroding peaty margins. Rhynchosporion vegetation is a feature of such pool areas and also of areas of wet, quaking peat where White Beak-sedge (*Rhynchospora alba*) is typically dominant. Flushes with poor fen, rich fen and swamp carr communities are also a feature of the Bellacorrick Bog Complex SAC and while there is no mapping to show the extent of flush habitat within the Ramsar site, it is likely to be present. The flushes are also notable for the presence of several boreal relict mosses and liverworts, particularly *Homalothecium nitens*, *Leicolea rutheana* and *Paludella squarrosa*. Good examples of wet heath vegetation occur occasionally on sloping ground and on elevated mounds of mineral soil that are scattered throughout the lowland blanket bog-covered plains of the Bellacorrick Bog Complex SAC. These elevated areas are particularly evident in the Owenboy Nature Reserve and Ramsar site and are typically dominated by Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), with Cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*) and the bog moss *Sphagnum capillifolium* also present. The nature of this blanket bog site is controlled by hydrological processes, its existence depends upon rainfall levels, its ability to retain water and its characteristics depend upon the origin, volume, chemical quality and variability of water supply.

In the past Owenboy was used by Greenland White-fronted Geese, however there have been no recent records from this or other nearby sites, for some time. The site is likely to be used by foraging raptors such as Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*; winter only), Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) and Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*). It is also likely to be used by Red Grouse (*Lagopus lagopus hibernicus*), potentially Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) along with the mammals Otter (*Lutra lutra*) and Hare (*Lepus timidus hibernicus*).

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 > Flowing water >> M: Permanent rivers/ streams/ creeks		3	10	Representative
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> Tp: Permanent freshwater marshes/ pools	Pool system	2	45	Representative
Fresh water > Marshes on peat soils >> U: Permanent Non-forested peatlands	Blanket bog	1	360	Representative

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Optional text box to provide further information

Marsh Saxifrage (*Saxifraga hirculus*) is known from the wider Bellacorrick Bog Complex SAC. This species is listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive, as well as on the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999. The flushes within the Bellacorrick Bog Complex are notable for the presence of several boreal relict mosses and liverworts, particularly *Homalothecium nitens*, *Leicolea rutheana* and *Paludella squarrosa*. *Paludella squarrosa* is Red listed (Critically Endangered; Lockhart et al, 2012) in Ireland and is on the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999. The moss *Sphagnum warnstorffii* (Red Listed and Vulnerable in Ireland) has been reported from a fen south-west of Brackloon. There are no records of these species within the Owenboy Ramsar site, however suitable habitat is likely to be present and some of these species may occur here. The Ramsar site is part of the wider peatland that is Bellacorrick Bog Complex where these species are known to occur.

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	% occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Lepus timidus hibernicus</i>				

Optional text box to provide further information

The wider Bellacorrick Bog SAC within which Owenboy lies supports a population of the rare snail, *Vertigo geyeri*, a species that is listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive. There are no records from within the Ramsar site. Hare are common on blanket bog habitat in this area and are likely to be present.

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)

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.

The site lies within the Shanvolahan_10 Water Framework Directive River Sub Basin. This sub basin lies within the Moy and Killala Bay catchment. The site is drained by the Fiddaunatooghaun and Shanvolahan river waterbodies. (EPA maps.ie)

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral

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

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)

Any change is unknown

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 precipitation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unknown

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
To downstream catchment	No change
Marine	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

Circumneutral (pH: 5.5-7.4)

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

Alkaline (pH>7.4)

(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

Mesotrophic

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

Oligotrophic

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

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 i) broadly similar ii) significantly different site itself:

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:

Some of the surrounding area is very similar, however there is considerable contrast with areas of land which has been converted to agricultural land, to forestry as well as areas industrially cut for turf, some of which is now used for wind farm development.

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Erosion protection	Soil, sediment and nutrient retention	Medium
Pollution control and detoxification	Water purification/waste treatment or dilution	Medium
Climate regulation	Regulation of greenhouse gases, temperature, precipitation and other climactic processes	High
Hazard reduction	Flood control, flood storage	Medium

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	Low

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
Nutrient cycling	Carbon storage/sequestration	High
Pollination	Support for pollinators	Medium

Within the site: 100s

Outside the site: 100s

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"/>

Provide further information on the land tenure / ownership regime (optional):

The site is a Statutory Nature Reserve and is state owned.

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
 Mayo County Council - Planning authority for the site
 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - water quality monitoring
 Inland Fisheries Ireland
 North Western Regional Fisheries Board

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, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
 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

Agriculture and aquaculture

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Livestock farming and ranching	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

Energy production and mining

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

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)	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change
Roads and railroads	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Fire and fire suppression	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change
Vegetation clearance/land conversion	Low impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unknown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unknown

Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Invasive non-native/ alien species	Medium impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	increase	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	increase

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Household sewage, urban waste water	unknown impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unknown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unknown
Agricultural and forestry effluents	unknown impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unknown	<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	Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC (001922)	https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/001922	whole

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
National Nature Reserve	Owenboy Nature Reserve	https://www.npws.ie/nature-reserves/mayo/owenboy-nature-reserve	whole
nature reserve			whole

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Other non-statutory designation			

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
Land conversion controls	Implemented
Habitat manipulation/enhancement	Implemented
Hydrology management/restoration	Implemented

Human Activities

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

Other:

The Owenboy Ramsar site lies within the wider Bellacorick Bog SAC. Under European and national legislation Ireland must maintain at favourable conservation status areas designated as Special Areas of Conservation. 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 the Bellacorick Bog SAC and can be accessed on NPWS.ie (specifically at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/001922>).

It is Departmental policy that no hunting occurs on State-owned lands, such as Knockmoyle/Sheskin 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

Please indicate if a Ramsar centre, other educational or visitor facility, or an educational or visitor programme is associated with the site:

There is no visitor centre associated directly with the Ramsar site. However it lies directly adjacent to the Oweninny Wind Farm which has been built on an area of cutover blanket bog. There is a visitor centre at the wind farm and much of the material be relevant to blanket bog conservation and management. It is expected that the visitor centre, which will be referred to as the Renewable Energy Advocacy Hub, will provide an insight into the production of wind energy, the local peatlands eco-system and the history of power generation in the area.

URL of site-related webpage (if relevant): <https://www.oweninnywindfarm.ie/>

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

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

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

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

As a EU Natura 2000 site, it is required under Article 17 of the EU Habitats Directive, that the status and trends of the conservation objectives within the site are monitored and reported on every 6 years. The site is regularly inspected by the National Parks and Wildlife Service Conservation Rangers

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

Lockhart, N.D. (1989) Three new localities for *Saxifraga hirculus* L. in Ireland. *Irish Naturalists' Journal* 23 (2): 65–69.

Lockhart, N., Hodgetts, N. & Holyoak, D. (2012) Ireland Red List No.8: Bryophytes. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland.

Marnell, F., Looney, D. & Lawton, C. (2019) Ireland Red List No. 12: Terrestrial Mammals. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Culture, Heritage and the 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 (2017) Conservation Objectives: Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC 001922. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS 2013. Bellacorick Bog Complex SAC. Site Code: 001922. Version date: 14.11.2013.

Sell, P. & Murrell, G. (2014) *Flora of Great Britain and Ireland*. Volume 2. Capparaceae – Rosaceae. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Wyse Jackson, M., FitzPatrick, Ú., Cole, E., Jebb, M., McFerran, D., Sheehy Skeffington, M. & Wright, M. (2016) Ireland Red List No. 10: Vascular Plants. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Dublin, Ireland.

Marnell, F., Looney, D. & Lawton, C. (2019) Ireland Red List No. 12: Terrestrial Mammals. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland

<http://www.wetlandsurveysireland.com/wetlands/map-of-irish-wetlands--map-of-irish-wetlands---map/>

BirdwatchIreland.ie

<http://www.ramsar.org>

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu>

The Irish Wetland Bird Survey (I-WeBS).

http://www.irishbogrestorationproject.ie/demonstration_sites/eskeragh.html

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:



View across to Owenboy Bog (Jackie Hunt, 04-03-2022)



View across to Owenboy Bog (Jackie Hunt, 04-03-2022)



View across to Owenboy Bog (Jackie Hunt, 04-03-2022)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation