



Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 7 March 2023

Update version, previously published on : 6 December 1988

Ireland Mongan Bog



Designation date	6 December 1988
Site number	416
Coordinates	53°19'38"N 07°57'03"W
Area	127,00 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

Mongan Bog is a midland raised bog of medium size situated immediately east of the monastic site of Clonmacnoise, Co. Offaly, and 12 km south of Athlone. It is situated in a basin, surrounded on 95% of its perimeter by high ground on mineral soil. The bog has been the subject of ongoing intensive research since 1972. It is recognised internationally as being one of the last remaining (mostly) intact midlands raised bogs in Ireland.

Mongan Bog is a mostly intact raised bog site with classic hummock and pool formations over a large proportion of the surface. Active raised bog comprises areas of high bog that are wet and actively peat forming, where the percentage cover of bog mosses (*Sphagnum* spp.) is high, and where the following features occur: hummocks, pools, wet flats, *Sphagnum* lawns, flushes and soaks. Degraded raised bog comprises areas of high bog whose hydrology has been adversely affected by peat cutting, drainage and other land use activities, but which are capable of regeneration. The *Rhynchosporion* habitat occurs in wet depressions, pool edges and erosion channels where the vegetation includes White Beak-sedge and/or Brown Beak-sedge, and other associated species e.g. Bog Asphodel, sundews, Deergrass and Carnation Sedge. The high bog has a very well-developed micro-topography of hummocks, pools and lawns, with the active core area being particularly wet. A variety of vascular plants, bog mosses and other bryophytes are found. An unusually large number of hummocks, sometimes 1 m high, largely composed of the moss *Leucobryum glaucum*, are widespread on the bog. The bog has a rich lichen flora, due in part to the absence of burning over much of the site. Several rare invertebrate species are known to occur on the bog. Breeding birds include Snipe and Curlew and historically the site was used by a wintering flock of Greenland White-fronted Geese.

Marginal habitats of heath of low scrub add to the diversity of Mongan Bog, which lies in an area rich in intact natural features (callows, eskers, limestone pavement) enhancing the sites importance further. The ongoing intensive research on aspects of bog ecology at the site reinforces its international importance. Mongan Bog is a designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA). The site is owned by An Taisce (National Trust), it is a Biogenetic Reserve and a Statutory Nature Reserve and is part of the Living Bog Restoration Project.

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	<input type="text" value="2004"/>
To year	<input type="text" value="2019"/>

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	<input type="text" value="Mongan Bog"/>
Unofficial name (optional)	<input type="text" value="Bogán na Móna Fionn"/>

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 <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>
(Update) B. Changes to Site area	No change to area
(Update) For secretariat only: This update is an extension	<input type="checkbox"/>

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
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2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image
<2 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps	<input type="text" value="0"/>
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Boundaries description

The boundaries for this site were defined using the boundaries of the Mongan Bog Nature Reserve. Mongan Bog Ramsar site overlaps with Mongan Bog SPA and lies within the larger Mongan Bog SAC. While the Mongan Bog Ramsar Site is smaller than the SAC it is an integral part of this wider wetland system. Details of the SAC and SPA 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.

The mapped layers were subsequently 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. 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

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

The nature of a bog is controlled by hydrological processes, its existence depends upon retaining water and its characteristics depend upon the origin, volume, chemical quality and variability of water supply. Peatlands with near natural hydrological conditions are not only important habitats in their own right, but also perform additional functions such as regulating water quality and possibly attenuating hydrological responses in downstream watercourses during high rainfall/storm events to reduce the occurrence and magnitude of floods (Mackin et al, 2015).

Other ecosystem services provided

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). Mongan Bog is important for its diversity of habitats, plant communities, birds and invertebrates associated with the raised bog habitat. It is also an important location for biological monitoring and for research into raised bog ecology and restoration.

Other reasons

Active raised bogs, once characteristic of central Ireland, are now rare and vulnerable, and have been recognised by the E.U. as habitats of international importance. Mongan Bog, is designated Special Area of Conservation as it contains representative and natural examples of raised bog within the Atlantic biogeographic region: Raised Bog (Active), Degraded Raised Bog and Rhynchosporion Vegetation

Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

Optional text box to provide further information

Rare (high conservation concern) breeding bird species are defined as species that are known to occur at the site and that are:

- Red Listed in Ireland's national Red List (Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (BoCCI) published by Colhoun and Cummins (2013))
- Classified as VU in IUCN Global and/or European regional list
- Listed in Annex I of the European Union Birds Directive

Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification

Mongan bog is a fine example of an active raised bog which have a restricted distribution globally. Mongan bog supports the typical and unique habitats and species characteristic of this highly endangered global habitat. It supports a diverse range of plant, animal and invertebrate species dependent on this limited habitat.

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

The site is important in maintaining the geographic range of plant species and communities associated with intact raised bog which is now a rare habitat type in Ireland.

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								
Birds																	
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Numenius arquata</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"/>				NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red listed (BoCCI)	Red Listed in Ireland.

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Mongan Bog is designated as an EU Natura 2000 site (Special Protection Area). The area is designated due to the presence of wintering Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*), a species listed in Annex I. However, the species is no longer known to use the site. The Red Listed species (Birds of Conservation Concern Ireland), Red Grouse (*Lagopus lagopus*) was also known from the site, but there are no recent records for this species either.

Several rare invertebrate species have been recorded from Mongan Bog. The invertebrate fauna of the pools have been shown to be highly productive. Among the rare species found were:

- a spider (*Gongyidiellum latebricola*, Order Arachnida) (first Irish record)
- a moth (*Biselachista serricornis*, Order Lepidoptera), (first Irish record)
- a moth (*Aristotelia ericinella*, Order Lepidoptera), (first Irish record)
- a rare southern Horsefly (*Chrysops sepulchralis*, Order Diptera: Tabanidae)
- a fly (*Dixella serotina*, Order Diptera: Dixidae)
- a moth (*Coenonympha tullia*, Order Lepidoptera: Rhopalocera)
- a parasitic fly (*Tachina grossa*, Order Diptera)
- a moth (*Saturnia pavonia*, Order Lepidoptera).

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
Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Annex I (Habitats Directive)
Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Occurs in wet depressions, pool edges and erosion channels where the vegetation includes White Beak-sedge and/or Brown Beak-sedge.	Unique, Annex I (Habitats Directive)
Active Raised bog community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Areas of high bog that are wet and actively peat-forming.	Unique, Annex I (Habitats Directive)

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

4.1 - Ecological character

Mongan Bog is believed to be about 9,000 years old and has formed in a basin between two east-west trending eskers. Typical midlands raised bog vegetation exists, although some species more indicative of western raised bogs are also found. A wet, central vegetation community has many bog pools and a range of the Bog Moss species that cause bog growth, including *Sphagnum auriculatum*, *S. fuscum* and *S. cuspidatum*. Cranberry grows on some hummocks. An unusually large number of hummocks, sometimes 1m high, largely composed of the moss *Leucobryum glaucum* are widespread on the bog. Pools found on the site contain *Utricularia minor*, *Drosera anglica*, the liverwort *Cladopodiella fluitans* and the bog mosses *Sphagnum cuspidatum* and *S. denticulatum*. The bog supports a rich lichen flora, including *Cladonia portentosa*, *C. arbuscula*, *C. tenuis*, *C. floerkeana* and *C. glauca*, due, in part, to the absence of burning over much of it. Many of the lichens occur on old *Calluna vulgaris* stems. Cut-over bog, grasslands and scrub provide habitat diversity around the bog margins, and the relict of a bog-to-esker vegetation transition is found along the south side. A number of notable invertebrate species have been recorded from the site. The raised bog habitat is also important for a number of foraging and breeding birds, including some of conservation importance.

Evidence of turf cutting on the margins of Mongan Bog is shown in maps from the 1650's (raisedbog.ie). In the more recent past peat cutting took place around the entire perimeter of the bog, with an estimated 59.5% of the original dome cut over. Facebanks vary in height from less than 1 m along the north-eastern margin to over 2.5 m along the western margin. The northern edge has suffered the least from cutting. The current peat boundary corresponds closely to the original bog edge. On some of the older facebanks, the mark of the sleane, the hand-cutting tool used to cut peat, is still visible. Peat cutting is no longer present at the site. Despite, the cessation of cutting, old open face banks may still continue to drain the high bog.

Works to restore the raised bog began in the 1980. Further restoration works have taken place at this site under the Living Bog Life Project (2018 and 2021). Under this project 1,400m of drains on the high bog were blocked and 4,000m on the cutover bog, using 400 peat dams. These works had an immediate effect on the site with rare flora and fauna returning to the rewetted bog.

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 > Marshes on peat soils >> U: Permanent Non-forested peatlands	Raised bog	1	129	Unique

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Position in range / endemism / other
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Rhynchospora fusca</i>	Limited distribution in Ireland

Optional text box to provide further information

It is widespread in western Ireland, but its current status in central Ireland is unknown (BSBI.org).

An exceptionally rich lichen flora is found on the bog in comparison with other Midland raised bogs e.g. *Cladonia impexa*, *C. arbuscula*, *C. tenuis*, *C. floerkeana* and *C. glauca*. Many of these occur on old Ling Heather, and the abundance has been attributed mainly to a prolonged absence of burning over many parts of the bog (NPWS.ie).

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	% occurrence	Position in range / endemism / other
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	<i>Chrysops sepulcralis</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>				
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	<i>Coenonympha tullia</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Lepus timidus hibernicus</i>				
CHORDATA/AMPHIBIA	<i>Rana temporaria</i>				
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	<i>Saturnia pavonia</i>				

Optional text box to provide further information

Snipe are known to breed at this site. Hen Harrier are known to forage at the site in winter months. Historically Greenland White-fronted Geese wintered at this 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

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 peat of the raised bog is surrounded by brown earths of the Baggottstown Series and grey brown podzolics of the Patrickswell Series (DELHG, 2005). The bog is surrounded on 95% of its perimeter by high ground on mineral soil.

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	

Source of water that maintains character of the site

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

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Unknown	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels largely stable	No change

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology.

Raised bogs have groundwater levels above those of their near surroundings. This makes them solely dependent on precipitation for their water supply. Although bogs are areas that do not receive groundwater, they are wet environments in the sense that groundwater levels are normally close to the surface and the water levels fluctuate little in time compared with groundwater levels in mineral soils (DEHLG, 2005). Any change to the hydrology of the site, as a result of anthropogenic impact or natural impacts (e.g. creation of drains, erosion) is likely to have a negative impact on the hydrology of the site and its habitats. Although there have been only low levels of disturbance in the recent past, the hydrology of the bog has been adversely affected by drainage, due mainly to the effects of domestic peat-cutting. The presence of algal mats in many of the pools indicates a serious lowering of water levels due to drainage NPWS (2013a).

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

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

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 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 land bordering the site consists of low-lying agricultural grassland with dispersed habitation.

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 climatic processes	Medium

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	Medium
Scientific and educational	Major scientific study site	Medium
Scientific and educational	Long-term monitoring site	Medium

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	Medium
Soil formation	Sediment retention	Low
Soil formation	Accumulation of organic matter	Low
Nutrient cycling	Storage, recycling, processing and acquisition of nutrients	Medium
Nutrient cycling	Carbon storage/sequestration	Medium

Within the site:

Outside the site:

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

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Commercial (company)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>

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

Part of the site (119 ha) is owned by An Taisce and part by Bord na Mona. The remainder is in multiple private ownership (DELHG 2005)

5.1.2 - Management authority

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

An Taisce,
National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS),
Offaly County Council.
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.
Bord na Móna

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

Water regulation

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

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	Medium 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
Mining and quarrying	unknown impact	unknown impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	unknown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unknown

Transportation and service corridors

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

Please describe any other threats (optional):

Threats listed above are taken from NPWS (2015a, 2015b, 2013b).
 According to a recent assessment of the site (NPWS 2013b):

- Peat cutting is no longer present at the site, despite, the cessation of cutting at the site, old open face banks may still continue to drain the high bog.
- Only a few drains on the high bog remain functional, most of high bog drains were blocked and are considered reduced-functional.
- Cutover drainage (peripheral drainage) associated with former peat cutting along the west, northwest and south cutovers continue to impact high bog habitats. In addition maintenance work was undertaken in a drain parallel to the Bord na Móna railway line to the southeast. Further drainage maintenance work has been reported by NPWS regional staff.
- A recent (2010) fire event damaged 40% of the high bog. Some other lighter fires were noted in the reporting period.

The railroad referred to in the threats is a Bord na Mona railway track for the transportation of milled peat runs along part of the eastern boundary.

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	Mongan Bog SAC, Site Code: 000580	https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/000580	whole
EU Natura 2000	Mongan Bog SPA, Site Code: 0004017	https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa/0004017	whole

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Nature Reserve	Mongan Bog	https://www.npws.ie/nature-reserves/offaly	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
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
Research	Implemented
Regulation/management of wastes	Implemented
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Implemented

Other:

The Mongan Bog Ramsar site lies within the Mongan Bog SAC and SPA. Under European and national legislation Ireland must maintain at favourable conservation status areas designated as Special Areas of Conservation and/or 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 of this site have been set for both the SAC and the SPA; these can be accessed on NPWS.ie. The main objectives are:
 To maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status i.e. Active raised bogs, Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration and Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion
 To maintain the species for which the SPA has been selected at favourable conservation status.

Legislation in the Republic of Ireland affords protection to bird species outside of designated sites e.g. all wild bird species are afforded protection by The Wildlife Act 1976.

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? Yes

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? Yes, there is a plan

Further information

Mongan Bog was part of the The Living Bog – Raised Bog Restoration Project. This was an EU funded project, with assistance from Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and ran between 2017 and 2021. The objective was to effectively increase the area for Active Raised Bog and the national habitat area on 12 of the 53 Raised Bog SAC’s through a variety of restoration measures including the blocking of 200km of peat harvest associated drainage using 15,000 peat dams and almost a 1000 plastic dams. This was to raise water levels and rewet the bogs. Improvements to interfaces, infilling of drains, removal of certain flora, fencing and walkway improvements, fire plans and amenity provision formed just a small part of the overall restoration plan.

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

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

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. The Living Bog –Raised Bog Restoration Project monitors the site (raisedbogs.ie). 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.

DEHLG (2005) Mongan Bog (Bogán na Móna Fionn) cSAC & SPA, Co. Offaly. Conservation Plan for 2005-2010. National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin.

Madden, B. (1987). The Birds of Mongan Bog, Co. Offaly. Irish Birds Vol. 3, pp 441 - 448

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NPWS (2014b) Conservation objectives supporting document for Mongan Bog SPA [004017]. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2013b) Raised Bog Monitoring and Assessment Survey 2013-Mongan (SAC 000580)
<http://raisedbogs.ie/about-the-living-bog/>

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:



Mongan bog (NPWS, 11/11/2017)



Mongan bog (NPWS, 11/11/2017)



Mongan bog (NPWS, 11/11/2017)



Mongan bog (NPWS, 11/11/2017)



Mongan bog (NPWS, 11/11/2017)



Mongan bog (NPWS, 11/11/2017)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation