



Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 7 March 2023

Update version, previously published on : 30 May 1990

Ireland

Pollardstown Fen



Designation date	30 May 1990
Site number	474
Coordinates	53°11'26"N 06°50'59"W
Area	130,00 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

Pollardstown Fen is situated on the northern margin of the Curragh of Kildare, approximately 3km north-west of Newbridge town in the east of Ireland. It is the largest spring-fed fen in Ireland. The fen is largely intact and supports the largest stand of *Cladium* fen in Ireland, along with Alkaline fen, wet grassland and pools of open water. About 40 springs provide a continuous supply of water to the fen. Some of the calcium rich springs are petrifying and have tufa formations. The fen habitats support a well-developed and specialised flora and fauna, including a number of rare or threatened plants, invertebrates, birds and mammals. The flora is diverse and includes several rare species including Fly Orchid and the moss *Homalothecium nitens* which is a boreal relict species. There are a number of internationally important invertebrates (mainly Diptera) and this is the only site in Ireland and Europe to support the three species of Whorl Snail listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive (Geyer's Whorl Snail, Narrow-mouthed Whorl snail, Desmoulin's Whorl Snail). Other threatened species include otter, Brook Lamprey and Marsh Fritillary butterfly. Following rewetting an area of reclaimed land within the site developed open water habitat increasing the value of the site for waterbirds. Numbers are small but include Mallard, Snipe and Little Grebe. Occasionally rare bird species visit the site such as Marsh Harrier and Reed Warbler. The site includes scrub, wet woodland and forestry. The forestry was planted on cutover peat in the 1960's. In the 1960's drainage began to turn the fen into agricultural land. However, in 1970, to mark European Conservation Year, two areas of intact fen were purchased by Bord na Mona and its protection for nature conservation began. Owing to the rarity of fen habitat and the numbers of rare organisms found there, the site is of international importance. Pollardstown Fen Ramsar site is a designated Nature Reserve and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the EU Habitats Directive. The SAC is selected for the presence of three Annex I fen habitats and three Annex II whorl snail species. Pollardstown fen has been in continuous existence since the last Ice Age and contains a complete palaeoecological record of the post glacial period. Boardwalks, bird hide and signage provide opportunities for visitors to see the fen and to learn more about its natural history.

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 No change to area

(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?

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image

<2 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps

Boundaries description

Pollardstown Fen Ramsar site lies in a shallow depression north west of Kildare Town. The boundaries for this Ramsar site were defined using the boundaries of the Pollardstown Fen Nature Reserve. Pollardstown Fen Ramsar site is smaller than and lies within Pollardstown Fen SAC. The Ramsar site is an integral part of this wider wetland system. Details of the SAC can be found on the NPWS website at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites>. 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.

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

RIS for Site no. 474, Pollardstown Fen, Ireland

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

A fen is a wetland system with a permanently high water level at or just below its surface. It's principal source of nutrients is from surface or groundwater and the substrate is an alkaline to slightly acidic peat soil.

Fens tend to occur in limestone regions of Ireland where the water supply is sufficiently rich in minerals. They occur throughout the country most commonly in the west and Midlands of Ireland. Fens act in a number of ways to regulate the environment. Their functions include water supply and purification, flood water storage, groundwater recharge and carbon storage. Pollardstown Fen is located in the east of Ireland and considerable attention has been paid to the eco hydrology of the site.

Hydrological services provided

The high water table in Pollardstown Fen is maintained primarily by percolation through the adjacent non - cohesive sub - soils and also through precipitation on the Fen itself. The groundwater supply to the fen (catchment area approximately 22km²) is from a part of the Curragh aquifer area to the south. Consequently, the quality and quantity of the water supply to the Fen is very much dependant on the continuing unaltered flow from this large aquifer. The aquifer feeds water to the Fen through a series of peripheral springs that surround the Fen and also through the underlying gravels and sands especially where these are not overlain by impermeable clay. Approximately 40 springs occur around the edge of the Fen with the largest concentration occurring on the south - western edge. From the springs, the water runs into an extensive network of ditches and drainage channels, which in turn lead into the two canal feeder drains which traverse the site in a southeast to northwest direction. The ground water - table is very close to the ground surface within the Fen and also feeds into drainage ditches and hence into a feeder canal of the Grand Canal. The fen acts as a major source of water to the Grand Canal. There is also a small stream which enters the site from the south - east and a further stream which rises to the west and forms a tributary of the River Barrow.

Other ecosystem services provided

Pollardstown Fen supports unique examples of near - natural wetland types within the Atlantic biogeographic region, namely Alkaline Fen, Calcareous fens and Petrifying Springs. The site supports a diversity of habitats and of wetland dependant plant, animal and invertebrate species, including several which are rare or threatened in Ireland and/or Europe. It is important both for the habitats which are present and the for species which they support.

The site is located close to Kildare Town and not far from Dublin City. The site has walkways and information boards enabling visitors to enjoy, study and walk the Pollardstown Fen.

- Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

- Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification

The site supports a number of different wetland habitats and associated species. It is unique in the context of supporting one of the largest stands of Cladium fen, which is also one of the most studied examples of its kind in Ireland. It is also the Type locality for the *Cirsio dissecti-Schoenetum nigrlicantis* and contains a significant number of rare and threatened species. A number of internationally important invertebrates have been recorded and rare sub-aquatic invertebrates are particularly well represented. Pollardstown is the only known site in Ireland (or Europe) to support all three Annex II *Vertigo* species (*V.geyeri*, *V.angustior*, *V. moulinsiana*) and thus provides unique opportunity to study their different habitat and hydrological requirements.

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

Phylum	Scientific name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
Plantae								
TRACHEOPHYTA/ LILIOPSIDA	<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red Listed in Ireland, Near Threatened	Near Threatened Status in Ireland
BRYOPHYTA/ BRYOPSIDA	<i>Tomentypnum nitens</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Protected under the Floral Protection Order (2015), Red Listed in Ireland (Vulnerable)	FPO and Vulnerable Status in Ireland.

Basil Thyme (*Acinos arvensis*), a species protected under national legislation, is not recorded from within the site boundaries, but is found in a gravel pit adjacent to the public entrance.
Tomentypnum (also *Homalothecium*) *nitens* is a boreal relict species which is rare 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								
Others																	
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II Habitats Directive	Annex II species
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 Habitats Directive	Annex II listing
Fish, Mollusc and Crustacea																	
CHORDATA/ CEPHALASPIDOMORPHI	<i>Lampetra planeri</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II Habitats Directive	Annex II listing
MOLLUSCA/ GASTROPODA	<i>Vertigo angustior</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II Habitats Directive	Annex II listing, maintaining biodiversity
MOLLUSCA/ GASTROPODA	<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II Habitats Directive	Annex II listing, maintaining biodiversity
MOLLUSCA/ GASTROPODA	<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				VU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II Habitats Directive	Annex II listing, maintaining biodiversity

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

The Otter has been protected in Ireland under national legislation since 1976 (Wildlife Act 1976) and is listed on Annex II and Annex IV of the EU Habitats Directive. According to Marnell et al., (2009) the Otter is deemed Near Threatened within Ireland as this species has shown a decline of 20-25% between 1980 and 2006, with most of that occurring in the first decade (i.e. 1980-1990), the cause of this decline is unclear. The IUCN deem the Eurasian otter to be Near Threatened within Europe and globally.

Brook Lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*), also listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive are known from a number of areas within the site.

Marsh Fritillary nests have been recorded from the site (butterflyconservation.ie)

Of particular conservation importance, however, is the occurrence of all three of the Whorl Snails (*Vertigo* spp.) that are listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive. Pollardstown is the only known site in Ireland (or Europe) to support all three species (*Vertigo geyeri*, *V. angustior* and *V. moulinsiana*), and it therefore provides a unique opportunity to study their different habitat and hydrological requirements. *Vertigo angustior* (Narrow Mouthed Whorl Snail) is listed as Vulnerable in Europe and Near Threatened globally with a decreasing population trend on the IUCN Red List. According to Moorkens et al., (2011) 63% of *V. geyeri* sites surveyed, 62% of *V. angustior* sites and 70% of *V. moulinsiana* sites are deemed to be in overall favourable condition. However, a national conservation status assessment found *V. geyeri* and *V. angustior* to be Unfavourable – Inadequate and *V. moulinsiana* to be Unfavourable – Bad.

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
Calcareous fens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cladium mariscus beds of the emergent-plant zones of lakes, fallow lands or succession stage of extensively farmed wet meadows in contact with the vegetation of the Caricion davallianae or other Phragmiton species	Unique, Annex I listing
Alkaline Fens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Peat or tufa-producing small sedge and brown moss communities	Unique, Annex I listing
[7210] Cladium Fens*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Annex I (Habitats Directive)	Annex I listing
[7220] Petrifying Springs*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Annex I (Habitats Directive)	Annex I listing

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

4.1 - Ecological character

Pollardstown Fen lies in a shallow depression, running in a north-west/south-east direction. It is unusual in Ireland as it is an extensive area of primary and secondary fen peat, lacking scrub vegetation on its surface. The fen vegetation is generally from 0.5 - 1.5 m high and consists of species such as Great Fen Sedge, Common Reed, Blunt-flowered Rush and a range of sedges. The vegetation is varied and species rich, with numerous well-defined plant communities and several rare or scarce species. These include Narrow-leaved Marsh-orchid, Fly Orchid and Broad-leaved Cottongrass. Of particular note is moss *Homalothecium nitens* - a boreal relict species which is rare in Ireland. Species and communities characteristic of more nutrient-rich conditions occur on the fen margins where the water first emerges from the ground, while the central fen area is dominated by more uniform and less nutrient demanding vegetation types. Tufa formations are associated with some of the springs. The site is important for a range of plant, animal and invertebrate species associated with wetland habitats. Several nationally and or internationally rare or threatened species occur including otter, brook lamprey and Marsh Fritillary butterfly. Various groups of the invertebrate fauna have been studied and the system has been shown to support a true fen fauna. The species complexes represented are often rare in Ireland, with the sub-aquatic organisms particularly well-represented. A number of internationally important invertebrates (mostly Order Diptera) have been recorded from the site and it is the only site in Ireland and Europe to support the three species of Whorl Snail listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive. The site also supports breeding and wintering birds, including some rare visitors. An area of reclaimed land within the site was reflooded in 1983 and has now reverted to open water, swamp and regenerating fen. Since the reflooding of the fen and the development of the shallow lake, wintering waterfowl have been attracted in increased numbers. Part of the fen was cut for turf in the 1940's and this area was subsequently planted for forestry (Norway Spruce and Scots Pine). The fen is surrounded by intensive farmland, several urban settlements and a major road which lies to its south.

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	Fen	1	69	Unique
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> Xf: Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands				
Fresh water > Marshes on peat soils >> Xp: Permanent Forested peatlands				
Fresh water > Flowing water >> Y: Permanent Freshwater springs; oases	Petrifying springs with tufa formation	3	2.5	Unique

Human-made wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type
4: Seasonally flooded agricultural land			
9: Canals and drainage channels or ditches	Canals and drainage channels	2	4

Other non-wetland habitat

Other non-wetland habitats within the site	Area (ha) if known
Grassland, Commercial forestry, woodland	55.5

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Position in range / endemism / other
TRACHEOPHYTALILIOPSIDA	<i>Dactyloctenium aegyptium</i>	rish Red Listed, Least Concern
TRACHEOPHYTALILIOPSIDA	<i>Eriophorum latifolium</i>	Irish Red Listed, Least Concern

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>				
CHORDATA/AMPHIBIA	<i>Rana temporaria</i>				
CHORDATA/REPTILIA	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>				

Optional text box to provide further information

Pollardstown Fen supports the following species which are protected under national legislation: Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*), Common Lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*) and Irish Hare (*Lepus timidus*). All the above species are protected under the Irish Wildlife Act (1976).

The NPWS Site Synopsis (NPWS, 2013; npws.ie) reports that In recent years two specialised bird species associated with fens, Marsh harrier and Savi's warbler, have been seen at Pollardstown Fen.

Within the site An area of reclaimed land was reflooded in 1983 and has now reverted to open water, swamp and regenerating fen. Since the reflooding of the fen and the development of the shallow lake, wintering waterfowl have been attracted in increased numbers. Maximum counts during winter 1984/85 were as follows: Little Grebe 24; Teal 161; Mallard 220; Coot 81 and Snipe 68.

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

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)

Cross - sections taken in 1980 show that the predominant underlying substrate in the central part of Pollardstown Fen is marl, this is usually absent from the margins which are characterised by Fluvio - glacial gravels. The marl, when dried, consists of a powdery, poorly consolidated tufa. This is overlain in the central areas by fen peat which was formed as a result of waterlogged conditions generated in the valley from the surrounding springs. The peat is minerotrophic due to the hard, base - rich water chemistry of the inflowing waters.

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 inputs from groundwater	<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:

The formation of Pollardstown Fen began after the last Ice Age, due to the configuration of glacial deposits and groundwater flow patterns. Due to the influx of mineral rich waters from several calcareous springs, mainly originating from the Curragh area, peat accumulated to eventually form a groundwater fed bog known as a fen. The Fen is made up of a central lake and surrounding reed swamps fed by a large number of springs. Some of the most obvious calcareous springs, which feed this area, can be seen on the south side of Pollardstown Fen. The Curragh plains to the south of Pollardstown, which are comprised of deep deposits of fluvio - glacial gravels (up to 70m thick), are the aquifer source for the numerous springs that feed Pollardstown Fen.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Sediment regime unknown

4.4.6 - Water pH

Alkaline (pH>7.4)

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

Unknown

Please provide further information on pH (optional):

About 40 springs occur around the site margins, a number of which are petrifying with tufa formation, provide a continuous supply of alkaline water to the fen.

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Fresh (<0.5 g/l)

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

Unknown

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Unknown

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

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the 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:

Pollardstown Fen is located within a region of rapidly increasing urbanisation and development. Landuse in the surrounding lands and catchment is primarily agricultural based on grazing by cattle and sheep, with small amounts of tillage. Scattered rural housing is widespread within the catchment and the medium sized towns of Newbridge and Kildare.

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	Low
Climate regulation	Regulation of greenhouse gases, temperature, precipitation and other climactic processes	Low

Cultural Services

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

Supporting Services

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

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

Public ownership

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

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
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):

The statutory Nature Reserve element of the site (60%) is the property of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The remainder of the site (40%) and the surrounding land is primarily in private ownership used for agricultural or domestic purposes.

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
 Kildare County Council.
 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
 Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.

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

Maurice Eakin

Postal address:

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

E-mail address:

maurice.eakin@housing.gov.ie

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

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

Human settlements (non agricultural)

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Housing and urban areas	Medium impact		<input type="checkbox"/>	No change	<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
Wood and pulp plantations	Low impact		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change
Livestock farming and ranching	Medium impact	High 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		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Hunting and collecting terrestrial animals	Low impact		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Human intrusions and disturbance

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

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Household sewage, urban waste water	Medium impact		<input type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

Threats are taken from NPWS (2014).

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	Pollardstown Fen Plateau SAC Site Code: 000396.	https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/000396	whole

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
nature reserve	Pollardstown Fen Nature Reserve	https://www.npws.ie/nature-reserves	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
Habitat manipulation/enhancement	Implemented
Hydrology management/restoration	Implemented
Land conversion controls	Implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Regulation/management of wastes	Implemented
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Implemented
Research	Implemented
Harvest controls/poaching enforcement	Implemented
Livestock management/exclusion (excluding fisheries)	Implemented

Other:

The Pollardstown Fen Ramsar site lies within the Pollardstown Fen SAC. Under European and national legislation, Ireland must maintain areas designated as Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas at favourable conservation status. 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 the SAC and are listed below; these can be accessed on NPWS.ie.

- To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected at favourable conservation status i.e. Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae**, Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*)* and Alkaline fens (* is a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive).

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. Waterfowl shooting is under license only, managed by the National Parks & Wildlife Service. It is the Departmental policy that no hunting occurs on State-owned lands.

5.2.5 - Management planning

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

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

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

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

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

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Water regime monitoring	Implemented
Water quality	Implemented
Plant species	Implemented
Plant community	Implemented
Birds	Implemented
Animal species (please specify)	Implemented

As a EU Natura 2000 site, it is required under Article 17 of the EU Habitats Directives, 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 for the area. Animal species monitored (*Vertigo geyeri*, *Vertigo angustior* and *Vertigo moulinsiana*).

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

IPCC 2016. A Guide to Irish Fen Habitats. Irish Peatland Conservation Council,
Moorkens, E.A. & Killeen, I.J. (2011) Monitoring and Condition Assessment of Populations of *Vertigo geyeri*, *Vertigo angustior* and *Vertigo moulinsiana* in Ireland. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 55. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland
NPWS (2016) Conservation objectives for Pollardstown Fen SAC [000396]. Generic Version 5.0. Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.
NPWS (2014) Natura Form for Pollardstown Fen SAC [000396]. Generic Version 5.0. Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.
NPWS (2016) Site Synopsis for Pollardstown Fen SAC [000396]. Generic Version 5.0. Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.
IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2007: e.T19518A8950866. Downloaded on 11 November 2017
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.

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:



Pollardstown Fen (NPWS, 01-05-2013)



Pollardstown Fen (NPWS, 01-05-2013)



Pollardstown Fen (NPWS, 01-05-2013)



Pollardstown Fen (NPWS, 01-05-2013)



Pollardstown Fen (NPWS, 01-05-2013)



Pollardstown Fen (NPWS, 01-05-2013)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation 1990-05-30