



# Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 7 March 2023

Update version, previously published on : 11 June 1996

## Ireland

### Ballyallia Lough



Designation date	7 June 1996
Site number	845
Coordinates	52°52'36"N 08°59'05"W
Area	300,00 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

Ballyallia Lake is a relatively small, shallow lake situated on the River Fergus approximately 4 km north of Ennis, Co. Clare. It is a naturally eutrophic lake, a habitat listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. The lake is base-rich with relatively clear water and has a low-lying floodplain of wet grassland and rough grazing to the west, which is associated with the River Fergus. The lake and river are set amongst heavily farmed land to the north and south. A well-established Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) woodland slopes down to the northern lakeshore and adds diversity to the site.

The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) supporting a habitat of EU importance (Natural Eutrophic Lakes) as well as an abundance of wintering waterbirds. Habitat and species diversity around the lake is fairly low and only a few emergent plants are found, such as Common Club-rush (*Scirpus lacustris*) and Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*). A low-lying flood plain of wet grassland and rough pasture grazing land to the west is included within the site. The lake is used for a range of recreational activities.

Ballyallia Lake is a Special Protection Area (SPA) and a Wildfowl Sanctuary and supports important populations of wintering waterbirds such as Shoveler, Wigeon, Coot, Mallard and Gadwall. Significant numbers of Whooper Swan, an Annex I species under the EU Birds Directive, also use the site. The quality of the habitat for the birds is good and the site provides both feeding and roost sites for them. Some of the birds, especially Black-tailed Godwit, commute to the nearby River Fergus-River Shannon estuary.

## 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? Not evaluated

## 2.2 - Site location

### 2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

#### b) Digital map/image

<2 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps

#### Boundaries description

The boundary for this Ramsar site is that of the Ballyallia Lake Wildfowl Sanctuary. Ballyallia Lake is a designated Special Protection Area (Ballyallia Lough SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (Ballyallia Lake SAC). The Ramsar site boundary includes all of the Ballyallia Lough SPA and much of the Ballyallia Lake SAC. However Lough Girroga to the south of the Ramsar sites lies within the Ballyallia Lake SAC but not with the Ramsar site. Details of the SAC and SPA 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:

- 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

**British Isles**  
Palearctic (WWF Terrestrial Ecoregions), Northern British Isles (FEOW)

### 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

Ballyallia Lough with fringing woodland, marsh and swamp and temporary flooded grassland provides important functions in terms of water storage and nutrient cycling. The capacity of the lake and associated wetland habitats to retain water during high rainfall is important for downstream flood mitigation. Nutrient and sediment settlement which occurs in lake systems can have a positive effect on downstream water quality (though excessive nutrients and sediments will impact on the water quality of the lake itself; see NPWS, 2017 Ballyallia Lough Conservation Objectives).

Other ecosystem services provided

Biodiversity support

- this site is important in terms of maintaining the range and distribution of the naturally occurring eutrophic lake habitat type and in terms of contributing to regional biodiversity.
- the site supports habitats and species of EU importance and accordingly is designated both as SAC (Habitats Directive) and SPA (Birds Directive).

Recreation and tourism

- The site is close to Ennis town and is used for watersports, bathing, recreation.

Other reasons

Ballyallia Lough is a freshwater lake which lies within the River Fergus sub catchment and the Shannon Estuary North catchment. Two rivers the Ballygriffey River and the Fergus River flow into the lake. The River Fergus flows out of the lake, into the Fergus estuary and the wider Shannon estuary. This lake habitat type is representative of lowland base-rich lakes present in the midlands and north-east of Ireland. Ballyallia Lake is one of nine SAC's designated in Ireland for the protection of naturally occurring eutrophic lakes (Habitats Directive habitat 3150: Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation).

Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

Optional text box to provide further information

Rare (high conservation concern) wintering bird species are defined as:  
 Regularly occurring species (occurring in at least 3 out of 10 seasons of monitoring or 30% of seasons; based on I-Webs data from 2006/07 to 2015/16) and that are:  
 - Red Listed in Ireland's national Red List (Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (BoCCI) published by Colhoun and Cummins (2013)  
 - Listed in Annex I of the European Union Birds Directive

Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification

Ballyallia Lake provides feeding and roosting habitat for an assemblage of wintering waterbirds. A number of species are Red Listed in Ireland, Annex I Birds Directive Species or Vulnerable under IUCN classification, others are Amber listed in Ireland (medium conservation concern). The site is important for the diversity of species present which rely on the open water and adjacent grassland habitats for feeding and roosting. The site is also connected to the larger wetland of the Shannon Estuary with birds moving between Ballyallia Lough and the estuary. The site is also supports the Annex I habitat Natural eutrophic lakes, a qualifying interest for only nine Special Areas of Conservation in Ireland. This site contributes to regional biodiversity owing to both habitat and species present.

Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

Optional text box to provide further information

Ballyallia Lough provides feeding and roosting habitat for migratory waterbirds which winter in Ireland. The site is regularly used (ie each year) by wintering waterbirds.

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

<no data available>

### 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								
<b>Others</b>																	
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 species of the Habitats Directive	Annex II Habitats Directive 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"/>				NT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red listed Mammal in Ireland, NT in Europe and Annex II of Habitats Directive	Annex II Habitats Directive species.
<b>Birds</b>																	
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Anas acuta</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	27	2011-2015		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	National (BoCCI) classification, wintering assemblage
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	68	2011-2015			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	National (BoCCI) classification, wintering assemblage
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Anas crecca</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	407	2011-2015		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Wintering assemblage, maintaining biodiversity
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Anas penelope</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	824	2011-2015			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	National (BoCCI) classification, wintering assemblage
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Anas strepera</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	23	2011-2015			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Wintering assemblage, maintaining biodiversity
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	155	2011-2015		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	National (BoCCI) classification, wintering assemblage
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	40	2011-2015		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Listed on Annex I (Birds Directive), Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Annex I listing, wintering assemblage

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								
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	30	2011-2015		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Wintering assemblage, maintaining biodiversity
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Egretta garzetta</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"/>	6	2011-2015		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.	Annex I listing
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	22	2011-2015		NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013), and Vulnerable classification IUCN Europe region)	IUCN classifications, wintering assemblage
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	37	2011-2015		NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013), and Vulnerable classification IUCN Europe region)	National (BoCCI) and IUCN classifications, wintering assemblage
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11	2011-2015		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Wintering assemblage, maintaining biodiversity
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	2011-2015		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Wintering assemblage, maintaining biodiversity
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	61	2011-2015		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amber-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	Wintering assemblage, maintaining biodiversity
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	2011-2015		LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013)	National (BoCCI) classification, wintering assemblage
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	167	2011-2015		NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Red-listed in Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Colhoun and Cummins 2013), and Vulnerable classification IUCN Europe region)	National (BoCCI) and IUCN classifications, wintering assemblage

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Wintering bird species listed under 3.3 have been selected based on an assessment of Irish Wetland Bird Survey data from the period 2006/07 to 2015/16. Cummeen Strand is a Special Protection Area (SPA) for birds, however not all species listed for the SPA may be listed under 3.3 (or vice versa) as the SPA designation is based on other data and criteria.

Ballyallia Lough is a designated Special Protection Area (EU Natura 2000 site) for the following regularly occurring wintering waterbirds some of which are listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive: Wigeon (*Anas penelope*), Gadwall (*Anas strepera*), Teal (*Anas crecca*), Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*), Coot (*Fulica atra*), Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) Under this SPA designation the wetland habitat is also protected as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.

The Marsh Fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*) an Annex II species of the Habitats Directive has been recorded at this site (Source: National Biodiversity Data Centre).

### 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
Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharitum - type vegetation [3150]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Annex I EU Habitats Directive

Optional text box to provide further information

One of nine Special Areas of Conservation in Ireland selected for the habitat type: Natural eutrophic lakes. This habitat type is present in north east Ireland and the midlands. The Ballyallia Lough SAC also includes the nearby naturally eutrophic lake, Lough Girroga.

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

### 4.1 - Ecological character

Ballyallia lake is a small naturally eutrophic lake which lies on the River Fergus. A smaller river system to the west of the lake also drains into the lake. The river Fergus exits the lake to the south, where it passes through Ennis town before reaching the Fergus Estuary and then the connected and greater Shannon estuary. The site includes a large area of low lying wet grassland to the west of the lake which lies within the flood plain of a river system. Generally the grassland has been improved for agriculture, with potential impacts on lake water quality. The lake is important as an example of a naturally base rich lake. The lake and floodplain with wet grassland are important for feeding and roosting wintering waterbirds. Some birds which use this site are known to commute to the River Fergus - River Shannon estuary. The connection between this site and the larger wetland system of the River Fergus - River Shannon is important in terms of bird use, habitat connectivity and complexity. Lough Girroga is a smaller naturally eutrophic lake which lies 1 km south of Ballyallia Lake Ramsar site and is part of the Ballyallia Lake SAC.

### 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	Freshwater River	2	10	Representative
Fresh water > Lakes and pools >> O: Permanent freshwater lakes	Natural Eutrophic Lake	1	43	Representative

#### 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	Wet grassland	1	100

#### Other non-wetland habitat

Other non-wetland habitats within the site	Area (ha) if known
Semi improved/improved grassland	135
Scrub and woodland	20

#### (ECD) Habitat connectivity

This Ramsar site is connected to the wider wetland complex of the River Fergus and River Shannon estuaries

### 4.3 - Biological components

#### 4.3.1 - Plant species

##### Invasive alien plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	Potential	unknown

##### Optional text box to provide further information

Canadian Waterweed a high impact invasive species has been recorded from this site (2011; Source: National Biodiversity Data Centre).

#### 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>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Martes martes</i>				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Meles meles</i>				

##### Optional text box to provide further information

Eurasian Badger (*Meles meles*), Eurasian Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*), West European Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) and Pine Marten (*Martes martes*) have all been recorded from the site in recent years (2007 or later). All are protected by the Wildlife Act. Source: National Biodiversity Data Centre. Small Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*) and Scarce Emerald Damselfly (*Lestes dryas*) both Red Listed (Near Threatened), have been recorded from the site

## 4.4 - Physical components

### 4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
C: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with mild winters	Cfc: Marine west coast (Mild with no dry season, cool summer)

### 4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

- 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.

Part of the River Fergus sub catchment

### 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

### 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 surface water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unknown
Water inputs from groundwater	<input type="checkbox"/>	unknown

#### Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
To downstream catchment	No change

#### Stability of water regime

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

### 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

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

Eutrophic

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

Mesotrophic

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

Oligotrophic

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

Dystrophic

(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 Ramsar site lies immediately north of the urbanised landscape of Ennis town. Otherwise the landscape is broadly similar being mainly agricultural grassland.

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Fresh water	Drinking water for humans and/or livestock	High

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Maintenance of hydrological regimes	Groundwater recharge and discharge	High
Hazard reduction	Flood control, flood storage	Medium

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Water sports and activities	High
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	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	not relevant for 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

## RIS for Site no. 845, Ballyallia Lough, Ireland

- 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### 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 Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.  
 Clare County Council.  
 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).  
 Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.  
 Inland Fisheries Ireland.

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@chg.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
Tourism and recreation areas	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input 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	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
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	Low impact	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	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
Agricultural and forestry effluents	unknown impact	unknown impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>	unknown
Household sewage, urban waste water	Low impact	Low impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

#### 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	Ballyallia Lake SAC 000014	https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/000014	whole
EU Natura 2000	Ballyallia Lough SPA 004041	https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa/004041	whole

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
national wildfowl sanctuary			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

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Implemented
Research	Implemented

Other:

The Ballyallia Lough Ramsar site lies within the Ballyallia Lough SPA (004041). Under European and national legislation, Ireland must maintain at favourable conservation status areas designated as 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 the SPA and are listed below; these can be accessed on NPWS.ie.

- To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA; and Wetlands [A999].

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
Birds	Implemented

Water quality is monitored under the Water Framework Directive monitoring programme (EPA.ie)  
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 site is monitored under the I-WEBS scheme.  
The site is regularly inspected by the National Parks and Wildlife Service Conservation Rangers for the area.

## 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.

NPWS (2014) Site Synopsis for Ballyallia Lake SPA 004041. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2013) Site Synopsis for Ballyallia Lake SAC 000014. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Ballyallia Lake SAC 000014. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2009) Ballyallia Lake SAC 000014 Natura 2000 Form. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2018) Conservation objectives for Ballyallia Lough SPA [004041]. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

NPWS (2009) Ballyallia Lake SPA 004041 Natura 2000 Form. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

O Connor, Á. (2015) Habitats Directive Annex I lake habitats: a working interpretation for the purposes of site-specific conservation objectives and Article 17 reporting. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Ireland.

IUCN 2017. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2017-2. <http://www.iucnredlist.org>>. Downloaded on 14 October 2017.

BirdwatchIreland.ie  
<http://www.ramsar.org>  
<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu>  
<https://www.biodiversityireland.ie/>  
The Irish Wetland Bird Survey (I-WeBS).  
<https://www.biodiversityireland.ie/>  
<http://www.EPA.ie>

#### 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:



Ballyallia Lake in winter (David A Lyons, 10-02-2021 )



Ballyallia Lake in winter (David A Lyons, 10-02-2021 )



Ballyallia Lake in winter (David A Lyons, 10-02-2021 )



Ballyallia Lake in winter (David A Lyons, 10-02-2021 )

#### 6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation