

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX. 22 of the 9th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).

Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2nd edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3rd edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.
3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Monkstone House

City Road

Peterborough

Cambridgeshire PE1 1JY

UK

Telephone/Fax: +44 (0)1733 – 562 626 / +44 (0)1733 – 555 948

Email: RIS@JNCC.gov.uk

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

Designated: 24 March 2002

3. Country:

UK (Northern Ireland)

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Fardrum and Roosky Turloughs

5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for: Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

a) Site boundary and area:

** Important note: If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:

7. Map of site included:

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:

- i) **hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): *yes* ✓ -or- *no* ☐;
- ii) **an electronic format** (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) *Yes*
- iii) **a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables** *yes* ✓ -or- *no* ☐;

b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

The site boundary is the same as, or falls within, an existing protected area.

For precise boundary details, please refer to paper map provided at designation

8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

54 24 00 N 07 43 20 W

9. General location:

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s), and the location of the nearest large town.

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

Administrative region: Fermanagh

10. Elevation (average and/or max. & min.) (metres): **11. Area (hectares):** 43.1

Min. 0
Max. 0
Mean 0

12. General overview of the site:

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

The turloughs of the Ely Lodge district are the only ones in Northern Ireland and are the most northerly occurrence of these lake types in Ireland and the UK. There are three turloughs in the group: Roosky Lough is the southernmost, Green Lough lies to the north, with Fardrum Lough between the two, all lying within a basin formed in the Ballyshannon Limestones. In general, inflowing water comes through the limestone via risings, especially noticeable at Roosky Lough. Outflow is also through the limestone, via sinks, which can be clearly seen during dry periods at Roosky and Green Loughs. The turloughs all exhibit distinctive vegetation communities associated with the inundation zone, including some rare species records. Permanently wet basins within the turloughs support vegetation typical of lakes and lake-shores, with some of these forming very extensive swards. The turloughs support a range of water beetles, with the species *Rhantus frontalis* being typical of such ephemeral waterbodies. Green Lough supports a very rich ground beetle fauna including the carabids *Blethisa multipunctata* and *Pelophila borealis*. In total, these wetlands have contributed records of nine beetles that are new to Fermanagh.

13. Ramsar Criteria:

Circle or underline each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11).

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14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

Ramsar Criterion 1

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

15. Biogeography (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

a) biogeographic region:

Atlantic

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

Council Directive 92/43/EEC

16. Physical features of the site:

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

Soil & geology	basic, mud, clay, limestone
Geomorphology and landscape	lowland, valley
Nutrient status	eutrophic, mesotrophic
pH	alkaline, circumneutral
Salinity	fresh
Soil	mainly mineral
Water permanence	usually seasonal / intermittent
Summary of main climatic features	Annual averages (Carmony, 1971–2000) (www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/carmony.html) Max. daily temperature: 12.1° C Min. daily temperature: 5.9° C Days of air frost: 27.6 Rainfall: 993.0 mm Hrs. of sunshine: 1179.0

General description of the Physical Features:

There are three Turloughs in this group, west of Lower Lough Erne: Fardrum Lough, Roosky Lough, and Green Lough, all within a basin formed in the Carboniferous Ballyshannon limestone. They are the only turloughs in Northern Ireland, and represent the most northerly occurrence of this habitat in Ireland and the UK.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, general land use, and climate (including climate type).

There are three Turloughs in this group, west of Lower Lough Erne: Fardrum Lough, Roosky Lough, and Green Lough, all within a basin formed in the Carboniferous Ballyshannon limestone.

In general, inflowing water comes through the limestone via risings; outflow is also through the limestone, via sinks.

18. Hydrological values:

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

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

19. Wetland types:

Inland wetland

Code	Name	% Area
4	Seasonally flooded agricultural land	55
Other	Other	16
Xf	Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands	14
U	Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)	9
Ts	Freshwater marshes / pools: seasonal / intermittent	6

20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

The turloughs all exhibit distinctive vegetation communities associated with the inundation zone, including silverweed *Potentilla anserina*, marsh pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, selfheal *Prunella vulgaris* and creeping-jenny *Lysimachia nummularia*, as well as two mosses characteristic of turloughs are present, namely *Cinclidotus fontinaloides* and *Fontinalis antipyretica*. Permanently wet basins within the turloughs support vegetation typical of lakes and lake-shores, with the more common species including white water-lily *Nymphaea alba*, bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*, amphibious bistort *Persicaria amphibia*, fine-leaved water-dropwort *Oenanthe aquatica* and pond water-crowfoot *Ranunculus peltatus*. Some of the land adjoining the turloughs also contains notable habitats - areas of dense scrub dominated by hazel *Corylus avellana* which have a flushed, calcicolous (base-rich) ground flora, dominated by wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa* and bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*. More open scrub contains the uncommon shrubs buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica* and spindle *Euonymus europaeus*. The invertebrate fauna is diverse, with an especially rich ground beetle fauna including *Blethisa multipunctata* and *Pelophila borealis* at Green Lough.

Ecosystem services

21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Nationally important Habitat type

Inundation zone

Turlough

Nationally important species occurring at this site

Higher Plants

Fen Violet *Viola persicifolia*

Lower Plants

Cinclidotus fontinaloides, *Fontinalis antipyretica*

22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Birds**Species Information**

Species occurring at levels of national importance

Rove beetle *Philonthus corvinus*

23. Social and cultural values:

Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values.

Environmental education/ interpretation

Livestock grazing

Scientific research

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning? **No**

If Yes, describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- i) sites which provide 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) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
- iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:
- iv) sites where 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:

24. Land tenure/ownership:

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

25. Current land (including water) use:

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

26. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site’s ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:

Explanation of reporting category:

1. *Those factors that are still operating, but it is unclear if they are under control, as there is a lag in showing the management or regulatory regime to be successful.*
2. *Those factors that are not currently being managed, or where the regulatory regime appears to have been ineffective so far.*

NA = Not Applicable because no factors have been reported.

Adverse Factor Category	Reporting Category	Description of the problem (Newly reported Factors only)	On-Site	Off-Site	Major Impact?
Overgrazing by domestic livestock	2		+		+
Eutrophication	2		+		+

For category 2 factors only.

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

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

Is the site subject to adverse ecological change? YES

27. Conservation measures taken:

List national category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it is being implemented.

Conservation measure	On-site	Off-site
Site/ Area of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI/ASSI)	+	
Management agreement	+	+
Site management statement/plan implemented	+	
Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA)	+	+
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	+	

b) Describe any other current management practices:

The management of Ramsar sites in the UK is determined by either a formal management plan or through other management planning processes, and is overseen by the relevant statutory conservation agency. Details of the precise management practises are given in these documents.

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

No information available

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

e.g. details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

Further dye-tracing to identify water sources.

Monitoring by EHS staff.

30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:

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

No current conservation educational activities

31. Current recreation and tourism:

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

No public access – site not utilised for recreation or tourism

32. Jurisdiction:

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept. of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland), Environment and Heritage Service,
Commonwealth House, Castle Street, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT1 1GU

33. Management authority:

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland), Environment and Heritage Service,
Commonwealth House, Castle Street, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT1 1GU

34. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Site-relevant references

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

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

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

McLeod, CR, Yeo, M, Brown, AE, Burn, AJ, Hopkins, JJ & Way, SF (eds.) (2004) *The Habitats Directive: selection of Special Areas of Conservation in the UK*. 2nd edn. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough. www.jncc.gov.uk/SACselection

Please return to: **Ramsar Secretariat, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland**

Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • email: ramsar@ramsar.org