

A10

EU Sites: SACs, SPAs and NHAs



Appendix A10

NATURE CONSERVATION DESIGNATIONS

Candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC's)

EU Directive 92/42/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora ('Habitats Directive'); Transposed into Irish law by the Natural Habitats Regulations 1996. (S.I. No 94 Of 1997). These sites are protected under the legislation from significant damage to their relevant habitats and species.

Special Protection Area (SPA's)

EU Directive of 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive); this was transposed into Irish law by the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations (S.I. 291 of 1985). These sites are protected under the legislation from actions that would damage their value to bird species, especially those on Annex 1 of the Directive.

Proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA's)

No Natural Heritage Areas have been designated yet in Co. Waterford under the Wildlife Act 1976 as amended by the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000. However it is the policy of Waterford County Council to protect these areas. They are also protected under the administration of grants by the Department of Agriculture and Food (Rural Environment Protection Scheme, forestry etc.).

Nature Reserve

Section 15 Wildlife Act, 1976 (amended by the Wildlife Amendment Act 2000) designates Nature Reserves in the ownership of the Minister for Environment Heritage and Local Government.

Nature Reserve in private ownership

Section 16 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 (amended by the Wildlife Amendment Act 2000) designates Nature Reserves in private ownership.

County Geological Heritage Sites

County Geological Heritage Sites have no statutory protection but are considered within the planning system.

The Geological Survey of Ireland has suggested the protection of a series of scientifically interesting rock exposures around the county. They also promote the protection of historic and archaeological mining heritage

UNESCO Geopark

The United Nations Economic Social and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has recognised the south coast of the county between Garrarus and Ballyvoyle Head as a GeoPark; one of a network of European sites of geological interest with management plans which address economic, social, cultural and sustainability issues.

Table 1 SACs in County Waterford

NPWS Site code	Site name	Qualifying Interests of site
002123	Ardmore Head	Dry coastal heath and vegetated sea cliffs.
000072	Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford)	Estuary, mudflats, shingle banks, salt meadows, floating river vegetation, old oak woods, alluvial woodland, Yew woodland, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, White-clawed Crayfish, Shad, Lamprey, Salmon, Otter, Killarney Fern
001952	Comeragh Mountains	Blanket bog, dry, wet and alpine heath, rocky slopes, oligotrophic lakes, floating river vegetation, Shining Sicklemoss
002324	Glendine Wood	Semi-natural woodland with rare assemblages of ground flora.
000665	Helvick Head	Vegetated sea cliffs and dry heath.
002137	Lower River Suir	Salt meadows, floating river vegetation, marginal river vegetation, old oak woods, alluvial wet woodland, yew woods, Twaite Shad, Sea Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, River Lamprey, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, White-clawed Crayfish, Atlantic Salmon, Otter
000668	Nier Valley Woods	Old oak woodlands and dry heath
002162	River Nore and River Barrow (Waterford Estuary)	Estuary, mudflats, salt meadows, floating river vegetation, dry heath, marginal river vegetation, petrifying springs, old oak woods, alluvial woods, White-clawed Crayfish, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Whorl snail, Shad, Lamprey, Salmon, Otter, Killarney Fern
00671	Tramore Dunes and Back Strand	Mudflats and sandflats, shingle banks, salt meadows, embryonic, white and fixed dunes.

Table 2 SPAs in County Waterford

Site code	Site name	Qualifying Interests of site
004027	Tramore Backstrand	Golden Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit
004032	Dungarvan Bay	Great Northern Diver, Bar-tailed Godwit, Golden Plover
004094	Blackwater Callows	Whooper Swan, Bewick's Swan, Golden Plover, Kingfisher
004028	Blackwater Estuary	Little Egret, Golden Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit,

		Sandwich Tern, Roseate Tern, Common Tern
004192	Helvick Head Coast	Peregrine, Chough
004193	Mid Waterford Coast	Peregrine, Chough

Nature Reserve

Section 15 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 (amended by the Wildlife Amendment Act 2000) designates Nature Reserves in the ownership of the Minister for Environment Heritage and Local Government.

	Fiddown Island	
--	----------------	--

Nature Reserve in private ownership

Section 16 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 (amended by the Wildlife Amendment Act 2000) designates Nature Reserves in private ownership

	Fenor Bog	
--	-----------	--

Proposed Natural Heritage Areas in County Waterford

Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA)

Site Number	NAME	Map Reference and Description
1691	Ballin Lough	S4403 Shallow, nutrient- rich lake in hills, surrounded by reeds.
1692	Ballyeelinan Wood	X2180 Wooded valley by the sea with fast stream and waterfall. Undisturbed northern end with oak.
1693	Ballyvoyle Head to Tramore	X4598. 23 kilometres of coast with cliffs and coastal Dry Heaths. Important for breeding birds including Cormorants, Choughs, Peregrine Falcons and Guillemots.
659	Belle Lake	S6605. Shallow lake with marginal and submerged plant communities of note: also wintering waterfowl.
0072	Blackwater River & Estuary (Contains pNHA and cSAC)	X0890 Drowned river valley with wet woodland and good floodplain marshes.) for wintering birds at Kinsalebeg and Youghal.
0073	Blackwater River callows (pNHA and part of cSAC)	X0199 The river valley above Cappoquin, with flooding grassland, abandoned river channels and considerable importance for winter birdlife.
660	Carrickavrantry Reservoir & Marsh	S5402 Artificial lake (also called with water of exceptional clarity and a (pNHA) rich variety of aquatic plants, many of them rare in the county
1695	Castlecraddock fen	S4902 Interesting swamp vegetation in a shallow, peaty basin beside.
399	Coolfin and Darrigal Marshes (Part of Lower River Suir cSAC)	S4914 Damp marshy fields around Coolfin used by wintering waterfowl. Locally important for wintering Greylag Geese and Whooper Swans.
2116	Creadan Head	S7203. Coastal heath in good condition
1897	Curraun Bog, Farbreaga and Coum Eag	S28 03. Valuable fragments of blanket bog and heath vegetation at southern end of Comeraghs.
664	Dunmore East Cliffs	S6900 Large kittiwake (gull) colonies on several cliffs, well studied.
663	Dungarvan Harbour. (Contains an SPA)	X2791 Large estuarine bay, which dries out considerably at low tide giving mudflats. Some marginal saltmarshes and sandy beaches but birdlife is the main interest, with major wintering flocks.
1697	Fenor Bog (Also a Nature Reserve.)	S5301. Small acidic marsh with interesting wetland communities
402	Fiddown Island (Part of Lower River Suir cSAC)	Alluvial Woodland, mudflats and river channel.
1698	Glen Anna Wood	X2581 Deep gorge running to the coast below Ballymacart with nutrient- rich woodland

1933	Glenmore Woods (Part of Blackwater River cSAC)	R9900 Oak woodland in a side branch of the Blackwater valley. Good vegetational development with small numbers of introduced species
666	Islandtarsney Fen	S5501 Reeds swamp and other vegetation of interest, relatively rare in the south-east.
1701	Kilsheelan Lake (Part of Lower River Suir cSAC)	S2623. Nutrient- rich lake with large bird and fish populations including breeding carp.
1702	King's Channel (Part of Lower River Suir cSAC)	S6410. Saltmarsh fringe to the Suir River estuary below Waterford. Good vegetational development with some rare species.
667	Lismore Woods (Part of River Blackwater cSAC)	S0402 Lismore Woods (pNHA) S0402 Species- rich woodland of oak and hazel, probably surviving since ancient times. Some interference by introduced shrubs, Rhododendron and Cherry Laurel.
1705	Lissaviron bog	S4800 Acidic peaty marsh with patches of Reedmace, and Meadowsweet.
668	Nire valley woods	S2414 Semi- natural patches of woodland on the western slopes of the Comeragh Mts. Full range of wildlife though some introduced species also.
669	Portlaw Woods (Part of Lower River Suir cSAC)	An important semi-natural woodland on both sides of the Clodiagh river, dominated by Oak. Some interference by introduced shrubs, Rhododendron and Cherry Laurel
1707	Stradbally Woods	X3597 Mature estate woodland along the valley of the River Tay.
670	Tallow Church (Disused Church of Ireland)	W9993 Large and important bat roost occurs in the roof of this disused church
1708	Toor Wood	S2919 Small deciduous woodland with oak and ash, surrounded by conifers. Some exotic species.

