

Site name: Macorha Lough SAC 1536

County: Mayo

Site Specific Conservation Objective (SSCO) Ecological Attributes

[7210] Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae**

- 1 Habitat area
- 2 Habitat distribution
- 3.1 Ecosystem function: peat formation
- 3.2 Ecosystem function: hydrology - groundwater levels
- 3.3 Ecosystem function: hydrology - surface water flow
- 3.4 Ecosystem function: water quality
- 4.1 Vegetation composition: typical species
- 4.2 Vegetation composition: native negative indicator species
- 4.3 Vegetation composition: non-native species
- 4.4 Vegetation composition: trees and shrubs
- 5 Physical structure: disturbed bare ground
- 6 Indicators of local distinctiveness

Site name: Mocorha Lough SAC 1536
Habitat/Species: [7210] Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae*
(SSCO): To maintain the favourable conservation condition of [7210] in SAC 001536

No.	Ecological Requirements (Attributes as per SSCO)	Pressure /Threat (EU Code 2025)	Pressure/ Threat Ranking	EU Conservation Measure Type (EU Code 2019-2024)	Measure Category	Conservation Measure	Delivery mechanism	Public Authority with statutory responsibility	Implementation timeframe	Integration with high level plans/policy:
1	1. Habitat area; 2. Habitat distribution; 3. Ecosystem function: peat formation; 3.1 Ecosystem function: hydrology - groundwater levels; 3.2 Ecosystem function: hydrology - surface water flow; 3.3 Ecosystem function: water quality; 4. Vegetation composition: typical species; 4.1 Vegetation composition: native negative indicator species; 4.2 Vegetation composition: non-native species; 4.3 Vegetation composition: trees and shrubs; 5. Physical structure: disturbed bare ground; 6. Indicators of local distinctiveness.	PA07 Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock	Low	MA05 Adapt mowing, grazing and other equivalent agricultural activities (e.g. burning)	Statutory	Consent is required for significant changes in livestock density (including introduction of grazing), changes in livestock type or grazing season, other than on established reseeded grassland, if not covered by other regulations. [Consent is not required for changes of less than 20% in livestock density unless notice has been given that a lower percentage is applicable to a particular site.]	European Union Habitats (Mocorha Lough Special Area of Conservation 001536) Regulations 2018	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	2003+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
2	1. Habitat area; 2. Habitat distribution; 3. Ecosystem function: peat formation; 3.1 Ecosystem function: hydrology - groundwater levels; 3.2 Ecosystem function: hydrology - surface water flow; 3.3 Ecosystem function: water quality; 4.	PA05 Abandonment of management/use of grasslands and other agricultural and agroforestry systems (e.g. cessation of grazing, mowing or traditional farming).	Low	MA05 Adapt mowing, grazing and other equivalent agricultural activities (e.g. burning)	Statutory	Consent is required for construction, removal or alteration of fences, stone walls, hedgerows, banks or any field boundary other than temporary electric fencing, if not covered by other regulations. [Consent is not required for normal maintenance.]	European Union Habitats (Mocorha Lough Special Area of Conservation 001536) Regulations 2018	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	2003+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
3	1. Habitat area; 2. Habitat distribution; 3. Ecosystem function: peat formation; 3.1 Ecosystem function: hydrology - groundwater levels; 3.2 Ecosystem function: hydrology - surface water flow; 3.3 Ecosystem function: water quality; 4.	PL01 Abstraction from groundwater, surface water or mixed water	Low	MK02 Reduce impact of multi-purpose hydrological changes	Statutory	Consent is required for water abstraction, sinking of boreholes and wells, if not covered by other regulations.	European Union Habitats (Mocorha Lough Special Area of Conservation 001536) Regulations 2018	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	2003+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
4	1. Habitat area; 2. Habitat distribution; 3. Ecosystem function: peat formation; 3.1 Ecosystem function: hydrology - groundwater levels; 3.2 Ecosystem function: hydrology - surface water flow; 3.3 Ecosystem function: water quality; 4.	PL02 Drainage (mixed or unknown drivers)	Low	MK02 Reduce impact of multi-purpose hydrological changes	Statutory	Consent is required for digging, ploughing, harrowing or otherwise disturbing soil or substrate, if not covered by other regulations. [Consent is not required for these activities on established reseeded grassland or cultivated land provided it is greater than 50m from a river, stream, floodplain, wetland, lake, turlough or pond.]	European Union Habitats (Mocorha Lough Special Area of Conservation 001536) Regulations 2018	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	2003+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
5	1. Habitat area; 2. Habitat distribution; 3. Ecosystem function: peat formation; 3.1 Ecosystem function: hydrology - groundwater levels; 3.2 Ecosystem function: hydrology - surface water flow; 3.3 Ecosystem function: water quality; 4.	PL05 Modification of hydrological flow	Low	MC12 Manage water abstraction for resource extraction and energy production	Statutory	Planning, regulation and constraint of development with regard to water abstraction requirements and volumes. Registration of water abstraction is required for daily maximum which is greater than 25 cubic meters per day.	European Union (Water Policy) (Abstractions Registration) Regulations 2018	Uisce Éireann (Operator) / EPA	2018	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
6	1. Habitat area; 2. Habitat distribution; 3. Ecosystem function: peat formation; 3.1 Ecosystem function: hydrology - groundwater levels; 3.2 Ecosystem function: hydrology - surface water flow; 3.3 Ecosystem function: water quality; 4.	PL05 Modification of hydrological flow	Low	MK02 Reduce impact of multi-purpose hydrological changes	Statutory	Consent is required for works on, or alterations to the banks, bed or flow of a drain watercourse or waterbody, if not covered by other regulations.	European Union Habitats (Mocorha Lough Special Area of Conservation 001536) Regulations 2018	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	2003+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
7	1. Habitat area; 2. Habitat distribution; 3. Ecosystem function: peat formation; 3.1 Ecosystem function: hydrology - groundwater levels; 3.2 Ecosystem function: hydrology - surface water flow; 3.3 Ecosystem function: water quality; 4.	PK01 Mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial)	Low	MK01 Reduce impact of mixed source pollution	Statutory	Consent is required for application of pesticides, including herbicides, if not covered by other regulations. [Consent is not required for these activities on established reseeded grassland or cultivated land provided it is greater than 20m from a river, stream or floodplain; or greater than 50m from a wetland, lake, turlough or pond).	European Union Habitats (Mocorha Lough Special Area of Conservation 001536) Regulations 2018	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	2003+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
8	1. Habitat area; 2. Habitat distribution; 3. Ecosystem function: peat formation; 3.1 Ecosystem function: hydrology - groundwater levels; 3.2 Ecosystem function: hydrology - surface water flow; 3.3 Ecosystem function: water quality; 4.	PK01 Mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial)	Low	MA10 Reduce/eliminate point or diffuse source pollution to surface or ground waters (including marine) from agricultural activities.	Administrative	Basic Income Support for Sustainability (BISS) Scheme	Basic Income Support for Sustainability (BISS) Scheme	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022+	CAP Strategic Plan
9	1. Habitat area; 2. Habitat distribution; 3. Ecosystem function: peat formation; 3.1 Ecosystem function: hydrology - groundwater levels; 3.2 Ecosystem function: hydrology - surface water flow; 3.3 Ecosystem function: water quality; 4.	PK01 Mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial)	Low	MA10 Reduce/eliminate point or diffuse source pollution to surface or ground waters (including marine) from agricultural activities.	Statutory	SMR 2: Fencing of water courses at a min 1.5m from the top of the watercourse or water edge. Applies to farmers with a grassland stocking rate that exceeds 170kg of organic nitrogen per Hectare, and/or is exporting slurry to avail of a lower stocking rate.	European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
10	1. Habitat area; 2. Habitat distribution; 3. Ecosystem function: peat formation; 3.1 Ecosystem function: hydrology - groundwater levels; 3.2 Ecosystem function: hydrology - surface water flow; 3.3 Ecosystem function: water quality; 4.	PK01 Mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial)	Low	MA10 Reduce/eliminate point or diffuse source pollution to surface or ground waters (including marine) from agricultural activities.	Statutory	Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC) and Statutory Management Requirements (SMR) 2 and 4: Water troughs must be located 20m away from the water course. Applies to farmers with a grassland stocking rate that exceeds 170kg of organic nitrogen per Hectare, and/or is exporting slurry to avail of a lower stocking rate.	European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
11	1. Habitat area; 2. Habitat distribution; 3. Ecosystem function: peat formation; 3.1 Ecosystem function: hydrology - groundwater levels; 3.2 Ecosystem function: hydrology - surface water flow; 3.3 Ecosystem function: water quality; 4.	PK01 Mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial)	Low	MA10 Reduce/eliminate point or diffuse source pollution to surface or ground waters (including marine) from agricultural activities.	Statutory	Preventing runoff from farm roadways via minimum specification for farm roadways. Where an existing roadway runs parallel to a watercourse, a fence must be erected. For new farm roadways, a fence must be erected at least 1.5m from the top of the water course bank. In addition, cambering of road surface away from watercourse, bunding or banks to	European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
12	1. Habitat area; 2. Habitat distribution; 3. Ecosystem function: peat formation; 3.1 Ecosystem function: hydrology - groundwater levels; 3.2 Ecosystem function: hydrology - surface water flow; 3.3 Ecosystem function: water quality; 4. Vegetation composition: typical species; 4.1 Vegetation composition: native negative indicator species; 4.2 Vegetation composition: non-native species; 4.3 Vegetation composition: trees and shrubs; 5. Physical structure: disturbed bare ground; 6. Indicators of local distinctiveness.	PK01 Mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial)	Low	MA10 Reduce/eliminate point or diffuse source pollution to surface or ground waters (including marine) from agricultural activities.	Administrative	Requirement to obtain a waste permit from the Local Authority for any infilling at this site.	Waste Management (Facility Permit and Registration) Regulations 2007	Local Authority	2007	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections

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No.	Ecological Requirements (Attributes as per SSCO)	Pressure /Threat (EU Code 2025)	Pressure/ Threat Ranking	EU Conservation Measure Type (EU Code 2019-2024)	Measure Category	Conservation Measure	Delivery mechanism	Public Authority with statutory responsibility	Implementation timeframe	Integration with high level plans/policy:
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14	1. Habitat area; 2. Habitat distribution; 3. Ecosystem function: peat formation; 3.1 Ecosystem function: hydrology - groundwater levels; 3.2 Ecosystem function: hydrology - surface water flow; 3.3 Ecosystem function: water quality; 4. Vegetation composition: typical species; 4.1 Vegetation composition: native negative indicator species; 4.2 Vegetation composition: non-native species; 4.3 Vegetation composition: trees and shrubs; 5. Physical structure: disturbed bare ground; 6. Indicators of local distinctiveness.	PK01 Mixed source pollution to surface and ground waters (limnic and terrestrial)	Low	MA09 Manage the use of natural and synthetic fertilisers as well as chemicals in agriculture for plant and animal production	Statutory	Restricts the spread of organic and chemical fertilisers or soiled water to any land as specified in the regulations.	European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
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20	1. Habitat area; 2. Habitat distribution; 3. Ecosystem function: peat formation; 3.1 Ecosystem function: hydrology - groundwater levels; 3.2 Ecosystem function: hydrology - surface water flow; 3.3 Ecosystem function: water quality; 4. Vegetation composition: typical species; 4.1 Vegetation composition: native negative indicator species; 4.2 Vegetation composition: non-native species; 4.3 Vegetation composition: trees and shrubs; 5. Physical structure: disturbed bare ground; 6. Indicators of local distinctiveness.	All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures	N/A	MA03 Maintain existing extensive agricultural practices and agricultural landscape features	Contractual	Traditional Dry Stone Wall Maintenance (1,660 metres) as part of the Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES).	Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022+	CAP Strategic Plan
21	1. Habitat area; 2. Habitat distribution; 3. Ecosystem function: peat formation; 3.1 Ecosystem function: hydrology - groundwater levels; 3.2 Ecosystem function: hydrology - surface water flow; 3.3 Ecosystem function: water quality; 4. Vegetation composition: typical species; 4.1 Vegetation composition: native negative indicator species; 4.2 Vegetation composition: non-native species; 4.3 Vegetation composition: trees and shrubs; 5. Physical structure: disturbed bare ground; 6. Indicators of local distinctiveness.	All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures	N/A	MA - Measures related to agricultural practices and agriculture-related habitats	Contractual	Production of an accredited Farm Sustainability Plan by 100% of participants in the Agri-Climate Rural Environmental Scheme (ACRES).	Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022+	CAP Strategic Plan
22	1. Habitat area; 2. Habitat distribution; 3. Ecosystem function: peat formation; 3.1 Ecosystem function: hydrology - groundwater levels; 3.2 Ecosystem function: hydrology - surface water flow; 3.3 Ecosystem function: water quality; 4. Vegetation composition: typical species; 4.1 Vegetation composition: native negative indicator species; 4.2 Vegetation composition: non-native species; 4.3 Vegetation composition: trees and shrubs; 5. Physical structure: disturbed bare ground; 6. Indicators of local distinctiveness.	All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures	N/A	MA - Measures related to agricultural practices and agriculture-related habitats	Contractual	Landscape Actions to target environmental issues highlighted in the scorecards for results-based payments in Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme – Co-operation Project (ACRES CP).	Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022+	CAP Strategic Plan
23	1. Habitat area; 2. Habitat distribution; 3. Ecosystem function: peat formation; 3.1 Ecosystem function: hydrology - groundwater levels; 3.2 Ecosystem function: hydrology - surface water flow; 3.3 Ecosystem function: water quality; 4. Vegetation composition: typical species; 4.1 Vegetation composition: native negative indicator species; 4.2 Vegetation composition: non-native species; 4.3 Vegetation composition: trees and shrubs; 5. Physical structure: disturbed bare ground; 6. Indicators of local distinctiveness.	All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures	N/A	MA - Measures related to agricultural practices and agriculture-related habitats	Administrative	Monitoring and reporting of relevant farm activity at the SAC. Direct inspections for DAFM Conditionality compliance or via other state Authorities (via Cross Reporting) to Integrated Controls Division in DAFM.	DAFM BISS Conditionality Farm inspection's - NPWS Conservation Ranger Site monitoring. (Cross Compliance).	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022+	CAP Strategic Plan