

WETLAND OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE, RAMSAR CONVENTION

BELFAST LOUGH RAMSAR SITE

Area: 432.14 hectares Geographic co-ordinates: 05° 54' 00" W
54° 38' 00" N

Belfast Lough is a large intertidal sea lough situated at the mouth of the River Lagan on the east coast of Northern Ireland. The inner part of the lough comprises a series of mudflats and lagoons. The outer lough is restricted to mainly rocky shores with some small sandy bays.

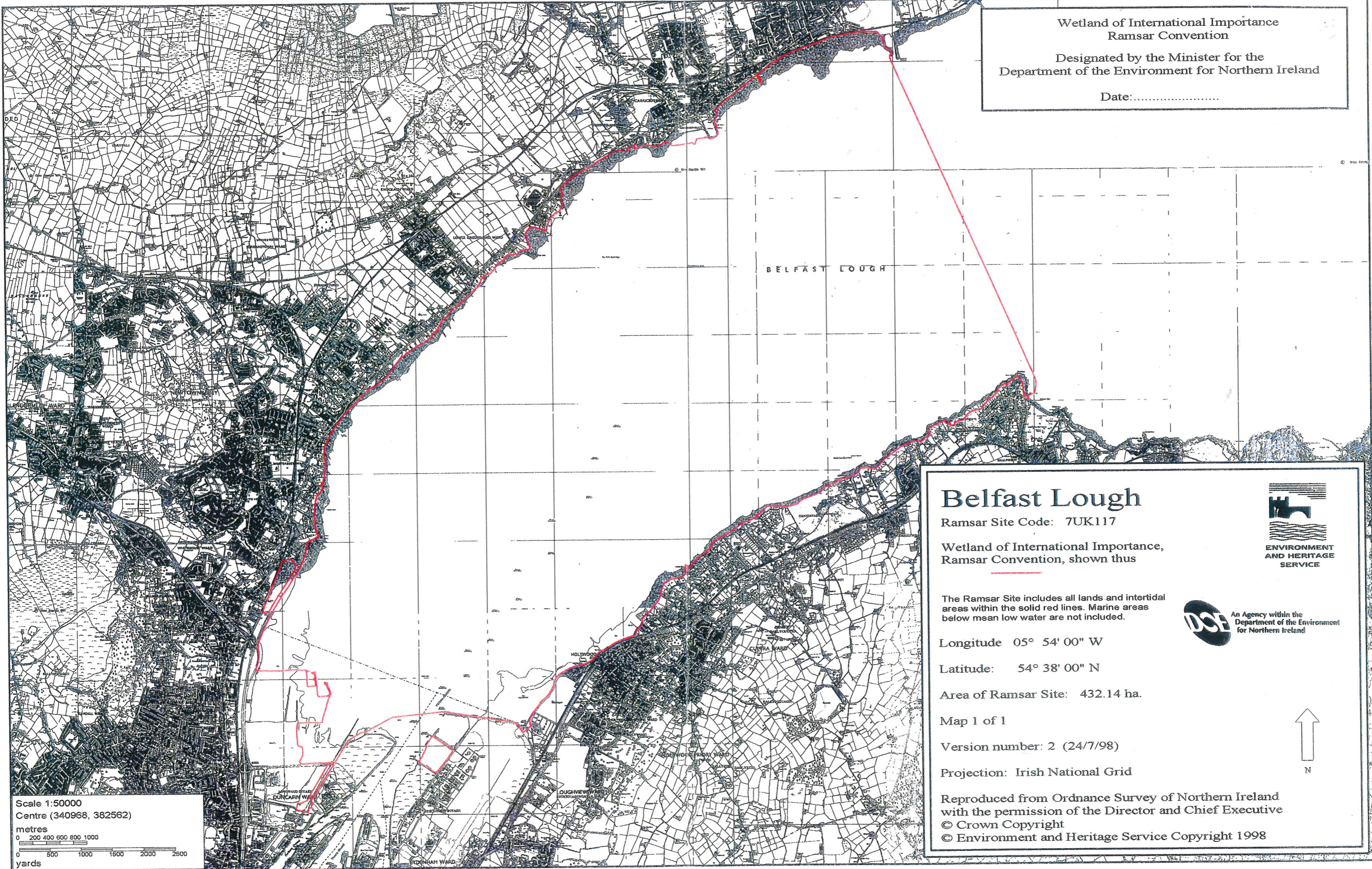
In the outer lough, the Ramsar boundary is entirely coincident with that of Outer Belfast Lough Area of Special Scientific Interest but within the immediate harbour area the boundary has been redrawn to take into account permitted port related development and landfill which has taken place since the Inner Belfast Lough Area of Special Scientific Interest was declared in 1987. Marine areas below mean low water are not included.

The Ramsar boundary is entirely coincident with that of the Belfast Lough Special Protection Area.

The site qualifies under Criterion 3c by regularly supporting internationally important numbers of Redshank *Tringa totanus* in winter. For the period 1991/92 to 1995/96, the five year peak mean for Redshank is 2466 (1.6% of the international population).

The site also regularly supports nationally important numbers of Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* (the 5 year peak mean for the period 1991/92 - 1995/96 is 1384 birds, 46.1% of the Irish wintering population), Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* 589 (8.4%), Scaup *Aythya marila* 146 (4.9%), Eider *Somateria mollissima* 541 (27.1%), Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* 536 (4.9%), Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* 175 (8.7%), Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* 6584 (13.2%), Purple sandpiper *Calidris maritima* 14 (1.4%), Dunlin *Calidris alpina* 1440 (1.2%), Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* 433 (4.8%), Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* 232 (1.3%), Curlew *Numenius arquata* 1271 (1.5%) and Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* 614 (2.7%).

Wetland of International Importance
 Ramsar Convention
 Designated by the Minister for the
 Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland
 Date:.....



Belfast Lough

Ramsar Site Code: 7UK117

Wetland of International Importance,
 Ramsar Convention, shown thus

The Ramsar Site includes all lands and intertidal
 areas within the solid red lines. Marine areas
 below mean low water are not included.

Longitude 05° 54' 00" W

Latitude: 54° 38' 00" N

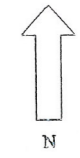
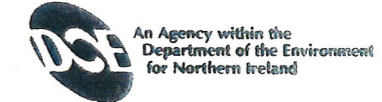
Area of Ramsar Site: 432.14 ha.

Map 1 of 1

Version number: 2 (24/7/98)

Projection: Irish National Grid

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Scale 1:50000
 Centre (340968, 382562)
 metres
 0 200 400 600 800 1000
 yards
 0 500 1000 1500 2000 2500