

RAMSAR CONVENTION

SLIEVE BEAGH RAMSAR SITE

Area: 1884.68 hectares

Geographic co-ordinates: 07° 11' 38" W
54° 20' 53" N

Slieve Beagh is situated partly in County Fermanagh and partly in County Tyrone in the southwest of Northern Ireland along the International border with the Irish Republic.

The Ramsar site boundary is entirely coincident with that of the Slieve Beagh Area of Special Scientific Interest and the Slieve Beagh candidate Special Area of Conservation. The area of the Ramsar site is 1884.68 ha.

The site qualifies under Criterion 1a of the Ramsar Convention by being a particularly good representative example blanket bog. It is the third largest intact expanse of upland peatland in Northern Ireland. The extensive blanket bog which covers most of the site exhibits the full range of characteristic vegetation and structural features associated with this type of habitat.

The peatland complex includes a number of oligotrophic water bodies as well as a number of raised and soligenous bog units, all within an enveloping bog mantle. Together these support an array of associated plant and animal communities. The peatland exhibits a number of notable structural features, which include occasional well developed hummock and lawn complexes, a few small localised pool complexes, as well as soakways and flushes. The general vegetation is characterised by *Sphagnum* mosses, ericoid dwarf-shrubs and sedges, with the composition and abundance of these components dependent on local edaphic conditions, in particular the water table and relief.

Several upland, base-poor lakes occur within the complex. The most common type is characterised by the aquatic mosses *Sphagnum cuspidatum*, *S. auriculatum*, *Drepanocladus* spp. and the liverwort *Jungermannia* spp.. The floating and marginal vegetation associated with these water bodies tends to be sparse and restricted, and consists of a scattered swamp and poor acid fen fringe.

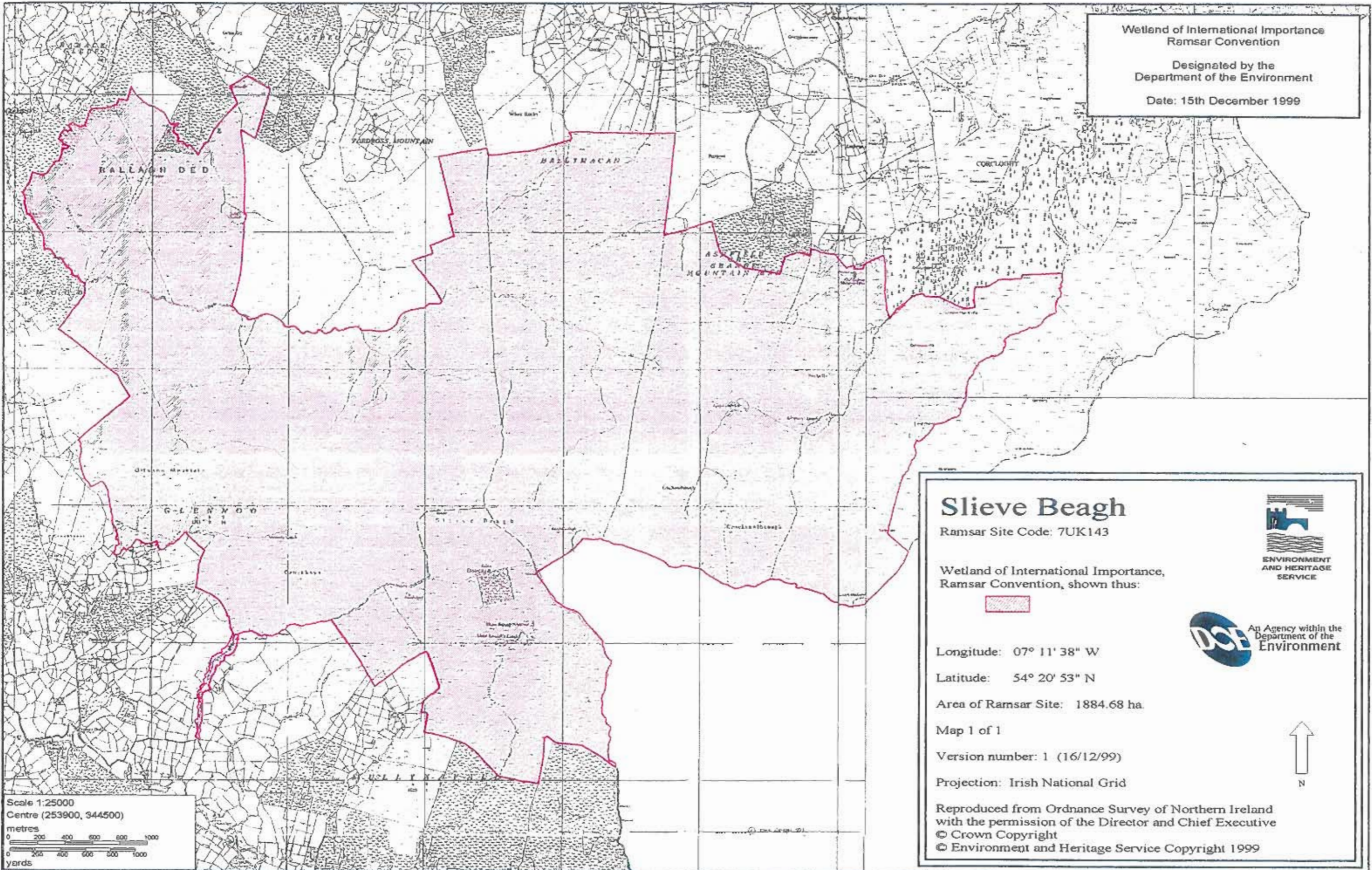
The area supports a breeding population of Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*. In addition, it is regularly used throughout the year by Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* and Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*.

The upland lakes support a species-poor but notable upland insect fauna. The characteristic upland water beetle *Agabus arcticus* and the water bug *Callicorixa wollastoni* are common in the lakes and pools and the concentration of records of both species is the greatest recorded in Northern Ireland. Acidophile species and those typical of oligotrophic waters are also common, reflecting the prevailing conditions including *Hydroporus gyllenhali*, *H. obscurus* and *Sigara scotti*. The most notable species are found in the highest lake, Lough Sallagh, where the rare upland beetle *Potamonectes griseostriatus* and corixid *Glaenocorisa propinqua* are found. The natural acid flushes and the shallow pools associated with the many bog-bursts support a different suite of species including the local water beetles *Agabus guttatus*, *Stictonectes lepidus* and the corixid *Sigara nigrolineata*.

Wetland of International Importance
Ramsar Convention

Designated by the
Department of the Environment

Date: 15th December 1999



Slieve Beagh

Ramsar Site Code: 7UK143

Wetland of International Importance,
Ramsar Convention, shown thus:



Longitude: 07° 11' 38" W

Latitude: 54° 20' 53" N

Area of Ramsar Site: 1884.68 ha

Map 1 of 1

Version number: 1 (16/12/99)

Projection: Irish National Grid

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Scale 1:25000
Centre (253900, 344500)
metres
0 200 400 600 800 1000
yards
0 200 400 600 800 1000