

**Register entry UK9020290 under regulation 10 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 as amended by The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004.**

This is the register entry for the European site known as Belfast Lough Open Water Special Protection Area. The site has been classified by the Department of the Environment pursuant to Article 4(1) and/or 4(2) of Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds as a Special Protection Area.

The register reference number for this European site is UK9020290 and a folder, kept under this reference as part of the register, contains a map of the European site and a citation giving the reasons for the classification for the site as a Special Protection Area. The map and citation are identified by the register reference number and signed by me on the date of registration.

Other details of the European site are as follows:

Date of Classification: 29 September 2009

Site centre location (1):

Longitude: 05° 49' 00" W

Latitude: 54° 41' 00" N

Area: 5592.99 hectares

Priority status (2): N/A

Date of Registration: 8 January 2010

**The Official Seal of the  
Department of the Environment  
hereunto affixed is authenticated  
by**

  
On behalf of the Department of the Environment

On behalf of the Department of the Environment

1. This indicates the approximate centre of the site. Where the European site consists of several distinct areas, the co-ordinates of the most important sub-area are entered.
2. Indicates if the site has been identified under Article 4.2 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora as hosting one or more priority natural habitat or priority species.

**EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds:  
Citation for Special Protection Area (SPA)**

**Name:** Belfast Lough Open Water Special Protection Area

**Unitary Authority/County:** Belfast City Council  
North Down Borough Council  
Newtownabbey Borough Council  
Carrickfergus Borough Council

**Consultation proposal:** Belfast Lough Open Water has been selected for classification as a Special Protection Area because of its important wintering populations of waterfowl.

**Site description:** 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.

The Belfast Lough open water area comprises the marine area below the mean low water mark. Seawards it extends to a notional boundary between the eastern limits on the north and south shores of the Outer Belfast Lough Area of Special Scientific Interest at Kilroot and Horse Rock respectively. The boundary towards the head of the lough is a notional line between Greencastle on northern shore and Holywood Bank on the southern shore.

Water depths within the site are generally between 1m and 10m. Shallow waters, less than 5m in depth, dominate the area with deeper waters confined to the central area of the lough, east of a line between Greenisland and Cultra.

**Size of SPA:** The SPA covers an area of 5592.99 ha.

**Qualifying species:**

The site qualifies under **Article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting internationally important populations of the following species:

Species	Count and Season	Period	% of population
Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	1677 individuals – wintering	5 year peak mean for 1996/97 – 2000/01	0.35% NW Europe population

Bird figures from: WeBS database

**Non-qualifying species of interest**

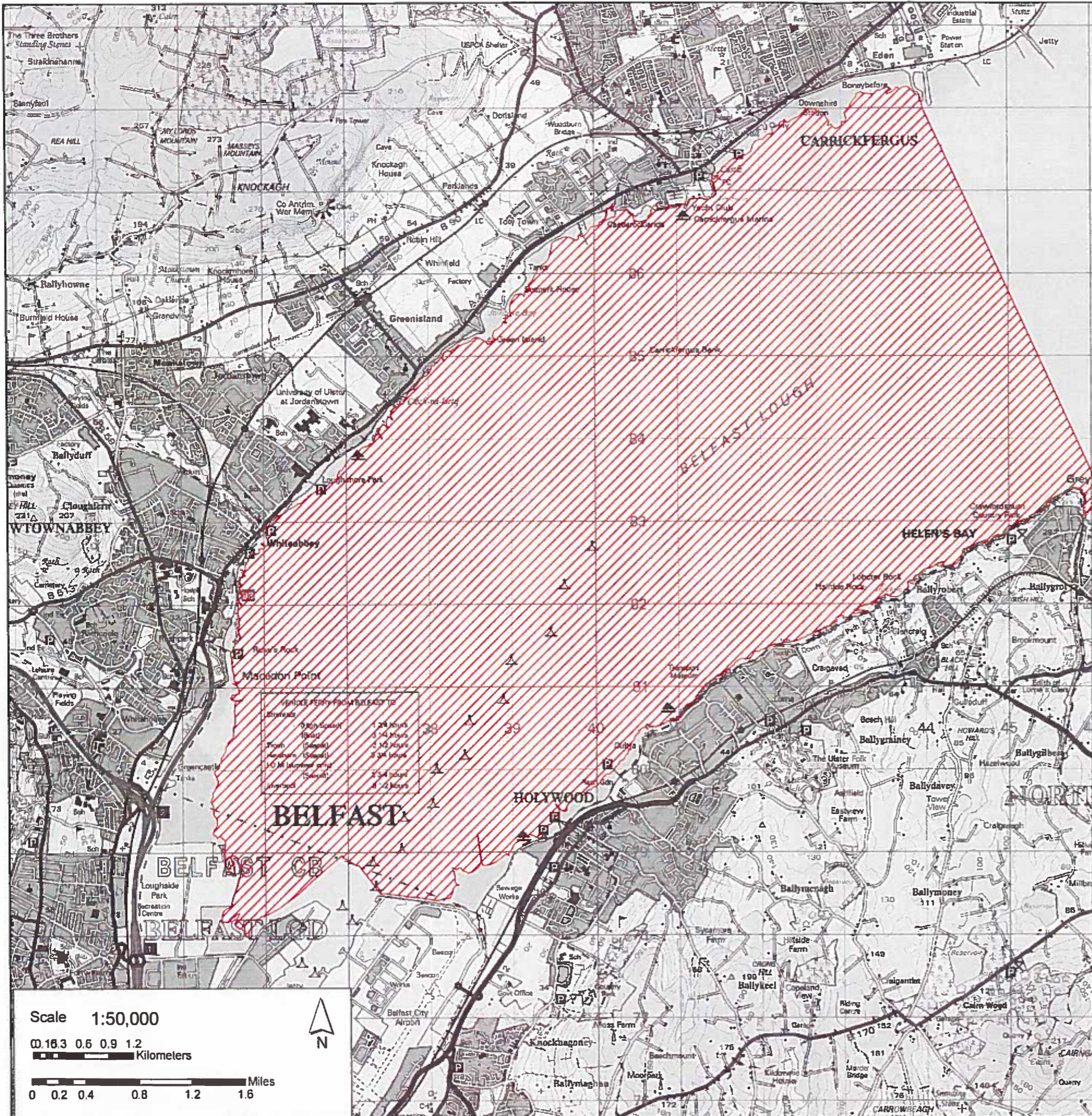
In addition, the site supports nationally important numbers of (all data are 5 year averages of individuals for period 1996/97 – 2000/01) Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (407, 8.7 % of the Irish wintering population), Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* (405, 5.8%), Scaup *Aythya marila* (233, 7.8%), Eider *Somateria mollissima* (1116, 55.8%), Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* (287, 14.4%) and Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrato* (170, 8.5%).



**Status of SPA**

Belfast Lough Open Water Special Protection Area was classified as a Special Protection Area on date 29 September 2009.





Special Protection Area  
 Directive 79/409/EEC  
 Classified by the Minister for the  
 Department of the Environment  
 Date: 29 September 2009

The Register of European Sites in Northern Ireland  
 Register reference number: UK9020290  
 Date of Registration: 8 January 2010  
 Signed: *G. R. Deymon*  
 on behalf of the Department of the Environment

### BELFAST LOUGH OPEN WATER SPA

EC Site Code: UK9020290  
 Special Protection Area (SPA) shown thus:



The SPA includes all marine areas contained within the solid red line.

Longitude: 05° 49' 00" W  
 Latitude: 54° 41' 00" N  
 Area of SPA: 5592.99 ha.  
 Map 1 of 1  
 Version number: 1 (09/11/05)  
 Projection: Irish National Grid

