

## Points of Local Interest

Map 1 illustrates the biodiversity study area and the following locations, as indicated on the map, may be of interest to the local community:

- **A - Watercourses** – The site at Curraglass is crisscrossed with small mountain streams. These support a large number of sensitive aquatic species, both on the site and downstream. These species not only include fish such as Salmon and Trout but also support a diverse range of aquatic insects that play a vital role in the food chain and provide food for fish and birds such as dipper. The design of the proposed development has ensured the protection of these watercourses
- **B – Peatland habitat:** The sections of the site that are not under coniferous forestry primarily support peatland habitats including bogs and heaths. These natural upland habitats are dominated by heather species, that flower in late summer and autumn and clothe the hillsides in an attractive purple hue.
- **C - Conifer forestry:** The conifer forestry on the site is the least natural habitat on this site. However, even this, highly modified habitat provides cover and shelter for a range of faunal species including songbirds and mammal species.



## Useful sources of information

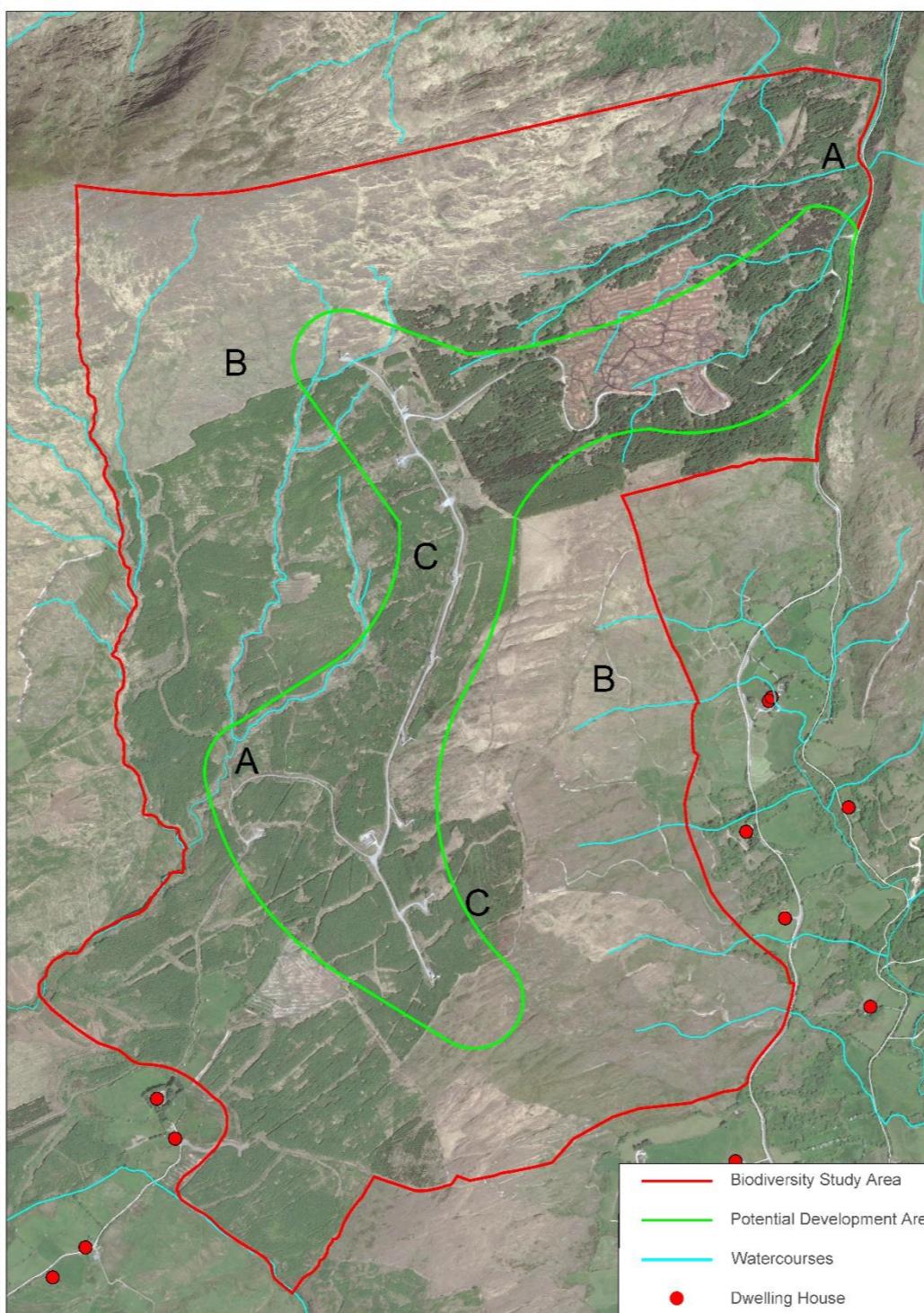
Bat Conservation Ireland

[www.batconservationireland.org/](http://www.batconservationireland.org/)

BirdWatch Ireland <http://www.birdwatchireland.ie>

Irish Peatland Conservation Council <http://www.ipcc.ie>

Irish Wildlife Trust [www.iwt.ie](http://www.iwt.ie)



If you would like further information please contact  
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# Curraglass Biodiversity

Information Leaflet  
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Long-eared owl

## Local Biodiversity

### What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is a term given to the variety of life on earth, including all species and ecosystems.

A wide variety of specialist ecological surveys have been undertaken at Curraglass and the surrounding area in recent years by MKO.

These surveys have targeted a wide variety of species and habitats with the aim of determining their distribution in the area.

This leaflet provides a brief overview of a variety of habitats and species of interest with potential to occur within the site as well as some interesting facts for the reader.



Kerry Slug

## Habitats and Species

### Kerry Slug

The habitats on this site are suitable for Kerry slug. This is Ireland's only protected slug species. It is found only in the west of Ireland, and the north of Spain and Portugal. Special care will be taken in the design of the renewable energy development to avoid impact on this species or significant changes to its habitat.

### Red deer

Red deer is a commonly recorded species in the area. Although this species is often elusive, preferring to be most active at dawn and dusk, tracks and signs of the species can be easily seen throughout the site.

### Bird species

Red Grouse have been recorded in the area and their unusual and distinctive call is unmistakable. This is often the easiest way to locate the species in large areas of peatland habitats, as their mottled brown plumage camouflages them very well. A wide variety of other common and widespread bird species have been recorded at the site including sparrowhawk and kestrel.

### Bats

There are nine bat species in Ireland. Whilst no bat roosts were recorded, the following seven bat species were recorded foraging within and around the Curraglass study area; Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Nathusius Pipistrelle, Lesisler's Bat, *Myotis* sp., Brown Long-eared Bat and Lesser Horseshoe Bat.

### Peatland

Peat formation started at the end of the last glaciation, 10,000 years ago. Peat forms in waterlogged conditions and is made up of layers and layers of dead plant matter. This habitat is home to a wide variety of plant and animal species and is a characteristic feature of the Irish uplands.

### Upland rivers

The rivers that drain the site provide suitable habitat for a wide variety of invertebrates such as caddisflies, mayfly, dragonfly and damselfly larvae.

## Local Biodiversity

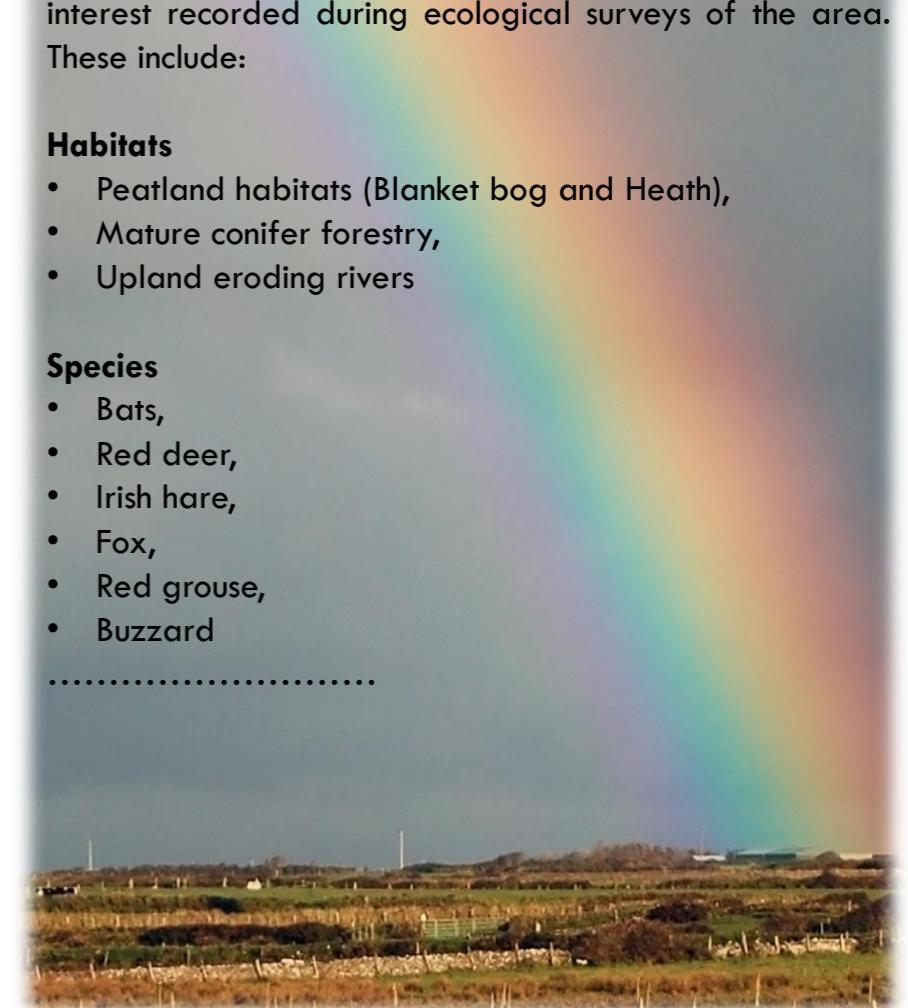
Curraglass is situated within an upland plantation forestry and peatland landscape. This leaflet provides an overview of the main habitats and species of local interest recorded during ecological surveys of the area. These include:

### Habitats

- Peatland habitats (Blanket bog and Heath),
- Mature conifer forestry,
- Upland eroding rivers

### Species

- Bats,
  - Red deer,
  - Irish hare,
  - Fox,
  - Red grouse,
  - Buzzard
- .....



Red grouse