SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: VALENCIA RIVER ESTUARY

SITE CODE: 001383

Situated north-east of Valencia Island and adjacent to the town of Cahersiveen, this site comprises Valencia River, those parts of the Ferta River under tidal influence and several islands in Valencia Harbour.

While most of the area of the NHA comprises mudflats and estuarine channels, smaller areas of saltmarsh and damp grassland also occur. Beginish Island, on which good exposures of Devonian volcanic rocks are found, Lamb Island, Black Rock and the Valencia River sea inlet add further diversity to the site.

Although not recently re-surveyed, Valencia River and the Ferta River estuary are included in the NHA series for the populations of wintering wildfowl that have been recorded from here.

The inclusion of Beginish Island and Lamb Island is based on the populations of nesting seabirds that they support: Great Black-backed Gull (45 pairs on Beginish in 1988), Lesser Black-backed Gull (5 pairs on Beginish in 1969 and 10 pairs on Lamb in 1969), Herring Gull (80 pairs on Beginish in 1969 and 200 pairs on Lamb in 1969).

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