SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: PUFFIN ISLAND

SITE CODE: 001373

Puffin Island is situated close to the Kerry mainland, at the tip of the Iveragh Peninsula, and is relatively gently sloping.

It is thought to have the largest colony of Manx Shearwaters in the country (c. 15,000 pairs) and also to have 1,000 pairs of Storm Petrels. A count made in 1969 for other species found Fulmar (592 pairs), Shag (16 pairs), Lesser Black-backed Gull (100 pairs), Great Black-backed Gull (25 pairs), Herring Gull (200 pairs), Common Gull (3 pairs), Kittiwake (167 pairs), Razorbill (677 pairs), Guillemot (175 pairs) and Puffin (3,700 pairs). The numbers of Puffin make the island an important colony for this species also.

Puffin Island is probably the most accessible of the Kerry seabird colonies and thus it is threatened by too frequent disturbance.

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