SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: ORTHON'S ISLAND, ADRIGOLE HARBOUR

SITE CODE: 001028

Orthon's Island is a small, rocky island situated within Adrigole Harbour on the north side of Bantry Bay.

The island supports an enriched grassland vegetation dominated by Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), with Sea Beet (*Beta vulgaris* subsp. *maritima*), Common Scurvygrass (*Cochlearia officinalis*) and orache (*Atriplex* spp.) also occurring.

A nationally important Arctic Tern colony has been recorded from the site (40 nesting pairs in 1984, the second largest confirmed colony of this species in Co. Cork at the time). Formerly these birds were associated with Roancarrigbeg, east of Bear Island. The site also supports Black-headed Gulls (30 individuals in 1984).

The island is occasionally used by the population of Common Seal (*Phoca vitulina*) that frequent Adrigole Harbour (20 hauled-out on the island, with a further 10-20 noted in the bay, October 1993). This species is listed in Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive.

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