

**Addition of Harbour Porpoise as a new Qualifying Interest  
and the addition of Activities Requiring Consent to  
Blackwater Bank Special Area of Conservation 002953  
in County Wexford**

Ireland designates Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in its inshore and offshore waters to protect marine habitats and species listed on Annex I and Annex II of the 1992 EU Habitats Directive.

The Minister has added Harbour Porpoise as a Qualifying Interest to Blackwater Bank SAC 002953 in County Wexford.

The full list of Qualifying Interests, including the newly added Harbour Porpoise, for Blackwater Bank SAC is as follows:

**Natural Habitat Type**

*In this list the sign [\*] indicates a priority habitat type as defined in the Directive.*

| <b>Natura 2000 Code</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1110                    | Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time |

**Animal and Plant Species**

| <b>Natura 2000 Code</b> | <b>Common Name</b> | <b>Scientific Name</b>   |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1351                    | Harbour Porpoise   | <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> |

The inclusion of this species as a Qualifying Interest has resulted in additional Activities Requiring Consent being applied to the site. The Minister has reason to believe that these activities may cause disturbance of and may impact on the conservation status of this species. Therefore, the Minister has issued a new Direction adding ARCs 06, 31 & 35 to the list of ARCs that currently apply to the site and has directed that these activities cannot be carried out, caused or permitted to be carried out or continued to be carried out in the SAC, unless it is with the consent of the Minister.

It is an offence to contravene any Direction by carrying out any of the activities within the site unless the activity is carried out with the consent of the Minister or another statutory authority (in practice, such consent should be sought initially from the Department's National Parks and Wildlife Service <https://www.npws.ie/contact-us>).

The full list of Activities Requiring Consent that apply to this site, including the newly added ARCs are:


- ARC 03      Blasting, drilling, dredging or otherwise removing or disturbing fossils, rock, minerals, mud, sand, gravel or other sediment
  
- ARC 06      Introduction, or re-introduction, of plants or animals not found in the area.  
[Consent is not required for the planting of crops on established reseeded grassland or cultivated land.]

- ARC 08 Undertaking scientific research involving the collection and removal of biological material
- ARC 31 Developing or consenting to the development or operation of commercial recreational/visitor facilities or organised recreational activities
- ARC 35 Undertaking active acoustic surveys in the marine environment

20<sup>th</sup> March 2024

# Sceideal 1 / Schedule 1

## LIMISTÉAR FAOI CHAOMHNÚ SPEISIALTA SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION

 Limistéar faoi Chaomhnú Speisialta  
Special Area of Conservation

LCS Oitir na hAbhann Duibhe

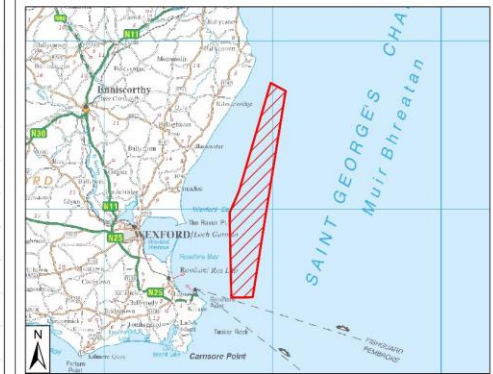
Blackwater Bank SAC

002953

Achar / Area 12,401.45 ha



Co. Loch Garman / Co. Wexford



### Coordinates in WGS84

Latitude Longitude

|   |               |              |
|---|---------------|--------------|
| A | 52° 31' 57" N | 6° 9' 50" W  |
| B | 52° 31' 15" N | 6° 7' 52" W  |
| C | 52° 21' 5" N  | 6° 11' 1" W  |
| D | 52° 14' 51" N | 6° 12' 54" W |
| E | 52° 14' 49" N | 6° 14' 3" W  |
| F | 52° 14' 50" N | 6° 15' 39" W |
| G | 52° 21' 37" N | 6° 15' 39" W |
| H | 52° 23' 21" N | 6° 14' 18" W |

