

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Conservation Objectives Series

Lambay Island SAC 000204



NPWS

An tSeirbhís Páirceanna
Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra
National Parks and Wildlife
Service

**National Parks and Wildlife Service,
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage,
90 King Street North, Dublin 7, D07 N7CV, Ireland.
Web: www.npws.ie
E-mail: natureconservation@npws.gov.ie**

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Introduction

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

A site-specific conservation objective aims to define favourable conservation condition for a particular habitat or species at that site.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Notes/Guidelines:

1. The targets given in these conservation objectives are based on best available information at the time of writing. As more information becomes available, targets for attributes may change. These will be updated periodically, as necessary.
2. An appropriate assessment based on these conservation objectives will remain valid even if the targets are subsequently updated, providing they were the most recent objectives available when the assessment was carried out. It is essential that the date and version are included when objectives are cited.
3. Assessments cannot consider an attribute in isolation from the others listed for that habitat or species, or for other habitats and species listed for that site. A plan or project with an apparently small impact on one attribute may have a significant impact on another.
4. Please note that the maps included in this document do not necessarily show the entire extent of the habitats and species for which the site is listed. This should be borne in mind when appropriate assessments are being carried out.
5. When using these objectives, it is essential that the relevant backing/supporting documents are consulted, particularly where instructed in the targets or notes for a particular attribute.

Qualifying Interests

** indicates a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive*

000204	Lambay Island SAC
<hr/>	
1170	Reefs
1230	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts
1351	Harbour Porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i>
1364	Grey Seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
1365	Harbour Seal <i>Phoca vitulina</i>

Please note that this SAC overlaps with Lambay Island SPA (004069), Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (003000) and North-west Irish Sea SPA (004236). See map 2. The conservation objectives for this site should be used in conjunction with those for overlapping sites as appropriate. IMPORTANT: This 'Version 2' document includes 1 additional QI (1351). The conservation objectives for pre-existing QIs have generally not been updated.

Supporting documents, relevant reports & publications

Supporting documents, NPWS reports and publications are available for download from: www.npws.ie/Publications

NPWS Documents

Year :	1988
Title :	A second report on Areas of Scientific Interest in County Dublin
Author :	Goodwillie, R.N.; Ni Lamhna, E.; Webb, R.
Series :	Unpublished Report
Year :	2004
Title :	Harbour seal population assessment in the Republic of Ireland: August 2003
Author :	Cronin, M.; Duck, C.; O Cadhla, O.; Nairn, R.; Strong, D.; O'Keeffe, C.
Series :	Irish Wildlife Manual No. 11
Year :	2004
Title :	Summary of National Parks and Wildlife Service surveys for common (harbour) seals (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) and grey seals (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>), 1978 to 2003
Author :	Lyons, D.O.
Series :	Irish Wildlife Manual No. 13
Year :	2007
Title :	Grey seal moult population survey in the Republic of Ireland, 2007
Author :	Ó Cadhla, O.; Strong, D.
Series :	Unpublished report to NPWS
Year :	2008
Title :	An assessment of the breeding population of grey seals in the Republic of Ireland, 2005
Author :	O Cadhla, O.; Strong, D.; O'Keeffe, C.; Coleman, M.; Cronin, M.; Duck, C.; Murray, T.; Dower, P.; Nairn, R.; Murphy, P.; Smiddy, P.; Saich, C.; Lyons, D.O.; Hiby, L.
Series :	Irish Wildlife Manual No. 34
Year :	2010
Title :	Irish Sea reef survey
Author :	MERC
Series :	Unpublished report to NPWS
Year :	2011
Title :	National survey and assessment of the conservation status of Irish sea cliffs
Author :	Barron, S.J.; Delaney, A.; Perrin, P.M.; Martin, J.; O'Neill, F.
Series :	Irish Wildlife Manual No. 53
Year :	2013
Title :	Lambay Island SAC (000204) Conservation objectives supporting document- coastal habitats V1
Author :	NPWS
Series :	Conservation objectives supporting document
Year :	2013
Title :	Lambay Island SAC (site code 204) Conservation objectives supporting document- marine habitats and species V1
Author :	NPWS
Series :	Conservation objectives supporting document
Year :	2024
Title :	Lambay Island SAC (site code 000204) Conservation objectives supporting document - Harbour Porpoise V1
Author :	NPWS
Series :	Conservation objectives supporting document

Other References

Year :	1983
Title :	The grey seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>) in Ireland
Author :	Summers, C.F.
Series :	Unpublished Report to the Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Wildlife
Year :	2000
Title :	Grey Seals: status and monitoring in the Irish and Celtic Seas
Author :	Kiely, O.; Lidgard, D.C.; McKibben, M.; Baines, M.E.; Connolly, N.
Series :	Maritime Ireland/Wales INTERREG Report no. 3. Marine Institute
Year :	2001
Title :	The status of breeding grey seals (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>) on the east and south-east coast of Ireland
Author :	Lidgard, D.C.; Kiely, O.; Rogan, E.; Connolly, N.
Series :	Mammalia 65 (3): 283-294
Year :	2002
Title :	New atlas of the British and Irish flora
Author :	Preston, C.D.; Pearman, D.A.; Dines, T.D.
Series :	Oxford University Press, Oxford
Year :	2005
Title :	National inventory of sea cliffs and coastal heaths
Author :	Browne, A.
Series :	Unpublished Report to NPWS
Year :	2012
Title :	Intertidal reef survey of Lambay Island SAC and SPA, Rockabill Island SPA, Ireland's Eye SAC, Dalkey Islands SPA and Muglins
Author :	MERC
Series :	Unpublished report to the Marine Institute and NPWS
Year :	2012
Title :	Subtidal reef survey of Intertidal reef survey of Lambay Island SAC and SPA, Rockabill Island SPA, Ireland's Eye SAC, Dalkey Islands SPA and Muglins
Author :	MERC
Series :	Unpublished report to the Marine Institute and NPWS

Spatial data sources

Year :	Interpolated 2013
Title :	2010 intertidal survey; 2011 subtidal survey
GIS Operations :	Polygon feature classes from marine community types base data sub-divided based on interpolation of marine survey data. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising
Used For :	Marine community types, 1170 (maps 3 and 4)
Year :	2005
Title :	OSi Discovery series vector data
GIS Operations :	High water mark (HWM) and low water mark (LWM) polyline feature classes converted into polygon feature classes and combined; EU Annex I Saltmarsh and Coastal data erased out if present
Used For :	Marine community types base data (map 4)
Year :	2005
Title :	National inventory of sea cliffs and coastal heaths
GIS Operations :	Lines clipped to SAC boundary and used to indicate habitat extent
Used For :	1230 (map 5)
Year :	2008
Title :	OSi 1:5000 IG vector data
GIS Operations :	Naturalfeatures line clipped to extent of national inventory of sea cliffs and coastal heaths polyline
Used For :	1230 (map 5)
Year :	2013
Title :	NPWS rare and threatened species database
GIS Operations :	Dataset created from spatial references in database records. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising
Used For :	1364, 1365 (maps 6 and 7)
Year :	2005
Title :	OSi Discovery series vector data
GIS Operations :	High Water Mark (HWM) polyline feature class converted into polygon feature class; clipped to SAC boundary. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising
Used For :	1364, 1365 (maps 6 and 7)

Conservation Objectives for : Lambay Island SAC [000204]

1170 Reefs

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Reefs in Lambay Island SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes. See map 3	Habitat area estimated as 58ha from intertidal and subtidal reef surveys in 2010 and 2011 (MERC, 2010, 2012a,b)
Distribution	Occurrence	The distribution of reefs is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes. See map 3	Based on information from intertidal and subtidal reef surveys in 2010 and 2011 (MERC, 2010, 2012a,b)
Community structure	Biological composition	Conserve the following community types in a natural condition: Intertidal reef community complex; <i>Laminaria</i> -dominated community complex. See map 4	Reef community mapping based on information from intertidal and subtidal reef surveys in 2010 and 2011 (MERC, 2010, 2012a,b)

Conservation Objectives for : Lambay Island SAC [000204]

1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts in Lambay Island SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat length	Kilometres	Area stable, subject to natural processes, including erosion. Total length of cliff section mapped: 7.27km. See map 5	Based on data from Browne (2005). Cliff extent re-digitised onto 1:5000 OSI map background. Cliffs are linear features and are therefore measured in kilometres. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, subject to natural processes. See map 5	Cliffs distributed along north, east and south coasts of Lambay Island. Hard cliffs are the dominant type. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: functionality and hydrological regime	Occurrence of artificial barriers	No alteration to natural functioning of geomorphological and hydrological processes due to artificial structures	Maintaining natural geomorphological processes including natural erosion is important for the health of vegetated sea cliffs. Hydrological processes maintain flushes and in some cases tufa formations that can be associated with sea cliffs. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain range of sea cliff habitat zonations including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	On Lambay Island, grazing has resulted in a zone of cliff vegetation that is very narrow and confined to the cliff edge. This is observed as an abrupt change from cliff vegetation to semi-improved pasture. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: vegetation height	Centimetres	Maintain structural variation within sward	Excessive grazing close to the cliff edge has confined the maritime vegetation to a narrow zone. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover at a representative sample of monitoring stops	Maintain range of sub-communities with typical species listed in the Irish Sea Cliff Survey (Barron et al., 2011)	Based on Goodwillie et al. (1988). Locally distinctive species include knotted clover (<i>Trifolium striatum</i>), Spring vetch (<i>Vicia lathyroides</i>) and spring squill (<i>Scilla verna</i>), which are locally common on the east coast of Ireland (Preston et al., 2002). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage	Negative indicator species (including non-natives) to represent less than 5% cover	Based on data from the ISCS (Barron et al., 2011). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: bracken and woody species	Percentage	Cover of bracken (<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>) on grassland and/or heath less than 10%. Cover of woody species on grassland and/or heath less than 20%	Based on data from the ISCS (Barron et al., 2011). Bracken is common on the gently sloping northern cliffs. Some sheltered gullies support scrub with stunted elder (<i>Sambucus nigra</i>). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details

Conservation Objectives for : Lambay Island SAC [000204]

1351 Harbour Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*

To maintain the Favourable conservation condition of Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) in Lambay Island SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Access to suitable habitat	Number of artificial barriers	Species range within the site should not be restricted by artificial barriers to site use. See map 1	See the Lambay Island SAC conservation objectives supporting document - Harbour Porpoise for further details (NPWS, 2024)
Disturbance	Level of impact	Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the Harbour Porpoise community at the site	See the Lambay Island SAC conservation objectives supporting document - Harbour Porpoise for further details (NPWS, 2024)

Conservation Objectives for : Lambay Island SAC [000204]**1364 Grey Seal *Halichoerus grypus***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Grey Seal in Lambay Island SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

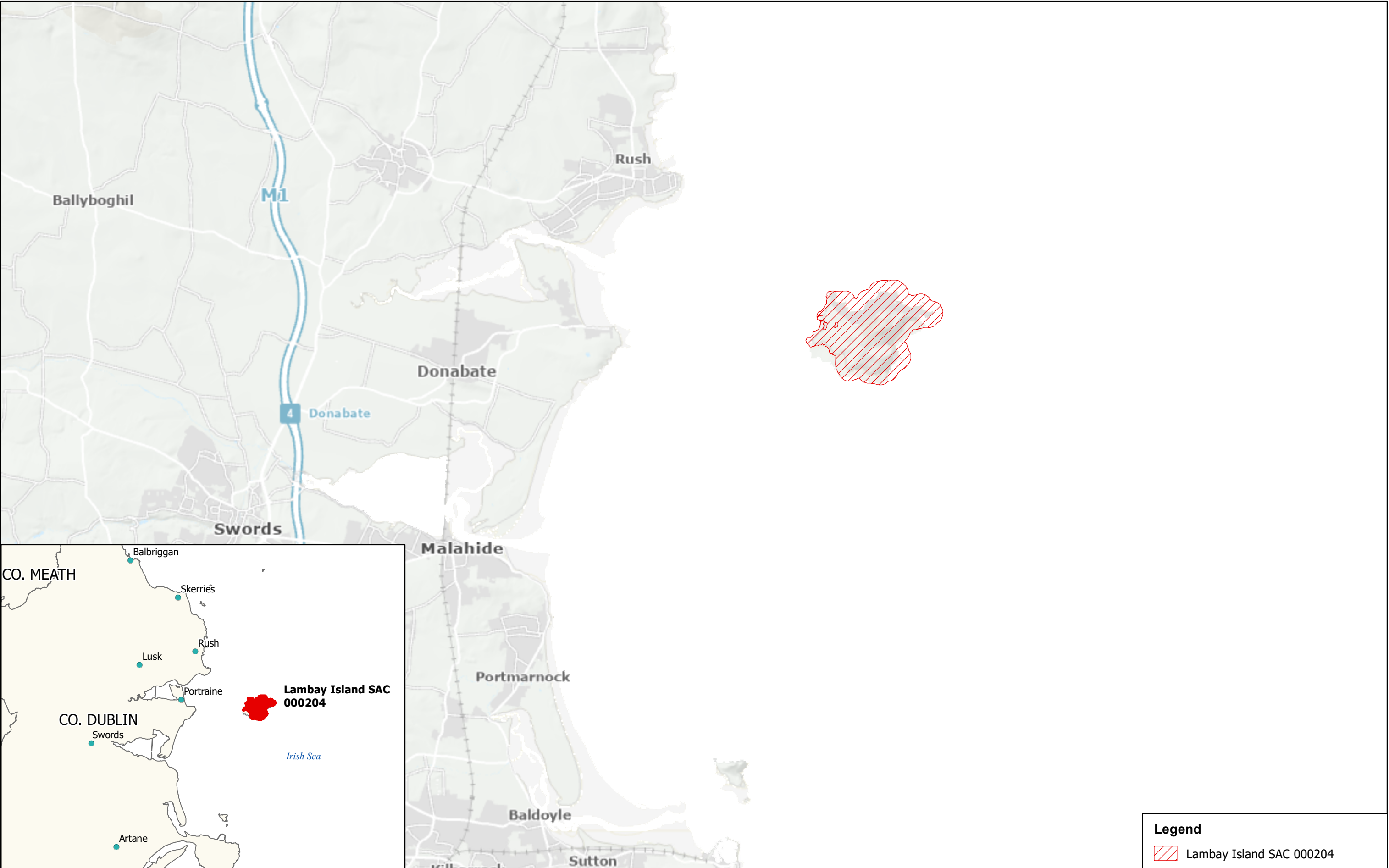
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Access to suitable habitat	Number of artificial barriers	Species range within the site should not be restricted by artificial barriers to site use. See map 6	See marine supporting document for further details
Breeding behaviour	Breeding sites	The breeding sites should be maintained in a natural condition. See map 6 for known sites	Attribute and target based on background knowledge of Irish breeding populations, review of data from Summers (1983), Kiely et al. (2000), Lidgard et al. (2001), Lyons (2004), a comprehensive breeding survey in 2005 (Ó Cadhla et al., 2008) and unpublished NPWS records. See marine supporting document for further details
Moulting behaviour	Moult haul-out sites	The moult haul-out sites should be maintained in a natural condition. See map 6 for known sites	Attribute and target based on background knowledge of Irish populations, research by Kiely et al. (2000), a national moult survey (Ó Cadhla and Strong, 2007) and unpublished NPWS records. See marine supporting document for further details
Resting behaviour	Resting haul-out sites	The resting haul-out sites should be maintained in a natural condition. See map 6 for known sites	Attribute and target based on review of data from Kiely et al. (2000), Lyons (2004), Cronin et al. (2004) and unpublished NPWS records. See marine supporting document for further details
Disturbance	Level of impact	Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the grey seal population at the site	See marine supporting document for further details

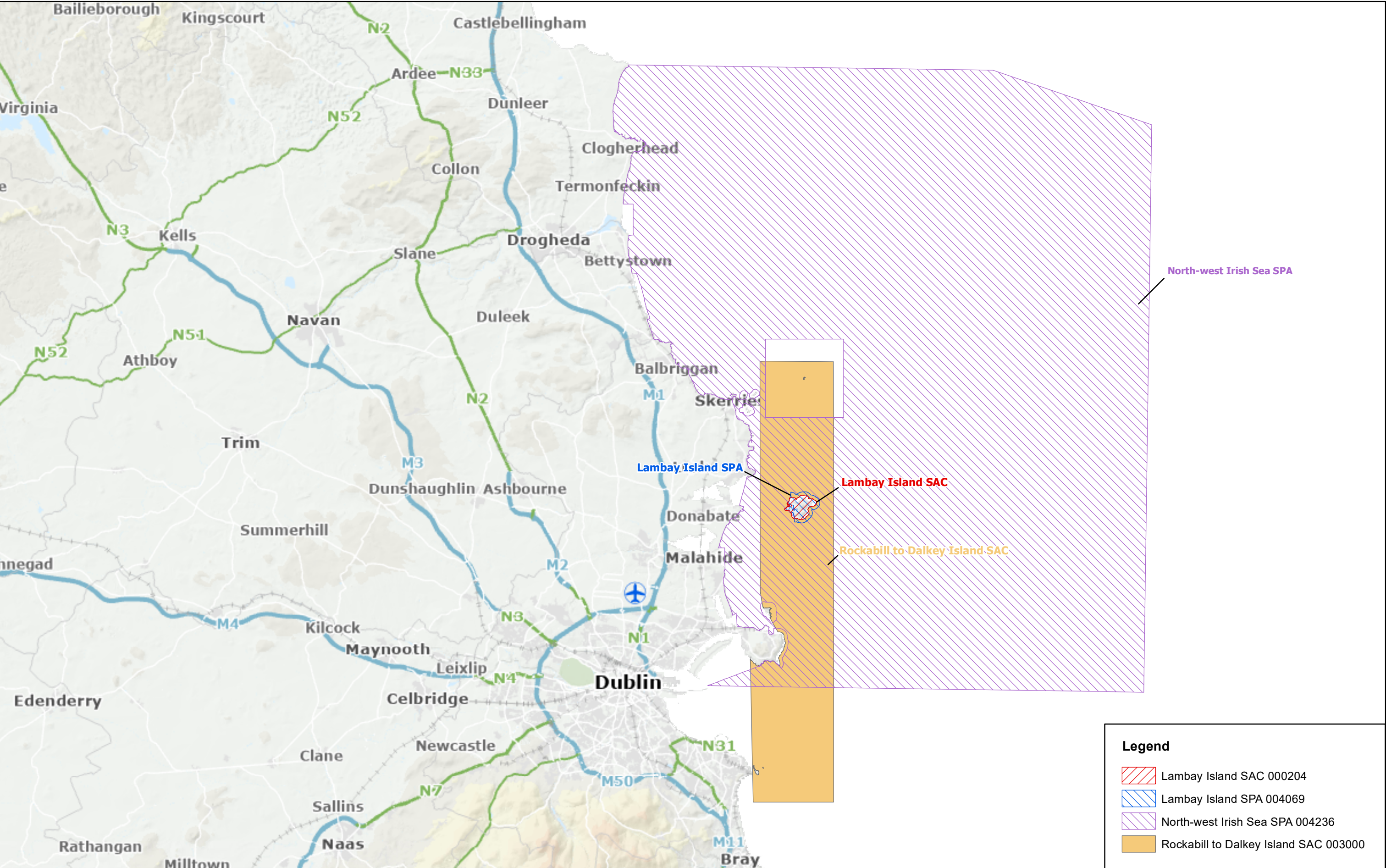
Conservation Objectives for : Lambay Island SAC [000204]

1365 Harbour Seal *Phoca vitulina*

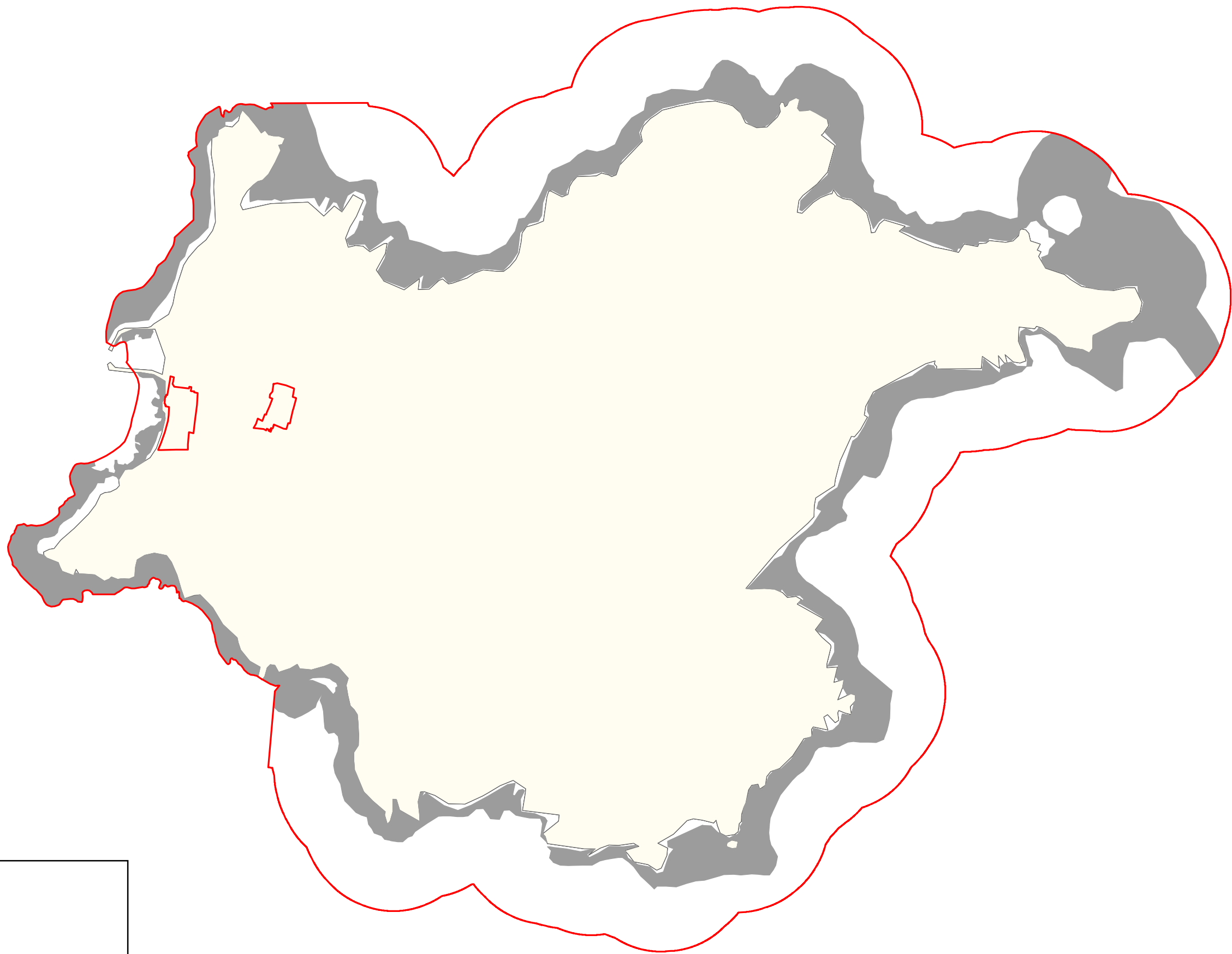
To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Harbour Seal in Lambay Island SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Access to suitable habitat	Number of artificial barriers	Species range within the site should not be restricted by artificial barriers to site use. See map 7	See marine supporting document for further details
Breeding behaviour	Breeding sites	The breeding sites should be maintained in a natural condition. See map 7	Attribute and target based on background knowledge of Irish breeding populations and a review of ancillary data provided by Kiely et al. (2000), Lidgard et al. (2001), Ó Cadhla and Strong (2007), Ó Cadhla et al. (2008) and unpublished NPWS data. See marine supporting document for further details
Moulting behaviour	Moult haul-out sites	The moult haul-out sites should be maintained in a natural condition. See map 7	Attribute and target based on background knowledge of Irish populations, review of data from Cronin et al. (2004), data provided by Kiely et al. (2000), Lidgard et al. (2001), Ó Cadhla and Strong (2007), Ó Cadhla et al. (2008) and unpublished NPWS data. See marine supporting document for further details
Resting behaviour	Resting haul-out sites	The resting haul-out sites should be maintained in a natural condition. See map 7	Attribute and target based on background knowledge of Irish populations and the review of ancillary data provided by Kiely et al. (2000), Lidgard et al. (2001), Ó Cadhla and Strong (2007), Ó Cadhla et al. (2008) and unpublished NPWS data. See marine supporting document for further details
Disturbance	Level of impact	Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the harbour seal population at the site	See marine supporting document for further details








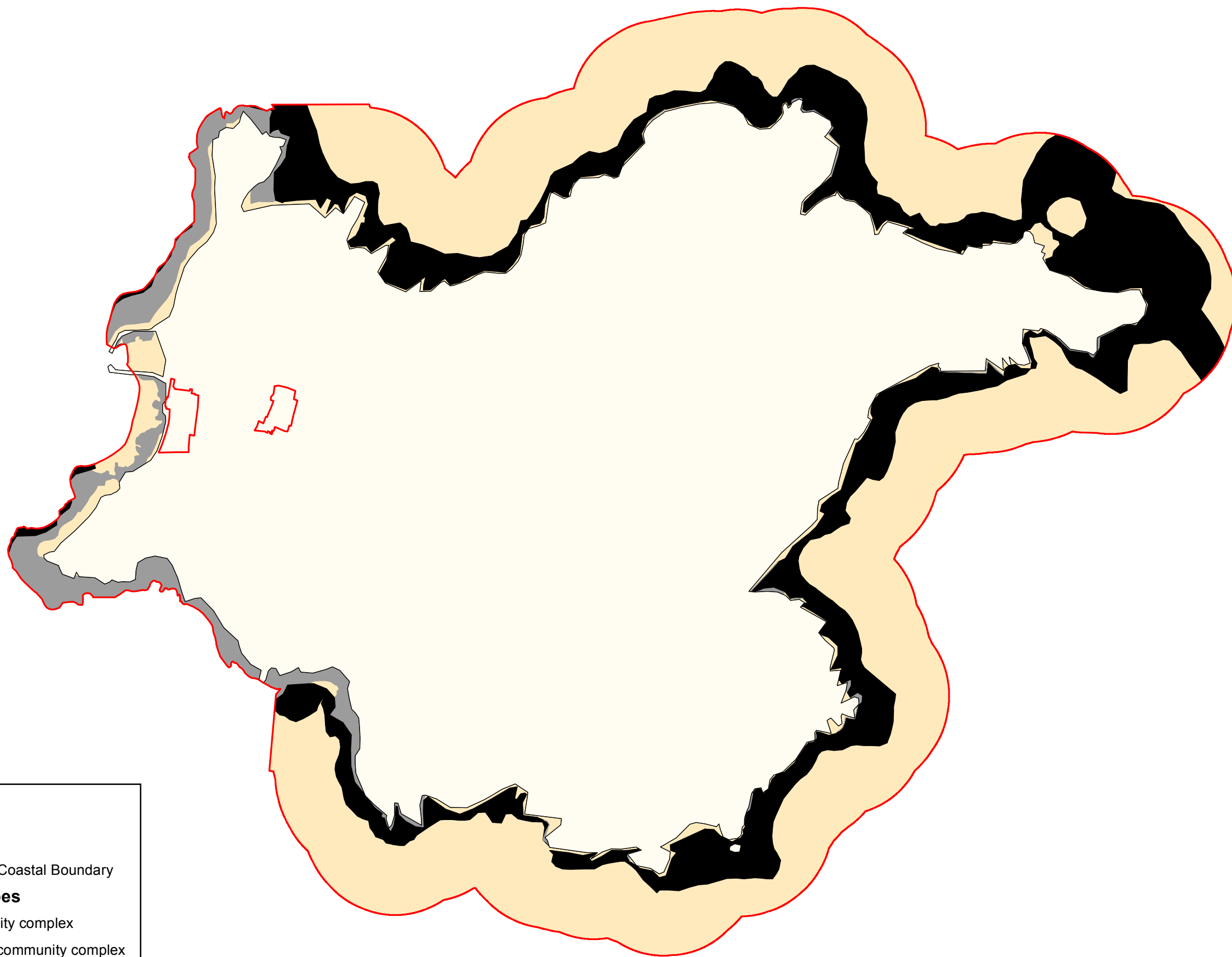
- Legend**
- Lambay Island SAC 000204
 - Lambay Island SPA 004069
 - North-west Irish Sea SPA 004236
 - Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC 003000





Legend

-  SAC 000204
-  1170 Reefs
-  OSi Discovery Series Coastal Boundary






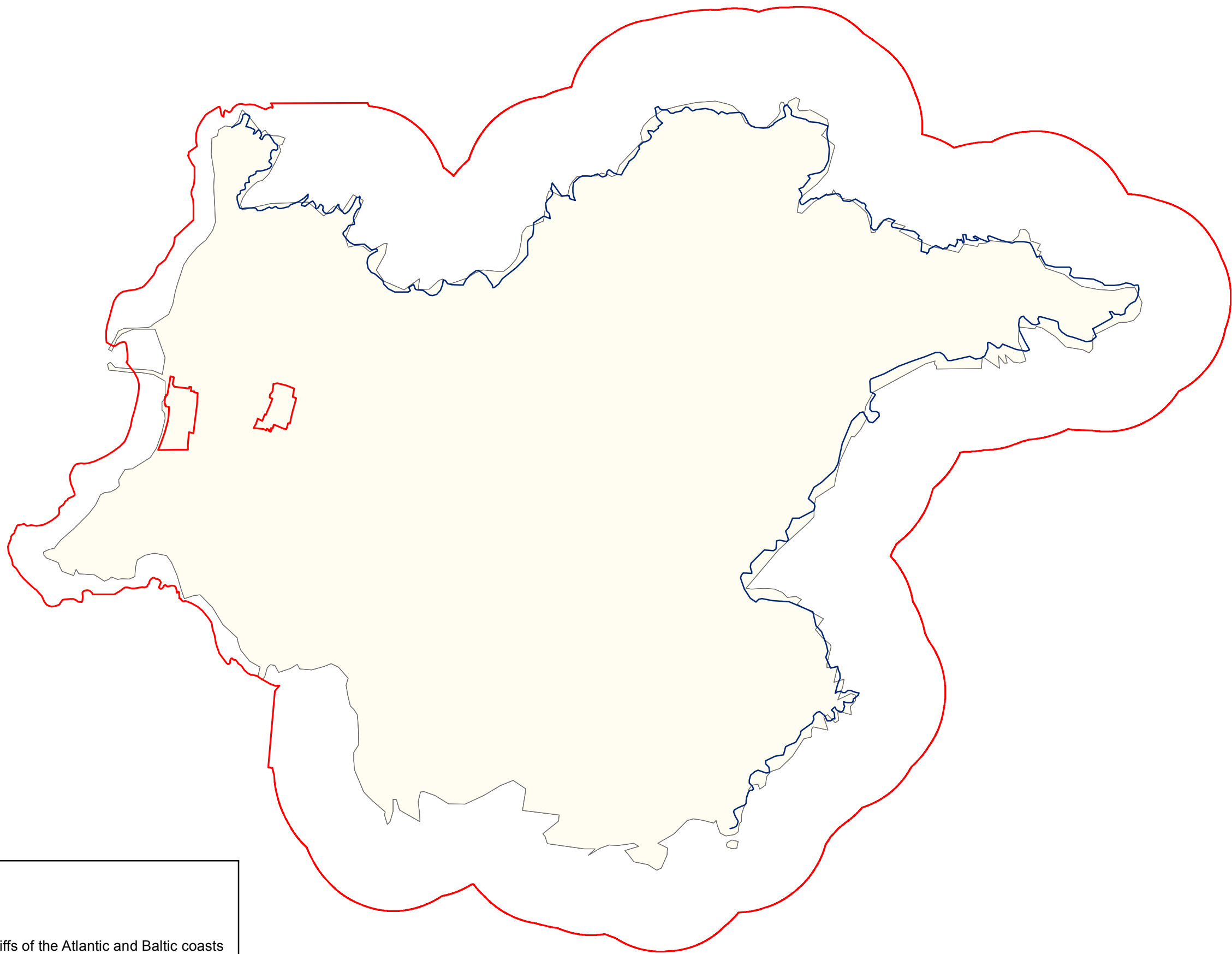


Legend




-  SAC 000204
-  OSi Discovery Series Coastal Boundary

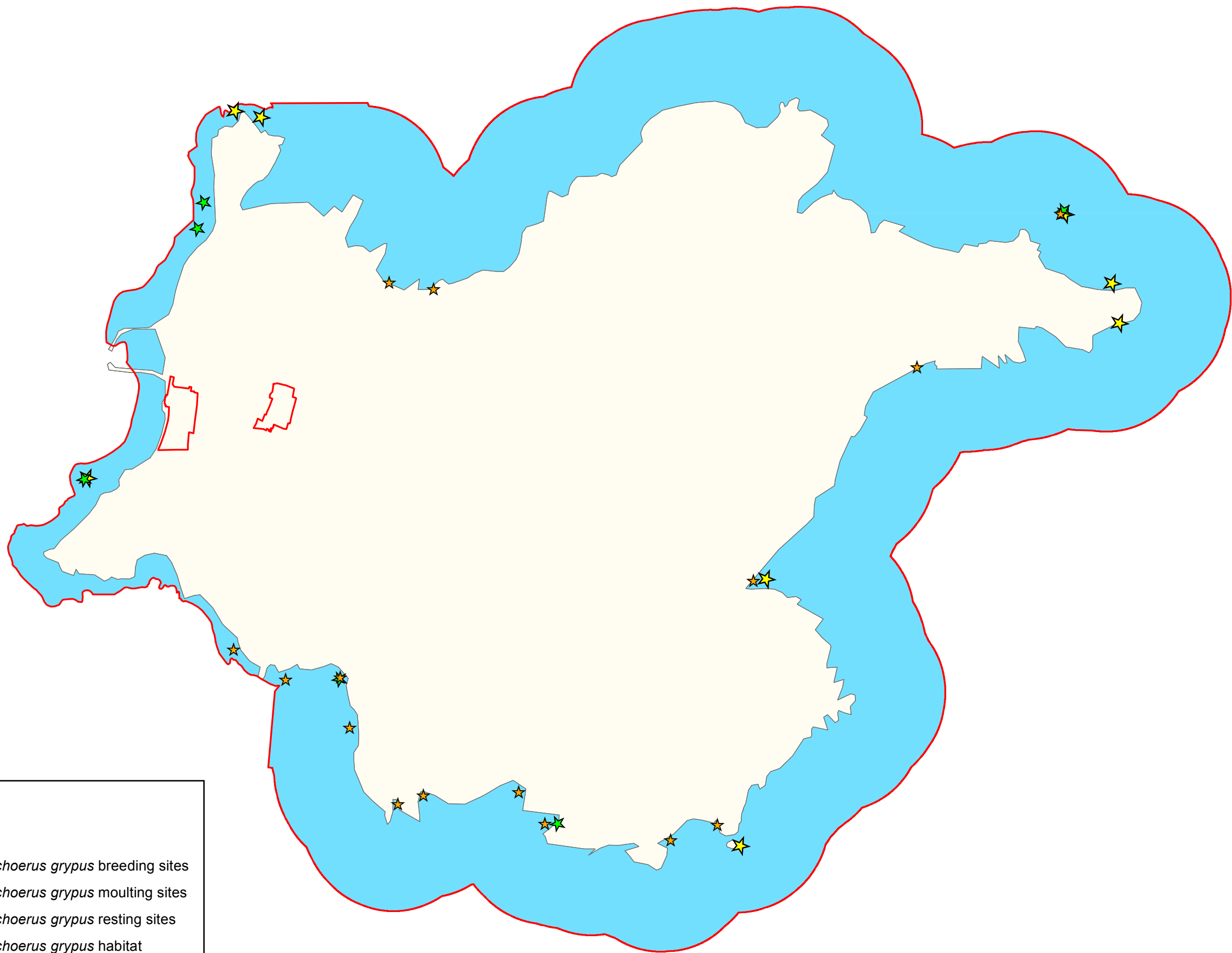
Marine Community Types

-  Intertidal reef community complex
-  *Laminaria*-dominated community complex
-  Sediment community









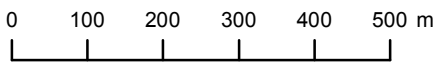
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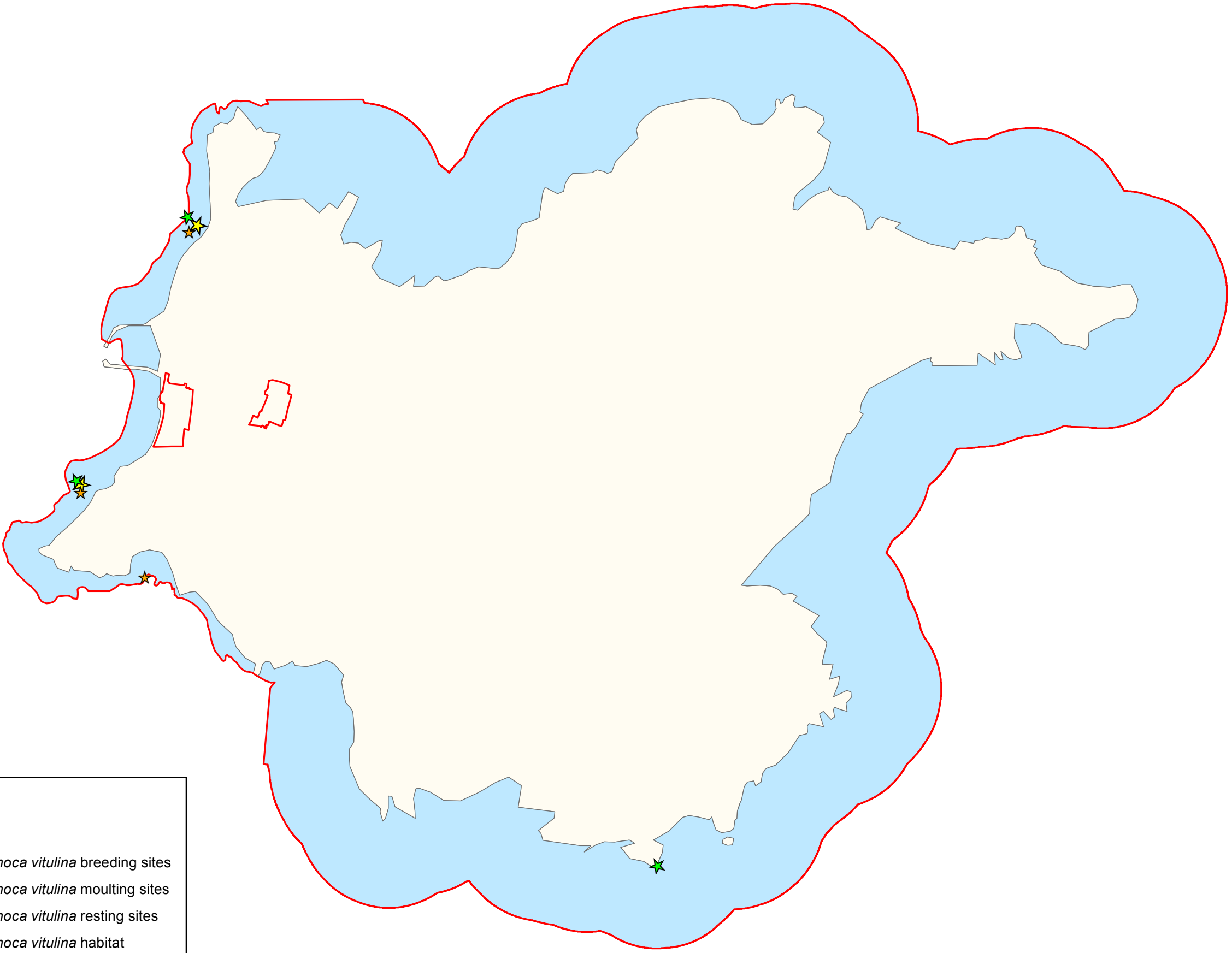
-  SAC 000204
-  1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts
-  OSi Discovery Series Coastal Boundary



Legend

-  SAC 000204
-  1364 Grey Seal - *Halichoerus grypus* breeding sites
-  1364 Grey Seal - *Halichoerus grypus* moulting sites
-  1364 Grey Seal - *Halichoerus grypus* resting sites
-  1364 Grey Seal - *Halichoerus grypus* habitat
-  OSi Discovery Series Coastal Boundary





Legend

SAC 000204

1365 Harbour Seal - *Phoca vitulina* breeding sites

1365 Harbour Seal - *Phoca vitulina* moulting sites

1365 Harbour Seal - *Phoca vitulina* resting sites

1365 Harbour Seal - *Phoca vitulina* habitat

OSi Discovery Series Coastal Boundary