

# National Parks and Wildlife Service

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## *Conservation Objectives Series*

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### Ireland's Eye SAC 002193



An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta,  
Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta

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Department of Arts, Heritage,  
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs



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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*

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002193	Ireland's Eye SAC
1220	Perennial vegetation of stony banks
1230	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts

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**Please note that this SAC overlaps with Ireland's Eye SPA (004117) and is adjacent to Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (003000). See map 2. The conservation objectives for this site should be used in conjunction with those for the overlapping and adjacent sites as appropriate.**

## Supporting documents, relevant reports & publications

Supporting documents, NPWS reports and publications are available for download from: [www.npws.ie/Publications](http://www.npws.ie/Publications)

### NPWS Documents

<b>Year :</b>	1999
<b>Title :</b>	National Shingle Beach Survey of Ireland 1999
<b>Author :</b>	Moore, D.; Wilson, F.
<b>Series :</b>	Unpublished Report to NPWS
<hr/>	
<b>Year :</b>	2009
<b>Title :</b>	Coastal Monitoring Project 2004-2006
<b>Author :</b>	Ryle, T.; Murray, A.; Connolly, K.; Swann, M.
<b>Series :</b>	Unpublished report to NPWS
<hr/>	
<b>Year :</b>	2011
<b>Title :</b>	National survey and assessment of the conservation status of Irish sea cliffs
<b>Author :</b>	Barron, S.J.; Delaney, A.; Perrin, P.M.; Martin, J.; O'Neill, F.
<b>Series :</b>	Irish Wildlife Manual No. 53
<hr/>	
<b>Year :</b>	2017
<b>Title :</b>	Ireland's Eye SAC (site code: 2193) Conservation objectives supporting document- coastal habitats V1
<b>Author :</b>	NPWS
<b>Series :</b>	Conservation objectives supporting document

### Other References

<b>Year :</b>	2005
<b>Title :</b>	National inventory of sea cliffs and coastal heaths
<b>Author :</b>	Browne, A.
<b>Series :</b>	Unpublished Report to NPWS

## Spatial data sources

<b>Year :</b>	2009
<b>Title :</b>	Coastal Monitoring Project 2004-2006. Version 1
<b>GIS Operations :</b>	QI selected; clipped to SAC boundary. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising
<b>Used For :</b>	1220 (map 3)
<hr/>	
<b>Year :</b>	Revision 2012
<b>Title :</b>	National Shingle Beach Survey
<b>GIS Operations :</b>	Clipped to SAC boundary. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising
<b>Used For :</b>	1220 (map 3)
<hr/>	
<b>Year :</b>	2008
<b>Title :</b>	OSi 1:5000 IG vector dataset
<b>GIS Operations :</b>	Naturalfeatures line clipped to extent of national inventory of sea cliffs and coastal heaths polyline. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising
<b>Used For :</b>	1230 (map 3)
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## Conservation Objectives for : Ireland's Eye SAC [002193]

### 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks

**To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Perennial vegetation of stony banks in Ireland's Eye SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:**

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession	The current area of perennial vegetation of stony banks in Ireland's Eye SAC is unknown. The habitat was recorded as being present, but its extent was not mapped, from one sub-site during the National Shingle Beach Survey (NSBS; Moore and Wilson, 1999): Ireland's Eye (NSBS site ID: 0138). A total area of 0.13ha of vegetated shingle was recorded at Ireland's Eye (CMP site ID: 008) during the Coastal Monitoring Project (CMP; Ryle et al., 2009). NB further unsurveyed areas may be present within the SAC. See the Ireland's Eye SAC conservation objectives supporting document for coastal habitats for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession. See map 3 for mapped locations	The full distribution within the SAC is unknown at present, although the habitat was recorded at Ireland's Eye by Moore and Wilson (1999) and by Ryle et al. (2009). Shingle occurs on the western shore between sand hills and a sandy beach. The habitat is likely to be more widespread. See the coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply	Presence/absence of physical barriers	Maintain the natural circulation of sediment and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	Based on data from Moore and Wilson (1999) and Ryle et al. (2009). The shingle within Ireland's Eye SAC comprises coarse sand and fine gravel. See the coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Based on data from Moore and Wilson (1999) and Ryle et al. (2009). At Ireland's Eye, there is an extensive area of bedrock shore, which grades into sandy beaches and shingle, which are backed by low sand hills. See the coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain the typical vegetated shingle flora including the range of sub-communities within the different zones	Based on data from Moore and Wilson (1999) and Ryle et al. (2009). The shingle beach at Ireland's Eye SAC has poor vegetation, mainly limited to some marram ( <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ) at the back of the beach. Curled dock ( <i>Rumex crispus</i> ), silverweed ( <i>Potentilla anserina</i> ) and spear-leaved orache ( <i>Atriplex prostrata</i> ) was also recorded. See the coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage cover	Negative indicator species (including non-native species) to represent less than 5% cover	Based on data from Moore and Wilson (1999) and Ryle et al. (2009). Negative indicators include non-native species, species indicative of changes in nutrient status and species not considered characteristic of the habitat. The CMP noted that the negative indicator species creeping thistle ( <i>Cirsium arvense</i> ) and common nettle ( <i>Urtica dioica</i> ) are present but rare in this habitat. See the coastal habitats supporting document for further details

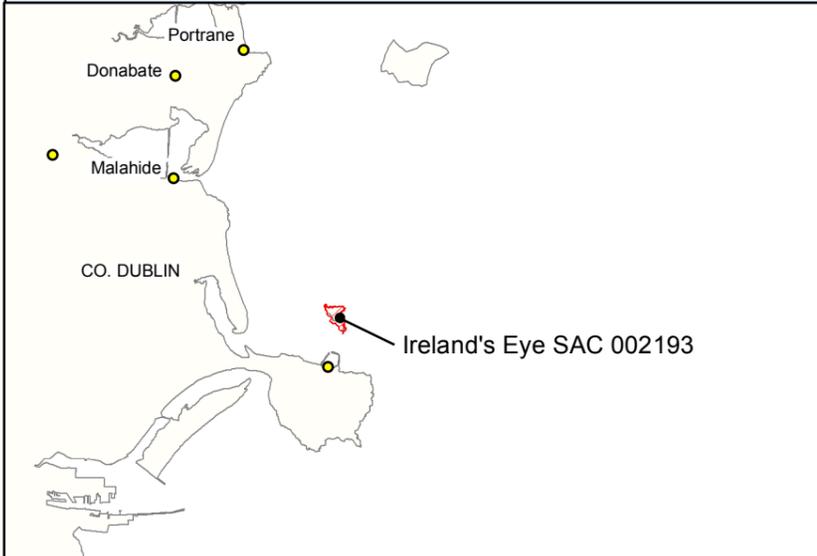
**1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts**

**To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts in Ireland's Eye SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:**

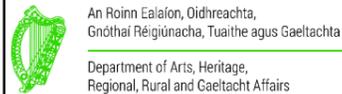
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat length	Kilometres	Area stable, subject to natural processes, including erosion. Total length of cliff mapped: 2.57km. See map 3	Based on data from the National Inventory of Sea Cliffs and Coastal Heath (Browne, 2005). The length of cliff was re-digitised (onto 1:5000 OSI map background) and is estimated to be 2.57km within Ireland's Eye SAC. Cliffs are linear features and are therefore measured in kilometres. See the Ireland's Eye SAC conservation objectives supporting document for coastal habitats for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, subject to natural processes. See map 3	Sea cliffs are known to occur along the coastline at Ireland's Eye extending from the north-west along the northern coastline to the south-east of the island and reach a height of 69m on the north-east side. It is thought that all of the cliffs in this SAC are of the hard type (Browne, 2005). See the 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, including groundwater quality, due to artificial structures	Attribute and target based on Barron et al. (2011). 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. Hydrological features such as gullies, streams or cascades may occur on sea cliffs. See the 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	Attribute and target based on Barron et al. (2011). Dry grassland merges with sea cliff vegetation on Ireland's Eye. See the coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: vegetation height	Centimetres	Maintain structural variation within sward	Attribute and target based on Barron et al. (2011). See the coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain range of sub-communities with typical species listed in the Irish Sea Cliff Survey (Barron et al., 2011)	The sea cliff flora at Ireland's Eye SAC includes rock sea-spurrey ( <i>Spergularia rupicola</i> ), sea stork's-bill ( <i>Erodium maritimum</i> ), rock samphire ( <i>Crithmum maritimum</i> ), golden samphire ( <i>Inula crithmoides</i> ), rock sea-lavender ( <i>Limonium binervosum</i> ), meadow rue ( <i>Thalictrum minor</i> ), Portland spurge ( <i>Euphorbia portlandica</i> ) and tree-mallow ( <i>Lavatera arborea</i> ). See the coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage	Negative indicator species (including non-native species) to represent less than 5% cover	Attribute and target based on Barron et al. (2011). Hogweed ( <i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> ), common nettle ( <i>Urtica dioica</i> ) and slender thistle ( <i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i> ) are common in areas beneath seabird colonies in the SAC. See the 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%	Attribute and target based on Barron et al. (2011). Bracken ( <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> ) has not been recorded on the sea cliffs in Ireland's Eye SAC, however bracken is present in the dry grassland behind the cliffs. See the coastal habitats supporting document for further details

**Legend**

 Ireland's Eye SAC 002193



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**MAP 1:  
IRELAND'S EYE SAC  
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES  
SAC DESIGNATION**

Map to be read in conjunction with the NPWS Conservation Objectives Document.

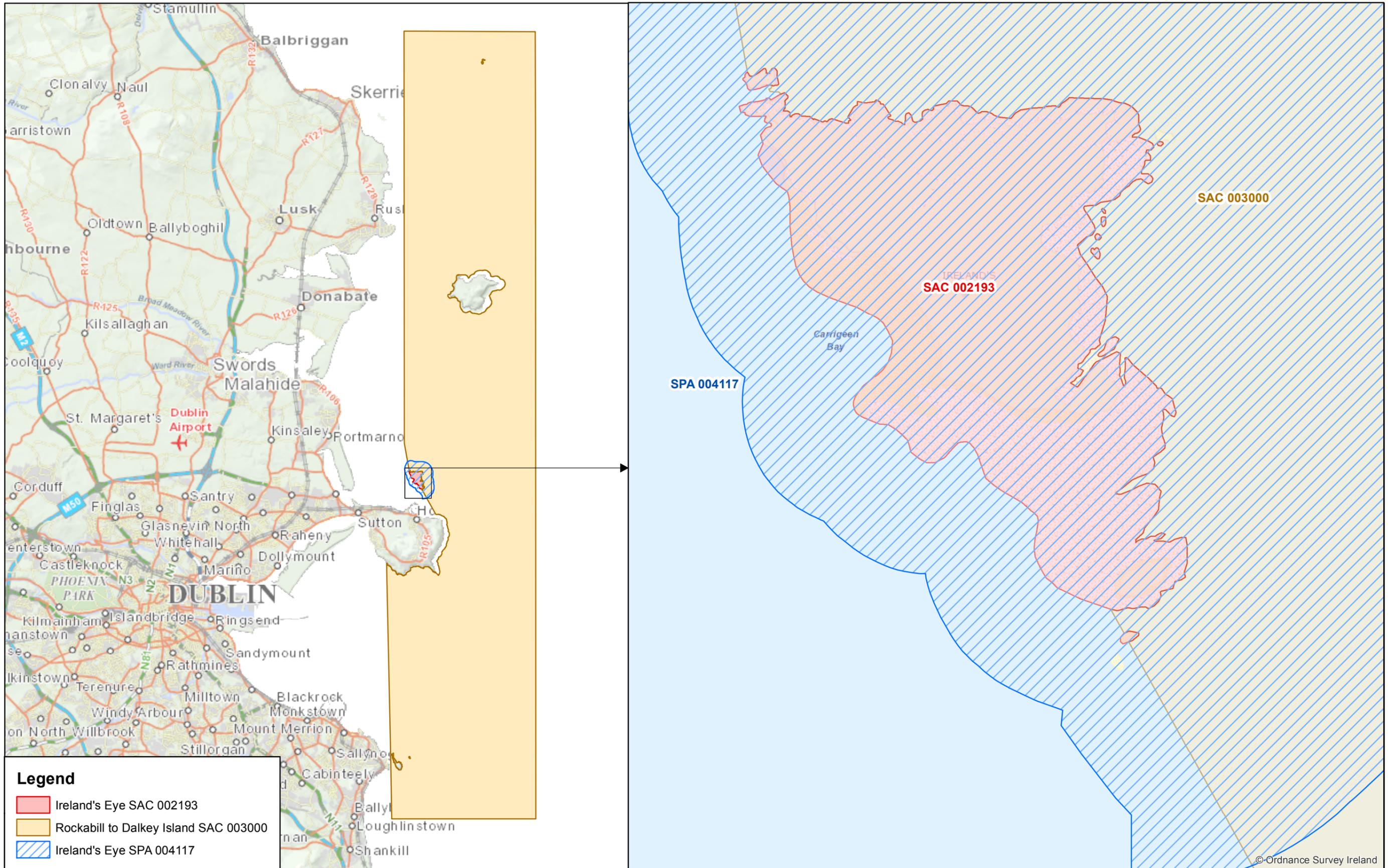
**SITE CODE: SAC 002193; version 3.01  
CO. DUBLIN**

0 0.055 0.11 0.165 0.22 0.275 km



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**Legend**

- Ireland's Eye SAC 002193
- Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC 003000
- Ireland's Eye SPA 004117

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**MAP 2:  
 IRELAND'S EYE SAC  
 CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES  
 OVERLAPPING, ADJACENT AND  
 ADJOINING DESIGNATIONS**

Map to be read in conjunction with the NPWS Conservation Objectives Document.

**SITE CODE: SAC 002137; version 3.01. SAC  
 003000; version 3.02, SPA 004117; version 3.01  
 CO. DUBLIN**

0 2 4 6 8 10 km

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**Map Version 1  
 Date: Oct 2016**



**Legend**

- Coastal Monitoring Project Survey Area
- Qualifying Interests**
- 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks
- ★ 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks
- 1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts
- Ireland's Eye SAC 002193
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundary

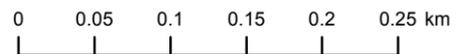


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**MAP 3:  
IRELAND'S EYE SAC  
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES  
COASTAL HABITATS**

Map to be read in conjunction with the NPWS Conservation Objectives Document.

**SITE CODE:  
SAC 002193; version 3.01**



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**Map Version 1  
Date: Oct 2016**