

# National Parks and Wildlife Service

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## *Conservation Objectives Series*

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North Bull Island SPA 004006



*An Roinn  
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta*  

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*Department of  
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht*



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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

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| 004006 | North Bull Island SPA                               |
| A046   | Ša @ã^  ã áBrent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> |
| A048   | Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>                     |
| A052   | Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>                             |
| A054   | Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>                           |
| A056   | Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>                       |
| A130   | Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>          |
| A140   | Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>            |
| A141   | Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>             |
| A143   | Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>                        |
| A144   | Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>                     |
| A149   | Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>                |
| A156   | Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>            |
| A157   | Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>           |
| A160   | Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>                      |
| A162   | Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>                      |
| A169   | Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>                 |
| A179   | Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> |
| A999   | Wetlands  |

**Please note that this SPA overlaps with North Dublin Bay SAC (000206) and Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (003000). It adjoins Howth Head SAC (000202) and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (004024). See map 2. The conservation objectives for this site should be used in conjunction with those for 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

**Year :** 2014

**Title :** North Bull Island SPA (site code: 4006) and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (site code: 4024) Conservation objectives supporting document V1

**Author :** NPWS

**Series :** Conservation objectives supporting document

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## Spatial data sources

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Year :</b>           | 2014  |
| <b>Title :</b>          | NPWS SPA boundary data  |
| <b>GIS Operations :</b> | SPA boundary polygons divided into two classifications (wetlands, terrestrial) based on line identified by expert judgement. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising |
| <b>Used For :</b>       | Wetlands (map 3)  |

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## Conservation Objectives for : North Bull Island SPA [004006]

**A046** @[\HVY`]YX Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*

**To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Light-bellied Brent Goose in North Bull Island SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:**

| Attribute        | Measure                                     | Target   | Notes   |
|------------------|---|--|---|
| Population trend | Percentage change                           | Long term population trend stable or increasing  | Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document   |
| Distribution     | Range, timing and intensity of use of areas | No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by light-bellied brent goose, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation | Waterbird distribution from the 2011/2012 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document |

**A048                      Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna***

**To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Shelduck in North Bull Island SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:**

| <b>Attribute</b> | <b>Measure</b>                              | <b>Target</b>   | <b>Notes</b>  |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| Population trend | Percentage change                           | Long term population trend stable or increasing   | Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document   |
| Distribution     | Range, timing and intensity of use of areas | No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by shelduck, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation | Waterbird distribution from the 2011/2012 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document |



## Conservation Objectives for : North Bull Island SPA [004006]

### A052 Teal *Anas crecca*

**To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Teal in North Bull Island SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:**

| Attribute        | Measure                                     | Target  | Notes   |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| Population trend | Percentage change                           | Long term population trend stable or increasing   | Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document   |
| Distribution     | Range, timing and intensity of use of areas | No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by teal, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation | Waterbird distribution from the 2011/2012 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document |

## Conservation Objectives for : North Bull Island SPA [004006]

### A054 Pintail *Anas acuta*

**To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Pintail in North Bull Island SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:**

| Attribute        | Measure                                     | Target   | Notes   |
|------------------|---|--|---|
| Population trend | Percentage change                           | Long term population trend stable or increasing  | Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document   |
| Distribution     | Range, timing and intensity of use of areas | No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by pintail, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation | Waterbird distribution from the 2011/2012 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document |

**A056 Shoveler *Anas clypeata***

**To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Shoveler in North Bull Island SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:**

| <b>Attribute</b> | <b>Measure</b>                              | <b>Target</b>   | <b>Notes</b>  |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| Population trend | Percentage change                           | Long term population trend stable or increasing   | Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document   |
| Distribution     | Range, timing and intensity of use of areas | No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by shoveler, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation | Waterbird distribution from the 2011/2012 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document |

## Conservation Objectives for : North Bull Island SPA [004006]

### A130 Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

**To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Oystercatcher in North Bull Island SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:**

| Attribute        | Measure                                     | Target   | Notes   |
|------------------|---|--|---|
| Population trend | Percentage change                           | Long term population trend stable or increasing  | Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document   |
| Distribution     | Range, timing and intensity of use of areas | No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by oystercatcher, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation | Waterbird distribution from the 2011/2012 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document |

## Conservation Objectives for : North Bull Island SPA [004006]

### A140 Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

**To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Golden Plover in North Bull Island SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:**

| Attribute        | Measure                                     | Target   | Notes   |
|------------------|---|--|---|
| Population trend | Percentage change                           | Long term population trend stable or increasing  | Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document   |
| Distribution     | Range, timing and intensity of use of areas | No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by golden plover, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation | Waterbird distribution from the 2011/2012 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document |

## Conservation Objectives for : North Bull Island SPA [004006]

### A141 Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

**To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Grey Plover in North Bull Island SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:**

| Attribute        | Measure                                     | Target   | Notes   |
|------------------|---|--|---|
| Population trend | Percentage change                           | Long term population trend stable or increasing  | Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document   |
| Distribution     | Range, timing and intensity of use of areas | No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by grey plover, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation | Waterbird distribution from the 2011/2012 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document |

**A143                      Knot *Calidris canutus***

**To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Knot in North Bull Island SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:**

| <b>Attribute</b> | <b>Measure</b>                              | <b>Target</b>   | <b>Notes</b>  |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| Population trend | Percentage change                           | Long term population trend stable or increasing   | Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document   |
| Distribution     | Range, timing and intensity of use of areas | No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by knot, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation | Waterbird distribution from the 2011/2012 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document |

**A144 Sanderling *Calidris alba***

**To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Sanderling in North Bull Island SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:**

| <b>Attribute</b> | <b>Measure</b>                              | <b>Target</b>   | <b>Notes</b>  |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| Population trend | Percentage change                           | Long term population trend stable or increasing   | Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document   |
| Distribution     | Range, timing and intensity of use of areas | No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by sanderling, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation | Waterbird distribution from the 2011/2012 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document |



## Conservation Objectives for : North Bull Island SPA [004006]

### A149 Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*

**To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Dunlin in North Bull Island SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:**

| Attribute        | Measure                                     | Target  | Notes   |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| Population trend | Percentage change                           | Long term population trend stable or increasing   | Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document   |
| Distribution     | Range, timing and intensity of use of areas | No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by dunlin, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation | Waterbird distribution from the 2011/2012 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document |

**A156 Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa***

**To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Black-tailed Godwit in North Bull Island SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:**

| <b>Attribute</b> | <b>Measure</b>                              | <b>Target</b>  | <b>Notes</b>  |
|------------------|---|--|---|
| Population trend | Percentage change                           | Long term population trend stable or increasing  | Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document   |
| Distribution     | Range, timing and intensity of use of areas | No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by black-tailed godwit, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation | Waterbird distribution from the 2011/2012 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document |

## Conservation Objectives for : North Bull Island SPA [004006]

### A157 Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

**To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Bar-tailed Godwit in North Bull Island SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:**

| Attribute        | Measure                                     | Target   | Notes   |
|------------------|---|--|---|
| Population trend | Percentage change                           | Long term population trend stable or increasing  | Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document   |
| Distribution     | Range, timing and intensity of use of areas | No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by bar-tailed godwit, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation | Waterbird distribution from the 2011/2012 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document |

## Conservation Objectives for : North Bull Island SPA [004006]

### A160 Curlew *Numenius arquata*

**To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Curlew in North Bull Island SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:**

| Attribute        | Measure                                     | Target  | Notes   |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| Population trend | Percentage change                           | Long term population trend stable or increasing   | Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document   |
| Distribution     | Range, timing and intensity of use of areas | No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by curlew, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation | Waterbird distribution from the 2011/2012 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document |

**A162 Redshank *Tringa totanus***

**To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Redshank in North Bull Island SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:**

| <b>Attribute</b> | <b>Measure</b>                              | <b>Target</b>   | <b>Notes</b>  |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| Population trend | Percentage change                           | Long term population trend stable or increasing   | Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document   |
| Distribution     | Range, timing and intensity of use of areas | No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by redshank, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation | Waterbird distribution from the 2011/2012 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document |

**A169                      Turnstone *Arenaria interpres***

**To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Turnstone in North Bull Island SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:**

| <b>Attribute</b> | <b>Measure</b>                              | <b>Target</b>  | <b>Notes</b>  |
|------------------|---|--|---|
| Population trend | Percentage change                           | Long term population trend stable or increasing  | Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document   |
| Distribution     | Range, timing and intensity of use of areas | No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by turnstone, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation | Waterbird distribution from the 2011/2012 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document |

## Conservation Objectives for : North Bull Island SPA [004006]

### A179 Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

**To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Black-headed Gull in North Bull Island SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:**

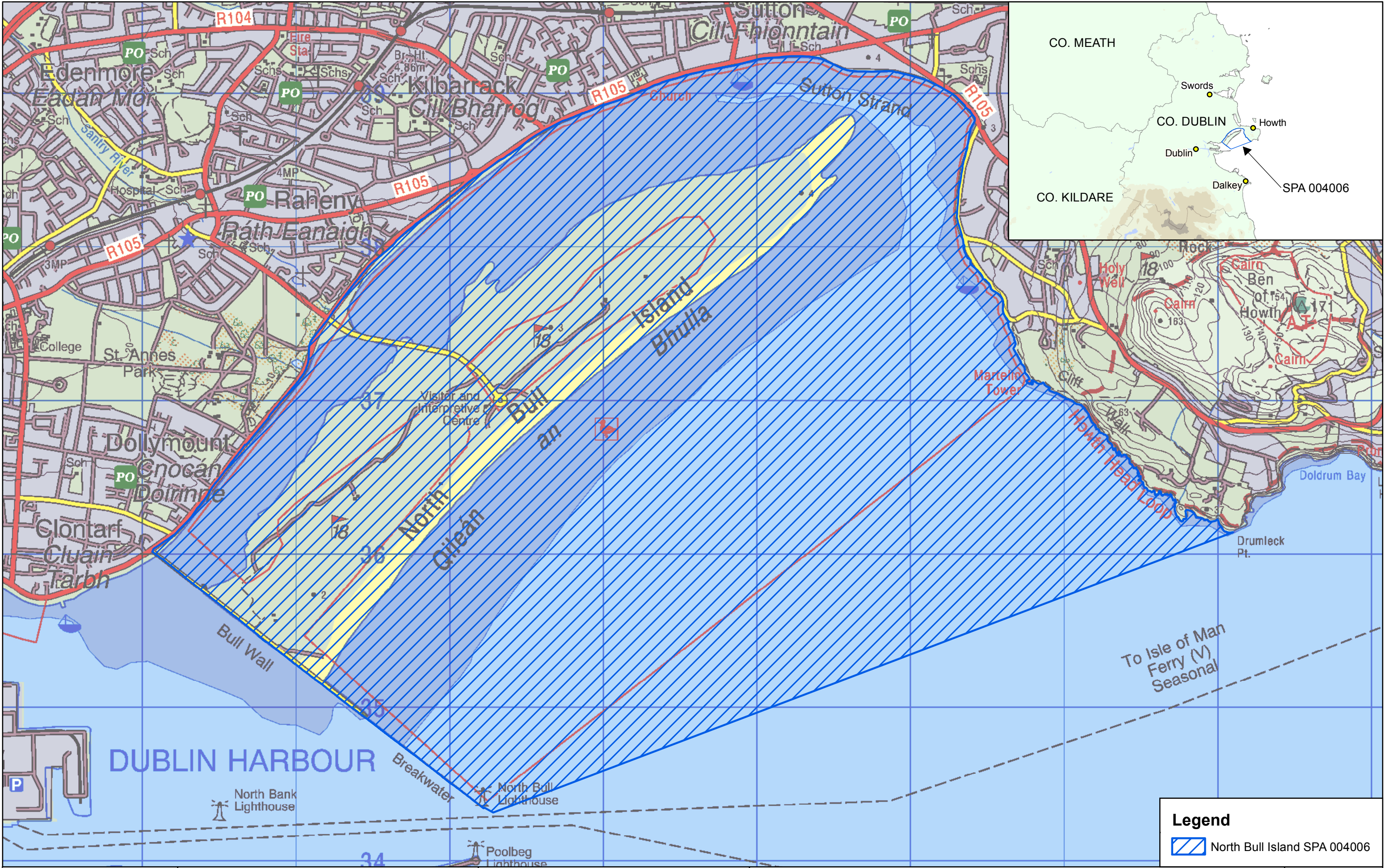
| Attribute        | Measure                                     | Target  | Notes   |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| Population trend | Percentage change                           | Long term population trend stable or increasing   | Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document   |
| Distribution     | Range, timing and intensity of use of areas | No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by black-headed gull other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation | Waterbird distribution from the 2011/2012 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document |

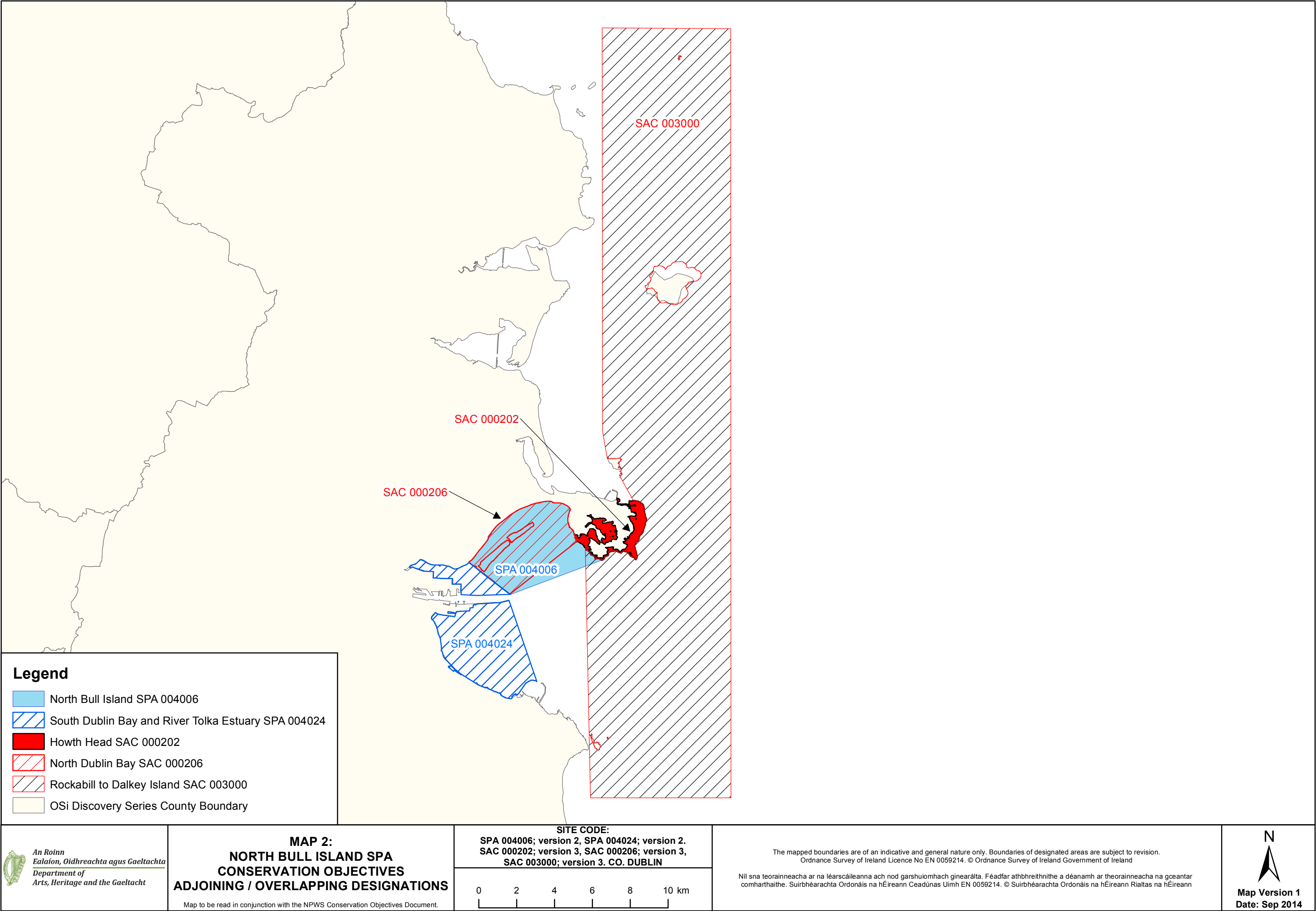
**A999 Wetlands**

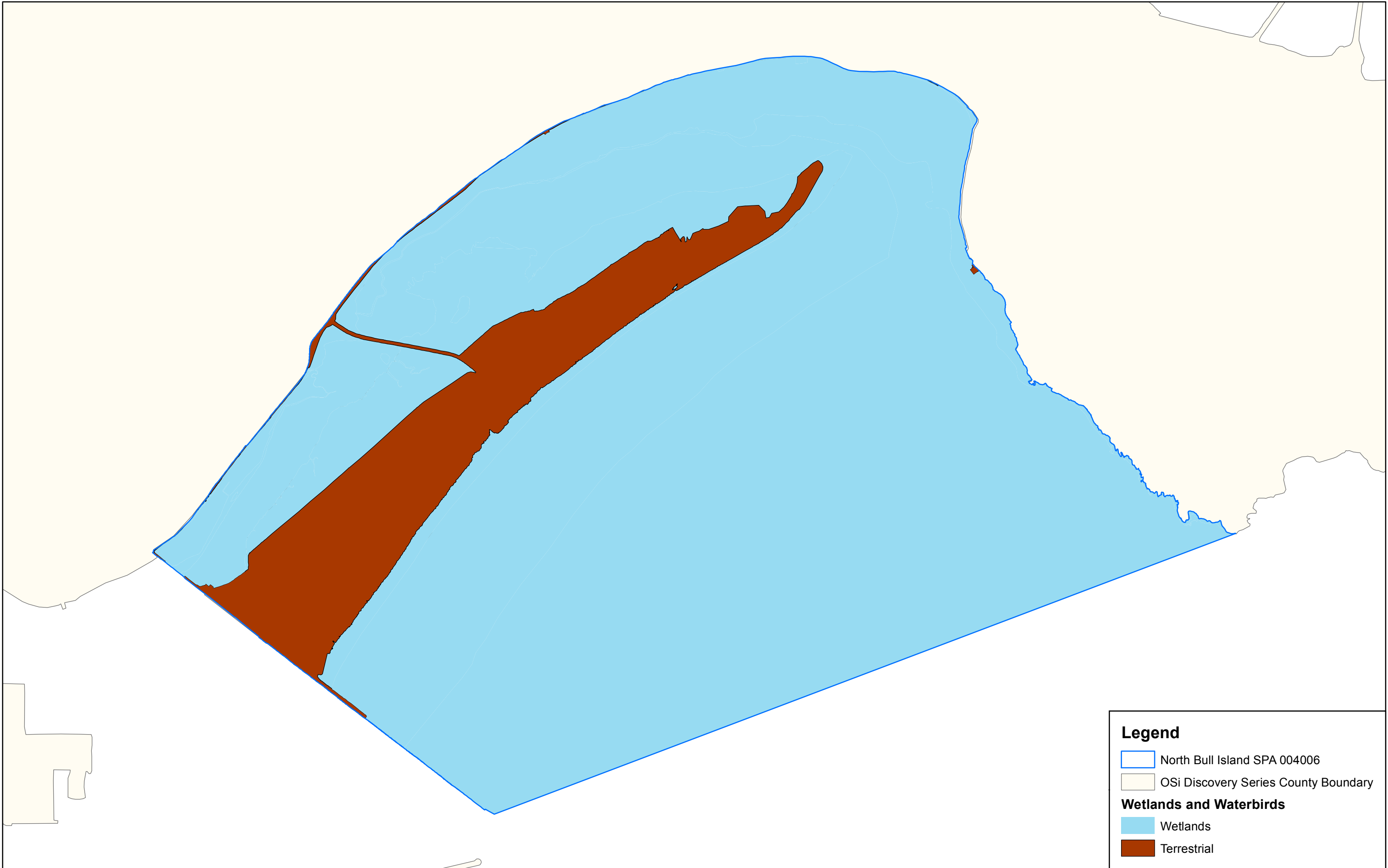
**To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in North Bull Island SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it. This is defined by the following attribute and target:**

| <b>Attribute</b> | <b>Measure</b> | <b>Target</b>   | <b>Notes</b>  |
|------------------|----------------|---|---|
| Habitat area     | Hectares       | The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than the area of 1,713 hectares, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation. See map 3 | The wetland habitat area was estimated as 1,713ha using OSi data and relevant orthophotographs. For further information see part three of the conservation objectives supporting document |












**Legend**

-  North Bull Island SPA 004006
-  OSi Discovery Series County Boundary
- Wetlands and Waterbirds**
-  Wetlands
-  Terrestrial