

# National Parks and Wildlife Service

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## *Conservation Objectives Series*

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Carlingford Lough SPA 004078



*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*

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|--------|--|
| 004078 | Carlingford Lough SPA                    |
| A046   | Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> |
| A999   | Wetlands                                 |

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**Please note that this SPA overlaps with Carlingford Shore SAC (002306). See map 2. The conservation objectives for this site should be used in conjunction with those for the overlapping site 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 :** 2013  
**Title :** Carlingford Lough SPA (site code 4078) Conservation objectives supporting document V1  
**Author :** NPWS  
**Series :** Conservation objectives supporting document

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**A046**                      **Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota***

**To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Light-bellied Brent Goose in Carlingford Lough 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 light-bellied brent goose, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation | Waterbird distribution from survey work undertaken in 2010/2011 is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document |

**A999 Wetlands**

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

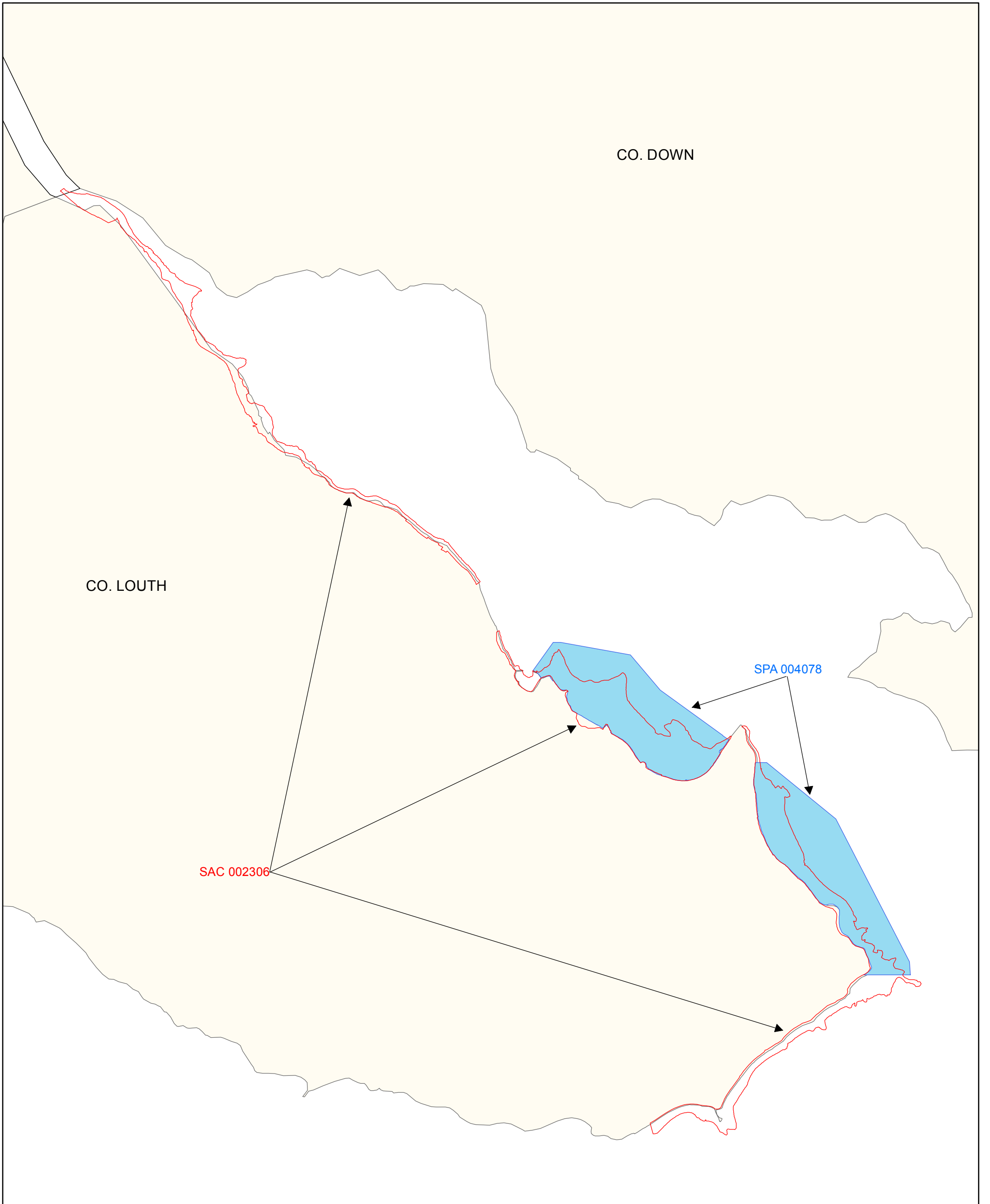
| <b>Attribute</b> | <b>Measure</b> | <b>Target</b>  | <b>Notes</b>  |
|------------------|----------------|--|---|
| Habitat area     | Hectares       | The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than the area of 595 hectares, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation | The wetland habitat area was estimated as 595ha using OSi data and relevant orthophotographs. For further information see part three of the conservation objectives supporting document |



**Legend**

SPA 004078





CO. DOWN

CO. LOUTH

SPA 004078

SAC 002306

**Legend**

- SAC 002306 Carlingford Shore
- SPA 004078 Carlingford Lough
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundary