



NATURA 2000 - STANDARD DATA FORM

For Special Protection Areas (SPA),
Proposed Sites for Community Importance (pSCI),
Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and
for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SITE IE0000154
SITENAME Inishtrahull SAC

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code IE0000154	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Inishtrahull SAC

1.4 First Compilation date 1999-12	1.5 Update date 2020-10
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1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation:	National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Address:	90 King Street North, Dublin 7, D07 N7CV, Ireland
Email:	datadelivery@chg.gov.ie

Date site proposed as SCI:	2002-01
Date site confirmed as SCI:	No data
Date site designated as SAC:	2017-10
National legal reference of SAC designation:	445/2017

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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					Min	Max				Pop.	Con.	Iso.	Glo.
B	A045	Branta leucopsis		w	153	153	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A009	Fulmarus glacialis		r	95	95	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A182	Larus canus		r	30	30	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A183	Larus fuscus		r	35	35	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A188	Rissa tridactyla		r	43	43	p		G	C	B	C	C

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, I = Invertebrates, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Type:** p = permanent, r = reproducing, c = concentration, w = wintering (for plant and non-migratory species use permanent)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the Standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting (see [reference portal](#))
- **Abundance categories (Cat.):** C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present - to fill if data are deficient (DD) or in addition to population size information
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation); VP = 'Very poor' (use this category only, if not even a rough estimation of the population size can be made, in this case the fields for population size can remain empty, but the field "Abundance categories" has to be filled in)

3.3 Other important species of flora and fauna (optional)

Species					Population in the site				Motivation					
Group	CODE	Scientific Name	S	NP	Size		Unit	Cat.	Species Annex		Other categories			
					Min	Max		C R V P	IV	V	A	B	C	D
B		Cepphus grylle			12	12	i						X	
B		Larus argentatus			20	20	p							X
B		Larus marinus			40	40	p							X
P		Ligusticum scoticum									X			
B		Phalacrocorax aristotelis			127	127	p						X	
B		Somateria mollissima			200	200	p						X	

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, Fu = Fungi, I = Invertebrates, L = Lichens, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **CODE:** for Birds, Annex IV and V species the code as provided in the reference portal should be used in addition to the scientific name
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting, (see [reference portal](#))
- **Cat.:** Abundance categories: C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present
- **Motivation categories:** **IV, V:** Annex Species (Habitats Directive), **A:** National Red List data; **B:** Endemics; **C:** International Conventions; **D:** other reasons

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

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4.1 General site character

Habitat class	% Cover
N23	1.0
N09	10.0
N01	83.0
N05	6.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

The site is situated approximately 12 km north-east of Malin Head and comprises the island of Inishtrahull and a group of islets, the Tor Rocks, as well as the intervening sea area. The Tor Rocks are the most northerly point of land in Ireland. The geology is Lewisian gneiss, considered the oldest rock in Ireland, and having affinities with the rocks of southern Greenland and some of the Hebridean Islands. The soils on Inishtrahull are thin glacial tills or peaty podzols. Most of the coastline is of relatively low cliffs, the highest point of the island being only 43 m at the western end. The cliffs are well indented, with a number of deep clefts and off-lying rocks. The vegetation of the interior of the island is predominantly grassland. The Tor Rocks comprise six rocky pinnacles rising to an estimated 20 m above high water mark. Inishtrahull was formerly inhabited, but not since 1928. There is an automated lighthouse on the island.

4.2 Quality and importance

The site is important as it has the most northerly example of vegetated sea cliffs in Ireland. While not particularly high or sheer, these are extremely exposed. Vegetation of the cliffs is typical and includes the rare *Ligusticum scoticum*, a Red Data Book species. Quality of habitat considered good with probably no significant damaging activities occurring. Has seabird colonies, mainly *Fulmarus glacialis* and *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*. Terns (*Sterna hirundo*, *S. paradisaea*) formerly bred but not on a regular basis or in significant numbers since the 1970s. The site has the largest population of breeding *Somateria mollissima* (200 pairs) in Ireland. Island is used on occasions by wintering *Branta leucopsis*.

4.3 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

Negative Impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
H	A04.02.05		i
H	E03.01		i
H	G01		i

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
H	A04.02.05		i

Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low

Pollution: N = Nitrogen input, P = Phosphor/Phosphate input, A = Acid input/acidification,

T = toxic inorganic chemicals, O = toxic organic chemicals, X = Mixed pollutions

i = inside, o = outside, b = both

4.5 Documentation

Barrington, R.M. (1900). Migration of Birds as Observed at Irish Lighthouses and Lightships. Dublin & London. Charlesworth, J.K. (1942). Survey of Inishtrahull - Part 2. Glacial erratics from Inishtrahull. Irish Naturalists' Journal 8: 29-30. Delvin, T.R.E. & Merne, O.J. (1966). Malin Head Bird Observatory Report, 1965. Hannon, C., Berrow, S.D., and Newton S.F. (1997). The status and distribution of breeding Sandwich Terns, *Sterna sandvicensis*, Roseate S. *dougallii*, Common S. *hirundo*, Arctic S. *paradisaea* and Little Terns, *Sterna albifrons* in Ireland in 1995. Irish Birds 6: 1-22. Lloyd, C. (1982). Inventory of seabird breeding colonies

in Republic of Ireland, Unpublished report, Forestry and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Merne, O.J. (1989). Important bird areas in the Republic of Ireland. In: Grimmett, R.F.A. and Jones, T.A. (eds) Important Bird Areas in Europe. ICBP Technical Publication No. 9. Cambridge. Merne, O.J. and Walsh, A. (1994). Barnacle Geese in Ireland, spring 1993 and 1994. Irish Birds 5: 151-156. Stelfox, A.W. (1940). Inishtrahull, Co. Donegal : A preliminary survey. Irish Naturalists? Journal 7: 238-242. Stelfox, A.W. (1943). Survey of Inishtrahull - Part 4. A list of the flowering plants, ferns etc. Irish Naturalists? Journal 8: 116-132. Whilde, A. (1985). The All Ireland Tern Survey 1984. Unpublished report for the Irish Wildbird Conservancy, Dublin. Young, R. (1973). Report on Areas of Ecological and Geological Interest in County Donegal. An Foras Forbartha, Dublin.

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

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6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, but in preparation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No

7. MAP OF THE SITES

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INSPIRE ID:

IE.NPWS.PS.NATURA2000.SAC.IE0000154

Map delivered as PDF in electronic format (optional)

Yes No

Reference(s) to the original map used for the digitalisation of the electronic boundaries (optional).

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