



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 IE0000191
SITENAME St. John's Point SAC

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1.1 Type B | 1.2 Site code IE0000191 | Back to top |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|

1.3 Site name

| |
|----------------------|
| St. John's Point SAC |
|----------------------|

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1.4 First Compilation date 1995-08 | 1.5 Update date 2019-01 |
|--|-----------------------------------|

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: | 1997-11 |
| Date site confirmed as SCI: | No data |
| Date site designated as SAC: | 2017-11 |
| National legal reference of SAC designation: | 500/2017 |

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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Longitude

-8.46243

Latitude

54.574272

2.2 Area [ha]:

1086.345764

2.3 Marine area [%]

85.596

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name**NUTS level 2 code****Region Name**

| | |
|------|-----------------------------|
| IEZZ | Extra-Regio |
| IE01 | Border, Midland and Western |

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION[Back to top](#)**3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them**

| Annex I Habitat types | | | | | | Site assessment | | | |
|-----------------------|----|----|------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|--------|
| Code | PF | NP | Cover [ha] | Cave [number] | Data quality | A B C D | A B C | | |
| | | | | | | Representativity | Relative Surface | Conservation | Global |
| 1160 | | | 227.8693 | | M | B | C | A | A |
| 1170 | | | 868.6516 | | M | A | C | A | A |
| 1230 | | | 35.6 | | G | A | C | B | B |
| 6210 | X | | 16.6556 | | G | A | C | A | B |
| 6410 | | | 13.5617 | | G | B | C | B | B |
| 7230 | | | 53.95 | | M | B | C | B | C |
| 8240 | | | 12.6538 | | M | B | C | A | B |
| 8330 | | | 10.79 | | M | A | C | A | A |

- **PF:** for the habitat types that can have a non-priority as well as a priority form (6210, 7130, 9430) enter

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| N08 | 2.0 |
| N09 | 17.0 |
| N22 | 2.0 |
| N07 | 5.0 |
| N06 | 3.0 |
| Total Habitat Cover | 100 |

Other Site Characteristics

A narrow peninsula of carboniferous limestone projecting south-west into Donegal Bay. These limestone rocks are particularly rich in fossils. St. John's Point is exposed to prevailing wind and swells from the west. It drops steeply and in vertical cliffs to 40 m BCD. The predominant vegetation of the site is dry calcareous grassland, but limestone pavement, calcareous marshes, lakes, coastal heath and unimproved wet grassland also occur. Reef occurs around much of the site, but is particularly well developed near the end of the peninsula. Here sea caves are also found.

4.2 Quality and importance

The site is important for both terrestrial and marine habitats. It contains areas of species - rich limestone pavement. This is a rare habitat in Ireland and particularly so in the north-west. The associated dry calcareous grassland is of high quality and in places rich in orchid species. Several areas of species-rich unimproved wet *Molinia* meadows are found. This habitat is becoming increasingly rare in Ireland through grassland improvement. Small calcareous marshes and an alkaline fen are found on the site. St John's Point has very good examples of circalittoral rock communities that are exposed to wave action and contain a number of rare and uncommon species. Most notable are the shallow circalittoral communities that are characterized by the sea fan, *Eunicella verrucosa*, and its associated ophistobranch, *Tritonia nilsodhneri*, which are common, although both are close to the northern limits of their range. Rare species include the sponge, *Bienna variantia*, the anemone, *Aureliania heterocera*, and the red alga *Odontalia dentata*. Additional interesting records for the area include the seaslug *Hancockia uncinata*, the nocturnal crab *Bathynectes longipes*, and the anthozoans *Paraerythropodium coralloides* and *Parazoanthus anguicomus*. Recent survey suggests that a series of small caves stretches along the south-east coast of the infralittoral and circalittoral reef from Black Rock to Portnagh Rock. These also shelter rare species and deserve further exploration. The shallow bay sediment communities in the site range from being sheltered from, and exposed to, wave action. They are principally composed of maerl gravel formed by *Lithothamnion coralloides* and populated by rare burrowing anemones (*Aureliania heterocera*) and starfish (*Luidia sarsi*). The site is remarkably undisturbed.

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] |
| L | G01.07 | | i |
| M | G01.02 | | i |
| H | G05.01 | | i |
| L | F04.02.02 | | i |
| H | G01.03.02 | | i |

| Positive Impacts | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Rank | Activities, management [code] | Pollution (optional) [code] | inside/outside [i o b] |
| H | A04.02.01 | | 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

Costelloe, J. and Keegan, B.F. (1984). Littoral and benthic investigations on the west coast of Ireland - XIX. Synonymy, diagnostic morphology, distribution and life-style of *Aslia lefevrei* (Barrois 1882) (Holothuroidea: Echinodermata). Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy 84B: 29-35. Holmes, J.M.C., McGrath, D., Picton,

B.E. and Mulligan, N. (1983). Records of some interesting crabs from the coast of Ireland. Irish Naturalists' Journal 21: 79-81. Nunn, J. (1990). Recording Mollusca in Ireland: Sea Area 34. Conchologists' Newsletter 115: 330-333. Nunn, J. (1990). The marine Mollusca of Ireland: Donegal, June 1989. Conchologists' Newsletter 114: 308-312. Nunn, J. (1990). The occurrence of the rare nudibranch Hancockia uncinata (Hesse, 1872) at St John's Point, Co Donegal. Irish Naturalists' Journal 23: 341-342. Ó Críodáin, C. (1992). Conservation of Grassland Sites of Scientific Interest in Ireland. A Preliminary Report. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Picton, B.E. (undated). Underwater at St John's Point. The Living Countryside 167: 3334 - 3337. Picton, B.E. and Brown, G.H. (1978). A new species of Cuthona (Gastropoda: Opisthobranchia) from the British Isles. Journal of Conchology 29: 345-348. Picton, B.E. (1985). Anthozoans (Coelenterata: Anthozoa) new to Ireland and new records of some rarely recorded species. Irish Naturalists' Journal 21: 484-488. Southward, A.J. and Crisp, D.J. (1954). The distribution of certain intertidal animals around the Irish coast. Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy 57B: 1-29. Young, R. (1973). A Report on Areas of Biological and Geological Interest in County Donegal. Unpublished report to Donegal County Council. 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.IE0000191

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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