



**2.4 Sitelength [km]:**

0.0

**2.5 Administrative region code and name**

NUTS level 2 code

Region Name

IE01	Border, Midland and Western
IEZZ	Extra-Regio

**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
1130B			1530.27		M	B	B	A	B
1140B			1259.33		M	A	B	A	A
1160B			687.681		M	B	B	A	C
1210B			4.19		G	A	B	A	A
1330B			32.01		M	B	C	A	B
1410B			47.41		M	B	C	A	B
2110B			15.73		G	A	B	A	A
2120B			19.618		M	A	C	B	B
2130B			408.645		M	A	B	A	A
2140B			67.39		M	B	C	A	A
2150B			10.199		M	B	C	A	B
2170B			2.5		M	B	C	A	B
2190B			12.31		M	B	C	A	B
21A0B	X		88.584		M	B	C	C	B
3110B			67.39		M	B	C	B	B
3130B			119.2879539		M	B	C	B	B
4010B			539.12		M	B	B	A	B
4030B			404.34		M	B	C	A	B
4060B			202.17		M	B	B	A	B
5130B			134.78		M	B	C	A	B
6210B	X		67.39		M	C	C	B	C
6410B			134.78		M	B	C	B	B
6510B			67.39		M	C	C	B	C
7130B	X		876.08		M	A	C	B	B
7150B			67.39		M	B	C	B	B
7230B			67.39		M	B	C	A	B

- **PF:** for the habitat types that can have a non-priority as well as a priority form (6210, 7130, 9430) enter "X" in the column PF to indicate the priority form.
- **NP:** in case that a habitat type no longer exists in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Cover:** decimal values can be entered
- **Caves:** for habitat types 8310, 8330 (caves) enter the number of caves if estimated surface is not available.
- **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)

### 3.2 Species referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC and site evaluation for them

Species					Population in the site						Site assessment			
G	Code	Scientific Name	S	NP	T	Size		Unit	Cat.	D. qual.	A B C D	A B C		
						Min	Max				Pop.	Con.	Iso.	Glo.
B	A052	<a href="#">Anas crecca</a>			w	24	24	i	P	M	C	B	C	C
B	A053	<a href="#">Anas platyrhynchos</a>			w	47	47	i	P	M	C	B	C	C
B	A395	<a href="#">Anser albifrons flavirostris</a>			w	104	104	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A040	<a href="#">Anser brachyrhynchus</a>			w				P	DD	C	B	C	C
B	A046	<a href="#">Branta bernicla</a>			w	50	50	i	P	M	C	B	C	B
B	A045	<a href="#">Branta leucopsis</a>			w	320	320	i		G	B	B	C	B
B	A082	<a href="#">Circus cyaneus</a>			w	1	2	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A064	<a href="#">Clangula hyemalis</a>			w	32	35	i	P	M	B	A	C	B
B	A122	<a href="#">Crex crex</a>			w				P	DD	C	C	C	C
B	A122	<a href="#">Crex crex</a>			r				P	DD	C	C	C	C
B	A038	<a href="#">Cygnus cygnus</a>			w	78	78	i	P	M	C	B	C	C
I	1065	<a href="#">Euphydryas aurinia</a>			p				P	DD	C	A	C	A
B	A098	<a href="#">Falco columbarius</a>			p	5	5	p		G	B	A	C	A
B	A103	<a href="#">Falco peregrinus</a>			p	1	1	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A009	<a href="#">Fulmarus glacialis</a>			w				P	DD	C	B	C	C
B	A009	<a href="#">Fulmarus glacialis</a>			r				P	DD	C	B	C	C
B	A153	<a href="#">Gallinago gallinago</a>			w				P	DD	C	B	C	C
B	A153	<a href="#">Gallinago gallinago</a>			r				P	DD	C	B	C	C
B	A001	<a href="#">Gavia stellata</a>			w	2	2	p		G	A	A	B	A
B	A001	<a href="#">Gavia stellata</a>			r	2	2	p		G	A	A	B	A
M	1355	<a href="#">Lutra lutra</a>			p				P	DD	C	B	C	B
I	1029	<a href="#">Margaritifera margaritifera</a>			p				P	DD	C	A	C	C
P	1833	<a href="#">Najas flexilis</a>			p				P	DD	B	B	B	B
P	1395	<a href="#">Petalophyllum ralfsii</a>			p	15	15	area	P	G	C	A	C	A
M	1365	<a href="#">Phoca vitulina</a>			p	59	59	i		G	B	A	C	B
B	A346	<a href="#">Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</a>			p	80	84	i		G	B	A	C	B
F	1106	<a href="#">Salmo salar</a>			p				C	DD	C	A	C	A
B	A063	<a href="#">Somateria mollissima</a>			r				P	DD	A	A	C	A
B	A063	<a href="#">Somateria mollissima</a>			w				P	DD	A	A	C	A
B	A162	<a href="#">Tringa totanus</a>			r				P	DD	C	B	C	C
B	A142	<a href="#">Vanellus vanellus</a>			w	16	16	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A142	<a href="#">Vanellus vanellus</a>			r	16	16	p		G	C	B	C	C
I	1013	<a href="#">Vertigo geyeri</a>			p				P	DD	B	B	A	B

- **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
P		<a href="#">Campylopus subulatus</a>						P						X
P		<a href="#">Catascopium nigratum</a>						P						X
P		<a href="#">Draba incana</a>						P			X			
R		<a href="#">Lacerta vivipara</a>						P					X	
B		<a href="#">Lagopus lagopus</a>						P					X	
M		<a href="#">Lepus timidus hibernicus</a>						P				X		
M		<a href="#">Lepus timidus hibernicus</a>						P			X			
M		<a href="#">Lepus timidus hibernicus</a>						P					X	
M		<a href="#">Meles meles</a>						P					X	
M		<a href="#">Meles meles</a>						P			X			
A		<a href="#">Rana temporaria</a>						P					X	
A		<a href="#">Rana temporaria</a>						P			X			
P		<a href="#">Sphagnum pulchrum</a>						P						X
P		<a href="#">Sphagnum teres</a>						P						X
A		<a href="#">Triturus vulgaris</a>						P					X	
P		<a href="#">Weissia perssonii</a>						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

### 4.1 General site character

[Back to top](#)

Habitat class	% Cover
N01	6.0
N06	5.0

N09	1.0
N05	4.0
N16	1.0
N10	5.0
N07	22.0
N02	24.0
N08	18.0
N04	10.0
N15	1.0
N03	3.0
<b>Total Habitat Cover</b>	<b>100</b>

#### Other Site Characteristics

The site comprises most of the peninsula situated west of the Ardara/Maas road, an area of blanket bog, lakes and heath to the east of this road, two large bays to the north and south of the peninsula, the lower section of the Gweebarra River and the island of Inishkeel situated 1km to the north of the peninsula. Much of the marine component of the site comprises shallow bays, estuaries, sand and sandflats. A large area of the site comprises a mosaic of blanket bog, heath, exposed rock, lakes and other wetlands, and humid grassland, but coastal habitats such as sand dunes, machair and salt marshes are well represented. Small areas of scrub and broad-leaved deciduous woodland are scattered throughout the site. Many of the coastal sections of the site are underlain by metamorphic rocks and limestone; most of the inland section of the site is underlain by intrusive igneous granodiorites.

#### 4.2 Quality and importance

An exceptionally diverse, large site with a wide range of marine, coastal and inland habitats, many of which are of very high quality. The site holds several rare or scarce plant and animal species, including *Najas flexilis* which has been recorded from two stations on the site, *Petalophyllum ralfsii*, populations of *Margaritifera margaritifera*, *Vertigo geyeri*, *Lutra lutra*, *Salmo salar*, *Phoca vitulina* and a large population of *Euphydryas aurinia*. The site is notable for the many important bird populations that occur, including nine species listed on Annex I of Council Directive 79/409/EEC.

#### 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	F02.03		i
H	J01.01		i
L	B02.02		i
L	C01.03.02		i
M	J02.15		i
L	G05.01		i
L	A04.03		i
L	G01.03.02		i
L	D01.01		i
L	C01.03.01		i
L	K01.01		i
L	C01.01.02		i
L	G05.09		i
L	A03.03		i
L	E03.03		i
L	A08		i
L	D01.02		i
L	F06		i
M	H01.05		b
L	E05		i
L	A04.01.05		i

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside /outside [i o b]
L	F03.02.04		b
L	A02.01		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

#### 4.4 Ownership (optional)

#### 4.5 Documentation

Bassett, A. (1983). Report on the Conservation Value of Irish Coastal Sites: Machair in Ireland. Unpublished report to the Forest and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Central Fisheries Board (2001). Irish Salmon Catches 2000. <http://www.cfb.ie/>: February 2001. Crawford, I., Bleasdale, A. and Conaghan, J. (1996). Biomar survey of Irish machair sites 1996. A report submitted to the National Parks & Wildlife Service, Dublin. Cronin, M., Duck, C., Ó Cadhla, O., Nairn, R., Strong, D. and O'Keeffe, C. (2004). Harbour seal population assessment in the Republic of Ireland: August 2003. Irish Wildlife Manuals No. 11. National Parks & Wildlife Service, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government., 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2, Ireland. 34 pp. Cronin, M., Duck, C., Ó Cadhla, O., Nairn, R., Strong, D. and O'Keeffe, C. (2007). An assessment of harbour seal population size and distribution in the Republic of Ireland during the 2003 moult season. J. Zool. Lond. 273 Issue 2: 131-139. Curtis, T.G.F. (1991). The Flora and Vegetation of Sand Dunes in Ireland. PP. 42-46 in: Quigley, M.B. (Ed.) A Guide to the Sand Dunes of Ireland. European Union for Dune Conservation and Coastal Management. Doris, Y., McGarrigle, M.L., Clabby, K.J., Lucey, J., Neill, M., Flanagan, M., Quinn, M.B., Sugrue, M. and Lehane, M. (1999). Water Quality in Ireland 1995-1997. Statistical Compendium of River Quality Data. Electronic Publication on Disk. Environmental Protection Agency, Wexford. Douglas, C., Dunnells, D., Scally, L. and Wyse Jackson, M.B. (1990). A Survey to Locate Lowland-Highland Blanket Bogs of Scientific Interest in Counties Donegal, Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon. Unpublished report to the Wildlife Service, Office of Public Works, Dublin. Falvey, J.P., Costello, M.J. and Dempsey, S. (1997). Survey of intertidal biotopes in estuaries in Ireland. Unpublished report to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Fox, A.D., Norriss, D.W., Stroud, D.A. and Wilson, H.J. (1994). Greenland White-Fronted Geese in Ireland and Britain 1982/83-1993/94 - The First Twelve Years of International Conservation Monitoring. Greenland White-fronted Goose Study and National Parks and Wildlife Service, Office of Public Works, Dublin. Gallagher, K.A., Wheeler, A.J. and Orford, J. D. (1996). An assessment of the heavy metal pollution of two tidal marshes on the north-west coast of Ireland. Biology and the Environment, Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy 96B: 177-188. Hannon, C. (1997). The 1995 All-Ireland Tern Survey. BirdWatch Ireland Conservation Report No. 97/1. Harrington, R. (1990). 1989 survey of breeding herds of common seal *Phoca vitulina* with reference to previous surveys. Report to the National Parks & Wildlife Service. 10pp. Hunt, J., Derwin, J., Coveney, J. and Newton, S. (2000). Republic of Ireland. Pp. 365-416 in Heath, M.F. and Evans, M.I. (eds). Important Bird Areas in Europe: Priority Sites for Conservation 1 : Northern Europe Cambridge, UK : BirdLife International (BirdLife Conservation Series No. 8). Lavery, T.A. (1993). A review of the distribution, ecology and status of the Marsh Fritillary *Eurhydrys aurium* Rottemburg, 1775 (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae) in Ireland. The Irish Naturalists' Journal 24: 192-199. Lockley, R.M. (1966). The distribution of grey and common seals on the coasts of Ireland. Irish Naturalists' Journal 15: 136-143. Lloyd, C. (1982). Inventory of Seabird Breeding Colonies in Republic of Ireland. Unpublished report, Forest and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Lyons, D.O. (2004). Summary of National Parks & Wildlife Service surveys for common (harbour) seals (*Phoca vitulina*) and grey seals (*Halichoerus grypus*), 1978 to 2003. Irish Wildlife Manuals No. 13. National Parks & Wildlife Service, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2, Ireland. 67pp. Madden, B., Cooney, T., O' Donoghue, A., Norriss, D.W. and Merne, O.J. (1998). Breeding waders of machair systems in Ireland in 1996. Irish Birds 6. 177-190. 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. (2002). Barnacle Geese in Ireland, Spring 1999. Irish Birds 7: 53-56. Moorkens, E.A. (1998). An inventory of Mollusca in Potential SAC sites, with special reference to *Vertigo angustior*, *V. moulinsiana* and *V. geyeri* unpublished report to National Parks and Wildlife, Dublin. McCarthy, D.T. (1972). The ecology of brown trout and juvenile salmon in the River Owenea, Co. Donegal. Irish Fisheries Investigations, Series A, No 9. O'Reilly, P. (1991). Trout and Salmon Rivers of Ireland: an angler's guide. Merlin Unwin Books, London. Ruttledge, R.F. and Ogilvie, M.A. (1979). The Past and Current Status of the Greenland White-Fronted Goose in Ireland and Britain, Irish Birds 1: 293 -363. Sheppard, R. (1993). Ireland's Wetland Wealth. Irish Wildbird Conservancy, Dublin. Sheppard, R. (1993). Ireland's Wetland Wealth. Irish Wildbird Conservancy, Dublin. Sheppard, R. and Sheppard, E. (1985). *Neotinea maculata* (Desf.) Stearn in County Donegal, The Irish Naturalists' Journal 21: 534-535. Summers, C.F., Warner, P.J., Nairn R.G.W., Curry, M.G. and Flynn, J. (1980). An assessment of the status of the common seal (*Phoca vitulina vitulina*) in Ireland. Biological Conservation 17: 115-123. Warner, P. (1983). An assessment of the breeding populations of common seal (*Phoca vitulina vitulina* L.) in the Republic of Ireland during 1979. Irish Naturalists' Journal 21: 24-26. Warner, P. (1984). Report on the census of common seals (*Phoca vitulina vitulina*) in the Republic of Ireland during 1984. Unpublished document to the Forest & Wildlife Service, Dublin. Way, L.S., Grice, P., MacKay, A., Galbraith, C.A., Stroud, D. A. and Pienkowski, M.W. (1993). Ireland's Internationally Important Bird Sites. Unpublished report. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough. Wilde, A. (1985). The All Ireland Tern Survey 1984. Unpublished report for the Irish Wildbird Conservancy, Dublin. 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.

#### 5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

##### 5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

[Back to top](#)

Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
IE05	4.0				

##### 5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

designated at national or regional level:

Type code	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
IE05	Sheskinmore Lough Wildfowl Sanctuary	+	4.0

### 5.3 Site designation (optional)

## 6. SITE MANAGEMENT

### 6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

[Back to top](#)

### 6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

- Yes
- No, but in preparation
- No

### 6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

## 7. MAP OF THE SITES

[Back to top](#)

INSPIRE ID:

IE.NPWS.PS.NATURA2000.SAC.IE0000197

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).