



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 IE0000205
SITENAME Malahide Estuary SAC

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code IE0000205	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Malahide Estuary 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:	1999-12
Date site confirmed as SCI:	No data
Date site designated as SAC:	2019-03
National legal reference of SAC designation:	91/2019

2. SITE LOCATION

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2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude

-6.152072

Latitude

53.461167

2.2 Area [ha]:

787.9989823

2.3 Marine area [%]

89.8

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code

Region Name

IE02	Southern and Eastern
IEZZ	Extra-Regio

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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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
1140			310.7624		M	B	B	B	B
1310			1.92475		M	A	C	B	B
1330			25.14285		M	A	C	B	B
1410			0.6356		M	C	C	C	C
2120			1.7966		M	B	C	C	C
2130			21.373		M	B	C	B	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	A054	Anas acuta			w	53	53	i		G	B	B	C	B
B	A052	Anas crecca			w	78	78	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A050	Anas penelope			w	50	50	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A053	Anas platyrhynchos			w	57	57	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A169	Arenaria interpres			w	95	95	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A059	Aythya ferina			w	200	200	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A046	Branta bernicla			w	1217	1217	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A067	Bucephala clangula			w	333	333	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A144	Calidris alba			w	36	36	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A149	Calidris alpina			w	1474	1474	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A143	Calidris canutus			w	858	858	i		G	B	B	C	B
B	A137	Charadrius hiaticula			w	106	106	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A153	Gallinago gallinago			w	29	29	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A130	Haematopus ostralegus			w	1228	1228	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A157	Limosa lapponica			w	99	99	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A156	Limosa limosa			w	345	345	i		G	B	A	C	B
B	A070	Mergus merganser			w	116	116	i		G	B	A	C	B
B	A160	Numenius arquata			w	528	528	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A140	Pluvialis apricaria			w	2123	2123	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A141	Pluvialis squatarola			w	190	190	i		G	B	A	C	B
B	A005	Podiceps cristatus			w	52	52	i		G	C	B	C	B

B	A048	Tadorna tadorna			w	471	471	i		G	B	A	C	B
B	A164	Tringa nebularia			w	38	38	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A162	Tringa totanus			w	454	454	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A142	Vanellus vanellus			w	1842	1842	i		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		Ardea cinerea			22	22	i						X	
B		Cygnus olor			55	55	i						X	
P		Viola hirta									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

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Habitat class	% Cover
N09	1.0

N10	1.0
N05	2.0
N04	5.0
N02	86.0
N03	5.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

The site is situated in north Co. Dublin, between the towns of Malahide and Swords. It comprises the estuary of the River Broadmeadow. A railway viaduct, built in the 1800s, crosses the site and has led to the inner estuary becoming lagoonal in character and only partly tidal. Much of the outer part of the estuary is well sheltered from the sea by a large sand spit, known as 'the island'. This spit is now mostly converted to golf-course though some sand dunes and salt marshes remain. A section of bedrock shore extending towards Portmarnock is included as it represents the only continuous section through the fossiliferous Lower Carboniferous rocks in the Dublin Basin, and is the type locality for several species of fossil coral.

4.2 Quality and importance

The site has an important example of intertidal sand and mud flats, with *Zostera* spp. Their quality is variable but generally good. Salt marshes are well represented, particularly Atlantic salt meadows and *Salicornia* flats. Most of the sand dune system is managed for a golf course but significant areas of fixed dunes and shifting white dunes remain. The site has *Viola hirta*, a Red Data Book plant species. It is of high importance for wintering waterfowl, with an internationally important population of *Branta bernicla horta* and nationally important populations of a further 14 species, including *Pluvialis apricaria*. It also supports a regionally important population of *Limosa lapponica*. This site has educational value and has been the subject of a number of research projects.

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	F03.01		i
M	A08		o
M	D01.02		o
H	D01.05		i
H	J02.01.02		b
M	G02.01		o
H	G01.02		i
M	E01		o
M	I01		i
H	G01.01		i
H	G01.03		i

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
L	X		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

Bowman, J.J., Clabby, K.J., Lucey, J., McGarrigle, M.L. and Toner, P.H. (1996). Water Quality in Ireland 1991-1994. Environmental Protection Agency, Wexford. Colhoun, K. (1998). I-WeBS Report 1996-97. BirdWatch Ireland, Dublin. Collins, R. & Whelan, J. (1993). Mute Swans in Dublin and Wicklow, 1983-1992. Irish Birds 5: 11-22. Curtis, T.G.F. and Sheehy Skeffington, M.J. (1998). The salt marshes of Ireland: an

inventory and account of their geographical variation. *Biology and the Environment, Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* 98B: 87-104. Curtis, T.G.F. (1991a). A site inventory of the sandy coasts of Ireland. In Quigley, M.B. (ed.) *A Guide to the Sand Dunes of Ireland*. E.U.C.C. Dublin. Doogue, D., Nash, D., Parnell, J., Reynolds, S., & Wyse Jackson, P. (1998). *Flora of County Dublin*. Dublin Naturalists' Field Club, Dublin. Gaynor, K. & Browne, A. (1999). *Survey of Irish Link Golf Courses*. Unpublished report for Duchas, The Heritage Service. Dublin. Goodwillie, R., Ni Lamhna, E. & Webb, R. (1988). A second report on areas of scientific interest in County Dublin. An Foras Forbartha, Dublin. Healy, B. (1994). *Lagoons and other enclosed brackish waters in the Republic of Ireland*. Unpublished report, Department of Zoology, University College Dublin. Healy, B., Lyons, J & Galvin, P. (1993). *Environmental Impact Study of the Aquatic Fauna of the Inner Malahide Estuary, Co. Dublin*. Unpublished report by the Marine Research Unit, Department of Zoology, University College Dublin to Dublin County Council. Madden, B., Jeffrey, D.W. & Jennings, E. (1993). *Distribution and ecology of Zostera in County Dublin*. *Irish Naturalists' Journal* 24: 303-309. 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. Ni Lamhna, E. (1982). *The vegetation of salt marshes and sand dunes at Malahide Island, Co. Dublin*. *Journal of the Royal Dublin Society* 3: 111-129. O'Reilly, H. & Pantin, G. (1957). *Some observations on the salt marsh formation in Co. Dublin*. *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, Vol. 58 Sect. B*: 89-128. Sheppard, R. (1993). *Ireland's Wetland Wealth*. IWC, Dublin. Smyth, L.B. (1920). *The carboniferous coast section at Malahide, Co. Dublin*. *Scientific Proceedings of the Royal Dublin Society* 16: 19-24.

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

designated at international level:

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Type	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
Other	Broadmeadow Estuary	*	68.0

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

6.2 Management Plan(s):

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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.IE0000205

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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