



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 IE0000213
SITENAME Inishmore Island SAC

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

| | | |
|----------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 1.1 Type | 1.2 Site code | Back to top |
| B | IE0000213 | |

1.3 Site name

| |
|----------------------|
| Inishmore Island SAC |
|----------------------|

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1.4 First Compilation date | 1.5 Update date |
| 1996-09 | 2015-12 |

1.6 Respondent:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Name/Organisation: | National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht |
| Address: | 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2, Ireland |
| Email: | datadelivery@ahg.gov.ie |

| | |
|--|---------|
| Date site proposed as SCI: | 2002-01 |
| Date site confirmed as SCI: | No data |
| Date site designated as SAC: | No data |
| National legal reference of SAC designation: | No data |

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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Longitude
-9.73408101

Latitude
53.13606935

2.2 Area [ha]:
14666.06

2.3 Marine area [%]
86.21

2.4 Sitelength [km]:
0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code **Region Name**

| | |
|------|----------------------|
| IEZZ | Extra-Regio |
| IE02 | Southern and Eastern |










2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them

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| 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 |
| 1150  | | | 7.9796 | | M | B | C | B | B |
| 1170  | | | 6329.8383 | | M | A | C | A | A |
| 1220  | | | 0.4443 | | M | A | C | A | A |
| 1230  | | | 146.66 | | M | A | C | A | A |
| 2110  | | | 0.2213 | | M | A | C | A | A |
| 2120  | | | 1.6316 | | M | B | C | B | B |
| 2130  | | | 60.0641 | | M | A | C | A | A |
| 2170  | | | 146.66 | | M | A | C | A | A |
| 2190  | | | 146.66 | | M | A | C | A | B |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|--|-----------|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21A0 B | X | | 37.0096 | | M | A | C | A | B |
| 4030 B | | | 146.66 | | M | A | C | B | B |
| 4060 B | | | 146.66 | | M | A | C | A | B |
| 6210 B | X | | 146.66 | | M | A | B | A | B |
| 6510 B | | | 146.66 | | M | A | C | A | B |
| 8240 B | | | 1753.2625 | | M | A | B | A | B |
| 8330 B | | | 146.66 | | M | A | B | A | A |

- **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 | A200 | Alca torda | | | r | 66 | 66 | p | | G | C | A | C | C |
| B | A137 | Charadrius hiaticula | | | r | 24 | 24 | p | | G | C | A | C | B |
| B | A103 | Falco peregrinus | | | p | 1 | 1 | p | | G | C | C | C | B |
| B | A009 | Fulmarus glacialis | | | r | 180 | 180 | p | | G | B | A | C | C |
| B | A018 | Phalacrocorax aristotelis | | | r | 38 | 38 | p | | G | C | A | C | C |
| B | A017 | Phalacrocorax carbo | | | r | 7 | 7 | p | | G | C | A | C | C |
| B | A346 | Pyrhacorax pyrrhacorax | | | p | 8 | 8 | p | | G | C | B | C | B |
| B | A188 | Rissa tridactyla | | | r | 404 | 404 | p | | G | C | A | C | C |
| B | A195 | Sterna albifrons | | | r | 2 | 2 | p | | G | C | C | C | C |
| B | A194 | Sterna paradisaea | | | r | 338 | 338 | p | | G | A | A | C | A |
| B | A191 | Sterna sandvicensis | | | r | 2 | 2 | p | | G | C | C | C | C |

[illegible]

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| I | | Thymosia guernei | | | | | | R | | | | | | X |
| I | | Tritonia nilsodhneri | | | | | | C | | | | | | 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

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4.1 General site character

| Habitat class | % Cover |
|----------------------------|------------|
| N06 | 1.0 |
| N09 | 4.0 |
| N04 | 1.0 |
| N22 | 8.0 |
| N05 | 1.0 |
| N02 | 2.0 |
| N01 | 77.0 |
| N08 | 3.0 |
| N23 | 1.0 |
| N14 | 1.0 |
| N03 | 1.0 |
| Total Habitat Cover | 100 |

Other Site Characteristics

Inishmore is situated on the west coast of Ireland in the mouth of Galway Bay. It is the largest of the three Aran Islands which are fully exposed to extremely powerful wave action from the Atlantic. Cliffs up to 80 m or more dominate the south-west coastline. The land is flatter along the more sheltered north-east coast. The Aran Islands are an extension of the karstic Carboniferous (Visean) limestone of the Burren. Large blocks of broken limestone bedrock are piled on a terraced platform and against vertical and overhanging cliff faces. Horizontal caves occur on the east end of the island, some as deep as 10m. Large caves are also known to occur on the west end of the island. The terraced platform and cliff faces are characteristically pitted and furrowed. On the land a thin cover of rendzina occurs in pockets between the bare limestone. A network of high stone walls divide the island into small fields, each enclosing an area of limestone pavement interspersed with species rich calcareous grasslands.

4.2 Quality and importance

Inishmore is a site of high conservation importance, with an excellent range of marine, coastal, grassland, heath and limestone habitats. There are many good examples of sublittoral reef communities that are extremely exposed to wave action. On the infralittoral reefs are two exceptional communities. Ireland's only

recorded example by BioMar of a population of sublittoral purple sea urchins *Paracentrotus lividus* is on the west of the island. At the reef in Blind Sound, is Ireland's best example (excellent representativity and species rich) of an extremely exposed, shallow, infralittoral community that is dominated by a forest of mixed kelps and the brown seaweed *Alaria esculenta*, with an understorey of diverse red algal species. Rare species are present in the infralittoral reef community, including soft corals, sea fans and anemones. In deeper water, there are excellent examples of the Axinellid sponge community with a large number of species considered to be of conservation importance including a number of rare species. Large submerged caves on the south east coast are unusually species rich (76 species) and are characterized by a diverse fauna of sponges, hydroids, bryozoans, soft corals, anemones, nudibranchs, echinoderms and ascidians. They are probably the best known sea caves in Ireland. The sea cliffs are of high quality and are an important western example as indicated by species such as *Rhodiola rosea*. Inishmore supports a variety of karstic lagoons, a type which is believed to be rare in Europe. All are in a natural state and of good quality. The flora is typically lagoonal with three lagoonal specialists. The fauna is not rich but comprises a high number of lagoonal specialists, including the rare corixid species *Sigara selecta*. The Annex II mollusc *Vertigo angustior* occurs at three different locations within the site, two on dune and one on maritime grass. The protected plants *Astragalus danicus* and *Viola hirta* occur here. A number of rare and threatened arable weeds, thought to be extinct in Ireland were recently recorded on Inishmore: *Lolium temulentum*, *Centaurea cyanus*. Ornithologically the island is important for breeding *Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax* and *Sterna* spp., with one of the biggest colonies of *Sterna paradisaea* in the country present on Brannock Island off the west coast.

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] |
| M | F02.02.02 | | i |
| H | I02 | | i |
| M | J01.01 | | i |
| M | H02.07 | | b |
| H | D03 | | i |
| M | A02.01 | | i |
| L | A08 | | i |
| L | E04.01 | | i |
| H | A04.03 | | i |
| H | K04.05 | | i |
| M | J02.01.02 | | b |
| M | C01.07 | | 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

| Positive Impacts | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Rank | Activities, management [code] | Pollution (optional) [code] | inside/outside [i o b] |
| H | D01.01 | | i |
| H | E04.01 | | i |
| H | A04.02.01 | | i |
| H | A10.01 | | i |

4.5 Documentation

Berrow, S.D., Mackie, K.L., O'Sullivan, O., Sheppard, R.B., Mellan, C. and Coveney, J.A. (1993). The Second International Chough Survey In Ireland, 1992. *Irish Birds* 5:1-10. Byrne, M. (1990). Annual reproductive cycles of the commercial sea-urchin, *Paracentrotus lividus*, from an exposed intertidal and a sheltered subtidal habitat on the west coast of Ireland. *Mar. Biol* 104: 275-289. Crawford, I., Bleasdale, A. and Conaghan, J. (1996). BIOMAR Survey of Irish Machair Sites. 2 vols. Unpublished report to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Curtis, T.G.F. and McGough, H.N. (1988). The Irish Red Data Book. Wildlife Service, Ireland. Curtis, T.G.F. (1991). The Flora and Vegetation of Sand Dunes in Ireland. In: A Guide to the Sand Dunes of Ireland (M.B. Quigley, Ed.) 42-46. European Union for Dune Conservation and Coastal Management. Curtis, T.G.F. (1991). A Site Inventory of the Sandy Coasts of Ireland, their Types and Distribution. In: A Guide to the Sand Dunes of Ireland (M.B. Quigley, Ed.) 6-9. European Union for Dune Conservation and Coastal Management. Curtis, T.G.F., McGough, H.N. and Wymer, E.D. (1988). The Discovery and Ecology of Rare and Threatened Arable Weeds, Previously Considered Extinct in Ireland, on

The Aran Islands, Co. Galway. The Irish Naturalists' Journal 22: 505-513 (5). Good, J.A. (1999). Irish Coastal Lagoon Survey, 1998. Vol V. Ecotonal Coleoptera. Report for Dúchas the Heritage Service. Unpublished. Hannon, K. et al (1995). All Ireland Tern Survey. IWC/NPWS. Hart, H.C. (1875). A List of Plants Found in The Island of Aran, Galway Bay. Hodges, Foster & Co., Dublin. 32 pp. Healy, B. (1999). A Survey of Irish Coastal Lagoons. Vol. I Background, Description and Summary. Report for Dúchas the Heritage Service. Unpublished. Keegan, B.F. (1969). Investigation of the plankton off the west coast of Ireland - III. *Calanus finmarchicus* (Gunn.) and *Calanus helgolandicus* (Claus) in the plankton of Killeany Bay, Aran Islands. Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, 68B: 137-147. Lloyd, C. (1982). Inventory of Seabird Breeding Colonies in Republic of Ireland. Part 2: Mayo - Galway. Unpublished Report to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Lysaght, L. (2002). An Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Burren and the Aran Islands. BirdWatch Ireland. Dublin. McGough, H.N. (1984). A Report on the Grasslands and Closely Related Vegetation Types of The Burren Region of Western Ireland. Report to the Forest and Wildlife Service. Moorkens, E.A. (1999). An Inventory of Mollusca in Potential SAC Sites, with Special Reference to *Vertigo angustior*, *V. moulinsiana* and *V. geyeri*. Unpublished report, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Morrow, C.C. and Picton, B.E. (1996). An aplousid sponge, *Hexadella racovitzai* Topsent, 1896, new to the British Isles with notes on its habitat and distribution. The Irish Naturalists' Journal, 25: 218-221. O'Connell, M., Fives, J.M., and Ó Ceidigh, P. (1992). Ecological studies of littoral fauna and flora on Inishmore, Aran Islands, Co. Galway. Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, 92B: 91-107. Ó Críodáin, C. (1992). Conservation of Grassland Sites of Scientific Interest in Ireland. A preliminary report. National Parks and Wildlife Service. Oliver, G.A. (1999). Irish Coastal Lagoon Survey. 1998. Vol IV. Aquatic Fauna. Report for Dúchas the Heritage Service. Unpublished. Robinson, T. (1986). The Stones of Aran. Lilliput Press, Mullingar. 298 pp. Roden, C. (1999). Irish Coastal Lagoon Survey, 1998. Vol. III, Flora. Report for Dúchas the Heritage Service. Unpublished. Sides, E.M., Picton, B.E., Embrow, C.S., Morrow, C.C., and Costello, M.J. (1994). Marine communities of Kilkieran Bay, the Aran Islands and the Skerds Rocks and an assessment of their conservation importance. Field survey report, Environmental Sciences Unit, Trinity College, Dublin. Tattersfield, P. (1998). Wetland mollusc communities from the Aran Islands. Irish Naturalists' Journal 26: 8-21. Webb, D.A. (1980). The Flora of the Aran Islands. Journal of Life Sciences, Royal Dublin Society 2: 51-83. Webb, D.A. and Scannell, M.J.P. (1983). Flora of Connemara and The Burren. Cambridge University Press. Wymer, E.D. (1984). The Phytosociology of Irish Saltmarsh Vegetation. Unpublished M.Sc. thesis, National University of Ireland.

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.IE0000213

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).

| |
|--|
| |
|--|