



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 IE0000278
SITENAME Inishbofin and Inishshark SAC

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type	1.2 Site code	Back to top
B	IE0000278	

1.3 Site name

Inishbofin and Inishshark SAC

1.4 First Compilation date	1.5 Update date
1997-03	2020-10

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

1.7 Site indication and designation / classification dates

Date site classified as SPA:	0000-00
National legal reference of SPA designation	No data
Date site proposed as SCI:	1997-08
Date site confirmed as SCI:	No data
Date site designated as SAC:	2019-12
National legal reference of SAC designation:	655/2019

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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Longitude -10.22419072 Latitude 53.61659653

2.2 Area [ha]:

2.3 Marine area [%]

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

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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
1150B			7.9564		M	A	C	A	A
3110B			6.9864		M	C	C	C	C
4010B			279.52		M	C	C	C	C
4030B			419.29		M	C	C	C	C

- **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	A045	Branta leucopsis			w	300	300	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A122	Crex crex			r	1	2	p		G	C	B	C	B
B	A103	Falco peregrinus			p	1	1	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A009	Fulmarus glacialis			r	400	400	p		G	C	B	C	B
M	1364	Halichoerus grypus			p	749	963	i		G	B	A	C	B
M	1364	Halichoerus grypus			c	270	270	i		G	B	A	C	B
B	A014	Hydrobates pelagicus			r	1	100	p		M	C	C	C	C
B	A013	Puffinus puffinus			r	1	200	p		M	C	B	C	B
B	A346	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax			p	6	6	p		G	C	B	C	B
B	A194	Sterna paradisaea			r	27	27	p		G	C	A	C	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		Calamagrostis epigeios						P			X			
B		Cepphus grylle			12	12	i							X
P		Chaetomorpha linum												X
P		Dryopteris aemula						P						X
I		Jaera nordmanni												X
P		Lamprothamnion papulosum									X			
B		Larus argentatus			100	100	p							X
B		Larus marinus			50	70	p							X
P		Lycopodiella inundata						P			X			
B		Phalacrocorax aristotelis			60	100	p							X
P		Ruppia cirrhosa												X
P		Ruppia maritima												X
P		Tuberaria guttata						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

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Habitat class	% Cover
N15	1.0
N08	25.0
N10	12.0
N06	1.0
N07	1.0
N14	1.0

N22	5.0
N05	5.0
N23	1.0
N04	1.0
N09	1.0
N01	46.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

The site is situated c.5 km off the Galway coast. It comprises two main islands, with several islets and stacks and the surrounding waters, to 200 m, are included. The islands are composed almost entirely of Silurian slates and shales, and rise to heights of 89 m (Inishbofin) and 69 m (Inishshark). Inishbofin is inhabited, Inishshark was abandoned in the 1960s. The main habitat of the islands is rocky heath. Pasture grassland of varying quality, but often wet, is frequent on Inishbofin, less so on Inishshark. Several small lakes occur on Inishbofin, the largest Lough Bofin having a brackish character. The shorelines of the islands vary from bedrock shore to low cliffs. Some sheer cliffs occur at Inishshark. Several sandy beaches occur. The main landuse is grazing by sheep and cattle.

4.2 Quality and importance

Lough Bofin is an excellent example of an isolated sedimentary lagoon with a cobble barrier. This type of lagoon is relatively rare in Ireland. The fauna of the lagoon is poor, but this may be due to entirely natural 'island effects'. The flora, however, comprises a very interesting Ruppia/Lamprothamnion community with 4 lagoonal specialists, including a Red Data charophyte. The habitat is in very natural condition, well conserved and prospects for maintenance of structure appear excellent. The site supports examples of lowland oligotrophic lakes. A significant population of Halichoerus grypus occurs, the fourth largest in Ireland. The site supports regular populations of six Annex I Bird Directive species, including breeding *Crex crex* and a large wintering flock of *Branta leucopsis*. *Calamagrostis epigejos*, a legally protected plant species, plus three other Red Data Book species - *Tuberaria guttata*, *Lycopodium inundatum* and *Lamprothamnion papulosum* occur. The quality of the terrestrial habitats is often poor due mainly to grazing pressures, however, good examples of wet & dry heaths occur.

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	F02.01		i
M	E01.03		b
M	J02.12.01		i
L	H05.01		b
L	I01		b
M	K04.05		i
H	A04.01.02		b
M	L08		i
H	D04.01		i
L	G01.02		b
L	J01.01		i
M	L07		b
M	J02.02.01		b
L	C01.01		i
L	F02.01.01		i

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside /outside [i o b]
H	A04		b
L	F03.02.04		b
M	J03.03		b

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

Berrow, S.D., Mackie, K.L., O'Sullivan, O., Shepherd, K.B., Mellon, C. & Coveney, J.A. (1993). The second international Chough survey in Ireland, 1992. Irish Birds 5: 1-10. B.I.M. (2001). Grey seal interactions with fisheries in Irish coastal waters. Report to the European Commission DG XIV. Study 95/40. An Bord Iascaigh Mhara (The Irish Sea Fisheries Board), Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Ireland. 74pp. Brodie, J. & Sheehy-Skeffington, M. (1990). Inishbofin : a resurvey of the flora. Irish Naturalists' Journal 23: 293-298. 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.Curtis, T.G.F. & McGough, H.N. (1988). The Irish Red Data Book 1. Vascular Plants. Stationery Office, Dublin. Good, J.A. (1999). Irish Coastal Lagoon Survey, 1998. Vol V. Unpublished Report, Dúchas the Heritage Service, Dublin.Grimmett, R.F.A. & Jones, T.A. (1989). Important Bird Areas in Europe. ICBP Technical Publication No. 9. Hannon, C., Berrow, S.D. & Coveney, J. (in prep.). The All-Ireland 1995 Tern Survey. Healy, B. (1999). Irish Coastal Lagoon Survey, 1998. Vol I, Part 1. Background, Description and Summary of the 1996 and 1998 Surveys. Unpublished Report, Dúchas the Heritage Service, Dublin.Hutchinson, C.D. & Ruttledge, R.F. (1978). The birds of Inishbofin and Inishshark, Co. Galway. Irish Birds 1: 211-223. Lockley, R.M. (1966). The distribution of grey and common seals on the coasts of Ireland. Irish Naturalists' Journal 15: 136-142. 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.Merne, O.J. & Walsh, A. (1994). Barnacle geese in Ireland, spring 1993 and 1994. Irish Birds 5: 151-164. Ó Cadhla, O, Strong, D. and O' Donnell, G. (2006). Exploratory surveys for grey seals on islands off northwest Galway and southwest Mayo, 2004-05. Report to the National Parks & Wildlife Service, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2, Ireland. Coastal & Marine Resources Centre, University College, Cork. 9pp.Ó Cadhla, O., Strong, D., O'Keeffe, C., Coleman, M., Cronin, M., Duck, C., Murray, T., Dower, P., Nairn, R., Murphy, P., Smiddy, P., Saich, C., Lyons, D. and Hiby, A.R. (2007a). An assessment of the breeding population of grey seals in the Republic of Ireland, 2005. Irish Wildlife Manuals No. 34. National Parks & Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin, Ireland. 60pp.Ó Cadhla, O. and Strong, D. (2007). Grey seal moult population survey in the Republic of Ireland, 2007. Report to the National Parks & Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin, Ireland. 22pp.Oliver, G.A. (1999). Irish Coastal Lagoon Survey. 1998. Vol IV. Aquatic Fauna. Unpublished Report, Dúchas the Heritage Service, Dublin.Praeger, R.L. (1934). The Botanist in Ireland. Hodges, Figgis & Co., Dublin. Summers, C.F. (1983). The Grey Seal *Halichoerus grypus* in Ireland. A report to the Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Wildlife. Roden, C. (1999). Irish Coastal Lagoon Survey, 1998. Vol III, Flora. Unpublished Report, Dúchas the Heritage Service, Dublin. Walsh, A. & Merne, O.J. (1988). Barnacle geese in Ireland, spring 1988. Irish Birds 3: 539-550.Webb, D.A. & Hodgson, J. (1968). The flora of Inishbofin and Inishshark. Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles 7: 345-363.

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

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5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

5.3 Site designation (optional)

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

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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

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INSPIRE ID:

IE.NPWS.PS.NATURA2000.SAC.IE0000278

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).