



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 IE0000458
SITENAME Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code IE0000458	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC

1.4 First Compilation date 1999-10	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:	1999-10
Date site confirmed as SCI:	No data
Date site designated as SAC:	2020-03
National legal reference of SAC designation:	117/2020

2. SITE LOCATION

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		12.7521		M	B	B	B	B
2130		259.452		M	B	B	B	B
2190		5.0879		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	A052	Anas crecca			w	31	31	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A050	Anas penelope			w	270	270	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A053	Anas platyrhynchos			w	45	45	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A169	Arenaria interpres			w	24	24	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A046	Branta bernicla			w	166	166	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A144	Calidris alba			w	135	135	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A149	Calidris alpina			w	1816	1816	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A143	Calidris canutus			w	429	429	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A137	Charadrius hiaticula			w	207	207	i		G	B	A	C	B
B	A130	Haematopus ostralegus			w	463	463	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A157	Limosa lapponica			w	309	309	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A070	Mergus merganser			w	38	38	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A160	Numenius arquata			w	555	555	i		G	C	B	C	C
F	1095	Petromyzon marinus			r				P	DD	C	C	C	C
B	A017	Phalacrocorax carbo			w	43	43	i		G	C	B	C	C
M	1365	Phoca vitulina			p	108	108	i		G	B	B	C	B

B	A140	Pluvialis apricaria			w	1303	1303	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A141	Pluvialis squatarola			w	200	200	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A048	Tadorna tadorna			w	81	81	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A164	Tringa nebularia			w	19	19	i		G	B	A	C	B
B	A162	Tringa totanus			w	209	209	i		G	C	A	C	C
B	A142	Vanellus vanellus			w	899	899	i		G	C	B	C	B
I	1014	Vertigo angustior			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
I		Ashfordia granulata												X
P		Draba incana									X			
P		Groenlandia densa									X			
F		Liza ramada												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
N19	1.0
N07	1.0
N03	1.0
N08	1.0
N14	1.0
N09	1.0
N05	2.0
N04	11.0
N02	80.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

Situated on the north Mayo/Sligo coast, this large site comprises the inner part of Killala Bay, including the estuary of the River Moy from downstream of Ballina. The towns of Enniscrone and Killala occur on the eastern and western shores respectively. Sand dunes systems, estuaries and intertidal areas are the main habitats of the site. Bartragh Island, a sand bar on which a dune system has developed, stretches across most of the outer part of the site. A further dune system protrudes westwards from Enniscrone, while more dunes occur at the Ross peninsula in the north-west of the site. Other habitats present include salt marshes, dry grassland, reedbeds and scrub.

4.2 Quality and importance

This large site displays an excellent diversity of dune types and is one of the most important dune systems in the north-west region. There remains a substantial area of intact fixed dune despite modifications to parts of the site for recreational and agricultural purposes. Some humid dune slacks also occur, and there are good and fairly extensive examples of shifting dunes with marram, embryonic shifting dunes and annual vegetation of driftlines. Salt marshes are well represented, with both Atlantic salt meadows and Salicornia types present. The Moy estuary is an important example of an estuary and has extensive intertidal sand and mud flats. Water quality is very good. The site is important for the occurrence of the Annex II mollusc *Vertigo angustior*, which occurs in marsh habitat. An excellent diversity of waterfowl winter at site, including two Annex I Bird Directive species (*Pluvialis apricaria*, *Limosa lapponica*). Seven other species winter in nationally important numbers, and in some winters internationally important concentrations of *Branta bernicla hrota* occur. Two Red Data plant species are known from site. The site supports an important population of *Phoca vitulina* and both adult and juvenile *Petromyzon marinus*.

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	M01.03		i
H	G02.08		b
L	F02.03		i
H	G01.02		i

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
H	J02.04		i

H	G02.02		b
H	E01		b
H	H01.08		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

4.5 Documentation

Bowman, J.J., Clabby, K.J., Lucey, J., Mc Garrigle, M.L. and Toner, P.H. (1996). Water Quality in Ireland 1991-1994. Environmental Protection Agency, Wexford. Cawley, M. (1996). Notes on some non-marine mollusca from Co Sligo and Co Leitrim, including a new site for *Vertigo geyeri* Lindholm. Irish Naturalists' Journal 25: 183-185. Colhoun, K. (1998). I-WeBS Report 1996-97. BirdWatch Ireland, 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. 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. Curtis, T.G.F. (1991b). The flora and vegetation of sand dunes in Ireland. In Quigley, M.B. (ed.) A Guide to the Sand Dunes of Ireland. E.U.C.C. Dublin. Environmental Protection Agency (2001). An Assessment of the Trophic Status of Estuaries and Bays in Ireland. Report prepared for the Department of Environment and Local Government. EPA, Wexford. 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. King, J.J. (2006). The status and distribution of lamprey in the River Barroo SAC. Irish Wildlife Manuals No. 15 National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin, Ireland. Lockley, R. M. (1966). The distribution of grey and common seals on the coasts of Ireland. Irish Nat. J. 15: 136-143. 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. McGarrigle, M.L., Bowman, J.J., Clabby, K.J., Lucey, J., Cunningham, P., MacCarthaigh, M., Keegan, M., Cantrell, B., Lehane, M., Clenaghan, C. and Toner P.F. (2002). Water Quality in Ireland 1998-2000. Environmental Protection Agency, Wexford. 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. Moorkens, E.A. (1997). An Inventory of Mollusca in Potential SAC Sites, with Special Reference to *Vertigo angustior*, *V. moulinsiana* and *V. geyeri*. Unpublished report, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Dublin. Norris, A. and Colville, B. (1974). Notes on the occurrence of *Vertigo angustior* Jeffreys in Great Britain. Journal of Conchology. 28: 140-154. O'Connor, W. (2004). A survey of juvenile lamprey populations in the Moy Catchment. Irish Wildlife Manuals No. 15 National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin, Ireland. Praeger, R.L. (1934). The Botanist in Ireland. Hodges & Figgis, Dublin. Sheppard, R. (1993). Ireland's Wetland Wealth. IWC, Dublin. Summers, C.F., Warner, P.J., Nairn, R.G.W., Curry, M.G. & Flynn, J. (1980). An assessment of the status of the common seal *Phoca vitulina vitulina* in Ireland. Biol. Conserv. 17: 115-123. Warren, A. (1879). The land and freshwater Mollusca of Mayo and Sligo. Zoologist 3: 25. Warren, A. (1892). Rare Mollusca from Co. Sligo. Irish Naturalist 1: 170. Warner, P.J. (1983). An assessment of the breeding populations of common seals (*Phoca vitulina vitulina* L.) in the Republic of Ireland during 1979. Ir. Nat. J. 21: 24-26. Warner, P.J. (1984). Report on the census of common seals (*Phoca vitulina vitulina*) in the Republic of Ireland during 1984. Unpublished report to the Forestry & Wildlife Service. Went, A.E.J. & Kennedy, M. (1976). List of Irish Fishes. Stationery Office, Dublin.

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

designated at international level:

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Type	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
Other	Killalla Bay/Moy Estuary		

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.IE0000458

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).
