



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 IE0000622
SITENAME Ballysadare Bay SAC

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code IE0000622	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Ballysadare Bay SAC

1.4 First Compilation date 1999-10	1.5 Update date 2018-09
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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:	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
-8.588965717

Latitude
54.23559273

2.2 Area [ha]:
2144.553463

2.3 Marine area [%]
85.324

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
1130			1703.4549		M	A	B	B	A
1140			1344.5384		M	A	B	B	A
2110			1.0809		M	A	C	B	B
2120			5.4704		M	B	C	B	B
2130			56.0681		M	A	C	B	B
2190			1.8312		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	A052	Anas crecca			w	106	106	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A050	Anas penelope			w	818	818	i		G	C	A	C	C
B	A053	Anas platyrhynchos			w	54	54	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A046	Branta bernicla			w	259	259	i		G	C	A	C	A
B	A067	Bucephala clangula			w	38	38	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A149	Calidris alpina			w	1129	1129	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A137	Charadrius hiaticula			w	90	90	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A130	Haematopus ostralegus			w	796	796	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A157	Limosa lapponica			w	431	431	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A070	Mergus merganser			w	48	48	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A160	Numenius arquata			w	667	667	i		G	C	B	C	C
M	1365	Phoca vitulina			p	257	257	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A140	Pluvialis apricaria			w	66	66	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A141	Pluvialis squatarola			w	231	231	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A048	Tadorna tadorna			w	70	70	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A164	Tringa nebularia			w	24	24	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A162	Tringa totanus			w	481	481	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A142	Vanellus vanellus			w	770	770	i		G	C	B	C	C
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
B		Ardea cinerea											X	
I		Everes argides												X
I		Hipparchia semele												X
I		Mesoacidalia aglaja												X
P		Orobanche hederæ									X			
I		Orthetrum cancellatum												X
I		Sympetrum sanguineum												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
N10	1.0
N06	1.0
N05	2.0
N23	1.0

N07	1.0
N02	80.0
N16	1.0
N04	8.0
N08	1.0
N03	2.0
N09	2.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

Ballysadare Bay is the most southerly of the three inlets of Sligo Bay. It is the estuary of the Ballysadare River, which receives the flows of the Unshin, Owenboy and Owenbeg rivers. The Ballysadare River flows through the small town of Ballysadare before entering the bay. It is a large site, extending along a 10 km south-east to west-north-west axis from Ballysadare town to the sea at Marley's Point. The bay has an average width of c.2 km. A sand dune spit extends into the outer bay at Culleenamore, restricting the outlet to the sea to a width of c.700 m. Other habitats present include salt marshes, small saline lakes or ponds, dry grassland, wet grassland, reedbeds and scrub. Recreation is a main landuse within the site.

4.2 Quality and importance

This large site displays an excellent diversity of coastal habitats. The estuarine and intertidal sand and mud flat habitats are typical of the region and are extensive in area and of good quality. The sand dune system is highly dynamic, with the tip of the peninsula actively growing and displaying a good, though limited, example of embryonic shifting dunes. The shifting marram dunes are fairly extensive in area and are also displaying signs of growth. An area of fixed dunes of moderate size also occurs which has a flora typical of western dunes. A small area of humid dune slack remains. Actively developing dune systems are rare in western Ireland. Site is important for occurrence of the Annex II mollusc *Vertigo angustior*. A nationally important colony of *Phoca vitulina* also occurs. An excellent diversity of waterfowl winter at site, including two Annex I Bird Directive species (*Pluvialis apricaria*, *Limosa lapponica*). Six other species winter in nationally important numbers and there is an internationally important population of *Branta bernicla horta*. A number of localised insect species are known from the site.

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	E01.02		o
L	J02.12.01		i
L	J02.01.02		i
H	A04.03		i
L	F01.03		i
L	I01		i
M	G01.02		i
M	F02		i
M	G05.01		i
L	G02.01		b
M	K01.01		i

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
L	J02.12.01		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

4.5 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. 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. Gaynor, K. and Browne, A. (1999). Survey of Irish Links Golf Courses. Unpublished report for Dúchas the Heritage Service, Dublin. Goodwillie, R. (1972). A Preliminary Report on Areas of Scientific Interest in County Sligo. An Foras Forbartha, Dublin. Goodwillie, R., Buckley, P. and Douglas, C. (1992). Owenmore River. Proposed Arterial Drainage Environmental Impact Assessment. Botanical and Ornithological Surveys. Unpublished report for National Parks & Wildlife Service, Dublin. 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. 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. Lockley, R.M. (1966). The distribution of grey and common seals on the coasts of Ireland. Irish Naturalists? Journal 15: 136-143. 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. Praeger, R.L. (1934). The Botanist in Ireland. Hodges Figgis and Co, Dublin. Sheppard, R. (1993). Ireland's Wetland Wealth. IWC, Dublin. 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 and Wildlife Service, Dublin.

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.IE0000622

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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