



# 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 IE0001090  
SITENAME Ballyness Bay SAC

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## 1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

|               |                            |                             |
|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1.1 Type<br>B | 1.2 Site code<br>IE0001090 | <a href="#">Back to top</a> |
|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|

### 1.3 Site name

|                   |
|-------------------|
| Ballyness Bay SAC |
|-------------------|

|                                       |                            |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1.4 First Compilation date<br>1999-07 | 1.5 Update date<br>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:                   | 1999-07  |
| Date site confirmed as SCI:                  | No data  |
| Date site designated as SAC:                 | 2018-10  |
| National legal reference of SAC designation: | 416/2018 |

## 2. SITE LOCATION

### 2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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Longitude -8.133739205      Latitude 55.14872494

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

**2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)**

Atlantic (%)

**3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION**[Back to top](#)**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 |
| 1130B                 |    |    | 15.9588    |               | M            | B                | C                | A            | B      |
| 1140B                 |    |    | 691.8101   |               | M            | B                | B                | A            | B      |
| 2110B                 |    |    | 7.0678     |               | M            | B                | C                | B            | B      |
| 2120B                 |    |    | 23.1365    |               | M            | B                | C                | B            | B      |
| 2130B                 |    |    | 187.9874   |               | M            | A                | B                | B            | A      |
| 2190B                 |    |    | 13.8664    |               | M            | B                | C                | B            | 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       | A050 | <a href="#">Anas penelope</a>         |   |    | w                      | 47   | 47  | i    |      | G        | C               | B     | C    | C    |
| B       | A053 | <a href="#">Anas platyrhynchos</a>    |   |    | w                      | 28   | 28  | i    |      | G        | C               | B     | C    | C    |
| B       | A046 | <a href="#">Branta bernicla</a>       |   |    | w                      | 85   | 85  | i    |      | G        | C               | B     | C    | C    |
| B       | A144 | <a href="#">Calidris alba</a>         |   |    | w                      | 47   | 47  | i    |      | G        | C               | B     | C    | B    |
| B       | A149 | <a href="#">Calidris alpina</a>       |   |    | w                      | 132  | 132 | i    |      | G        | C               | B     | C    | C    |
| B       | A137 | <a href="#">Charadrius hiaticula</a>  |   |    | w                      | 110  | 110 | i    |      | G        | C               | B     | C    | B    |
| B       | A130 | <a href="#">Haematopus ostralegus</a> |   |    | w                      | 83   | 83  | i    |      | G        | C               | B     | C    | C    |
| B       | A070 | <a href="#">Mergus merganser</a>      |   |    | w                      | 12   | 12  | i    |      | G        | C               | B     | C    | C    |
| B       | A160 | <a href="#">Numenius arquata</a>      |   |    | w                      | 55   | 55  | i    |      | G        | C               | B     | C    | C    |
| B       | A140 | <a href="#">Pluvialis apricaria</a>   |   |    | w                      | 165  | 165 | i    |      | G        | C               | B     | C    | C    |

|   |      |                                      |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |
|---|------|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|
| B | A141 | <a href="#">Pluvialis squatarola</a> |  |  | w | 8 | 8 | i |   | G  | C | B | C | C |
| B | A164 | <a href="#">Tringa nebularia</a>     |  |  | w | 7 | 7 | i |   | G  | C | B | C | C |
| I | 1013 | <a href="#">Vertigo geyeri</a>       |  |  | 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 |
| M       |      | <a href="#">Lepus timidus hibernicus</a> |                        |    |      |     |      |            |               |   | X                |   |   |   |
| M       |      | <a href="#">Lepus timidus hibernicus</a> |                        |    |      |     |      |            |               |   |                  |   | X |   |
| M       |      | <a href="#">Lepus timidus hibernicus</a> |                        |    |      |     |      |            |               |   |                  | X |   |   |
| A       |      | <a href="#">Rana temporaria</a>          |                        |    |      |     |      |            |               |   | X                |   |   |   |
| A       |      | <a href="#">Rana temporaria</a>          |                        |    |      |     |      |            |               |   |                  |   | 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    |
|----------------------------|------------|
| N08                        | 2.0        |
| N02                        | 60.0       |
| N09                        | 1.0        |
| N03                        | 1.0        |
| N10                        | 1.0        |
| N05                        | 1.0        |
| N04                        | 33.0       |
| N22                        | 1.0        |
| <b>Total Habitat Cover</b> | <b>100</b> |

## Other Site Characteristics

The site is situated on the north-west coast of Donegal, near the towns of Falcarragh and Gortahork. The underlying rock is pelite, with some areas of limestone and quartzite. Site comprises a large, very sheltered, intertidal estuarine system which receives the flows of three small to medium sized rivers - the Tullaghobeg River, the Glenna River and the Owenawillin River. The outer part of the bay is marked by two substantial sand dune systems at Dooley and Drumnatinney. Other habitats present in small amounts include salt marsh, dry grassland, wet grassland and heath. Site is of high scenic value, and the dunes are a prominent feature of the Donegal coastline. Site is also of cultural importance, containing a number of listed national monuments.

## 4.2 Quality and importance

The site contains two important dune systems that are of moderate size and quality. The fixed dunes are of particular note and these occur in association with embryonic dunes, shifting white dunes and a limited area of humid dune slack. The dunes are highly dynamic, having been formed and maintained by a tidal 'pump' action. Blown-over dunes are a feature as is the large area of unvegetated dune known as 'Big Dune'. A good example of a very sheltered estuarine complex with extensive sand flats exposed at low tide. Some of the intertidal flats have a rich macroinvertebrate fauna, and *Zostera* is present. The site supports significant numbers of waterfowl in autumn and winter, with nationally important concentrations of *Charadrius hiaticula* and *Calidris alba*. *Pluvialis apricaria* visit the site regularly but in small numbers. A population of the rare mollusc *Vertigo geyeri* has recently been recorded from a base-rich flush within 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                | C01.01.02                    |                             | i                      |
| M                | G02.07                       |                             | i                      |
| H                | G01.02                       |                             | i                      |
| M                | A04                          |                             | i                      |
| L                | F02.03                       |                             | i                      |
| L                | F04                          |                             | i                      |
| M                | E01                          |                             | o                      |
| M                | E03                          |                             | i                      |
| M                | A04                          |                             | o                      |
| M                | F01                          |                             | i                      |

| Positive Impacts |                               |                             |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Rank             | Activities, management [code] | Pollution (optional) [code] | inside /outside [i o b] |
| M                | A04                           |                             | o                       |
| L                | F02.03                        |                             | 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

## 4.4 Ownership (optional)

## 4.5 Documentation

Colhoun, K. (1998). I-WeBS Report 1996-97. BirdWatch Ireland, Dublin. Carter, R.W.G. and Wilson, P. (1991). Chronology and geomorphology of the Irish dunes. In Quigley, M.B. (ed.). A Guide to the Sand Dunes of Ireland. E.U.C.C., Dublin. 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. Holyoak, G. (2002). Records of land and freshwater Mollusca in East Donegal (H34) and West Donegal (H35). Unpublished report. Rutherford, J.H. (1979). The Sand Dune Morphology of Ballyness Spit. Unpublished M.Sc. Thesis. University of Ulster, Coleraine. Sheppard, R. (1993). Ireland's Wetland Wealth. IWC, Dublin. Young, R. (1973). Report on Areas of Ecological and Geological Interest in County Donegal. An Foras Forbartha, Dublin.

## 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:

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).