



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 B	1.2 Site code IE0001090	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Ballyness Bay SAC

1.4 First Compilation date 1999-07	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:	1999-07
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]:
1231.208335

2.3 Marine area [%]
64.537

2.4 Sitelength [km]:
0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code

Region Name

IE01	Border, Midland and Western
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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			15.9588		M	B	C	A	B
1140			691.8101		M	B	B	A	B
2110			7.0678		M	B	C	B	B
2120			23.1365		M	B	C	B	B
2130			187.9874		M	A	B	B	A
2190			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

Group	CODE	Name	S	NP	Size		Unit	Cat.	Annex		categories			
					Min	Max			C R V P	IV	V	A	B	C
M		Lepus timidus hibernicus									X			
M		Lepus timidus hibernicus											X	
M		Lepus timidus hibernicus										X		
A		Rana temporaria									X			
A		Rana temporaria											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
N09	1.0
N04	33.0
N03	1.0
N22	1.0
N10	1.0
N05	1.0
N08	2.0
N02	60.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

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]
H	G01.02		i
M	G02.07		i
M	A04		i
L	F02.03		i
M	E01		o
M	F01		i
M	A04		o
M	E03		i
M	C01.01.02		i
L	F04		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

4.5 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.

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.IE0001090

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).