



# 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 IE0001190  
SITENAME Sheephaven SAC

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## 1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

|                      |                                   |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>1.1 Type</b><br>B | <b>1.2 Site code</b><br>IE0001190 | <a href="#">Back to top</a> |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|

### 1.3 Site name

Sheephaven SAC

|  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>1.4 First Compilation date</b><br>1999-06 | <b>1.5 Update date</b><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

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <b>Date site proposed as SCI:</b>                   | 1999-06  |
| <b>Date site confirmed as SCI:</b>                  | No data  |
| <b>Date site designated as SAC:</b>                 | 2019-11  |
| <b>National legal reference of SAC designation:</b> | 605/2019 |

## 2. SITE LOCATION

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- **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       |      | <a href="#">Diogenes pugilator</a>       |   |    |                        |     |      | R          |               |   |                  |   |   | X |
| M       |      | <a href="#">Lepus timidus hibernicus</a> |   |    |                        |     |      |            |               |   |                  | X |   |   |
| M       |      | <a href="#">Lepus timidus hibernicus</a> |   |    |                        |     |      |            |               |   | X                |   |   |   |
| M       |      | <a href="#">Lepus timidus hibernicus</a> |   |    |                        |     |      |            |               |   |                  |   | X |   |
| M       |      | <a href="#">Meles meles</a>              |   |    |                        |     |      |            |               |   | X                |   |   |   |
| M       |      | <a href="#">Meles meles</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    |
|----------------------------|------------|
| N01                        | 1.0        |
| N06                        | 1.0        |
| N04                        | 35.0       |
| N22                        | 1.0        |
| N16                        | 6.0        |
| N08                        | 3.0        |
| N03                        | 2.0        |
| N05                        | 3.0        |
| N07                        | 1.0        |
| N02                        | 45.0       |
| N10                        | 2.0        |
| <b>Total Habitat Cover</b> | <b>100</b> |

### Other Site Characteristics

This extensive coastal site is dominated by intertidal mud and sand flats and sand dune areas, with smaller areas of salt marsh, lake, dry heath, scrub and woodland present. It is located to the north-east of Creeslough village, along the northern coast of Co. Donegal. The bedrock geology of the site is quite varied with schist (at least 2 types), quartzite and metadolerite present. Areas of outcropping rock, however, are relatively rare. The main landuse within the site, and in surrounding areas, is sheep and cattle grazing. Large areas of fixed dune south of Rosepenna have recently been developed as golf courses.

### 4.2 Quality and importance

This site is of importance for the extensive area of fixed dune habitat, the overall quality of which is good. The occurrence of a small area of machair of medium quality is also of note. Good examples of mobile marram dunes, annual vegetation of drift lines, embryonic shifting dunes and both Mediterranean and Atlantic salt meadows also occur. Sea cliffs occur at Clonmass, and at Breaghy, Clonmass Isle and Ards. In total, almost 3km of cliff occurs within the site. Extensive intertidal mud and sand flats occur and the site is the most northerly in Ireland for the rare hermit crab *Diogenes pugilator*. An area of old oak woodland, while small and only of moderate quality, is of note because of the scarcity of this habitat in Donegal. The site supports a population of *Petalophyllum ralfsii* as well as some locally scarce plants, such as *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* and *Orobanche rubra*. The Annex I Bird Directive species *Branta leucopsis* utilises the site, as well as moderate numbers of a range of other waterfowl species.

### 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                | G01.01.01                    |                             | i                      |
| M                | A05.02                       |                             | i                      |
| M                | G01                          |                             | i                      |
| M                | B02.02                       |                             | i                      |
| M                | G02.01                       |                             | i                      |

| Positive Impacts |                               |                             |                        |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Rank             | Activities, management [code] | Pollution (optional) [code] | inside/outside [i o b] |
| L                | X                             |                             | 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

Bassett, J.A. (1983). Report on the Conservation of Irish Coastal Sites - Machair in Ireland. Unpublished report to the Department of Fisheries and Forestry, Dublin. Bassett, J.A. and Curtis T.G.F. (1985). The nature and occurrence of sand-dune machair in Ireland. Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy 85B: 1-20. 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. 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. Hart, H.C. (1898). Flora of County Donegal. Dublin. Madden, B., Cooney, T., O'Donoghue, A., Norriss, D.W. and Merne, O.J. (1998). Breeding waders of machair systems in Ireland in 1996. Irish Birds 6: 177-190. McConnell, B.J. and Long, C.B. (1997). Geology of North Donegal. A Geological Description to Accompany the Bedrock Geology 1: 10,000 Scale Map Series, Sheet 1 and part of Sheet 2, North Donegal. Geological Survey of Ireland, Dublin. McGrath, D., Costello, M.J. and Emblow, C. (2000). The hermit crab *Diogenes pugilator* (Roux, 1829) in Irish waters. Biology and Environment, Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy 100B: 115-118. Neff, M.J. (1973). Conservation Report, Ards Forest. Unpublished report, Forest and Wildlife Service Dublin. Picton, B.E. and Costello, M.J. (eds). (1997). BioMar Biotope Viewer: a guide to marine habitats, fauna and flora of Britain and Ireland (Ver. 2.0). Environmental Sciences Unit, Trinity College, Dublin. (Compact Disc). Sheppard, R. (1993). Ireland's Wetland Wealth. IWC, Dublin. While, A. (1985). The All Ireland Tern Survey 1984. Unpublished report for the Irish Wildbird Conservancy, Dublin. Young, R. (1973). Report on Areas of Ecological and Geological Interest in County Donegal. An Foras Forbartha, Dublin.

## 5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

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### 5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

| Code | Cover [%] | Code | Cover [%] | Code | Cover [%] |
|------|-----------|------|-----------|------|-----------|
| IE05 | 25.0      | IE01 | 1.0       |      |           |

### 5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

designated at national or regional level:

| Type code | Site name                    | Type | Cover [%] |
|-----------|------------------------------|------|-----------|
| IE01      | Ards Wildfowl Sanctuary      | *    | 25.0      |
| IE01      | Duntally Wood Nature Reserve | +    | 1.0       |

## 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.IE0001190

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).