



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 IE0002074
SITENAME Slyne Head Peninsula SAC

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code IE0002074	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Slyne Head Peninsula SAC

1.4 First Compilation date 1996-10	1.5 Update date 2019-09
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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:	2002-01
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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			0.1524		M	C		C	B	C
21A0	X		276.276		M	A		B	B	A
3110			93.520937		M	C		C	C	C
3130			83.092499		M	C		C	C	C
3140			18.17		M	B		C	B	C
4030			402.82		M	A		C	B	B
5130			402.82		M	A		B	B	A
6210	X		80.56		M	B		C	B	B
6410			40.28		M	B		C	B	B
6510			40.28		M	B		C	B	C
7230			40.28		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.	Gl
P	1833	Najas flexilis			p				P	DD	B	A	C	B
P	1395	Petalophyllum ralfsii			p	73920	73920	area		G	A	A	C	A
B	A346	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax			r	8	8	p		G	C	A	C	B
B	A193	Sterna hirundo			r	5	5	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A191	Sterna sandvicensis			r	31	31	p		G	C	B	C	B
M	1349	Tursiops truncatus			p	28	28	i	P	M	C	B	C	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
P		Ajuga pyramidalis						P			X				
I		Alcyonium glomeratum						C							X
I		Laevicardium crassum						C							X
I		Ophiopsila annulosa						R							X
P		Orchis morio						P			X				
I		Peachia cylindrica						C							X
I		Phakellia ventilabrum						C							X
I		Tapes aureus						C							X
P		Viola lactea						P			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

N07	2.0
N10	5.0
N22	2.0
N05	5.0
N02	6.0
N08	20.0
N01	36.0
N04	10.0
N06	5.0
N23	1.0
N14	3.0
N03	1.0
N09	4.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

This site comprises the entire Slyne Head peninsula west of Ballyconnelly in Connemara and includes much of Mannin Bay. The underlying rock is mainly gneiss, with a narrow band of granite along the western part. There is a strong oceanic influence over the entire site and wind blown sand is a feature. The landscape is generally low-lying, dominated by rocky heath and grassland, some semi-improved, with numerous lakes ranging from deep oligotrophic types to shallow brackish systems. The coastal fringe is varied, with saltmarshes, dunes and expanses of machair. Intertidal sand-flats and hard rock shores also occur. Mannin Bay is a relatively small, shallow bay. Its north-westerly aspect and islets and rocks at the mouth afford a little shelter from Atlantic swells. Conditions become more sheltered towards the head of the bay and are extremely sheltered in Mannin Creek. Tidal streams are weak. The sublittoral sediments are dominated by maerl and sea grass.

4.2 Quality and importance

The site has an excellent diversity of both terrestrial and marine habitats as well as rare plant and animal species. Machair in particular is well developed and extensive. Machair grades into other coastal habitats as well as species rich heath communities, including dry heath and juniper scrub, and calcareous grasslands. A notable feature of the site is the presence of at least one good example of alkaline fen within the machair plain. Molinia meadows are scattered through the site, while there are several good examples of lowland hay meadows. A notable variation in lake types is a feature of the site including hard water lakes with Chara formations. Mannin Bay has very good examples of a range of sediment communities that contain rare species. The littoral sediments, composed of dead maerl, are unusual in Ireland and are geologically and biologically interesting. Rare invertebrate species include *Glycera gigantea*, *Marphysa bellii*, *Gari depressa*, *Laevicardium crassum*, *Tapes aureus*. The high species richness of the bivalve communities in Mannin Creek is also of importance. Sublittorally, there are a very high number of sediment communities within the bay. The dense maerl beds with dense seagrass are particularly noteworthy. The association of these two important species is known from only three sites in Ireland. The occurrence of *Najas flexilis* and *Petalophyllum ralfsii* adds to the interest of the site. The *Petalophyllum* population is by far the largest known population in Ireland and also in the world. The presence of *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*, *Sterna sandvicensis* and *S. hirundo* add to the importance of the site. The site provides habitat for the Annex II cetacean species *Tursiops truncatus* and this includes use by groups of dolphins during the breeding season, for foraging and for social behaviour. Bottlenose Dolphins may be potentially vulnerable to intensification of regional fishing activity via the removal of key biological resources and entanglement in fishing gear. Recreational boat use or marine tourism activity by the human population may cause disturbance to natural behaviours and impact negatively on the species in marine waters 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			
	Threats and	Pollution	inside/outside

Positive Impacts			
	Rank	Activities, management	Pollution (optional) inside/outside

Rank	pressures [code]	(optional) [code]	[i o b]
L	C01.01		i
L	H06.01		b
H	J01.01		i
L	G01.02		b
M	G01		b
L	E01.03		i
L	F03.02		i
M	G05.01		i
L	F02.01.01		i
L	J02.02.01		i
M	G02.01		b
M	G01.03.02		i
M	L07		i
L	G01.01.02		i
L	G02.08		b
L	D03.01.02		i
L	D01.01		i
L	I01		i
L	F02		i

	[code]	[code]	[i o b]
L	J02.12.01		b
M	A04.02		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, A. (1993). Report on the Conservation of Irish Coastal Sites - Machair in Ireland. Unpublished report to Department of Fisheries and Forestry, Dublin. Bassett, A. and Curtis, T.G.F. (1985). The nature and occurrence of sand-dune machair in Ireland. Proceedings of Royal Irish Academy 85(B):1-20. Berrow, S.D., Whooley, P. & Ferriss, S. (2002). Irish Whale and Dolphin Group cetacean sighting review (1991-2001). Irish Whale and Dolphin Group. 34pp. Berrow, S.D., Whooley, P., O'Connell, M. & Wall, D. (2010). Irish cetacean review (2000-2009). Irish Whale and Dolphin Group. 60pp. Costelloe, J., & Keegan, B.F. (1984). Littoral and benthic investigations on the west coast of Ireland - XIX. Synonymy, diagnostic morphology, distribution and life-style of *Aslia lefevrei* (Barrois 1882) (Holothurioidea: Echinodermata). Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, 84B: 29-35. Curtis, T.G.F. (1991). An Inventory of Sand Dunes in Ireland. In: Quigley M.B. (Ed.) A Guide to the Sand Dunes of Ireland. European Union for dune conservation and management. Dunne, J. (1976). Littoral and benthic investigations on the west coast of Ireland - V. (Section A: Faunistic and ecological studies.) A contribution to the biology of the leopard-spotted goby, *Thorogobius ephippiatus* (Lowe) (Pisces: Teleostei: Gobiidae). Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, 76B: 121-132. Healy, G. (1994). Lagoons and Other Enclosed Brackish Waters in the Republic of Ireland. Unpublished report to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Healy, B., Oliver, G., Hatch, P. and Good, J. (1997). Coastal Lagoons in the Republic of Ireland. Volume II. Inventory of Lagoons and Saline Lakes. Unpublished report to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Healy, B. (1998). Survey of Irish Coastal Lagoons 1996 and 1998. Volume I, Part 2. Lagoons Surveyed in 1998. Unpublished report to Dúchas the Heritage Service, Dublin. Heuff, H. (1984). The vegetation of Irish lakes. Unpublished report to the Forest and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Ingram, S.N., Englund, A. & Rogan, E. (2003). Habitat use, abundance and site-fidelity of bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) in Connemara coastal waters, Co. Galway. Heritage Council Wildlife Grant Final Report #12314. 27pp. Ingram, S., Kavanagh, A., Englund, A. & Rogan, E. (2009). Site assessment of the waters of northwest Connemara. A survey of bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*). Report for the National Parks & Wildlife Service of Ireland. University College Cork, Cork. 33pp. I.W.D.G. (1990-2011). Various published and online Irish Whale and Dolphin Group sources. These included all Survey Reports delivered via the PReCast & ShOPS ship survey programmes, in addition to information gathered in the ISCOPE (2003-2005) and ISCOPE II (2006-2009) projects. Keegan, B.F., O'Connor, B.D.S., & Konnecker, G.F. (1985). Littoral and benthic investigations on the west coast of Ireland - XX. Echinoderm aggregations. Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, 85B: 91-99. Mirimin, L., Miller, R., Dillane, E., Berrow, S., Ingram, S., Cross, T. & Rogan, E. (2011). Fine-scale population genetic structuring of bottlenose dolphins in Irish coastal waters. Anim. Cons. p1-12. 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). Praeger, R.L. (1934). The Botanist in Ireland. Hodges Figgis, Dublin. Roden, C.M. (1999). A Survey of Coastal Lakes in Counties Galway, Mayo, Sligo and Donegal. Report produced for the Heritage Council. Unpublished. Sides, E.M., Picton, B.E., Emblow, C.S., Morrow, C.C., Foster-Smith, R., Davies, J. and M.J. Costello. (1996). Kilkieran Bay and its environs revisited. Field survey report, Environmental Sciences Unit, Trinity College, Dublin. Van Groenendael, J.H., Hochstenbach, S.M.H., Van Mansfeld, M.J.H., Roozen, A.J.M. (1979). The Influence of the Sea and of Parent Material on Wetlands and Blanket Bog in West Connemara, Ireland. Catholic University, Nijmegen. Van Groenendael, J.H., Hochstenbach, S.M.H., Van Mansfeld, M.J.H., Roozen, A.J.H. and Westhoff, V. (1982). The influence of the sea on the vegetation of lakes in southwest Connemara. In: White, J. (Ed.) Studies on Irish vegetation. Royal Dublin Society, 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.IE0002074

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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