



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 IE0002111
SITENAME Kilkieran Bay and Islands SAC

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code IE0002111	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Kilkieran Bay and Islands SAC

1.4 First Compilation date 2001-04	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

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:	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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Longitude -9.730381318 Latitude 53.28087712

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

IEZZ	Extra-Regio
IE01	Border, Midland and Western

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
1140B			180.3977		M	B	B	B	B
1150B			122.9715		M	A	B	A	A
1160B			18760.0314		M	A	B	B	A
1170B			9084.0895		M	A	C	B	B
1330B			38.0631		M	A	C	B	A
1410B			79.6039		M	A	C	B	A
21A0B	X		26.6795		M	C	C	C	C
3130B			24.325935		M	B	C	B	B
6510B			213.14		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.	Glo.
B	A045	Branta leucopsis			w	370	370	i		G	B	B	C	C
M	1355	Lutra lutra			p				P	DD	C	A	C	A
P	1833	Najas flexilis			p				P	DD	C	C	C	C
M	1365	Phoca vitulina			p	116	116	i		G	B	B	C	B
B	A195	Sterna albifrons			r	7	9	p		G	B	A	C	B
B	A193	Sterna hirundo			r	47	47	p		G	C	A	C	B

B	A194	Sterna paradisaea			r	99	99	p		G	B	A	C	B
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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		Armina loveni						V						X
P		Ascophyllum nodosum var. mackii						R						X
I		Asterina phylactica						R						X
I		Aurellania heterocera						R						X
I		Blennius ocellaris						R						X
I		Cerastoderma glaucum						P						X
I		Chelonaplysilla noevus						R						X
I		Conopeum seurati						P						X
I		Crimora papillata						C						X
I		Enochrus bicolor						P						X
I		Halcampoides elongatus						V						X
I		Hancockia uncinata						V						X
I		Hormathia coronata						R						X
I		Hydrobia ventrosa						P						X
I		Idotea chelipes						P						X
I		Isozoanthus sulcatus						C						X
I		Jaera nordmanni						P						X
P		Lamprothamnion papulosum						P			X			
I		Lekanesphaera hookeri						P						X
P		Lithothamnion corallioides						C						X
I		Littorina tenebrosa						P						X
I		Mesacamea mitchelli						R						X
I		Molgula oculata						R						X
I		Neomysis integer						P						X
I		Ostrea edulis						R						X
I		Pachycerianthus multiplicatus						R						X
I		Palaemonetes varians						P						X

anemones *Pachycerianthus multiplicatus*, *Halcampoides elongatus*, *Scolanthus callimorphus*, *Mesacmaea mitchellii* and *Aureliania heterocera*. The sponge *Plakortis simplex* is common in circalittoral reef communities in Kilkieran Bay and there is only one other known record for Ireland. The sponge *Tricheurypon viride* is rare, having been recorded from only four other locations in Ireland. The anemone *Pachycerianthus multiplicatus* is at the southern limit of its distribution in Ireland, and has only two further records in Ireland. The nocturnal anemone *Halcampoides elongatus* is known from only two other sites in Ireland. Kilkieran Bay is the only known locality in Ireland for *Mesacmaea mitchellii* and has one of the two known populations in Ireland of the anemone *Scolanthus callimorphus*. The lagoon habitat within the site is an excellent example of a particularly unusual type of saline lake lagoon situated in peat, which appears to be rare in Europe but characteristic of south Connemara. One lagoon (Lettermullen) is a particularly good example of a rock lagoon lying on granite. The flora of the habitat is particularly important for the relative abundance of the Red Data charophyte *Lamprothamnion papulosum*, the number of lagoonal specialist species, the algal communities and an unusual *Ruppia/Zostera/Lamprothamnion* community. The fauna is particularly rich and two lagoons within the site are ranked as the two most important in the country based on fauna alone. The site undoubtedly contains a significant proportion of the most important lagoonal habitat in the country and of a type which appears to be rare in Europe. The habitat is well conserved and prospects for maintenance of structure are excellent. Machair is represented though the quality is rather low. Salt meadows, both Atlantic and Mediterranean, are particularly well represented, the site probably containing the largest area of salt marsh on peat in the country. Lowland hay meadows occur and are typical of the type that was formerly widespread along the western seaboard. The site provides optimum habitat for *Lutra lutra*. The site supports an important population of *Phoca vitulina*. The site supports a population of *Najas flexilis*. Some of the islands provide breeding sites for terns, with regionally important populations of *Sterna hirundo*, *Sterna paradisaea* and *Sterna albifrons* recorded in 1995. *Branta leucopsis* occurs in winter.

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	A04.01.02		i
M	F01.01		i
M	A04.01.01		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

4.4 Ownership (optional)

4.5 Documentation

Byrne (1990). Annual reproductive cycles of the commercial sea-urchin *Paracentrotus lividus* from an exposed intertidal and a sheltered subtidal habitat on the west coast of Ireland. *Marine Biology* 104: 275-289. Costelloe, J., Keegan, B.F. and Konnecker, G.G. (1986). Rocky subtidal assemblages on the west coast of Ireland *Hydrobiologica* 142: 97-111. Crawford, I., Bleasdale, A. and Conaghan, J. (1996). BioMar Survey of Irish Machair Sites 1996. A report submitted to the National Parks & Wildlife Service, 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. Good, J.A. (1999). Irish coastal lagoon survey, 1998. Vol V. *Dúchas*. Good, J.A. and Butler, F.T. (1998). Coastal lagoon shores as a habitat for Staphylinidae and Carabidae (Coleoptera) in Ireland. *Bull. Ir. biogeogr. Soc.* 21: 21-66. Hatch, P. and Healy, B. (1998). Aquatic vegetation of Irish coastal lagoons. *Bull. Ir. biogeogr. Soc.* 21: 2-21. Healy, B. (1999). Irish Coastal Lagoon Survey, 1998. Vol 1, Part 1. Background, Description and summary of the surveys. *Dúchas*. Healy, B. and Oliver, G.A. (1998). Irish Coastal Lagoons: summary of a survey. *Bull. Ir. biogeogr. Soc.* 21: 116-151. Healy, B., Oliver, G.A., Hatch, P. and Good, J.A. (1997). Coastal Lagoons in the Republic of Ireland. Vol. 2. Inventory of Lagoons and Saline Lakes. Report to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Hannon, C., Berrow, S.D., and Newton S.F. (1997). The status and distribution of breeding Sandwich *Sterna sandvicensis*, Roseate *S. dougallii*, Common *S. hirundo*, Arctic *S. paradisaea* and Little Terns *S. albifrons* in Ireland in 1995. *Irish Birds* 6: 1-22. Hunt, J., Derwin, J., Coveney, J. & Newton, S. (2000). Republic of Ireland. Pp. 365-416 in M.F. Heath & M.I. Evans, eds. *Important Bird Areas in Europe: Priority sites for conservation 1: Northern Europe*. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International (BirdLife Conservation Series No. 8). Keegan, B.F. (1974a). The macro fauna of maerl substrates on the west coast of Ireland. *Cahiers de Biologie Marine* 15: 513-530. Keegan, B.F. (1974b). Littoral and benthic investigations on the west coast of Ireland-III (Section A: faunistic and ecological studies). The bivalves of Galway Bay and Kilkieran Bay. *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* 74B: 85-123. Konnecker, G. and Keegan, B. (1983). Littoral and benthic investigations on the west coast of Ireland XVII. The epibenthic animal associations of Kilkieran Bay. *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* 83B: 309 - 324. Lloyd, C. (1982). Inventory of seabird breeding colonies in Republic of Ireland. Unpublished report, Forestry and Wildlife Service, Dublin. 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. Merne, O.J. and Walsh, A. (1994). Barnacle Geese in Ireland, Spring 1993 and 1994. *Irish Birds* 5: 151-156. Nunn, J. (1990). The occurrence of the rare nudibranch *Hancockia uncinata* (Hesse 1972) at St John's Point, Co. Donegal. *Irish Naturalists Journal* 21: 484-488. O Ceidigh, P. (1959). The blennies, genus *Blennius* L., of Kilkieran Bay, Connemara. *Irish Naturalists Journal* 13: 72-73. O'Connor, B., Konnecker, G., McGrath, D., and Keegan, B.F. (1977). *Pachycerianthus multiplicatus* Carlgren - Biotope or biocoenosis? In *Biology of Benthic Organisms*, ed. by B.F. Keegan, P. O'Ceidigh and P.S. Boaden, 475-482. Pergamon Press, Oxford. O'Connor, McGrath, D., Konnecker, G. and Keegan, B.F. (1993). Benthic macrofaunal assemblages of greater Galway Bay. *Biology and Environment: Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* 93B: 127-

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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:

IE.NPWS.PS.NATURA2000.SAC.IE0002111

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).

