



# 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 IE0002265

SITENAME Kingstown Bay SAC

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## 1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

|                      |                                   |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>1.1 Type</b><br>B | <b>1.2 Site code</b><br>IE0002265 | <a href="#">Back to top</a> |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|

### 1.3 Site name

Kingstown Bay SAC

|  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>1.4 First Compilation date</b><br>2001-08 | <b>1.5 Update date</b><br>2018-09 |
|--|-----------------------------------|

### 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:** 2001-08

**Date site confirmed as SCI:** No data

**Date site designated as SAC:** 2016-10

**National legal reference of SAC designation:** 525/2016

## 2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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- **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    |
|----------------------------|------------|
| N10                        | 5.0        |
| N05                        | 22.0       |
| N01                        | 73.0       |
| <b>Total Habitat Cover</b> | <b>100</b> |

### Other Site Characteristics

Kingstown Bay is a small, narrow, bay situated about 7 km north-west of Clifden on the west coast of Ireland. It is an unusually shallow (approximately 1 m) bay that is about 3 km long, and 500m wide at the mouth. Its north-westerly aspect and the offshore islands of Omey, Inishturk and Turbot at the mouth afford shelter from Atlantic swells. Conditions become even more sheltered towards the head of the bay where the sediment is muddy. Currents can be moderately strong as the bay fills and empties with the rising and falling tide. The sublittoral sediments are dominated by mixed maerl-forming species and dense sea grass. Bedrock is metamorphic schist and gneiss. Hog Island, a small grassy island, is included in the site.

### 4.2 Quality and importance

The sublittoral sediment communities of Kingstown Bay are of extremely high conservation importance. They are composed of three maerl-forming coralline algal species: Lithothamnion corallioides, Lithophyllum dentatum and Lithophyllum fasciculatum. Lithothamnion corallioides is listed under Annex V of the EU Habitats Directive. Lithophyllum fasciculatum and Lithophyllum dentatum are not listed, perhaps because they are less common than Lithothamnion corallioides and therefore make a smaller contribution to maerl habitats. Whereas Lithophyllum fasciculatum is present in Ireland, the UK and Brittany, the status and distributional limits of Lithophyllum dentatum are uncertain. Lithophyllum dentatum at Kingstown Bay is fertile and currently under study. There are only three known sites in Ireland where these three species occur together (the other two being at Kilkieran slip and Kinvarra Bay, both also in Co. Galway. Of these three sites, Kingstown Bay is by far the best example, in terms of plant density and plant size. There are extensive seagrass beds in the bay that sometimes coincide with the maerl. The association of these two habitats appears to be unusual. Several epiphytic algae occur in the area that were not recorded by the BioMar survey. Of particular interest is Gelidiella calcicola, thought to be endemic to maerl, and the common coralline alga, Corallina officinalis, which grows in unattached balls at Kingstown Bay. The beaches, or 'Coral Strands', at Kingstown Bay are composed of dead maerl debris and are biologically and geologically very interesting. They have not been surveyed. The oyster, Ostrea edulis, is known to occur in Kingstown Bay. Sheltered rocky shores dominated by Ascophyllum nodosum add habitat diversity to the area. The structure and quality of the habitats is excellent.

### 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] |
| L                | F02.01.01                    |                             | i                      |
| L                | D03.01.02                    |                             | i                      |
| L                | J01.01                       |                             | o                      |

| 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

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).

## 6. SITE MANAGEMENT

### 6.2 Management Plan(s):

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An actual management plan does exist:

- Yes  
 No, but in preparation  
 No

## 7. MAP OF THE SITES

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INSPIRE ID:

IE.NPWS.PS.NATURA2000.SAC.IE0002265

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).