



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 IE0002268
SITENAME Achill Head SAC

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code IE0002268	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Achill Head SAC

1.4 First Compilation date 2001-04	1.5 Update date 2019-01
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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:	2000-09
Date site confirmed as SCI:	No data
Date site designated as SAC:	2018-02
National legal reference of SAC designation:	77/2018

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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Longitude -10.161388 Latitude 53.961675

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
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2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them

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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
1140			16.1216		M	B	C	B	C
1160			6887.8207		M	A	B	B	B
1170			3560.2746		M	A	C	A	A

- **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.

- **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		Aglaophenia kirchenpaueri						C						X
I		Aldisa zetlandica						R						X
I		Halicnemida verticillata						R						X
I		Neocrania anomala						R						X
I		Paracentrotus lividus						C						X
I		Spongionella pulchella						C						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
N02	1.0
N01	98.0
N05	1.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

Achill Head is the most westerly point of Achill Island on the north-west coast of Ireland. The site comprises the shallow waters extending from Doega Head north-westwards to Achill Head and north-eastwards to Gubnahinneora Point. Bedrock is metamorphic schist and gneiss alternating with metamorphic quartzite. High cliffs (650m) on the north-west of the island drop vertically into the sea forming steep sublittoral reefs. Landwards, they sweep down to two exposed bays, Keem Bay and Keel Bay, that are composed of sediments.

4.2 Quality and importance

The Achill Head site has good examples of extremely exposed reef communities. The littoral reef contains populations of the purple sea-urchin *Paracentrotus lividus*, which are vulnerable to over-exploitation. The infralittoral reef contains an exceptional *Alaria esculenta* community. There are important sponge communities in the circalittoral reef. Achill Head is the only pSAC where one sponge species, *Halicnemida verticillata*, is present (though it also occurs in outer Galway Bay). The brachiopod *Neocrania anomala* is frequent at one circalittoral reef. It is only otherwise known to occur in abundance in the Kenmare River in the south-west of the country. Exposed shallow bays, with small though significant examples of intertidal sand flats are also present and add habitat diversity to 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	F02		i
H	I01		i
H	F06		i
H	L07		i
H	F02.02.02		i
L	G05		i
L	F02.03		i
L	G05.01		i

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
H	G02.09		i
L	F02.03		i
L	F06		i
L	G01		i

M	F06		i
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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

Cabot, D. (1965). Cuvier's whale *Ziphius cavirostris*, on Achill Island, Co. Mayo. *Irish Naturalists' Journal*, 15: 72-73. Cabot, D. (1967). A sperm whale, *Physeter catodon* (L.) on Achill Island, Co. Mayo, March, 1967. *Irish Naturalists' Journal*, 15: 326. Hanna, H. (1898). Impressions of Achill: seaweeds. *Irish Naturalist*, 7: 142-143. Hanna, H. (1899). *Chaetomorpha crassa* at Achill. *Irish Naturalist*, 8: 51. Hinch, J. De W. (1911). A high level deposit of marine shells in Curraun Achill, Co. Mayo. *Irish Naturalist*, 20: 189-193. Massy, A.L. (1904). Marine Mollusca of Achill. *Irish Naturalist*, 13: 44. Nichols, A.R. (1914). Long-finned Tunny on shore of Achill Island, Co. Mayo. *Irish Naturalist*, 23: 227. Nunn, J. (1995). Recording Mollusca in Ireland: Achill Island, Co. Mayo. *Conchologists' Newsletter*, 7: 441-445. 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). Quigley, D.T.G. (1985). Specimens of trigger fish *Balistes carolinensis* Gmelin, 1789 (*B. capriscus* Gmelin) from Achill Island, Co Mayo, and a review of the Irish records. *Irish Naturalists' Journal*, 21: 474-476. Quigley, D.T.G. (1986). A specimen of the barrel-fish *Hyperoglyphe perciforma* (Mitchill, 1818) (*Lirus perciformis* Regan, 1902) from Achill Island, Co Mayo. *Irish Naturalists' Journal*, 22: 77-78. Stephens, J. (1921). Sponges of the coast of Ireland 2. The Tetraxonida (concluded) Department of Agriculture, Ireland, Fisheries Scientific Investigations 1920 II: 1-75. Dublin. Tatlow, E.M., & Praeger, R.L. (1898). Impressions of Achill: marine Mollusca. *Irish Naturalist*, 7: 139-140. Went, A.E.J. (1951). Movements of salmon around Ireland. I. From Achill, Co. Mayo (1948 to 1950). *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, 54B: 169-201.

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:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, but in preparation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

7. MAP OF THE SITES

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INSPIRE ID:

IE.NPWS.PS.NATURA2000.SAC.IE0002268

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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