



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 IE0004007
SITENAME Skelligs SPA

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type A	1.2 Site code IE0004007	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Skelligs SPA

1.4 First Compilation date 2003-08	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:	1986-02
National legal reference of SPA designation	No data

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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Longitude
-10.52661525

Latitude
51.77495568

2.2 Area [ha]:
624.0780114

2.3 Marine area [%]
95.109

2.4 Sitelength [km]:
0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code **Region Name**

IE02	Southern and Eastern
IEZZ	Extra-Regio

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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

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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	A200	Alca torda			r	304	304	p		G	C	A	C	B
B	A103	Falco peregrinus			p	1	1	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A204	Fratrercula arctica			r	4000	4000	p		G	A	A	C	A
B	A009	Fulmarus glacialis			r	806	806	p		G	B	A	C	A
B	A014	Hydrobates pelagicus			r	9994	9994	p		G	B	A	C	A
B	A013	Puffinus puffinus			r	738	738	p		G	C	A	C	A
B	A346	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax			p	1	1	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A188	Rissa tridactyla			r	944	944	p		G	B	A	C	A
B	A016	Sula bassana			r	29683	29683	p		G	A	A	C	A
B	A199	Uria aalge			r	1709	1709	p		G	C	A	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)

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

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4.1 General site character

Habitat class	% Cover
N23	1.0
N09	1.0
N01	94.0
N05	4.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

The site comprises Great Skellig and Little Skellig islands and the surrounding seas to a distance of 500 m from the shorelines. These highly exposed and isolated islands are located in the Atlantic ocean some 14 km and 11 km (respectively) off the County Kerry mainland. The geology of the islands is Old Red Sandstone, with a little slate. Both islands are precipitous rocky stacks, Great Skellig rising to 218 m and Little Skellig to 134 m. Little Skellig is largely unvegetated, though Great Skellig supports a sparse maritime flora on shallow soils. The remains of an early Christian monastic settlement present on Great Skellig make it a very important archaeological site. Great Skellig has a lighthouse.

4.2 Quality and importance

The Skelligs site is one of the most important seabird colonies in the country for populations and species diversity. It has internationally important populations of *Hydrobates pelagicus* and *Sula bassana*. For *Sula bassana*, it is the largest colony in Ireland and one of the largest in the world. It also supports nationally important populations of *Fulmarus glacialis*, *Puffinus puffinus*, *Rissa tridactyla*, *Uria aalge* and *Fratercula arctica*. References to breeding seabirds date back to the 1700s. It is a traditional site for *Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax* and *Falco peregrinus*.

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	G01.02		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

Berrow, S.D., Mackie, K.L., O'Sullivan, O., Shepperd, K.B., Mellon, C. and Coveney, J.A. (1993). The second International Chough Survey in Ireland, 1992. Irish Birds 5: 1-10. Cramp, S., Bourne, W.R.P. and Saunders, D. (1974). The Seabirds of Britain and Ireland. Collins, London. Evans, P.G.H. and Lovegrove, R.R. (1974). The birds of the south west Irish islands. Irish Bird Report 21: 33-64. Fisher, J. (1952). The Fulmar. Collins, London. Gray, N., Thomas, G., Treby, M. and Newton, S. (2003). The status and distribution of Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* in the Republic of Ireland 2002/03. Irish Birds 7: 147-156. Harris, M.P. (1984). The Puffin. Poyser, Calton. Harrop, J.M. (1959). Notes on a visit to the Great Skellig Rock. Irish Naturalists' Journal 15: 17-18. Hunt, J., Derwin, J., Coveney, J. and Newton, S. (2000). Republic of Ireland. Pp. 365-416 in Heath, M.F. and Evans, M.I. (eds). Important Bird Areas in Europe: Priority Sites for Conservation 1: Northern Europe. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International (BirdLife Conservation Series No. 8). Lavelle, D. (1976). Skellig - Island Outpost of Europe. O'Brien Press, Dublin. Lloyd, C. (1982). Inventory of Seabird Breeding Colonies in Republic of Ireland. Unpublished report, Forest and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Lloyd, C., Tasker, M.L. and Partridge, K. (1991). The Status of Seabirds in Britain and Ireland. Poyser, London. Lovegrove, R.R., Byrne, E.J. and Rear, D. (1965). Notes on a visit to the Great Skellig rock, Co. Kerry. Irish Naturalists' Journal 15: 47-49. Madden, B. (in prep.). Breeding Survey of Peregrine Falcons in the Republic of Ireland, 2002. Unpublished Report to NPWS, 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. Mitchell, P.I., Newton, S.F., Ratcliffe, N. and Dunn, T.E. (2004). Seabird populations of Britain and Ireland. Poyser, UK. Nelson, B. (1978). The Gannet. Poyser, Berkhamsted. Newell, R.G., Merne, O.J. and Evans, P.G.H. (1969). B.O.U. supported survey of seabirds off south-west Ireland, August 1968. Ibis 111: 279-280. Praeger, R.L. (1934). The Botanist in Ireland. Hodges, Figgis and Co., Dublin. Walsh, A. and Merne, O.J. (2002). Swinhoe's Petrel *Oceanodroma monorhis* in County Kerry - an addition to the Irish list. Irish Birds 7: 135-137.

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

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5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
IE01	6.0				

5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

designated at national or regional level:

Type code	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
IE01	Little Skellig Nature Reserve	+	2.0
IE01	Great Skellig Nature Reserve	+	4.0

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.SPA.IE0004007

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).