



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 IE0004026
SITENAME Dundalk Bay SPA

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type A	1.2 Site code IE0004026	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Dundalk Bay SPA

1.4 First Compilation date 2003-11	1.5 Update date 2017-09
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1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation: National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Address: 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2, Ireland
Email: datadelivery@ahg.gov.ie

1.7 Site indication and designation / classification dates

Date site classified as SPA:	1994-03
National legal reference of SPA designation	No data

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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Longitude

Latitude

B	A143	canutus			w	9710	9710	i		G	A	A	C	A
B	A147	Calidris ferruginea			c	16	16	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A137	Charadrius hiaticula			w	147	147	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A003	Gavia immer			w	9	9	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A001	Gavia stellata			w	9	9	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A130	Haematopus ostralegus			w	8712	8712	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A182	Larus canus			w	555	555	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A179	Larus ridibundus			w	6630	6630	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A157	Limosa lapponica			w	1950	1950	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A156	Limosa limosa			w	1067	1067	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A069	Mergus serrator			w	121	121	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A160	Numenius arquata			w	1234	1234	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A017	Phalacrocorax carbo			w	97	97	i		G	C	A	C	C
B	A151	Philomachus pugnax			w	4	4	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A151	Philomachus pugnax			c	9	9	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A140	Pluvialis apricaria			w	5967	5967	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A141	Pluvialis squatarola			w	204	204	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A005	Podiceps cristatus			w	302	302	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A048	Tadorna tadorna			w	492	492	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A161	Tringa erythropus			c	3	3	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A164	Tringa nebularia			w	16	16	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A162	Tringa totanus			w	1489	1489	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A142	Vanellus vanellus			w	14850	14850	i		G	B	A	C	A

- **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
B		Ardea cinerea			28	28							X	
P		Crambe maritima									X			
B		Cygnus olor			61	61							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
N03	1.0
N05	1.0
N01	40.0
N02	58.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

The site is a large bay-like estuarine complex, extending c.15 km from north to south and on average of 4-5 km in width. It contains the estuaries of a number of moderately sized rivers, principally the Castletown, the Flurry, the Fane and the Glyde/Dee. These rivers drain fairly intensive agricultural catchments, and the Castletown flows through Dundalk town and serves the port. The site contains the largest expanse of intertidal flats on the east coast and has a very marked tidal range. The sediments are predominantly sands though fine muds or muddy sands occur in the sheltered areas at Dundalk and Ballymascanlan. Salt marshes are well represented, especially in the more sheltered areas such as the estuaries of the Castletown and Flurry rivers. *Spartina* is frequent in parts. Post-glacial raised beaches are a feature of the shoreline.

4.2 Quality and importance

Estuaries and particularly intertidal sand and mud flats are very well represented at this site and support the

largest concentration of wintering waterfowl on the east coast (regularly in excess of 20,000 wintering waterfowl). The bay has internationally important populations of *Branta bernicila hrota*, *Calidris canutus*, *Limosa limosa* and *Limosa lapponica*. It is the top site in the country for *Calidris canutus*, with over 38% of the national total. A further 13 species have populations of national importance, with particular notable numbers for *Haematopus ostralegus* (12.4% of national total), *Calidris alpina* (8.4% of national total) and *Vanellus vanellus* (7.4% of national total). Dundalk Bay is an important roost site for *Anser anser* and small numbers of *Anser albifrons flavirostris*. Shallow bay waters support divers, grebes and diving duck, with nationally important populations of *Podiceps cristatus* and *Mergus serrator*. This bay is a regular site for passage waders such as *Philomachus pugnax*, *Calidris ferruginea* and *Tringa erythropus*. It is also an important site for wintering gulls, especially *Larus ridibundus* and *Larus canus*. The site provides both feeding and roosting areas for the waterfowl species and habitat quality for most of the estuarine habitats is very good. Wintering bird populations have been well monitored in recent years.

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	D01.02		o
M	G01.02		i
M	E02		o
M	D03.02		i
M	J02.12		i
M	E03		i
M	F02.03		i
H	I01		i
H	E01		o
L	A04		i
M	E01.03		o
M	A08		o
M	G01.01		i
M	J02.11		i

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
M	G01.01		i
M	D03.02		i
L	A04		i
M	F02.03		i
M	E01.03		o
H	D01.02		o

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

Colhoun, K. (2001). I-WeBS Report 1998-99. BirdWatch Ireland, 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 Environment, Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* 98B: 87-104. Fahy, E. (1972) A preliminary Report on Areas of Scientific Interest in County Louth. An Foras Forbartha, Dublin. 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). Irish Wetland Birds Survey (I-WeBS) Database, 1994/95-2000/01. BirdWatch Ireland, Dublin. McGarrigle M.L., Bowman J.J., Clabby K.J., Lucey J., Cunningham P., MacCarthaigh M., Keegan M., Cantrell B., Lehane M., Clenaghan C. and Toner P.F. (2002). *Water Quality in Ireland 1998-2000*. Environmental Protection Agency, Wexford. 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. Moore, D. and Wilson, F. (1999). *National Shingle Beach Survey of Ireland 1999*. Unpublished report to National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Praeger, R.L. (1934). *The Botanist in Ireland*. Hodges, Figgis and Co. Dublin. Sheppard, R. (1993). *Ireland's Wetland Wealth*. IWC, Dublin. White, J. (1981). Notes on Irish vegetation: No. 1 The vegetation of shingle in Co. Louth. *Bulletin of the Irish Biogeographical Society* 5: 1-4.

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

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5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
IE05	9.0				

5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

designated at national or regional level:

Type code	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
IE05	Ballymascanlon Estuary Wildfowl Sanctuary	+	1.0
IE05	Lurgangreen Wildfowl Sanctuary	+	8.0

designated at international level:

Type	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
Other	Dundalk Bay	+	44.0

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.IE0004026

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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