



# 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 IE0004028  
SITENAME Blackwater Estuary SPA

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## 1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

<b>1.1 Type</b> A	<b>1.2 Site code</b> IE0004028	<a href="#">Back to top</a>
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### 1.3 Site name

Blackwater Estuary SPA

<b>1.4 First Compilation date</b> 2004-04	<b>1.5 Update date</b> 2020-10
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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

<b>Date site classified as SPA:</b>	1994-11
<b>National legal reference of SPA designation</b>	No data

## 2. SITE LOCATION

### 2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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B	A026	<a href="#">garzetta</a>			p	15	15	i		G	B	B	C	B
B	A130	<a href="#">Haematopus ostralegus</a>			w	508	508	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A182	<a href="#">Larus canus</a>			w	253	253	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A183	<a href="#">Larus fuscus</a>			c	602	602	i		G	B	B	C	B
B	A179	<a href="#">Larus ridibundus</a>			w	549	549	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A157	<a href="#">Limosa lapponica</a>			w	172	172	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A156	<a href="#">Limosa limosa</a>			w	934	934	i		G	B	A	C	A
B	A069	<a href="#">Mergus serrator</a>			w	8	8	i		G	C	C	C	C
B	A160	<a href="#">Numenius arquata</a>			w	1194	1194	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A017	<a href="#">Phalacrocorax carbo</a>			w	60	60	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A140	<a href="#">Pluvialis apricaria</a>			w	2947	2947	i		G	C	B	C	B
B	A141	<a href="#">Pluvialis squatarola</a>			w	53	53	i		G	C	B	C	C
B	A048	<a href="#">Tadorna tadorna</a>			w	151	151	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A164	<a href="#">Tringa nebularia</a>			w	30	30	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A162	<a href="#">Tringa totanus</a>			w	634	634	i		G	C	A	C	B
B	A142	<a href="#">Vanellus vanellus</a>			w	3988	3988	i		G	C	B	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)

### 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		<a href="#">Ardea cinerea</a>			27	27	i						X	

B	<a href="#">Larus argentatus</a>		86	86	i										X
B	<a href="#">Larus marinus</a>		227	227	i										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
N10	1.0
N03	1.0
N07	1.0
N02	96.0
N23	1.0
<b>Total Habitat Cover</b>	<b>100</b>

### Other Site Characteristics

The Blackwater Estuary SPA is a relatively small, sheltered south-facing estuary, which extends from below Youghal Bridge to the Ferry Point peninsula, close to where the river enters the sea. It comprises a section of the main channel of the River Blackwater. At low tide, intertidal flats are exposed. On the eastern side the intertidal channel extending as far as Kinsalebeg and Moord Cross Roads is included, while on the west side the site includes much of the estuary of the Tourig River. The intertidal sediments are mostly muds or sandy muds reflecting the sheltered conditions of the estuary. The sediments have a macrofauna typical of muddy sands, with polychaete worms and bivalves well-represented. Salt marshes occur along the sheltered inlets. A low-lying field which provides an important roost is included.

### 4.2 Quality and importance

The Blackwater Estuary is of high ornithological importance for wintering waterfowl, providing good quality feeding areas for a diversity of waterfowl species. At high tide, the birds roost along the shoreline and salt marsh fringe. The site supports an internationally important population of *Limosa limosa* (over 5% of the national total). It supports a further eight species in numbers of national importance: *Tadorna tadorna*, *Anas penelope*, *Pluvialis apricaria*, *Vanellus vanellus*, *Calidris alpina*, *Numenius arquata*, *Tringa totanus* and *Tringa nebularia*. A population of *Limosa lapponica* exceeds the threshold for national importance in some winters. *Egretta garzetta* breeds locally and the Blackwater Estuary is a main feeding area. The site is important for gulls and attracts substantial numbers of *Larus fuscus* in autumn and winter. The Blackwater Estuary has been well-studied, with waterfowl counts extending back to 1974.

### 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			Positive Impacts		
	Threats	Pollution		Activities,	Pollution inside/outside

Rank	and pressures [code]	(optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
L	F03.01		i
L	A04		i
M	A08		o
M	G01.01		i
M	F02.03		i
H	D01.02		i
H	E01		o

Rank	management [code]	(optional) [code]	[i o b]
M	G01.01		i
L	F03.01		i
H	E01		o
L	A04		i
M	F02.03		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

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. Falvey, J.P., Costello, M.J. and Dempsey, S. (1997) Survey of Intertidal Biotopes in Estuaries in Ireland. Unpublished report to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, 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, Waterford. McGrath, D. and Walsh, P. (1990). *Where to Watch Birds in Waterford*. Irish Wildbird Conservancy, Waterford. 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. Sheppard, R. (1993). *Ireland's Wetland Wealth*. IWC, Dublin. Smiddy, P. (1996). *The waterfowl of the Blackwater Estuary (Youghal Harbour), Cos. Waterford and Cork*. *Irish Naturalists' Journal* 25: 157-165. Smiddy, P. and O'Sullivan, O. (1998). *The status of the Little Egret Egretta garzetta in Ireland*. *Irish Birds* 6: 201-206.

## 5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

designated at international level:

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Type	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
Other	Blackwater Estuary		

## 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.IE0004028

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).