



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 IE0004080
SITENAME Boyne Estuary SPA

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1.1 Type A | 1.2 Site code IE0004080 | Back to top |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|

1.3 Site name

Boyne Estuary SPA

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1.4 First Compilation date 2004-04 | 1.5 Update date 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

1.7 Site indication and designation / classification dates

| | |
|--|---------|
| Date site classified as SPA: | 1996-09 |
| National legal reference of SPA designation | No data |

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|-----|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| B | Larus argentatus | 403 | 403 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X |
| B | Larus marinus | 160 | 160 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 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 |
|----------------------------|------------|
| N05 | 1.0 |
| N03 | 5.0 |
| N02 | 87.0 |
| N04 | 5.0 |
| N23 | 1.0 |
| N09 | 1.0 |
| Total Habitat Cover | 100 |

Other Site Characteristics

This moderately-sized coastal site, which is situated below the town of Drogheda, comprises most of the estuary of the Boyne River, a substantial river which drains a large catchment. Apart from one section which is over 1 km wide, the width is mostly less than 500 m. The main river channel, which is navigable and dredged, is defined by training walls, the latter being breached in places. Intertidal flats occur on the sides of the channelled river. The sediments vary from fine muds in the innermost areas to sandy muds or sands towards the mouth. The linear stretches of intertidal flats to the north and south of the river mouth are mainly sands. Intertidal areas are fringed by salt marshes in the inner sheltered areas. *Spartina* is frequent on the flats and salt marshes.

4.2 Quality and importance

The Boyne Estuary is one of the most important sites for wintering waterfowl on the east coast. It has a total of 10 species with populations of national importance - of particular note is that it supports 7.0% of the national total of *Calidris canutus* and 4.0% of the total for *Pluvialis apricaria*. Other species which have populations of national importance include *Tadorna tadorna*, *Haematopus ostralegus*, *Vanellus vanellus*, *Limosa limosa*, *Tringa totanus* and *Arenaria interpres*. The site provides both feeding and roosting areas for the birds. *Sterna albifrons* bred in the past but successful breeding has not occurred since 1996.

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 | Pollution (optional) | inside/outside [i o b] |
| | | | |

| Positive Impacts | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Rank | Activities, management [code] | Pollution (optional) [code] | inside/outside [i o b] |
| | | | |

| | | | |
|---|-----------|--------|---|
| | [code] | [code] | |
| M | E01 | | o |
| M | F01 | | i |
| M | G02.01 | | o |
| H | G01.02 | | i |
| H | I01 | | i |
| H | J02.11 | | i |
| H | J02.01.02 | | i |
| H | J02.05 | | i |
| L | F02.03 | | i |

| | | | |
|---|--------|--|---|
| H | G02.01 | | o |
| M | F01 | | i |
| L | 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. Hannon, C., Berrow, S.D. and Newton S.F. (1997). The status and distribution of breeding Sandwich *Sterna sandvicensis*, Roseate *S. dougallii*, Common *S. hirundo*, Arctic *S. paradisaea* and Little Terns *S. albifrons* in Ireland in 1995. *Irish Birds* 6: 1-22. 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. Kirk McClure Morton (1997). Drogheda Port Development Capital Dredging Scheme, Environmental Impact Statement. Main Report. Commissioned by Drogheda Company, Drogheda. Lenehan, L.J. (1991). The birds of the Meath and south Louth coast. *Irish East Coast Bird Report* 1990: 50-59. 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. Sheppard, R. (1993). *Ireland's Wetland Wealth*. IWC, Dublin. Wilde, A. (1985). The All Ireland Tern Survey 1984. Unpublished report for the Irish Wildbird Conservancy, Dublin.

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 | 100.0 | | | | |

5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

designated at national or regional level:

| Type code | Site name | Type | Cover [%] |
|-----------|----------------------------------|------|-----------|
| IE05 | Boyne Estuary Wildfowl Sanctuary | + | 100.0 |

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

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6.2 Management Plan(s):

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.SPA.IE0004080

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).