



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 IE0004122
SITENAME Skerries Islands SPA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [1. SITE IDENTIFICATION](#)
- [2. SITE LOCATION](#)
- [3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION](#)
- [4. SITE DESCRIPTION](#)
- [6. SITE MANAGEMENT](#)
- [7. MAP OF THE SITE](#)

1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type A	1.2 Site code IE0004122	Back to top
----------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------

1.3 Site name

Skerries Islands SPA

1.4 First Compilation date 2003-09	1.5 Update date 2020-10
--	-----------------------------------

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:	2009-11
National legal reference of SPA designation	No data

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

[Back to top](#)

Longitude -6.0829 **Latitude** 53.577

2.2 Area [ha]: 217.1176977 **2.3 Marine area [%]** 92.371

2.4 Sitelength [km]:
0.0

					Min	Max		C R V P	IV	V	A	B	C	D
B		Larus argentatus			250	250	i							X
B		Larus marinus			75	75	i							X
B		Phalacrocorax aristotelis			100	100	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

4.1 General site character

[Back to top](#)

Habitat class	% Cover
N08	3.0
N05	15.0
N02	5.0
N01	72.0
N09	5.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

The Skerries Islands is a group of three small, uninhabited islands situated between 0.5 km and 1.5 km off the north Dublin coastline. Shenick's Island and St. Patrick's Island are of similar size, with Colt Island being somewhat smaller. Shenick's Island is of most interest geologically, being composed of Ordovician volcanics, siltstones and shales on the boundary between the Carboniferous and the Silurian. All are low-lying islands, with maximum heights from 8 m to 13 m above sea level. St. Patrick's Island and Colt Island have low cliffs, while Shenick's Island has more extensive expanses of intertidal rocky shore and sand flats. Shenick's also has a shingle bar and is connected to the mainland at low tides. The vegetation of the islands is dominated by rank grasses and Brambles (*Rubus* spp.). The seas surrounding the islands, to a distance of 200 m, are included in the site. Shenick's Island is a Bird Reserve managed by BirdWatch Ireland.

4.2 Quality and importance

The site has a nationally important breeding colony of *Phalacrocorax carbo* which became established in the early 1990s. When taken together with the breeding populations on nearby Lambay and Ireland's Eye, (also SPAs) this concentration is of international importance. The site also has nationally important breeding populations of *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, *Larus argentatus* and *Larus marinus*. In winter the site is visited by a good diversity of waterfowl. It has an internationally important population of *Branta bernicla hrota* and nationally important populations of *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Calidris maritima* and *Arenaria interpres*. *Pluvialis apricaria* occurs regularly but in relatively small numbers. *Asio flammeus* occurs regularly in winter. 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]
M	G01.02		i

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside /outside [i o b]
M	G01.02		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

4.4 Ownership (optional)

4.5 Documentation

Doogue, D., Nash, D., Parnell, J., Reynolds, S. and Wyse Jackson, P. (1998). Flora of County Dublin. Dublin Naturalists' Field Club, 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).
Hutchinson, C.D. (1975). The Birds of Dublin and Wicklow. Irish Wildbird Conservancy, Dublin. Irish Wetland Birds Survey (I-WeBS) Database, 1994/95-2000/01. BirdWatch Ireland, Dublin. Lloyd, C. (1982). Inventory of Seabird Breeding Colonies in Republic of Ireland. Unpublished report, Forest and Wildlife Service, Dublin. Merne, O.J. (1988). Recent changes in breeding seabird populations in Counties Dublin and Wicklow. Irish East Coast Bird Report 1987: 69-77. Mitchell, P.I., Newton, S., Ratcliffe, N. and Dunn, T. (In prep.). Seabird 2000: The Status of Breeding Seabirds in Britain and Ireland. Pierce, S. (1998). Birds of Shenick Island, Skerries, Co. Dublin. Irish Birds 6: 223-232. Pierce, S. and McGough, C. (1992). New cormorant breeding colony at St. Patrick's Island, Skerries. Irish East Coast Bird Report 1991: 76.

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

[Back to top](#)

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:

[Back to top](#)

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

- Yes
 No, but in preparation
 No

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

7. MAP OF THE SITES

[Back to top](#)

INSPIRE ID:

IE.NPWS.PS.NATURA2000.SPA.IE0004122

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).