



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 IE0004177
SITENAME Bills Rocks SPA

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type A	1.2 Site code IE0004177	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Bills Rocks SPA

1.4 First Compilation date 2010-04	1.5 Update date 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

Date site classified as SPA:	2006-09
National legal reference of SPA designation	No data

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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Longitude

Latitude

-10.20720478

53.87308793

2.2 Area [ha]:

149.6557076

2.3 Marine area [%]

95.0

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code

Region Name

IEZZ	Extra-Regio
IE01	Border, Midland and Western

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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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

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	A204	Fraterecula arctica			r	1500	1500	p		G	B	A	C	A
B	A009	Fulmarus glacialis			r	108	108	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A014	Hydrobates pelagicus			r	500	500	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A018	Phalacrocorax aristotelis			r	5	5	p		G	C	C	C	C
B	A188	Rissa tridactyla			r	105	105	p		G	C	B	C	C

- **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		Larus marinus			18	18	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
N01	95.0
N05	4.0
N09	1.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

Bills Rocks are a group of three rocks lying close together approximately 10 south of Moyteoge Head (Achill Island). The islands are composed of metamorphic rock and are drift covered. They rise precipitously to a height of approximately 35 m. The two larger islands have flattish tops which are covered by swards of *Armeria maritima*. Rocky reefs surround the islands. The sea area to a distance of 500 m from the island is included for the benefit of the breeding auks.

4.2 Quality and importance

The site supports nationally important population of *Fratercula arctica* (ca. 7.1% of the all-Ireland total). It also has a colony of *Hydrobates pelagicus* which is at least of regional importance. Other breeding seabird species are *Fulmarus glacialis*, *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, *Larus marinus*, *Rissa tridactyla* and *Alca torda*. The site is an excellent example of an isolated and highly exposed seabird colony.

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

Rank	Threats and pressures [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
L	X		i

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

Cobot, D. (1967). The Birds of the Bills Rocks, Co. Mayo. Irish Naturalists' Journal 15: 359-361. Coulson, J.C. (1963). The status of the Kittiwake in the British Isles. Bird Study 10: 147-179. Crowe, O., Austin, G.E., Colhoun, K., Cranswick, P.A., Kershaw, M. and Musgrove, A.J. (2008). Estimates and trends of waterbird numbers wintering in Ireland 1994/95 to 2003/04. Bird Study 55: 66-77. Fitter, R.S.R. (1982). Inventory of Seabird Breeding Colonies in Republic of Ireland. Unpublished report, Forest and Wildlife Service, 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. Mitchell, P.I., Newton, S., Ratcliffe, N. and Dunn, T.E. (2004). The Status of Breeding Seabirds in Britain and Ireland. Poyser, London. Ruttledge, R.F. (1994). Birds in Counties Galway and Mayo. Irish Wildbird Conservancy, Dublin. Thompson, W. (1851). The Natural History of Ireland. Reeve and Benham, London.

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.IE0004177

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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