

SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: AUGHRIS HEAD SPA

SITE CODE: 004133

Aughris Head is a rocky headland on the north-facing Co. Sligo coastline, located some 20 km west of Sligo Town. Its near-vertical cliffs reach a maximum height of 30 m above sea level and here a series of Upper Carboniferous limestone rocks is well-exposed. The cliff-top vegetation is grassy and is grazed by cattle. The marine area to a distance of 500 m from the base of the cliffs is included in the site.

At the time this site was designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) it was utilised by a nationally important population of Kittiwake and this species is regarded as a special conservation interest for this SPA.

A survey in 1997 recorded a nationally important population of breeding Kittiwake (742 pairs) and other breeding seabirds including Guillemot (811 pairs), Razorbill (58 pairs) and Fulmar (94 pairs).