

SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: GALLEY HEAD TO DUNEEN POINT SPA

SITE CODE: 004190

The Galley Point to Duneen Point SPA is situated to the south-west of the town of Clonakilty, Co. Cork. It encompasses the sea cliffs south of Castlefreke dunes to Galley Head, north-eastwards along the coast to Dunowen Head and Ringlea Point as far as the north side of Duneen Point. The site includes the sea cliffs and the land adjacent to the cliff edge. The high water mark forms the seaward boundary. Most of the site is underlain by Devonian sandstones, siltstones and mudstones, but similar rocks of Carboniferous age also occur.

Sea cliffs are the predominant habitat of the site; these occur along its length and are generally well-vegetated by a suite of typical sea cliff species. Above the cliffs areas of heath, improved grassland, unimproved wet and dry grassland, and arable land occur

The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for Chough.

The site supports a nationally important population of breeding Chough, a Red Data Book species that is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive; 11 breeding pairs were recorded from the site in the 1992 survey and 11 in the 2002/03 survey. In addition, flocks of 4-6 birds have been noted.

The site also supports a variety of breeding seabirds, i.e. Fulmar (106 pairs), Herring Gull (62 pairs), Cormorant (5 pairs), Shag (1 pair), Great Black-backed Gull (3 pairs) and Lesser Black-backed Gull (1 pair) – all seabird data from 1985. The site is also used by Peregrine (2 pairs in 2002).

The Galley Point to Duneen Point SPA is of particular importance for Chough; it also supports a population of Peregrine and a suite of breeding seabird species. The presence of Chough and Peregrine, both species that are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive, is of particular significance