

NATURA 2000
STANDARD DATA FORM

FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS (SPA)

FOR SITES ELIGIBLE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS SITES OF
COMMUNITY IMPORTANCE (SCI)

AND

FOR SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SAC)

1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

<i>1.1. TYPE</i>	<i>1.2. SITE CODE</i>	<i>1.3. COMPILATION DATE</i>	<i>1.4. UPDATE</i>
A	IE0004005	200308	

1.5. RELATION WITH OTHER NATURA 2000 SITES:

1.6. RESPONDENT(S):

National Parks & Wildlife Service of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2, Ireland.

1.7. SITE NAME:

Cliffs of Moher SPA

1.8. SITE INDICATION AND DESIGNATION/CLASSIFICATION DATES:

DATE SITE PROPOSED AS ELIGIBLE AS SCI:

DATE CONFIRMED AS SCI:

DATE SITE CLASSIFIED AS SPA:

DATE SITE DESIGNATED AS SAC:

198602

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1. SITE CENTRE LOCATION

LONGITUDE

W 9 26 0

W/E (Greenwich)

LATITUDE

52 57 30

2.2. AREA (HA):

874.32

2.3. SITE LENGTH (KM):

2.4. ALTITUDE (M):

MINIMUM

-20

MAXIMUM

203

MEAN

-10

2.5. ADMINISTRATIVE REGION:

NUTS CODE

IE023

REGION NAME

Mid-West

% COVER

5

Marine area not covered by a NUTS-region

9

2.6. BIOGEOGRAPHIC REGION:

Alpine

Atlantic

Boreal

Continental

Macaronesian

Mediterranean

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

3.1. HABITAT types present on the site and assessment for them:

ANNEX I HABITAT TYPES:

CODE	%COVER	REPRESENTATIVITY	RELATIVE SURFACE	CONSERVATION STATUS	GLOBAL ASSESSMENT
------	--------	------------------	------------------	------------------------	----------------------

3.2. SPECIES

covered by Article 4 of Directive 79/409/EEC

and

listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC

and

site assessment for them

3.2.a. BIRDS listed on Annex I of Council directive 79/409/EEC

CODE	NAME	POPULATION			SITE ASSESSMENT			
		Resident	Migratory		Population	Conservation	Isolation	
			Breed	Winter	Stage			
A103	Falco peregrinus	2 p				C	B	C
A346	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax	4 p				C	B	C

3.2.b. Regularly occurring Migratory Birds not listed on Annex I of Council directive 79/409/EEC

CODE	NAME	POPULATION			SITE ASSESSMENT			
		Resident	Migratory		Population	Conservation	Isolation	
			Breed	Winter	Stage			
A009	Fulmarus glacialis	3566 p				A	A	C 2
A188	Rissa tridactyla	8063 p				A	A	C 2
A199	Uria aalge	20402 i				A	A	C 2
A200	Alca torda	7835 i				A	A	C 2
A204	Fratercula arctica	1365 i				B	A	C 2

3.2.c. MAMMALS listed on Annex II of Council directive 92/43/EEC**3.2.d. AMPHIBIANS and REPTILES listed on Annex II of Council directive 92/43/EEC****3.2.e. FISHES listed on Annex II of Council directive 92/43/EEC**

3.2.f. INVERTEBRATES listed on Annex II of Council directive 92/43/EEC

3.2.g. PLANTS listed on Annex II of Council directive 92/43/EEC

3.3. Other Important Species of Flora and Fauna

GROUP	SCIENTIFIC NAME	POPULATION	MOTIVATION
B M A R F I P			
B	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	33 p	C
B	<i>Cepphus grylle</i>	2 i	C
B	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	10 p	D
B	<i>Larus marinus</i>	3 p	D
B	<i>Corvus corax</i>	1+ p	C

(B = Birds, M = Mammals, A = Amphibians, R = Reptiles, F = Fish, I = Invertebrates, P = Plants)

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

4.1. GENERAL SITE CHARACTER:

Habitat classes	% cover
Marine areas, Sea inlets	95
Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets	5
Total habitat cover	100 %

Other site characteristics

This cliff site extends a distance of some 8 km along the north Clare coast from Cancregga Point to just south of Luogh Point. The cliffs, which rise to 203 m in height, are formed of horizontal beds of coal measure sandstones and shales. Cleavage in the rock is so good that the term flagstone has been applied. The line of cliffs shows faulting and slumping to good effect but these are difficult to observe from the cliff top. The sheer cliffs are largely unvegetated, though some wide slopes are vegetated with a *Festuca* sward. The site includes some cliff-top vegetation (a typical maritime sward), and the adjacent sea area to a distance of 500 m from the cliff base.

4.2. QUALITY AND IMPORTANCE:

The site is one of most important seabird colonies in Ireland, with the largest populations of *Rissa tridactyla* and *Alca torda* in the country and the second largest population of *Fulmarus glacialis*. The population of *Alca torda* is of international importance. The site also had nationally important populations of *Uria aalge* and *Fratercula arctica*. Small numbers of several other seabird species also breed including *Larus argentatus*, *L. marinus* and *Corvus corax*. The cliffs have breeding *Falco peregrinus* and *Pyrhacorax pyrrhacorax*, both species being listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. Habitat in the site is of excellent quality. Part of the site is a designated Refuge for Fauna.

4.3. VULNERABILITY

Nesting ledges on cliffs are mostly inaccessible due to the sheerness of the face. The large visitor numbers to the site, if not properly controlled, could cause damage to the cliff-top vegetation which *Pyrhacorax pyrrhacorax* use. Fishing close to the cliffs using drift nets could be very damaging to auk species.

4.4. SITE DESIGNATION:

4.5. OWNERSHIP

State : Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources

Private: Multiple

4.6. DOCUMENTATION

Berrow, S.D., Mackie, K.L., O. Sullivan, O., Shepperd, K.B., Mellon, C., and Coveney, J.A. (1993). The second International Cough Survey in Ireland, 1992. Irish Birds 5: 1-10.

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).

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.

Madden, B., Hunt, J. and Norriss, D. (In prep.). The Status of Breeding Peregrines in the Republic of Ireland, 2002.

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.

Mitchell, P.I., Newton, S., Ratcliffe, N. and Dunn, T. (In prep.). Seabird 2000: The Status of Breeding Seabirds in Britain and Ireland.

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS AND RELATION WITH CORINE BIOTOPES

5.1. DESIGNATION TYPES at National and Regional level:

CODE	% COVER
IE04	40

5.2. RELATION OF THE DESCRIBED SITE WITH OTHER SITES:

designated at National or Regional level:

TYPE CODE	SITE NAME	OVERLAP TYPE	% COVER
IE04	Cliffs of Moher Refuge for Fauna	+	40

designated at International level:

5.3. RELATION OF THE DESCRIBED SITE WITH CORINE BIOTOPE SITES:

CORINE SITE CODE	OVERLAP TYPE	% COVER
80000020		

6. IMPACTS AND ACTIVITIES IN AND AROUND THE SITE

6.1. GENERAL IMPACTS AND ACTIVITIES AND PROPORTION OF THE SURFACE OF THE SITE AFFECTED

IMPACTS AND ACTIVITIES WITHIN the site

CODE	INTENSITY	% OF SITE	INFLUENCE
622	A B C	2	+ 0 -
210	A B C	90	+ 0 -

IMPACTS AND ACTIVITIES AROUND the site

CODE	INTENSITY	INFLUENCE
610	A B C	+ 0 -
710	A B C	+ 0 -

6.2. SITE MANAGEMENT AND PLANS

BODY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SITE MANAGEMENT

SITE MANAGEMENT AND PLANS

A Conservation Plan for the management of this site will be prepared.

7. MAPS OF THE SITE

- *Physical map*

- *Aerial photograph(s) included:*

8. SLIDES
