

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Conservation Objectives Series

Mid-Clare Coast SPA 004182



An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta

Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht



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Citation:

**NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Mid-Clare Coast SPA 004182. Version 1.
National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the
Gaeltacht.**

**Series Editor: Rebecca Jeffrey
ISSN 2009-4086**

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

A site-specific conservation objective aims to define favourable conservation condition for a particular habitat or species at that site.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Notes/Guidelines:

1. The targets given in these conservation objectives are based on best available information at the time of writing. As more information becomes available, targets for attributes may change. These will be updated periodically, as necessary.
2. An appropriate assessment based on these conservation objectives will remain valid even if the targets are subsequently updated, providing they were the most recent objectives available when the assessment was carried out. It is essential that the date and version are included when objectives are cited.
3. Assessments cannot consider an attribute in isolation from the others listed for that habitat or species, or for other habitats and species listed for that site. A plan or project with an apparently small impact on one attribute may have a significant impact on another.
4. Please note that the maps included in this document do not necessarily show the entire extent of the habitats and species for which the site is listed. This should be borne in mind when appropriate assessments are being carried out.
5. When using these objectives, it is essential that the relevant backing/supporting documents are consulted, particularly where instructed in the targets or notes for a particular attribute.

Qualifying Interests

* indicates a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive

004182	Mid-Clare Coast SPA
A017	Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
A045	Barnacle Goose <i>Branta leucopsis</i>
A137	Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
A144	Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>
A148	Purple Sandpiper <i>Calidris maritima</i>
A149	Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>
A169	Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>
A999	Wetlands

Please note that this SPA overlaps with Carrowmore Point to Spanish Point and Islands SAC (001021) and Carrowmore Dunes SAC (002250). See map 2. The conservation objectives for this site should be used in conjunction with those for the overlapping sites as appropriate.

Supporting documents, relevant reports & publications

Supporting documents, NPWS reports and publications are available for download from: www.npws.ie/Publications

NPWS Documents

Year : 2014
Title : Mid-Clare Coast SPA (site code: 4182) Conservation objectives supporting document V1
Author : NPWS
Series : Conservation objectives supporting document

Other References

Year : 1995
Title : Seabird monitoring handbook for Britain and Ireland: a compilation of methods for survey and monitoring of breeding seabirds
Author : Walsh, P.; Halley, D.J.; Harris, M.P.; del Nevo, A.; Sim, I.M.W.; Tasker, M.L.
Series : JNCC, Peterborough

Year : 2014
Title : Seabird Monitoring Programme (SMP) Database
Author : JNCC
Series : <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/smp/Default.aspx>

Year : 2014
Title : BirdLife International Seabird Ecology and Foraging Range Database
Author : BirdLife International
Series : <http://seabird.wikispaces.com>

A045 Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Barnacle Goose in Mid-Clare Coast SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by barnacle goose other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

Conservation Objectives for : Mid-Clare Coast SPA [004182]

A017 Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Cormorant in Mid-Clare Coast SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Breeding population abundance: apparently occupied nests (AONs)	Number	No significant decline	Measure based on standard survey methods (see Walsh et al., 1995). The Seabird Monitoring Programme (SMP) online database (JNCC, 2014) provides population data for this species
Productivity rate	Mean number	No significant decline	Measure based on standard survey methods (see Walsh et al., 1995). The Seabird Monitoring Programme (SMP) online database (JNCC, 2014) provides population data for this species
Distribution: breeding colonies	Number; location; area	No significant decline	Cormorant colonies are usually sited on flat or rocky islets or sea stack tops, less often on cliffs (Walsh et al., 1995). Mattle Island is a traditional breeding colony in this SPA
Prey biomass available	Kilogrammes	No significant decline	Key prey items: fish (mostly benthic), some crustaceans. Key habitats: populations use sandy areas as well as rocky and vegetated substrates. Foraging range: max. 50km, mean max. 31.67km, mean 8.46km (BirdLife International Seabird Database (Birdlife International, 2014))
Barriers to connectivity	Number; location; shape; area	No significant increase	Seabird species make extensive use of the marine waters adjacent to their breeding colonies. Foraging range: max. 50km, mean max. 31.67km, mean 8.46km (BirdLife International Seabird Database (Birdlife International, 2014))
Disturbance at the breeding site	Level of impact	Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the breeding cormorant population	Cormorant colonies are usually sited on flat or rocky islets or stack stops, less often on cliffs (Walsh et al., 1995). Mattle Island is a traditional breeding site

A137 **Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Ringed Plover in Mid-Clare Coast SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by ringed plover, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of conservation objectives supporting document

A144 Sanderling *Calidris alba*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Sanderling in Mid-Clare Coast SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by sanderling, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A148 **Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Purple Sandpiper in Mid-Clare Coast SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by purple sandpiper other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A149 **Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Dunlin in Mid-Clare Coast SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by dunlin, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A169 **Turnstone *Arenaria interpres***

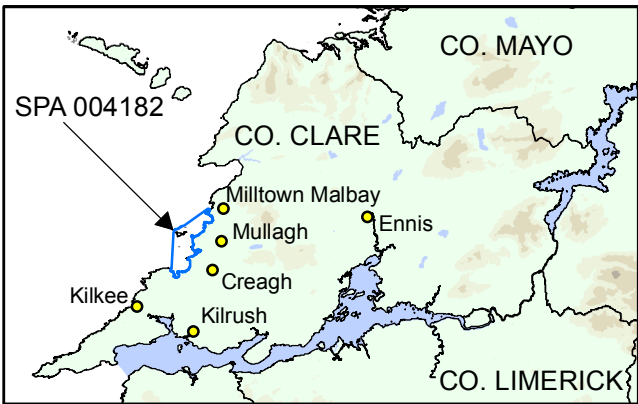
To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Turnstone in Mid-Clare Coast SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by turnstone, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

A999 Wetlands

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in Mid-Clare Coast SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it. This is defined by the following attribute and target:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than the area of 4,641 hectares, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	The wetland habitat area was estimated as 4,641ha using OSi data and relevant orthophotographs. For further information see part three of the conservation objectives supporting document



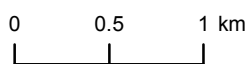
Legend

Mid-Clare Coast SPA 004182

**MAP 1:
MID-CLARE COAST SPA
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES
SPA DESIGNATION**

Map to be read in conjunction with the NPWS Conservation Objectives Document.

SITE CODE:
SPA 004182; version 2. CO. CLARE

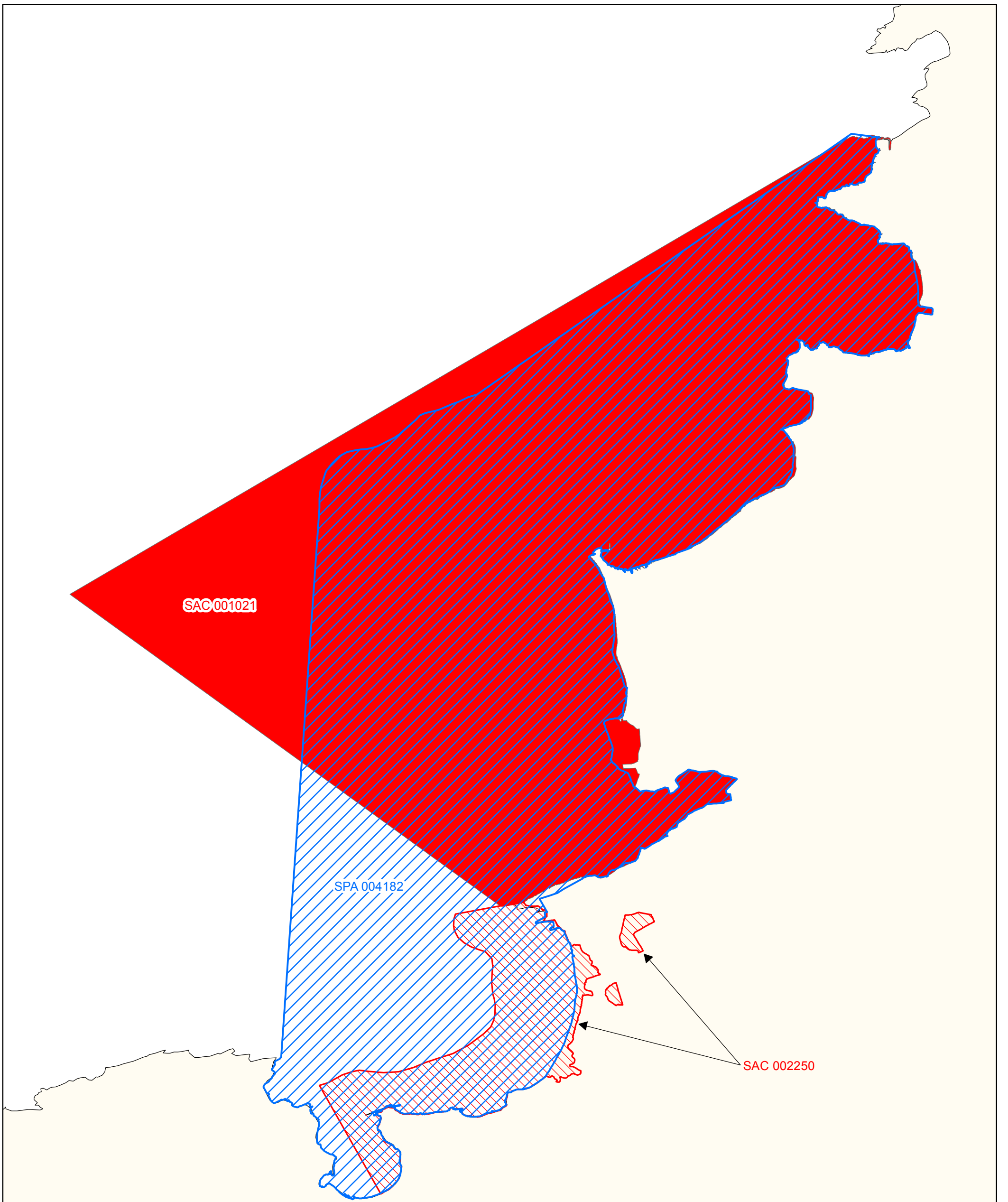


The mapped boundaries are of an indicative and general nature only. Boundaries of designated areas are subject to revision. Ordnance Survey of Ireland Licence No EN 0059214. © Ordnance Survey of Ireland Government of Ireland

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Map Version 1
Date: July 2014



Legend

- Carrowmore Point to Spanish Point and Islands SAC 001021
- Carrowmore Dunes SAC 002250
- Mid-Clare Coast SPA 004182
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundary