# **National Parks and Wildlife Service**

# **Conservation Objectives Series**

# Ballymacoda Bay SPA 004023





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#### Introduction

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

004023	Ballymacoda Bay SPA
A050	Wigeon Anas penelope
A052	Teal Anas crecca
A137	Ringed Plover Charadrius hiaticula
A140	Golden Plover Pluvialis apricaria
A141	Grey Plover Pluvialis squatarola
A142	Lapwing Vanellus vanellus
A144	Sanderling Calidris alba
A149	Dunlin Calidris alpina alpina
A156	Black-tailed Godwit Limosa limosa
A157	Bar-tailed Godwit Limosa lapponica
A160	Curlew Numenius arquata
A162	Redshank Tringa totanus
A169	Turnstone Arenaria interpres
A179	Black-headed Gull Chroicocephalus ridibundus
A182	Common Gull Larus canus
A183	Lesser Black-backed Gull Larus fuscus
A999	Wetlands

Please note that this SPA overlaps with Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC (000077). See map 2. The conservation objectives for this site should be used in conjunction with those for the overlapping SAC 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: Ballymacoda Bay SPA (site code: 4023) Conservation objectives supporting document V1

Author: NPWS

Series: Conservation objectives supporting document

# A050 Wigeon *Anas penelope*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Wigeon in Ballymacoda Bay 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 wigeon, 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

#### A052 Teal Anas crecca

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Teal in Ballymacoda Bay 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		Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

# A137 Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Ringed Plover in Ballymacoda Bay 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 uses 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

# A140 Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Golden Plover in Ballymacoda Bay 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 theconservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	5, 5	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

# A141 Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Grey Plover in Ballymacoda Bay 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		Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

# A142 Lapwing Vanellus vanellus

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Lapwing in Ballymacoda Bay 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 lapwing, 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

# A144 Sanderling Calidris alba

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Sanderling in Ballymacoda Bay 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

# A149 Dunlin Calidris alpina alpina

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Dunlin in Ballymacoda Bay 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		Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

#### A156 Black-tailed Godwit Limosa limosa

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Black-tailed Godwit in Ballymacoda Bay 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 black-tailed godwit, 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

# A157 Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Bar-tailed Godwit in Ballymacoda Bay 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		Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

#### A160 Curlew *Numenius arquata*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Curlew in Ballymacoda Bay 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		Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

# A162 Redshank *Tringa totanus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Redshank in Ballymacoda Bay 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 redshank, 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 Ballymacoda Bay 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

#### A179 Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Black-headed Gull in Ballymacoda Bay 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 by waterbirds	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by black-headed gull 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

#### A182 Common Gull *Larus canus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Common Gull in Ballymacoda Bay 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		Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

#### A183 Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Lesser Black-backed Gull in Ballymacoda Bay 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 lesser black-backed gull, 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 Ballymacoda Bay SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory birds 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 602 hectares, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	The wetland habitat area was estimated as 602ha using OSi data and relevant orthophotographs. For further information see part three of the conservation objectives supporting document



