



An Agency within the  
Department of the Environment  
for Northern Ireland

The Register of European Sites in Northern Ireland  
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Signed   
on behalf of the Department of the Environment  
for Northern Ireland



## EC DIRECTIVE 79/409 ON THE CONSERVATION OF WILD BIRDS

### CARLINGFORD LOUGH PROPOSED SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA

Area: 827 Hectares

Geographic Co-Ordinates: 06° 7' 00" W  
54° 3' 00" N

The Special Protection Area (SPA) lies between Killowen Point and Soldiers Point on the northern shores of Carlingford Lough and the landward boundary is entirely coincident with that of the Carlingford Lough Area of Special Scientific Interest. The SPA boundary is also entirely coincident with that of the Carlingford Lough Ramsar Site.

The SPA includes all lands and intertidal areas seawards to the limits of territorial waters. Marine areas below mean low water are not included.

The site qualifies under Article 4.1 of EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds by supporting internationally important breeding populations of Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*. The five year mean for the period 1993 to 1997 is 575 pairs which is 1.2% of international population (13.1% of the Irish population).

The site also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive for supporting nationally important breeding populations of Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*. The five year mean for 1993 to 1997 is 339 pairs which is 12.6% of Irish population. Roseate Terns *Sterna dougallii* have returned to the site after an absence of six years with 2 breeding pairs recorded for 1997. In the recent past the site has also supported nationally important numbers of Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*.

The site forms part of an extended cross-border site which supports internationally important numbers of overwintering Light-bellied Brent Geese *Branta bernicla hrota*. The five year peak mean for the period 1991/92-1995/96 is 319 birds which is 1.6% of the international population (and 1.6% of the Irish population).

The extended site also supports nationally important numbers of the following wader species: Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* (the five year peak mean for the period 1991/92 to 1995/96 is 850 birds - 1.7% of the Irish population), Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* (168 - 1.3%), Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* (58 - 1.5%), dunlin *Calidris alpina* (1494 - 1.2%) and Redshank *Tringa totanus* (640 - 2.6%).