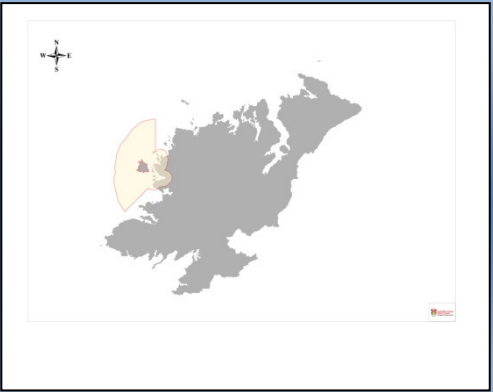




# Seascape Unit 11

## Dungloe and Islands

### Gaeltacht



Dungloe SCA extends from Cruit Island south along an indented, convoluted coastline of hard and soft edges south towards Crohy Head, a natural headland at the north of Gweebarra Bay. Aranmore Island, Donegal's largest inhabited offshore island is separated from the mainland by a scattering of small islands set amongst a number of estuaries and tidal mud flats that hug the coast and shelter the mainland from the ravages of the ocean.

There is a distinctive 'Knock and Lochan' element within this seascape unit, areas of bog punctured by numerous bog lakes and rocky outcrops that give a rough and open appearance to the landscape.

This Gaeltacht area is a popular tourism location attracting visitors by virtue of the landscape, seascape, language and cultural offer. The Wild Atlantic Way follows the coastal road network along this seascape unit and includes three discovery points at Burtonport Harbour, Inishfree and Aranmore.

### Landscape Character Types



Figure 2.11: Map of LCTs within this seascape unit

## Landscape Character Areas

### Map/list LCAs

- Dungloe and Islands Seascape Unit 11 overlaps an area of The Rosses Knock and Lochan, Islands and Coast LCA28, of Ardara Bays & Coast LCA30 and a small section of Fintown Valley LCA29.

## Key Characteristics

- **Intertidal area**- Unique expansive intertidal area between the islands and the mainland consisting of reefs, rocks, estuaries and intertidal mudflats. A few sandy beaches are limited to the north of the seascape unit at Cruit, the south at Maghery, and along a few of the island coasts. There are a number of areas of aquaculture located in the shallow estuary near Dungloe.
- **Characteristics of sea**- The western coast of the islands are exposed to the ferocity of the Atlantic Ocean. The landward side of the islands are thereby sheltered as are the waters and bays between the islands and the mainland, the calmer characteristic of the bays is in stark contrast to the rough and exposed character of the ocean west of the islands.
- **Coastal Landcover**- Primarily coastal agricultural land behind the shore with areas of bog, rising to bog higher inland with some isolated Lagoons and quarries.
- **Hinterland landform and landcover**- expansive, undulating mountainous bog rises from this seascape unit eastwards over a wide and open undulating landform towards the Derryveagh Mountains.
- **Inter-visibility**- Excellent intervisibility between the coast, islets and offshore islands contributes significantly to the unique character of this seascape unit that also has a large area of overlap with the adjacent Dungloe and Islands Seascape Unit 11, part of Gweedore Bay Seascape Unit 10, Gweebarra Seascape Unit 12, Loughros Seascape Unit 13 and Glencolmcille Seascape Unit 14.
- **Lighting**- Two lighthouses, lighted Buoys and a high concentration of navigational beacons provide light in the sea of this area, whilst light from the land emanates primarily from the high concentration of housing units in close proximity to the coast and also the dense rural housing pattern.

## Key Uses

- **Coast**- Numerous piers along this seascape unit provide infrastructure for both recreational and commercial fishing. Strong leisure and recreational use along the coast focused at locations including Nairn blue flag beach, golf courses and caravan parks as examples.
- **Sea**- Burtonport and other smaller piers and sheltered ports within the seascape unit facilitate commercial and recreational fishing and sailing. Burtonport has a Ferry services to Aranmore Island and Tory Island: an essential service given that there are children in the mainland that that travel to Aranmore on a daily basis for school.
- **Land**- Agricultural, tourism, leisure and residential are all prevalent uses within this Seascape Unit, bog is also cut throughout this area.

## **Biodiversity**

- There are a number of SAC's and SPA's within this seascape unit mainly located around the islands, along the coast and situated to the east towards Glenveagh National Park.
- Gweedore Bay and Islands 001141 SAC is a large area that lies to the north of the unit covering the northern coastline of islands and the areas of marine water between the islands and coast. Important coastal habitats include fixed dunes at Cruit and lagoons with a range of typical lagoon plants occurring. The reef communities are also important in this seascape unit and occur along much of the rocky shore from Rutland Island up to the north. There are areas of dry heath along and in between the rocky coastline which give a rich habitat for certain species of plant such as Rinnalea Point. North of Kincaslough are important oligotrophic lakes. West Donegal Islands SPA's are dotted through and overlap many parts of this SAC primarily around the islands of Gola, Umfin, Inishmeane and Inishirrer and along the Sand dunes.
- Rutland Island and Sound 002283 SAC covers a large area to the south of the unit covering the Island and a number of small rocky islets. Illancrone and Inishkeeragh SPA 004132 overlap small areas of the SAC around these islands.
- Aran Island 000111 SAC and West Donegal Coast 004150 SPA are selected for their vegetated sea cliffs, dry heath, alpine and subalpine heaths, calcareous rocky slopes, siliceous rocky slopes and dependant, reliant plant and bird species.
- Tremore Strand 001195 SAC within the south of the Seascape contains a coastal lagoon, sand dunes, wet grassland, mudflats and salt marsh. Maghery Lough is of local value for wintering waterfowl, the beach and mudflats are used by other birds such as Shelduck, Curlew and Ringed Plover and the occurrence of the very rare Foxtail Stonewort further adds to its conservation significance.
- A small portion of Cloghernamore Bog and Glenveagh National Park 002047 SAC is located within the seascape unit at Gweedore River. The site is of great scientific and conservation value; it includes the largest intact area of blanket bog in north-west Ireland, good quality examples of semi-natural deciduous woodland, heath, oligotrophic lakes and inland cliffs and a wide range of plant and animal species, including rare and threatened Red Data Book species, and several that are listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive and Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive.
- A small section of Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountains 004039 SPA lies within this seascape unit; of high ornithological importance with nationally important breeding populations of five species of the Red-throated Diver, Peregrine, Merlin, Golden Plover and Dunlin.

## **Cultural influences**

- This area is within the Donegal Gaeltacht and is one of the 3 largest Irish speaking areas in Donegal. It boasts a successful Irish language college in the summer months offering courses for students from English-speaking areas of the country.
- This historic maritime seascape unit has a number of recorded shipwrecks including a Spanish Armada wreck off Rutland Island, dating from 1899, one of a number that sank off the Donegal coast.
- There are strong connections between the people of this area and Scotland, stemming from historical emigration from the west of Donegal during harsh economic times to work in Scotland.

- This area was once served by an extension of the Letterkenny railway line, operating from 1903 until 1940, remains of railway infrastructure still evident in this area.

### **Visual and Sensory qualities**

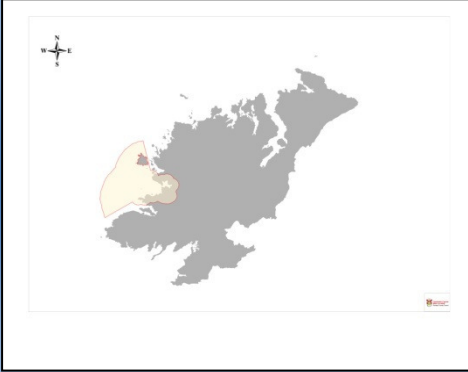
- **Accessibility-** The R259 provides access into the north of this seascape unit along with a network of county roads that also permeate the south of this unit.
- **Key views to sea and coast-** Key views seaward are from Burtonport over a bay of rocky outcrops and islands towards Aranmore Island and from Crohy Head over the Atlantic Ocean and islands.
- **Key views to land-** Key views to land from the Islands and sea vessels are over a low rocky indented coast with some sheltered sandy bays backed by a low and undulating sparsely vegetated landscape.



# Seascape Unit 12

## Gweebarra Bay

### Gaeltacht

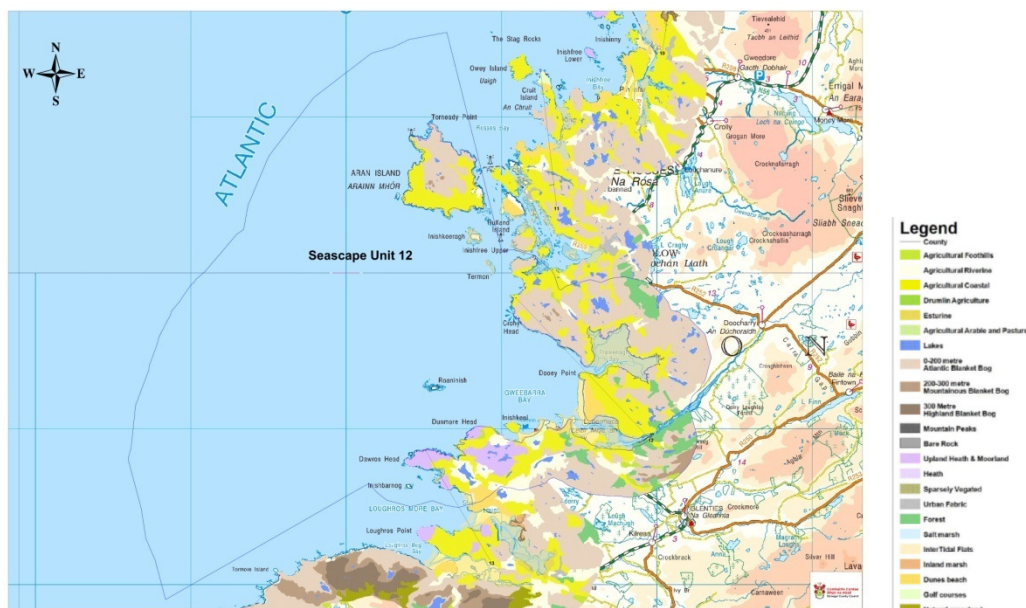


Gweebarra Bay Seascape Unit 12 extends from Maghery southwards to Dawross Head, encompassing Gweebarra Bay and the two smaller estuaries of Traweenagh and the mouth of the Gweebarra river that divide the three individual west facing headlands. The seascape unit is defined by the islands of Aran, Inishkeeragh and Termon to the north and Roaninish and Inishkeel in Gweebarra Bay, and the large sandy estuaries and intertidal flats with stretches of sandy beaches and large dune complexes.

Inland, the undulating landscape is characterised by low-lying bog dotted with lakes, intermittent patches of coastal agricultural land to the north, and areas of riverine and coastal agriculture to the south, and the elevated headlands of Crohy Head in the north and Dunmore Head in the south.

The Wild Atlantic Way follows the route of the N56 and the R261 through this unit and there is a discovery point on Narin-Portnoo Strand that branches onto the 'Santa Ana Drive', a scenic coastal route.

### Landscape Character Types



**Figure 2.12:** Map of LCTs within this seascape unit

#### Map/list LCAs

- Seascape Unit 12 falls within 'The Rosses Knock and Lochan, Islands and Coast LCA28, Fintown Valley LCA29 and Ardara Bays and Coast LCA30.

#### Key Characteristics

- **Coastal Landcover-** Primarily bog scattered with lakes of various sizes and strips of agricultural land along the coast behind large dune complexes and sandy beaches.
- **Intertidal area-** The substantial estuaries and expansive intertidal flats at Trawenagh Bay and the mouth of the Gweebarra River house fish farms. This coast is renowned for its sandy beaches and the island of Inishkeel is an important landmark within the intertidal area with significant historical connections to early Christianity.
- **Characteristics of sea-** The ocean at the extremities of Dawros Head and Crohy Head is rough and wild and the sea stacks and sea arches near Crohy are of particular note. The area within Gweebarra Bay is less angry whilst the enclosed estuaries have a sheltered and still quality.
- **Hinterland landform and landcover-** An undulating sparse landscape of predominantly mountainous bog dotted with lakes and isolated patches of forestry and agriculture gently rises inland with views east towards mountains in the distance.
- **Inter-visibility-** Considerable intervisibility between the headlands over the estuaries and Gweebarra bay, and also between each of the islands and the mainland. There is also a degree of overlap and inter-visibility between seascape Units 11, 13 and 14.
- **Lighting-** The elevated bog on the northern headland has a few isolated houses but there is a degree of linear development along the road network in the remainder of the unit that combined would result in limited and low lighting.

#### Key Uses

- **Coast-** Coastal agriculture, tourism, recreation and rural residential are the primary land uses in this unit. The tourism and recreational use are focused on the landscape and seascape of this area including the long stretches of white sandy beach. Nairn is a designated Blue Flag beach, an 18 hole links golf course is in nearby Portnoo, also the location of a number of mobile home parks
- **Sea-** Aquaculture present in Gweebarra Bay Trawenagh Bay, and the piers in this area facilitate both commercial and recreational fishing.
- **Land-** There is a dispersed scatter of rural development of an indiscernible pattern throughout the seascape unit that includes a number of holiday homes, and agricultural use within this area is primarily pastoral.

## **Biodiversity**

- Two thirds of this coastal unit are within Sac and SPA designated sites; and these are listed below:
- Rutland Island and Sound SAC (002283)
- West Donegal Coast SPA (004150)
- Inishkeel SPA (004116)
- Sheskinmore Lough SPA (004090)
- West of Ardara/Maas Road SAC (000197)
- Gannvegil Bog SAC (000142)
- Roaninish SPA (004121)
- Derryveagh and Glendowan Mountains SPA (004039)

## **Cultural influences**

- The area north of the Gweebarra River is located within the Donegal Gaeltacht.
- Inishkeel Island is an important early Christian site, St Conal founded a monastery here in the late 6<sup>th</sup> century.
- Santa Ana Drive is a coastal scenic drive and takes its name from a Spanish Armada vessel shipwrecked off this coast in 1588.

## **Visual and Sensory qualities**

- **Accessibility-** The N56 travels north south through this entire unit, from which spurs the R261 and a network of county roads that weave throughout this coastal unit.
- **Key views to sea and coast-** Views to the sea from within the bay and estuaries are sheltered and channelled, in comparison to the open views of the sea, islands and other headlands from Crohy Head and Dunmore Head. Views across the coast vary enormously from the cliff edges along the north coast to the lower undulating land around Trawenagh bay.
- **Key views to land-** Views of the mainland from Inishkeel, Roanish, the islands to the north and the surrounding waters are of a boggy and undulating sparsely vegetated landscape framed by the mountain ranges inland to the east.

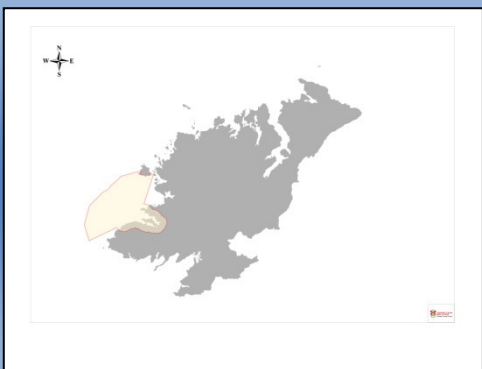




# Seascape Unit 13

## Loughros

### Gaeltacht

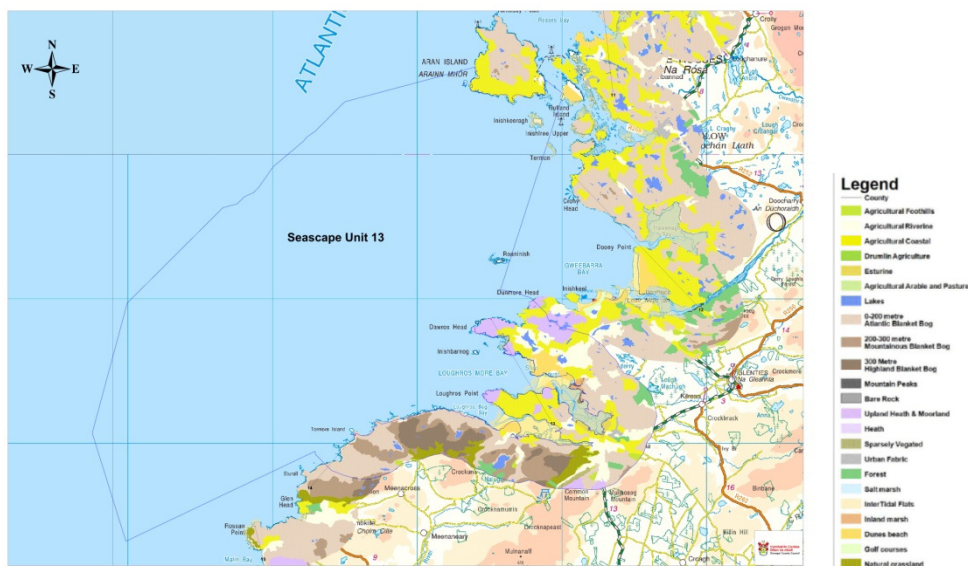


Loughros Seascape Unit 13 extends south from Dawros Head skirting along an indented coastal landscape of tidal estuaries divided by the low Loughros Point peninsula, set within the larger Loughros More and Loughros Beg Bays towards the sea cliffs at Slievetooy.

The south is dominated by high elevated bog, sea cliffs, sea stacks, coastal waterfalls and caves, and the contrasting northern section of this seascape unit has a lower, softer coastal edge with extensive intertidal flats, estuaries, salt marshes, beaches and sand dunes. Loughros More Bay has a sandy threshold at the seaward end and a muddy intertidal zone with salt marsh bordering the estuary to Ardara through which the Owentocker River and Owenea River travel to meet the sea. Ardara is situated at a crossing point on the Owentocker River adjacent to a ringfort from whence it takes its name and within an area of significant megalithic archaeological sites and structures.

The Wild Atlantic Way follows the route of the R251 and the N56 through this area and a 'discovery point' at Glengesh Valley offers dramatic views of the sea and coastline over this seascape unit.

### Landscape Character Types



**Figure 2.13:** Map of LCTs within this seascape unit



## Landscape Character Areas

### Map/list LCAs

- Seascape Unit 13 overlaps with Ardara Bays and Coast LCA30, part of Glencolmcille Mountains and Valleys LCA32 and Slievetooley Coast LCA31.

## Key Characteristics

- **Coastal Landcover-** The south of the seascape is mainly elevated bog with small dispersed pockets of rough agriculture land spotted with lakes and patches of forestry. The landcover to the north is predominantly low-lying coastal agricultural land with small areas of heath and bog.
- **Intertidal area-** This seascape unit sports a diverse range of intertidal areas ranging from rocky outcrops at Dawros Head, extensive intertidal flats in Trawenagh Bay and Loughros Beg Bay, estuaries, dune complexes, sandy beaches, salt marshes to caves and islets. The intertidal area along the edge of Slievetooley includes small pockets of stony beaches at the foot of high sloping vegetated cliffs.
- **Characteristics of sea-** The south of the seascape unit is part of the most westerly coastline in Donegal, vegetated sea cliffs are battered by the ocean forming caves and large sea stacks. The north of the seascape unit is more sheltered with calmer seas in and around the bays and long narrow estuaries.
- **Hinterland landform and landcover-** The northern hinterland is mostly undulating low-lying land framed by the Bluestacks and Aghla Mountain in the distance, whilst the south is high elevated bog, with pockets of forestry, lakes and isolated dwellings.
- **Inter-visibility-** There is an element of intervisibility within the long indented coast of this seascape unit, particularly across the tidal estuaries, as well as between Seascape Units 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15.
- **Lighting-** Navigational beacons light the water around Loughros More Bay. The southern elevated inaccessible coastline has no artificial lighting, contrasting to the northern lower lying lands around Loughros Beg Bay and Loughros More Bay that have a substantial amount of residential development in and around Ardara and the coastal villages of Portnoo and Naran, with resultant lighting.

## Key Uses

- **Coast-** Agriculture, fishing, tourism and recreation are key uses within this seascape unit.
- **Sea-** Fishing, aquaculture and recreation are key uses within this seascape unit; there is aquaculture in Loughros Beg Bay and three piers along the peninsulas used for both recreational and commercial fishing in the area.
- **Land-** The southern area of this unit is difficult to access and predominantly peat and bog with isolated areas of forestry. North within this unit there is a degree of agricultural use on Loughros Point and around Loughros More Bay; recreation and residential use are common within this agricultural land and the Town of Ardara and the sandy coast is a focus for much of it.

## **Biodiversity**

- The entire coastline of this seascape unit is designated as SAC dotted with small pockets of SPA. The area contains two large SAC's which are divided into the north and south of the unit. The areas designated as SPA are mainly concentrated around Loughros Point and Slievetooley Mountain. SACs and SPAs that fall within this seascape unit are listed below.
- West of Ardara/Maas Road SPA 000197
- Slievetooley/Tormore Island/Loughros Beg Bay SAC 000190
- Lough Nillan Bog SAC 000165 (Carrickatlieve)
- Sheskinmore Lough SPA 004090
- West Donegal Coast SPA 004150
- Lough Nillan Bog SPA 004110
- Loughros Beg is a protected Shellfish Area and has an associated "Loughros Beg" Pollution Reduction Programme.

## **Cultural influences**

- There are a considerable amount of archaeological monuments within this area including a number of megalithic tombs, and a ring fort (rath) at Ardara from which the town takes its name (Ard an Ratha).
- Ardara has been in existence since at least megalithic times, and has a strong tradition of hand woven tweed and hand knitting dating back to the middle ages, it has been designated a Heritage Town based on its tradition of weaving and knitting.
- Ardara retains a considerable amount of its original built fabric and form.
- This Seascape Unit falls within the Donegal Gaeltacht.

## **Visual and Sensory qualities**

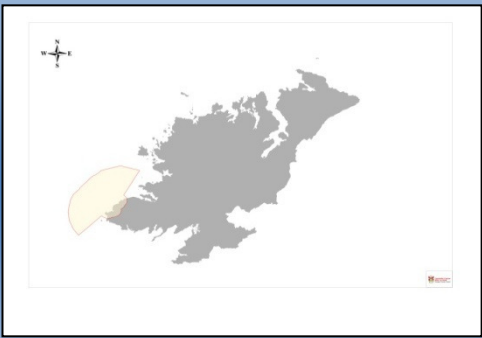
- **Accessibility-** The R261 radiates north from Ardara and the N56 radiate east and west from the town, branching from this is a network of county roads providing access to the northern coast and Loughros Point. A county road stems from the N56 south of Ardara towards the west of this seascape before turning inland halfway along Loughros Beg Bay, rendering most of the bog covered upland and high sea cliffs of Slievetooley inaccessible.
- **Key views to sea and coast-** Most of the views from this seascape unit are confined to being of other elements of this unit due to the indented nature of the coast although there are some views of the open sea to the west of Loughros More Bay diminishing eastwards along the narrow estuaries. Views along the coast vary from the heath and agricultural land to the north, along the bays, sandy coast, vegetated sand dunes to areas of high elevated bog to the south. Key views are from Loughros Point and the elevated land behind Mahery.
- **Key views to land-** Views to land from the sea and between the coastal elements are over low-lying undulating land towards mountains in the distance with glimpses of forests and a windfarm. The view of land in the south is limited due to the high vegetated sea cliffs along the coastal edge. A key and iconic view of land in this area is from Glengesh Pass.



# Seascape Unit 14

## Glencolmcille

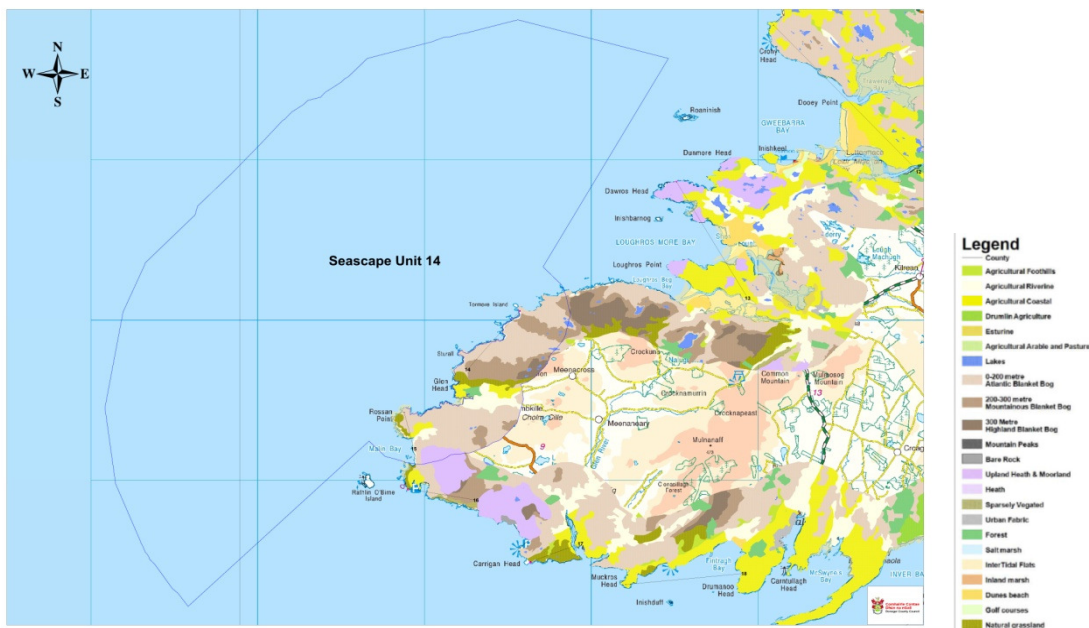
### Gaeltacht



Glencolmcille SCA extends from Tromore Island, a large vegetated sea stack within a grouping of smaller sea stacks, southwest along an exposed and inhospitable coast to Rossan Point, the most westerly landfall in Donegal. This landscape of upland bog has a coastal edge of schist and quartzite cliffs and is dissected by two low valleys including Glencolmcille Valley, a large wide agricultural limestone valley.

The northern section of the unit is dominated by mountain bog edged by high vegetated sea cliffs, that fall sharply to the treacherous ocean shore littered with rocky outcrops and sea stacks and broken only by the small abandoned settlement and pier at 'Port' on a rocky bay inlet. The coast changes starkly south of Glen Head where the Murlin River flows through a fertile undulating low-lying agricultural landscape and the historic settlement of Glencolmcille into a small tidal estuary flanked by sand dunes out to 'Glen Bay'. The coast then extends westwards around an elevated and flat bog headland with a sharp edge of cliffs and caves before curling back in towards the lower rocky coast at Malin Bay, and the coastal settlement of Malinmore set within agricultural lands.

### Landscape Character Types



**Figure 2.14:** Map of LCTs within this seascape unit

## Landscape Character Areas

### Map/list LCAs

- Seascape Unit 14 overlaps significantly with Slievetooley Coast LCA31, and portions of Glencolmcille Mountains and Valleys LCA32 and Slieve League Coast LCA33.

### Key Characteristics

- **Coastal Landcover-** Predominantly blanket bog agricultural land isolated to Glencolmcille and Malin More.
- **Intertidal area-** The intertidal area is dominated by vegetated sea cliffs, caves, sea stacks and lower rocky shores, save at Glencolmcille where there is an intertidal mudflat and beach.
- **Characteristics of sea-** The exposed, prominent location of this seascape unit experiences extremely powerful wave action and weathering from the Atlantic Ocean; Glen Bay and the intertidal area leading onto it, is lower lying and more sheltered.
- **Hinterland landform and land cover-** The hinterland landform is a continuation of the mountainous areas and valleys consisting of mostly bog with agricultural land within Glencolmcille.
- **Inter-visibility-** Inter-visibility with the landscape contained within Seascape Unit 15 and Seascape Unit 13, and a degree of intervisibility across the sea to seascape units 12 and 11.
- **Lighting-** This seascape unit is remote and most of it unpopulated, as a result light pollution only emanates from Glencolmcille and Malinmore rendering the remainder of this extensive seascape unit dark. Rathlin O Birne Island's automated lighthouse is visible from this seascape unit.

### Key Uses

- **Coast-** Recreational use of the coast at Glencolmcille during the summer season especially the beach, and a considerable historic cultural and religious use associated with the 'turas' of Colmcille within this area. There are a network of popular coastal loop walks and hill walking in this area and the piers on the coast are a focus for recreational fishing.
- **Sea-** Three piers facilitate commercial fishing and seasonal recreational fishing.
- **Land-** Most of the area is mountain bog, some of which is 'cut' and there is comparatively small areas of agricultural use in the valley of Glencolmcille and at Malinmore. Tourism is a key use within this pristine coastal area based on the landscape and seascape qualities of the area and its rich historic, cultural and religious heritage. The Gaeltacht is a huge draw within this area and Glencolmcille has a language school and folk village.

## Biodiversity

- This seascape unit is of exceptionally high ecological importance with the entire coastline designated as SAC and/or SPA, and are listed below.
- West Donegal Coast SPA 004150, an important breeding sea colony in this area is located at Tromore Island, a small precipitous grassy sea stack rising to a peak of 139 metres.
- Rathlin O'Birne Island SPA 004120 is designated as its own separate SPA.
- Rathlin O'Birne 000181 SAC is of high conservation interest owing to the presence of excellent examples of reef communities. It supports nationally important populations of at least two bird species that are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive.
- Slieve Tooley/Tormore Island/Loughros Beg Bay 000190SAC is of high conservation importance due to, inter alia, the extent of intact blanket bog and the occurrence of the whorl snail, discovered in the sand dunes at Glen Bay, one of only 2 known sites in the county.
- Slieve League 00189 SAC is located along the south of the coastline.

## Cultural influences

- Key Cultural associations with St Colmcille who is said to have lived in the valley for a time and the ruins of several of his churches remain in the landscape.
- There is a high concentration of Monuments dating from 4000 to 3000 B.C., when farming people first settled the area evidenced by court tombs at Mainnéar na Mortlaidh and An Clochán Mór, and also less-elaborate portal tombs, dating from 2000 BC at Málainn Mhóir.
- Glencolmcille turas consists of 15 stations (pilgrimage/journey) and takes place each year on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June.
- Located in the Gaeltacht Irish language and cultural courses are offered throughout the year.
- The south-west area of Donegal, particularly Kilcar and Gleann Cholm Cille, has long been known for the excellence of its weavers and hand-knitters and for the production of high quality tweed exhibits and garments.
- Glencolmcille Folk Village Museum Tapestry/craft workshops and traditional music and Irish culture events are held at the Folk Village during the summer.
- Wild Atlantic Way follows the county road west from Ardara to Glencolmcille where it meets the R263 branching to Malinmore and also south east towards Carrick.

## Visual and Sensory qualities

- **Accessibility-** The south of this seascape unit is accessed from the R263, a county road network branching from this provides access to Port, Glen Head and Malin More. The remaining area has limited accessibility and permeability; walking routes meander throughout but access is difficult even on foot owing to the elevation and topography.
- **Key views to sea and coast-** Views of the sea and coast from this seascape unit are of the rough and open Atlantic Ocean edging high indented sea cliffs which contrast with the lower valleys at Port and Glencolmcille. Key views from this area are from points along the coastal road particularly towards the signal tower at Glen Head and from Malinmore

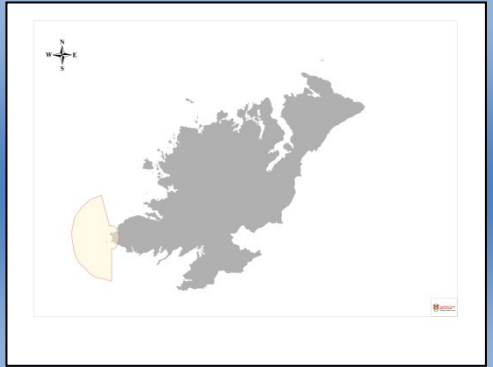
- **Key views to land-**Views to land from the sea are of high vegetated cliffs visible only from sea vessels with limited views inland apart from glimpses of some higher mountainous bog in the distance. Views in and over Glencolmcille from sea would differ, being over the low lying undulating fertile valley framed by mountainous bog. A key view of Glencolmcille is also from an elevated section of the regional road R263.





# Seascape Unit 15

## Malin Beg

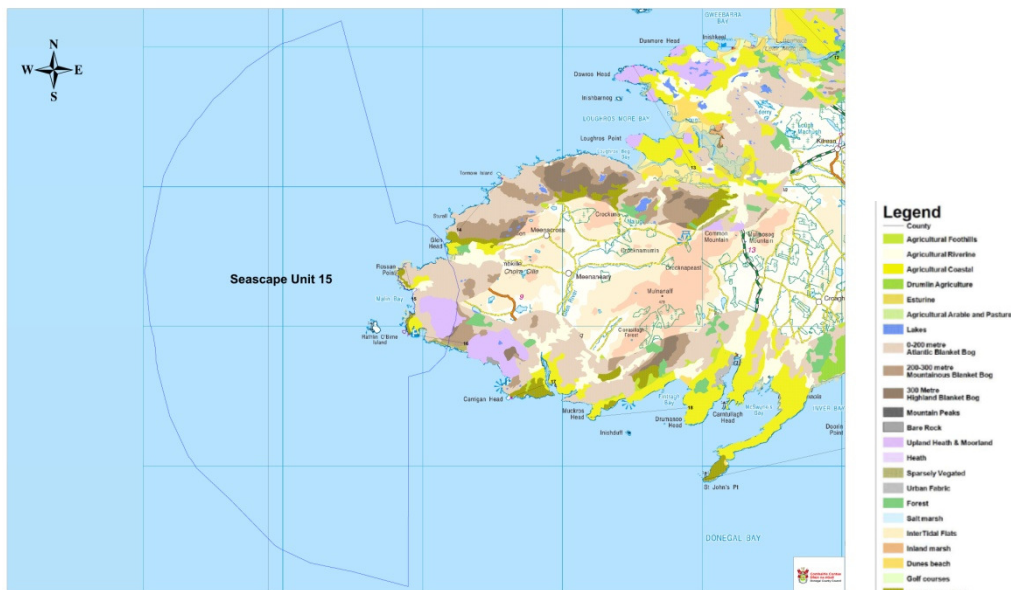


Malin Beg SCA is a relatively small area covering the most westerly edge of County Donegal, it extends south from Rossan Point past Malinmore and Malinbeg towards Sliabh Liag. Consisting of two prominent headlands with sharp inlets, rocky outcrops, sea stacks and the offshore Rathlin O’Birne island, the landscape is characterised by elevated blanket bog and heath dotted with patches of riverine and coastal agricultural land. Malin More and Malin Beg are two isolated linear settlements situate on the better agricultural land and there is a scattering of isolated rural dwellings between.

Rathlin O Birne island is Donegal’s most western point and houses an automated lighthouse; now uninhabited there are the remains of a ruined monastery on its west coast.

The Wild Atlantic Way continues into this seascape unit where there is a discovery point on the coastal road at Malin More, which offer panoramic, uninterrupted views of the sea and coast.

### Landscape Character Types



**Figure 2.15:** Map of LCTs within this seascape unit

## Landscape Character Areas

### Map/list LCAs

- Seascape Unit 15 is wholly contained within Slieve League Coast LCA33

### Key Characteristics

- **Coastal Land cover-** Extensive mountain bog blankets most of the uplands, with pockets of agricultural land at Malinmore and Malinbeg and a belt of natural grassland along the coast; notably there is a sink hole at Malin Beg.
- **Intertidal area-** The intertidal area has a mostly cliff edge of high sea cliffs at the northern and southern most extremities dotted with rocky outcrops and stony inlets, that are battered by the ferocity of the stormy Atlantic Ocean creating sea stacks and caves. The long sandy Silver Strand beach is located south of Malin Beg at the foot of steep vegetated cliffs and accessed from steps to the beach. Rathlin O'Birne island is lower with a low rocky coastal edge and shingle bay.
- **Characteristics of sea-** The ocean is rough, open and ferocious and the weathered rocky and cliff edge is characterised by caves, sea stacks and shingle shores. Rathlin O'Birne Island and its light house are an instantly identifiable characteristic of the sea.
- **Hinterland landform and landcover-** High altitude bog and heath covered mountains including Leathan east of Malin beg and Mullyoe to the east of Malinmore, with rough pasture land in the valley.
- **Intervisibility-** Intervisibility between Seascape Unit 14 to the north and Seascape Units 16 and Seascape Unit 17 to the south.
- **Lighting-** The coastal settlements of Malinmore and Malinbeg would be the sole light source from the mainland within this unit and there is an automated lighthouse on Rathlin O'Birne Island.

### Key Uses

- **Coast-** Element of recreational use of the coast focused on the beach and walking trails, with diving and fishing activities at Malin Beg pier.
- **Sea-** Coastal fishing in this area operating from piers at Malinbeg and Malinmore.
- **Land-** Land along the coast is mostly bog save the localised agricultural areas at Malinbeg and Malinmore that have associated agricultural outbuildings and residential dwellings. Walking trails are marked throughout this area.

### Biodiversity

- This seascape unit has a high ecological value with almost the entire coast line designated as SAC and/or SPA as detailed below.
- Slieve League SAC 00189
- Rathlin O'Birne Island SAC 000181
- Rathlin O'Birne Island SPA 004120.

- West Donegal Coast SPA 004150

### **Cultural influences**

- This area has a cluster of recorded archaeological monuments and an archaeological complex in Malinbeg.
- A group of six portal tombs form a line about 90m long south of Malinmore village.
- Napoleonic signal tower at Malinbeg Head.
- Rathlin O' Birne is an important early Christian site. The lighthouse dates from 1846 and switched to nuclear power in August 1974. This was replaced with wind power in 1987 and then solar energy in 1993.
- The Wild Atlantic Way extends to Malin Beg within this seascape unit and there is a discovery point at Malinmore.

### **Visual and Sensory qualities**

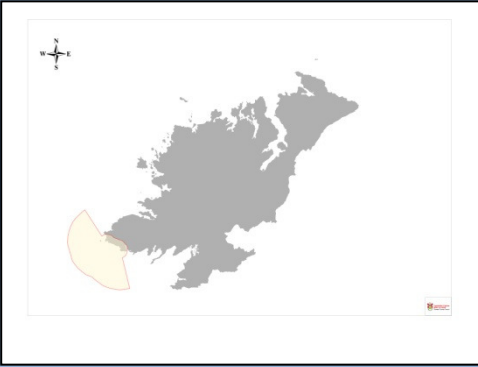
- **Accessibility**-Access to the area is from 2 roads only; the R263 road and a county road that converge at Malinmore and ends at Malin Beg where it meets the impassable Slieve League mountain range.
- **Key views to sea and coast**-. There are open views to the Atlantic Ocean and Rathlin O' Birne Island from within this seascape unit.
- **Key views to land**-. This cliff edge of this seascape unit would dominate views from the sea or Rathlin O' Birne landwards.



# Seascape Unit 16

## Sliabh Liag

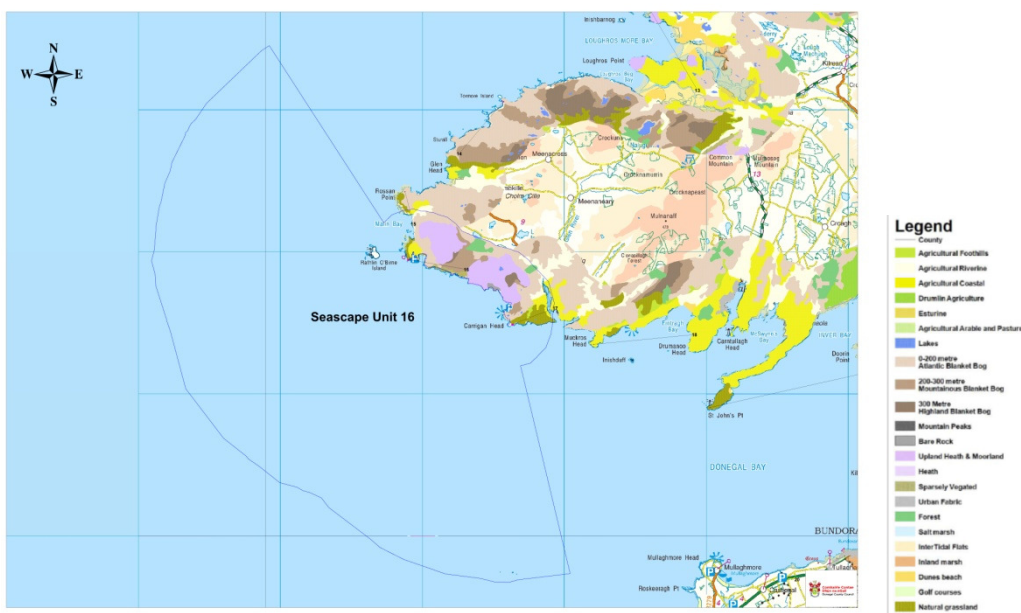
### Gaeltacht



Sliabh Liag SCA extends from Malin Beg south to Carrigan Head. It is an iconic coastal landform dominated by Sliabh Liag, the highest sea cliffs in Ireland and amongst the highest in Europe, they rise to a height of almost 600m and fall directly and steeply into the Atlantic Ocean below. The strong unrelenting Atlantic Ocean cliffs has carved multiple inlets, unusual rock formations, numerous caves and stony beaches that are from these hard quartzite cliffs, whilst a number of bog streams and rivers cascade over the side as waterfalls. The northern most part of this seascape unit has a sandy beach at Malin Beg punctuating a lower rocky coastal edge that along with Rathlin O’Birne Island differ entirely from the high sea cliff edge in the south.

The Wild Atlantic Way extends into this seascape unit at MalinBeg and Carrigan Head and Sliabh Liag is a signature discovery point on the Wild Atlantic Way.

### Landscape Character Types



**Figure 2.16:** Map of LCTs within this seascape unit

## Landscape Character Areas

### Map/list LCAs

- Seascape Unit 16 is almost entirely contained within Slieve League Coast LCA33 with a small southern section in Tawney Bay Coastal Farmland LCA34.

## Key Characteristics

- **Coastal Landcover-** Coastal landcover is primarily heath and blanket bog dotted with a few bog lakes, with some bare rock at the peak, and 2 isolated areas of forestry inland. Isolated areas of agricultural land and natural grassland are at either end of this seascape unit at Malinmore to the northwest and Teelin to the southeast.
- **Intertidal area-** Most of the coastal edge comprises of cliffs that fall directly to the sea punctured by a sandy beach at Malin Beg and a few secluded stony gravel coves.
- **Characteristics of sea-** This elevated seascape unit has an expansive view of the Atlantic ocean with distant views of Leitrim, Sligo, Mayo and Rathlin O’Birne island. The ocean is violent, harsh and open with waves crashing onto the cliffs.
- **Hinterland landform and landcover-** High bog and heath covered cliffs dominant this seascape unit with areas of fringe agricultural land at Malin Beg and Teelin.
- **Inter-visibility-** Intervisibility with Seascape Units 15 and 14 to the north, and Seascape Unit 17 and 18 to the south.
- **Lighting-** This is one of the most remote and inaccessible seascape units within Donegal due to the topography and lack of infrastructure and therefore light pollution along this seascape unit is limited to the residential properties at Malin Beg which is the lighthouse on Rathlin O’Birne Island.

## Key Uses

- **Coast-** Sliabh Liag is one of the most iconic and renowned tourist destinations in Donegal popular with sightseers, day trippers, geologists, ecologists, ornithologists and ramblers. This inspiring natural feature has had limited intervention save the necessary viewing platform and facilities such as walkways that offer panoramic ocean views and views of the sea cliffs. Walking trails in this area including the infamous ‘One Man’s Path’ along the ridge of the mountain.
- **Sea-** Commercial fishing operate in the waters of this unit, as do tourist sightseeing and fishing boats. There are notable sea stacks in the ocean around this coastal unit.
- **Land-** Malinbeg in the north of this seascape unit is a small settlement within an agricultural setting that has a number of residential buildings and buildings associated with agriculture. Tourism and recreation would be a key use in this unit focused on the seascape and landscape.

## Biodiversity

- Almost all of the coast of this seascape unit is designated as SAC and/or SPA as detailed below.
- Slieve League SAC 00189.
- Rathlin O’Birne Island SAC 000181.
- Rathlin O’Birne Island SPA 004120.

- West Donegal Coast SPA 004150.
- Dolphins, whales, seals and sharks have all been noted in this area.

### **Cultural influences**

- This seascape unit is within the Donegal Gaeltacht.
- There is a cluster of recorded monuments within this unit at Malinbeg and there are 2 recorded monuments on the summit of Sliabh Liag, an early Christian Monastic site..
- Two Napoleonic Signal Towers within this unit at Malinbeg Head and Carrigan Head. Rathlin O’Birne Island has an automated lighthouse, at one time nuclear then wind powered and now solar, and the ruins of a monastery and associated walls and structures.

### **Visual and Sensory qualities**

- **Accessibility-** There is limited vehicular access into this upland mountainous bog landscape; the R263 from the north accesses Malin Beg and a county road provides access to the south and Carrigan Head. There are walking trails throughout this area.
- **Key views to sea and coast-** The panoramic views to sea are dramatic and far reaching and include Rathlin O’Birne Island, Leitrim, Sligo and Mayo. The ocean is also visible from a viewing platform at Sliabh Liag and along the walking trails in the area. Views of the coast line are of the iconic high cliffs of Sliabh Liag.
- **Key views to land-** Key views to land from sea vessels and Rathlin O’Birne Island consist mainly of high vegetated cliffs and the coastal Napoleonic towers. There are also key views looking over Teelin from the county roads.

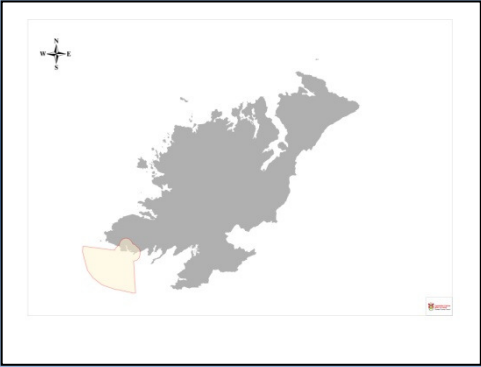




# Seascape Unit 17

## Teelin

### Gaeltacht



Teelin SCA extends from the high cliffs of Sliabh Liag past Carrigan Head eastwards over Teelin Bay and Tawney Bay to Muckcross Head and including the island of Inishduff. The high rocky mountains of Sliabh Liag to the east give way to a lower undulating coastal agricultural landscape that is notably scarce of vegetation with a unique pattern of stone bound fields. Fertile river valleys flow through Carrick and Teelin into the sheltered Teelin Bay and smaller adjacent Tawney Bay. The low-lying area around the bays has linear residential development snaked along the county road network through this rural agricultural landscape.

This seascape unit has a dramatic rugged and exposed coastline of vegetated cliffs at the headlands of the peninsulas, and a softer lower open agricultural landscape that meets the shore as a low rocky edge.

The Wild Atlantic Way follows the R263 through this seascape unit and there is a signature discovery point at Sliabh Liag and a discovery point at Muckros Head. There are open panoramic and unobstructed views of the sea from the coastal road network in this area.

### Landscape Character Types



**Figure 2.17:** Map of LCTs within this seascape unit

## Landscape Character Areas

### Map/list LCAs

- Teelin Seascape Unit 17 is mainly contained within Tawney Bay Coastal Farmland LCA34 and a section of Sliabh Liag Coast LCA33 and South Donegal Lowlands LCA36

### Key Characteristics

- **Coastal Landcover-** The diverse landcover consists of bog and heath covered elevated mountains with small isolated patches of forestry inland. Natural grassland and stretches of low Atlantic bog can be found along the coast as well as an area of undulating coastal agricultural land at Muckross Head with a unique historic field pattern bound by low stone walls. Riverine agricultural land extends along the Glen river valley through Carrick and the Ballaghdoon River valley through Kilcar where it meets agricultural land around Teelin Bay and Tawny Bay.
- **Intertidal area-** The varied intertidal area includes Teelin Bay and Tawny Bay and their Tidal estuaries with silt edges and areas of sandy and stony beaches and an area of salt marsh at Teelin Bay. The remainder of this seascape unit is predominantly rocky outcrops with cliffs to the north and little or no intertidal areas. A sandy beach is next to Muckros Head and other smaller stony beaches areas are dotted along the coast and between exposed outcrops around Muckros Peninsula.
- **Characteristics of sea-** This area of the coast has high sea cliffs exposed to the open sea and strong winds. Both Teelin Bay and Tawny Bay are sheltered owing to their long and narrow bays.
- **Hinterland landform and landcover-** The Slieve League mountain range is situated to the west, and other mountains lie to the north and east. Three riverine valleys converge together and run towards the coast, through mountainous blanket bog with fertile farming land on the lower riverine valleys.
- **Inter-visibility-**There is inter-visibility between Seascape Units 15, 16, 18 and 19.
- **Lighting-** Residential development is set back from the coastal edge and sea cliffs and therefore there would be little light pollution when viewed from the sea. An area of agricultural land towards the south of the unit has a degree of ribbon development along with residential properties would give a small degree of light around the inner areas of the bays and along the rivers.

### Key Uses

- **Coast-** There is some commonage grazing land together with fertile coastal and riverine agricultural land in this area. Residential properties are scattered along the bays in this seascape unit and the coast guard is located in the settlement of Teelin.
- **Sea-** Teelin is an important port with a deep harbour and boat launching facilities with safe mooring and has been traditionally used as a commercial fishing base. There would also be recreational shore and sea angling in this area, scuba diving and boat trips around the cliffs of Sliabh Liag.
- **Land-** The predominant land use within this seascape unit is agriculture with linear residential development along the bays and through the valleys. Teelin Bay has piers,

slipways and a few warehouses associated with fishing. The beach at Muckros is scenic and popular with day trippers however there are no amenities.

### **Biodiversity**

- There are SPA's along the sea cliff coastline and an SAC within the western half of the seascape unit adjacent Sliabh Liag.
- The coastline is part of the larger Sliabh Liag SAC 00189 containing good quality lowland and mountain bog land as well as sea cliff vegetation.
- This seascape unit is part of a large designation along the west Donegal Coast for SPA 004150 of important ornithological importance.

### **Cultural influences**

- Within the Donegal Gaeltacht.
- Important archaeological complex on Dundawoona Point.
- Traditional Music is an important cultural tradition in this area.
- The folklorist Seán Ó hEochaidh is from Teelin.
- History of military defence along this coast evidenced by the signal towers.
- Traditional summer salmon fishing is an important cultural event in this area.

### **Visual and Sensory qualities**

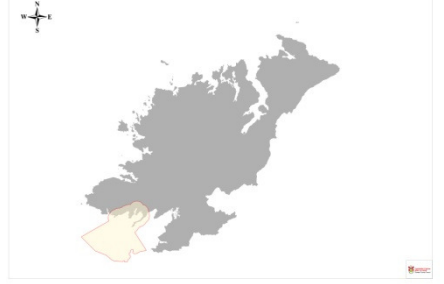
- **Accessibility-** The lower lying valleys in this area are accessed by the R263 and a network of local roads connecting Carrick, Kilcar and Teelin. Sliabh Liag is accessible by a single road to the south.
- **Key views to sea and coast-** Key views to the sea are from the coastal road to the south of the seascape unit at Muckros Head which travels north to the village of Kilcar. The other main viewing point is at the Sliabh Liag viewing platform and the coastal road around Teelin bay offers limited views of the sea.
- **Key views to land- There are** key views to land from the peninsulas at Muckros Head and from Bunglass at Slieve League. There is also a viewing point outside Largy offering views of the expansive Donegal Bay coast. Key views to land from the east are of the Sliabh Liag Mountains framing both Teelin and Tawny Bays.



## Seascape Unit 18

### Killybegs

### Gaeltacht

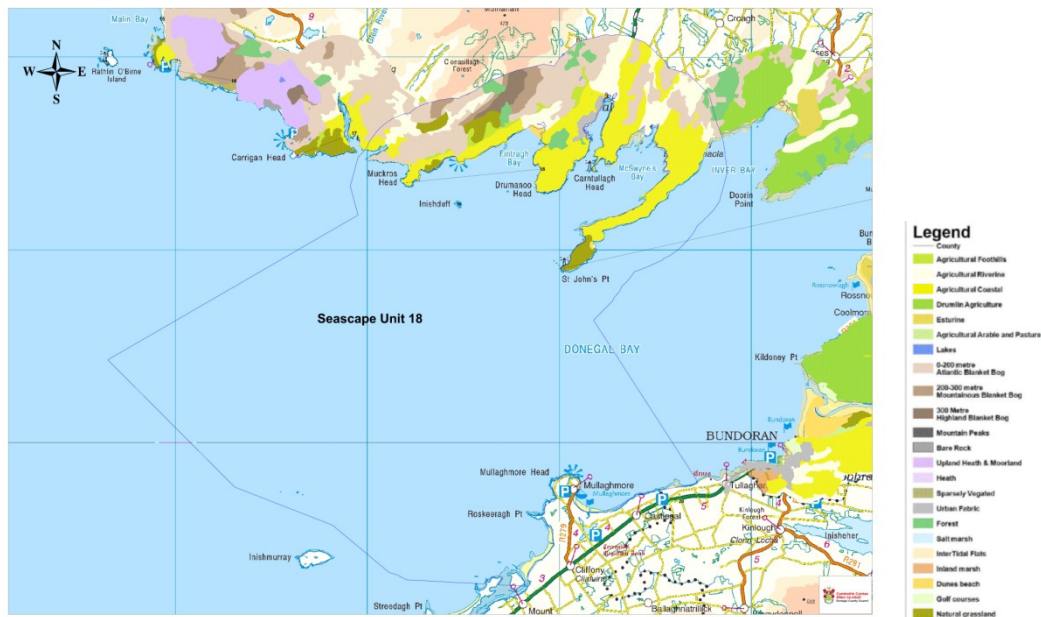


Killybegs SCA extends from Muckros Head to St John's Point, an undulating area that slopes towards the ocean over the low-lying coastal areas of St John's Point and Muckros Head with a vast mountainous tract extending to the north in the distance. The area is characterised by 4 diverse peninsulas consisting of the low-lying long and narrow limestone farmland peninsula of St John's Point, Carntullagh Head a medium low-lying peninsula with ribbon development, an element of farmland, scrub and patches of forestry. There is also the large raised rugged and sparsely populated peninsula of Drumanoo Head and the small peninsula of Muckros Head consisting of low-lying limestone farmland. There are two substantial bays within this seascape unit consisting of McSwyne's Bay, a sheltered deep fjord-like inlet containing the main deep water harbour of Killybegs, and Fintragh Bay which has a Blue Flag Beach and a significant dune complex.

A mixed of geology of elevated schist and quartzite lands with two areas of low-lying limestone at St John's Point and Muckros Head with elements of sandstone underlies this seascape. There are also important geological features in this area including a moraine east of Killybegs, traces of fossils at Killbegs, Muckross sandstone formation and it's the notable limestone pavement at St John's point. The geology of Fintra Bay and Muckros Head are important as the coastal cliff and intertidal exposure show a wide range of rock types and sedimentary structures.

The Wild Atlantic Way extends along this seascape unit and includes two discovery points at Muckross Head and Fintragh Bay.

## Landscape Character Types



**Figure 2.18:** Map of LCTs within this seascope unit

## Landscape Character Areas

### Map/list LCAs

- Seascope Unit 18 is almost completely contained within South Donegal Lowlands LCA36, with small areas in Tawney Bay Coastal Farmland LCA34, Ardara Bogland LCA35 and Donegal Bay Drumlins LCA31.

## Key Characteristics

- **Coastal Landcover-** The landcover within this seascope unit is primarily agriculture with areas of good quality low-lying agricultural land contained in regular geometric field patterns along the coast and on the valleys with lower quality agricultural land with more irregular field boundaries and scrub on more elevated lands. There are patches of bog and forest on the northern fringes of this unit and a number of quarries throughout. Dunkineely and Bruckless are small settlements near St John's Point. Killybegs is home to the largest fishing port in Ireland and is a bustling and thriving town with many industries and services associated with the fishing industry. Killibegs is also a popular cruise ship destination of increasing popularity. A dispersed scatter of residential development and agricultural structures swathe the rural remainder.
- **Intertidal area-** The intertidal area contains sections of schist, quartzite and limestone. Exposed rocks along the coast are interspersed with stony inlets, sandy beaches and silt and sand estuaries. There is a long sandy Blue Flag Beach at Fintra.
- **Characteristics of sea-** Areas within this seascope unit are open and exposed to the sea, particularly the headlands of St John's Point and the coastal road to Muckros

Head, contrasting with areas that are more sheltered within McSwyne's Bay and Fintragh Bay.

- **Hinterland landform and landcover-** The hinterland landform consists mainly of elevated bog mountains extending to the north with forestry plantations and patches of rough agricultural land along river valleys.
- **Inter-visibility-** The main inter-visibility is between Seascape Units 17 and 19.
- **Lighting-** Lighting stretches along the coast concentrated at Killybegs and the other smaller settlements of Bruckless, Dunkineely and Kilcar. Sea lighting consists of a light house on St John's Point and at Carntullagh Head and two lighted buoys in Killybegs harbour. Crownarad Mountains to the west have no lighting.

### **Key Uses**

- **Sea-** There is a strong commercial fishing industry in this area with associated heavy sea traffic at Killybegs and smaller piers in the area and there are a number of fish farms in the area. Killibegs is an important and growing cruise ship destination.
- **Coast-** Killybegs harbour is a natural deepwater harbour and catering for fishing, shipping and passenger cruise liners. In recent years Killybegs has become the favoured port for the importation of wind turbines, and is a service port for the offshore gas/oil drilling rigs. The town is the centre of the Irish pelagic fishing and processing industries, as it specialises in the processing and freezing of species such as mackerel, herring, scad, and blue whiting. There is also a coastal agricultural use in this area and a pattern one off residential dwellings. There are also areas of forestry along the coastline. There is a scuba diving club off St John's Point
- **Land-** Agriculture is the dominant land use within this area, with associated residential and agricultural buildings. Settlements in this area include Dunkineely, Bruckless, Killybegs and Kilcar. There are wooded areas to the east and patches of conifer plantation on higher elevated lands.

### **Biodiversity**

- There is an SAC at St John's Point and two small areas of SPA to the North.
- Donegal Coast for SPA 004150.
- Inishduff SPA 004115 is a small, uninhabited, rocky island vegetated by a short, maritime grassy sward located approximately 2 km off the south Donegal Coast within this unit.
- St John's Point and surrounding waters are designated as SAC 00191.

### **Cultural influences**

- Within the Donegal Gaeltacht.
- There are two archaeological complexes in this area at Rough Point (40.24 acres) and Killybegs (38.64 acres).
- There are a number of 'estate landscapes' in this area
- There is a strong military history in this area with a signal tower on St John's Point.

### **Visual and Sensory qualities**

- **Accessibility-** This unit is accessed by the R263 to the west and the N56 to the east and supported by a network of local roads permeating the area. Crownard Mountain Range to the east has limited access



- **Key views to sea and coast-** Views to the sea are screened by trees and hedgerow along the road network. Key views to the sea are from St John's Point over Donegal Bay and further south to Sligo and Mayo. There are also key views to sea and the eastern Donegal Coast line from the west of St John's Point. There are also key views along the coastal road from Largy to Muckros Head
- **Key views to land-** Key views to land include the lighthouse at St John's Point. Views from McSwyne's Bay are of forestry and agricultural land with mountains in the distance and glimpses can be seen of Killybegs harbour against a backdrop of mountains and coastal agricultural land, more open in character that rises steeply to the Crownarad mountain range to the west.



## Seascape Unit 19

### Donegal Bay



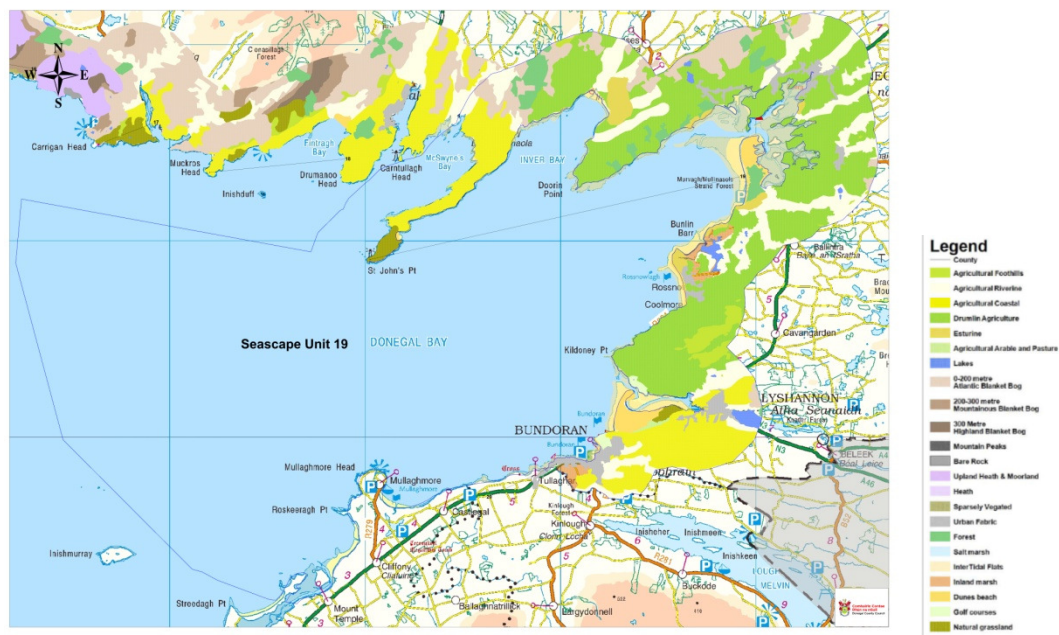
Donegal Bay Seascape Unit 19 extends from St John's Point to Bundoran along the substantial and deeply indented Donegal Bay, Ireland's largest bay. This bay is edged with low limestone cliffs and an extensive sandy estuary system together and has long stretches of sandy beaches in the south. The large Bay sits with a 'drumlin landscape' of rich and fertile undulating agricultural lands and the small mounds or Drumlins that were created by retracting ice sheets during the last ice age; the drumlin belt extends in a westerly direction over the bay where there are a number of drumlin ovoid islands, creating a unique and lush landscape.

The area has a soft, pre-dominantly Limestone geology with elements of Shale and Sandstone. Notable geological features in the area include a cream coloured dimension stone, known as 'Mountcharles Stone' that has been mined since medieval times in this area.

This fertile landscape was settled throughout history and there remains evident the 'Estate' landscapes of 'Salhill Demesne' and 'Hall Demesne' near Mountcharles, and many 'big Houses' in and around Donegal Bay.

The Wild Atlantic Way extends around the coast of this seascape and has two discovery points at Murvagh beach and Rossnowlagh beach. This area has a strong tourism use with many of the coastal settlements having a vibrant and unique tourism offer. Donegal Town is the foci within this area having a thriving and multi-faceted tourism market for both domestic and overseas visitors.

## Landscape Character Types



**Figure 2.19:** Map of LCTs within this seascope unit

## Landscape Character Areas

- Seascope Unit 19 is contained within Donegal Bay Drumlins LCA31, River Erne Lowlands 44 and a portion of South Donegal Lowlands 36.

## Key Characteristics

### Coastal Landcover-

Coastal landcover is primarily fertile agricultural land of hedgerow bound fields dotted with clusters of trees and pockets of forest that run to the coast. The rural landscape hosts a dispersed population outside the coastal settlements of Dunkineely, Donegal Town, Mountcharles, Laghy, Inver, Rosstown, Ballyshannon and Bundoran. Hall Demesne is situated to the west of Mountcharles, and is an impressive 'estate landscape'. The land cover adjacent the coast is primarily good agricultural land to the south changing to a mixed quality of agricultural land with patches of bog to the northwest.

- Intertidal area-** A diverse inter-tidal area ranging from flat stratified outcrops along St John's Point to a generally stony intertidal area that gradually changes to a fine stony edge then sandy beach at Inver. The large intertidal area near Donegal Town contains islands surrounded by intertidal flats and channels fringed by an area of marsh. The edge of the bay consists of a fine stony, sandy and soft edge that develops into long stretches of sandy beaches at Belall Strand, Murvagh beach and along the intertidal areas of the River Erne. There are also extensive grassed sand dunes, marsh and a coastal lagoon near Rosstown that has a long sandy beach as do Bundoran and Tullan Strand. The convex coastline into Bundoran is characterised

by unique limestone shelving, stony inlets and areas with unique hexagonal shaped rocks that extend out into the sea.

- **Characteristics of sea-** The sea is exposed and open along St John's Point and Doorin Point, whilst Inver Bay has a more sheltered and enclosed nature. There is an open aspect to the sea to the south of the seascape unit further characterised by a break in the reef creating waves and peaks.
- **Hinterland landform and landcover-** The drumlin landform of the hinterland is dotted by small lakes, laced with small rivers and their tributaries and enclosed by the Bluestack Mountains. Hinterland land cover of fertile agricultural land is broken with trees, scrub and small patches of bog to the north and west. The mountains in the distance have a bog and heath landcover.
- **Inter-visibility-** This is the last seascape unit to the south of the unit has a degree of intervisibility with Seascape Units 17 and 18, the Coast of County Leitrim and the coast of County Sligo.
- **Lighting-** There are very few dark areas along this coastline owing to a heavy dispersal of rural residential properties and the multitude of towns and villages along this coastline. Expanses of high coastal dune systems along the coast screen development behind which gives a degree of darkness to specific areas.

#### **Key Uses**

- **Coast-** There are various coastal uses along this seascape unit. The south has a strong tourism and leisure focus focused on large sandy strands, many of which are Blue Flag Beaches, around which have developed seaside resorts and caravan parks. There are 2 golf courses within the coastal area at Bundoran and Murvagh. A large army camp is situated on an expansive dune system in the south of this area at Finner. The north of the unit is dominated by coastal farmland and patches of coastal forestry.
- **Sea-** This area is used heavily for commercial and recreational fishing and includes large fish farms in Inver Bay. In the summer months there strong recreational use of the sea for numerous water-based activities whilst the area has considerable worldwide renown for surfing in and around Bundoran with a almost unlimited seasonal constraint.
- **Land-** Agriculture, tourism and residential are the predominant uses within this area. There are a proportionally high number of coastal settlements around Donegal Bay with a vibrant dispersed rural community throughout. The agricultural landscape is dotted with patches of forestry, some lakes and a number of quarries.

#### **Biodiversity**

- There are a number of Natura 2000 sites within this seascape unit.
- St John's Point 000191 SAC
- Durnesh Lough 004145 SPA
- Donegal Bay (Murvagh) 000133 SAC
- Durnesh Lough 000138 SAC
- Donegal Bay 004151
- Dunmuckrum Turloughs 002303 SAC.

### **Cultural influences**

- This area has a rich history dating back to pre-historic times as well as significant religious and cultural associations with Saint Patrick.
- Donegal Castle is located in Donegal Town on the banks of the River Eske, and the remains of a Franciscan Abbey dating from the 15th century are on the shore of the Bay.
- Bundoran is an established historic seaside resort.
- Ballyshannon, one of the oldest towns in Ireland is situated at the mouth of the river Erne and contains an archaeological complex dating from 4000bc.

### **Visual and Sensory qualities**

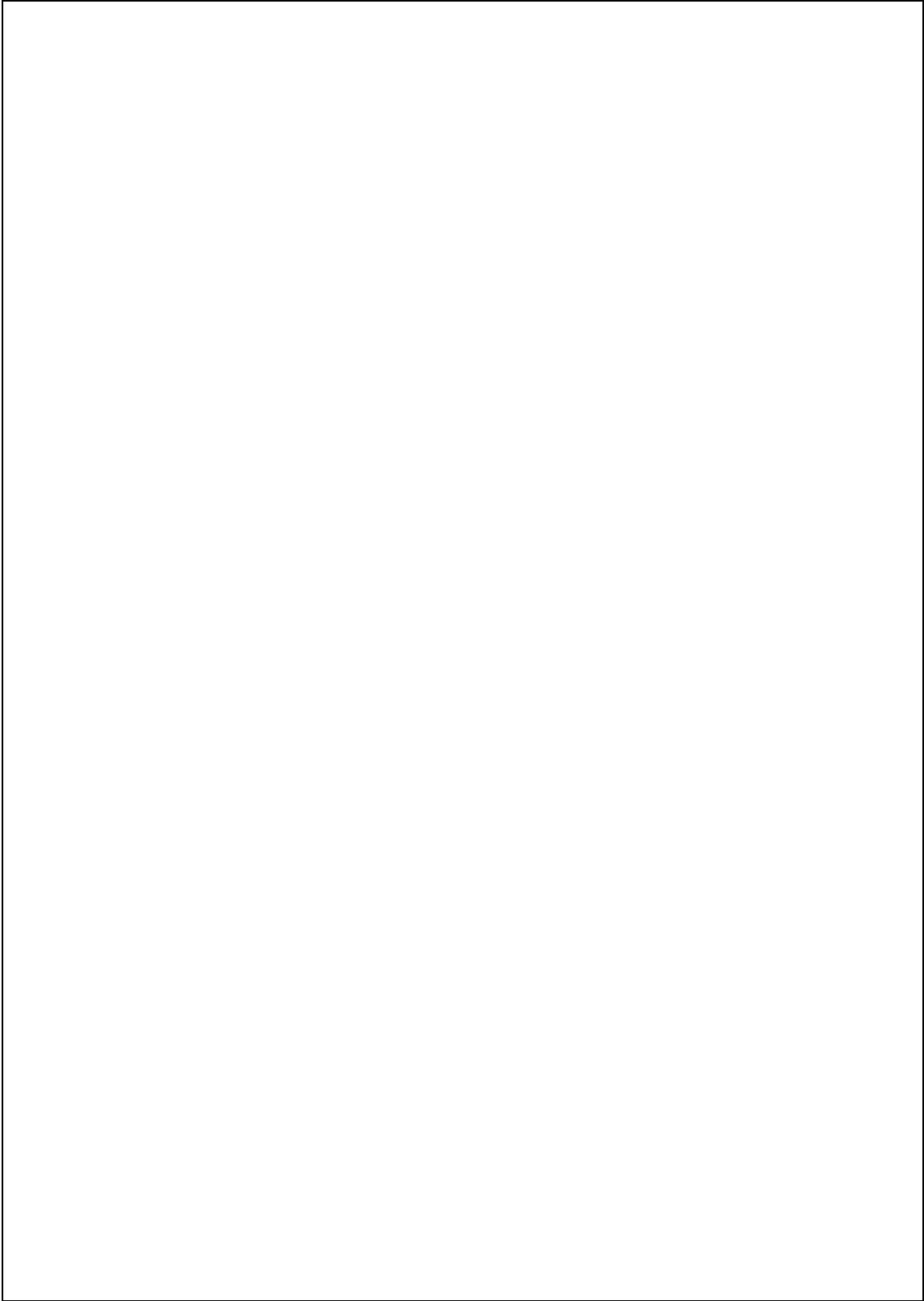
- **Accessibility-**Excellent accessibility into and throughout this seascape unit, served by the N56 from the north e Killybegs to Donegal Town.
- **Key views to sea and coast-** Key views to sea are from St John's Point and an elevated cliff edge looking over Rossnowlagh. There are also key views along the Bundoran coastal walk and generally from all the beaches in the area.
- **Key views to land-**The key views to land from the Donegal water bus and fishing boats consist of beaches with dunes and fertile drumlins with the backdrop of mountains to the south.

# Appendix

# Appendix 1

## Seascape Character Assessment Field Work Tool Kit

Housekeeping	
Surveyor Name	
Date	
Seascape Unit and survey point reference	
Time	
Weather conditions	
Photograph Numbers	
Draft Landscape Character Type	
Influence on or relationship to neighbouring Landscape Character Type (LCT)	





Seascape Unit and survey point:

**Aesthetic and perceptual Qualities**

Aesthetic Qualities- Record the Qualities of the *Landscape*

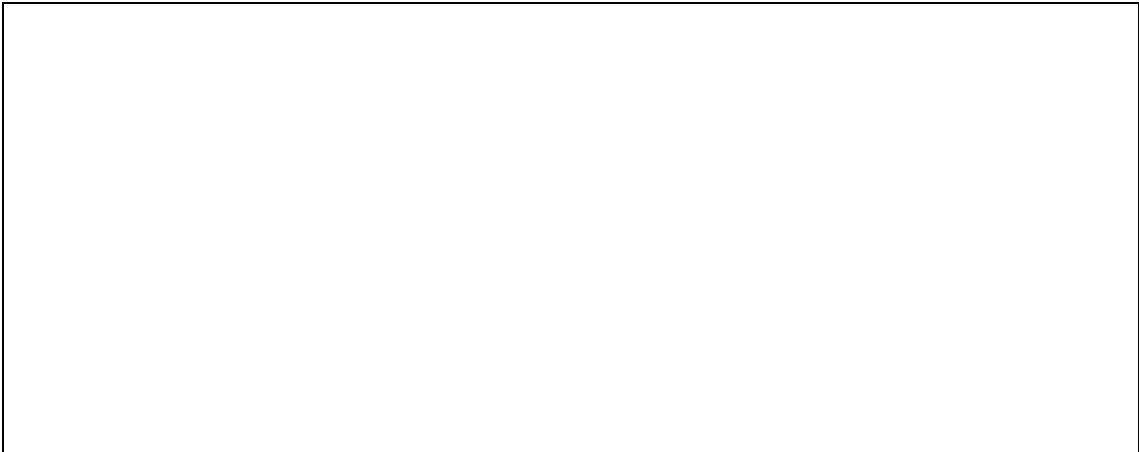
Aesthetic Qualities- Record the Qualities of the *Seascape*

Aesthetic Qualities- Record the Qualities of the *Coast*

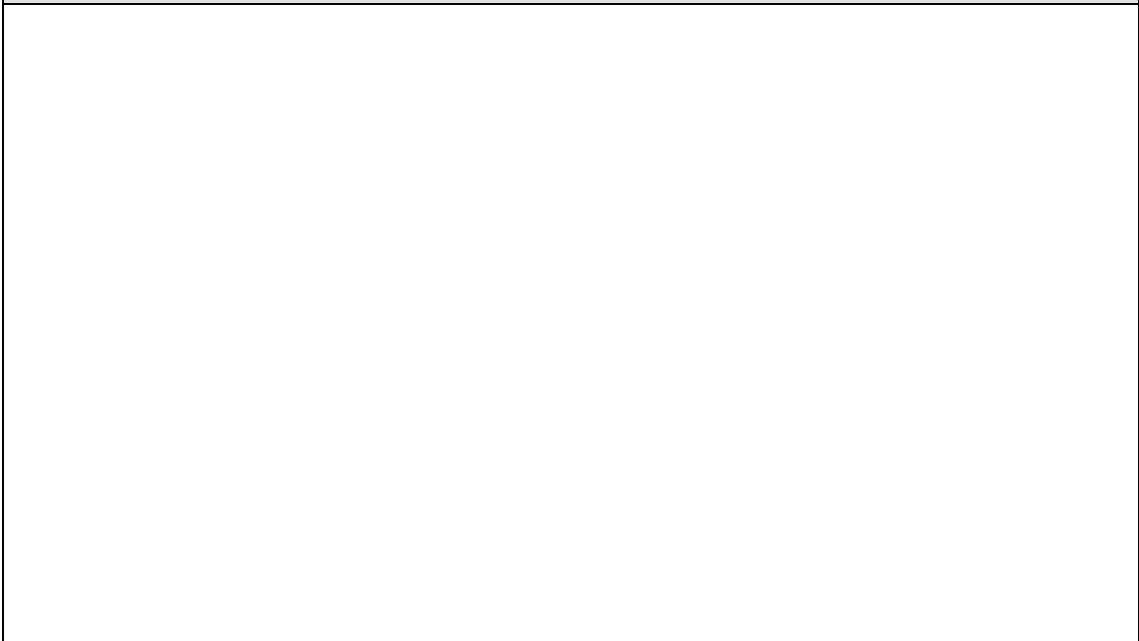
Perceptual qualities and distinctiveness-*record perceptual qualities of the Landscape and degree of local distinctiveness*

Perceptual qualities and distinctiveness-*record perceptual qualities of the seascape and degree of local distinctiveness*

Perceptual qualities and distinctiveness-*record perceptual qualities of the Coast and degree of local distinctiveness*



*Major Landmarks-Photograph, record, and name major features and assess the contribution (positive, neutral or negative) they make to landscape character. Mark principal landmarks on the map*



*Major Landmarks-Photograph, record, and name major features and assess the contribution (positive, neutral or negative) they make to seascape character. Mark principal landmarks on the map*



Major Landmarks- <i>Photograph, record, and name major features and assess the contribution (positive, neutral or negative) they make to coastal character. Mark principal landmarks on the map</i>

Landscape; Local Distinctiveness, Landscape Condition and Change	
Excellent	
Good	
Declining	
Poor	
Derelect	
Seascape and coast; Local Distinctiveness, Seascape Condition and Change	
Excellent	
Good	
Declining	
Poor	
Derelect	

Landscape Change-*Identify the principal forces for change (ffc) on the landscape and their effect on landscape character by reference to named elements if appropriate.*

Widespread	
Localised	
Limited	

Seascape and coastal Change-*Identify the principal forces for change (ffc) on the seascape and their effect on seascape character by reference to named elements if appropriate.*

Widespread	
Localised	
Limited	

Seascape condition- *Assess the condition of the seascape by reference to named features and determine the overall condition.*

Excellent	
Good	
Declining	
Poor	
Derelict	

Coastal Topography and geology-*Describe geological features, soil type and landform. Mark principal features on the map.*

Coastal hydrology, land use and landcover-*describe the main hydrological features, land use and land cover elements evident in the landscape.*

Sea: Hydrology and Waves-Describe hydrological features, wave action and water clarity. Mark principal features on the map (using annotations provided)

Sea use and sea cover-Describe the main features, sea use and sea cover elements evident in the seascape

Coastal Defences and Heritage-Describe coastal defences and any significant heritage features.

--

*Sea Boundaries-Record the main boundary features present, their state of repair/ condition and the patterns they create (and historic significance if any)*

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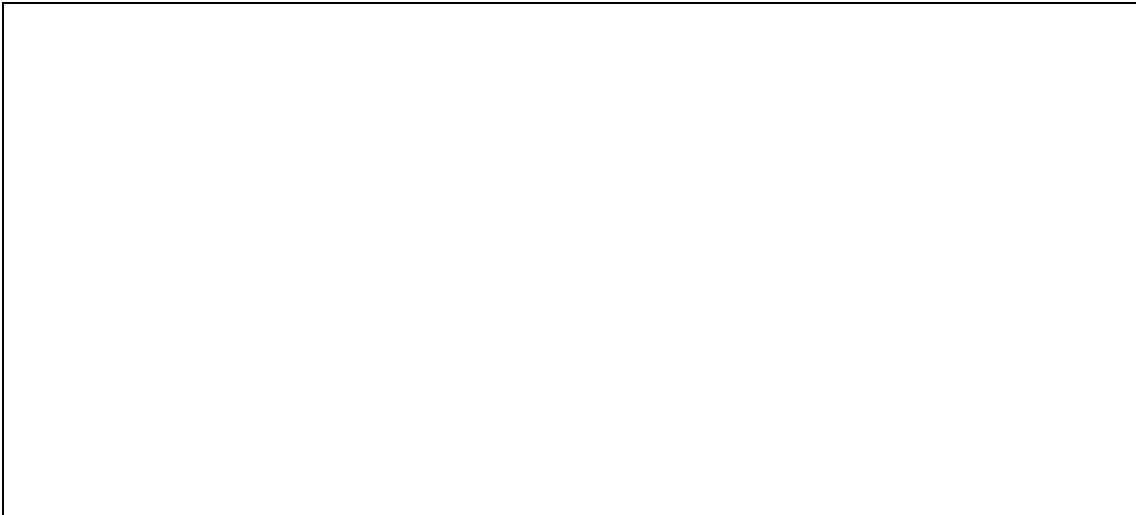
*Sea Communications and infrastructure-Record the dominant communication and infrastructure features and describe any obvious patterns and the contribution they make to seascape character.*

--

*Sea Recreation-Describe any significant recreational features and elements in the seascape.*

--





Sea prompts			
<b>Hydrology and waves</b>			
Wave action/tide-gentle	Sheltered	Water-clear	Whirlpool
Wave action/tide-moderate	Exposed	Water-turbid	race
Wave action/tide-rough			
<b>Sea Use and Cover</b>			
Marine aquaculture-fishery-lines	Density-low	Alignment-oredered/regular	
Marine aquaculture-fishery-beds	Density-medium	Alignment-sporadic/organic	
Line fishing-land based	Density-high		
Line fishing-boat			
Netting-land based	Frequency-minimal		
Netting-boat	Frequency-moderate		
Fishing boat-trawling	Frequency-intense		
Fishing boat-potting			
Heavy shipping (containers/tankers)			
Liner/cruise ships			
Ferries			
Military/naval vessels			
Recreation-motorised			
Recreation-non-motorised			
<b>Coastal Defence</b>			
Harbour wall-stone		Beach protection	

Harbour wall-brick			
Harbour wall-concrete			
Groyne-timber			
Groyne-concrete			
Breakwater			
<b>Heritage features</b>			
Prehistoric defensive	Harbour/harbour wall	Wrecks	
Military			
<b>Boundaries</b>			
Bouy demarcation			
Lighting			
other			
<b>Communications and Infrastructure</b>			
Dredging	Heavy Shipping (containers/tankers)-route/pattern	buoys	Military training area
	Liner/cruise ships-route/pattern	lighting	Army firing range
	Ferries (cross channel)-route/pattern		Mortar firing range
	Military/naval vessels-route/pattern		
	Recreation-motorised-route/pattern		
	Recreation-non-motorised-route/pattern		
<b>Recreation</b>			
Water recreation-motorised	Usage -light	Marina	
Water recreation- non-motorised	Usage- medium	Harbour	
Boating/yachts/sailing	Usage-heavy	Slipway	
Windsurfing/surfing/ water-skiing		Jetty/pier	
		diveboats	

Coastal prompts

Coastal prompts				
<b>Geology</b>				
<b>Bedrock</b>	<b>Drift</b>	<b>Soils</b>	<b>Surface Expression</b>	<b>Formations</b>

Limestone	Alluvium	Sandy	Quarry	Stacks
Shale	Boulder Clay	Clay	Exposure/outcrop	Archway
Granite	Gravel	Loam	Landslip	
Schist	Sands	Deep		
Quartzite	Muds	Thin		
Sandstone	Shingle/pebbles	Stony		
		Colour		
<b>Landform</b>				
Flat	Bay		High	
Gently undulating	Headland		Intermediate	
Sloping	Terrace		Low	
Steep	Estuary			
Vertical	Spit			
	Raised beach			
	Cliff			
<b>Hydrology</b>				
Main River	Spring	Tides	Pools-natural	
Main Tributary	Spring line			
Stream	Drainage ditch			
<b>Land Use and Land Cover</b>				
Sandy beach-human activity	Meadow	Cows	Quarry-active	
Sandy beach-remote/inaccessible	Rough grazing	Sheep	Quarry-disused	
Dunes-Sand	Grazing marsh	Horses/ponies	Sand and gravel extraction	
Dunes-vegetated	Setaside	Birds-flocking	Restored workings	
Shingle beach-human activity	Reed bed	Birds-nesting sites		
Rocky	Lagoon	Residential		
Cliff-rocky	Mudflat			
Cliff-vegetated	Scrub			
Fossils	Marsh/Saltmarsh			
	Heath			

	Recreation		
	Horticulture		
	Parkland/Estates		
	Playparks		

<b>Woodland and trees</b>				
Wet woodland	Deciduous	Regular	Clumps	Poplar
unwooded	coniferous	Irregular	Riverside trees	Alder
		organic	Isolated trees	Willow
			Invasive vegetation	Oak
				Ash
				Birch
				Pine
				Sycamore
				Exotics
<b>Coastal defence</b>				
Harbour Wall-Stone		Beach protection		
Harbour Wall-brick				
Harbour Wall-concrete				
Groyne-timber				
Groyne-concrete				
breakwater				
<b>Heritage features</b>				
Prehistoric defensive		Industrial Heritage		Harbour/harbour wall
Prehistoric ritual		Transport heritage		Common land
Medieval fort/castle		Mining Heritage		
Medieval domestic		Agricultural Heritage		
Military		Maritime heritage		
<b>Boundaries</b>				
Stone wall		Ditches-regular		

Fences		Ditches irregular		
Post and wire		Hedgerow		
Post and rail		Trees		
Field gate				
<b>Communications and Infrastructure</b>				
Track	lighting	Military training area	Footpath	Pylons
Green lane	Oil	Army firing range	Bridleway	Transmission lines
Enclosure road	Marina	Mortar firing range	Byway	wind turbines
Road network	Harbour		Wide verges signage	Telecom mast
	Light house			
<b>Recreation</b>				
Walkway	Historic monument	Water recreation- motorised	Usage-light	Marina
Park	Industrial heritage	Water recreation- non motorised	Usage-medium	Harbour
Picnic site	Geological highlight	Boating/yachts/sailing	Usage-heavy	slipway
Viewpoint		Windsurfing/surfing/water-skiing		
Car park		Golf course		
Caravan park				
interpretation				
<b>Aesthetic Qualities</b>				
<b>Pattern</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Texture</b>	<b>Colour</b>	<b>Variety</b>
Dominant	Intimate	Smooth	Monochrome	Uniform
Strong	Small	Textured	Muted	Simple
Broken	Large	Rough	Colorful	Diverse
Weak	vast	Very Rough	Garish	Complex
<b>Unity</b>	<b>Form</b>	<b>Enclosure</b>	<b>Visual dynamic</b>	
Unified	Straight	Expansive	Panoramic	
Interrupted	Angular	Open	Framed	

Fragmented	Curved	Enclosed	Intermittent	
chaotic	Sinuous	confined	Channelled	
<b>Perceptual Qualities</b>				
<b>Security</b>	<b>Stimulus</b>	<b>Tranquillity</b>	<b>Naturalness</b>	<b>Noise</b>
Intimate	Monotonous	Inaccessible	Natural	Man-made
Safe	Interesting	Remote	Tamed	Natural
Unsettling	Challenging	Vacant	Managed	Loud
Threatening	Inspiring	Busy	Man-made	Intermittent
		Tranquil		Distant
				Quiet
<b>Views</b>				
<b>Views</b>		<b>Smell</b>		
Panoramic/wide		Natural		
Channelled/narrow		Man-made		
Filtered		Salty		
		Seaweed		
		Industry/fisheries		
		fumes		
<b>Local Distinctiveness</b>				
<b>Scenic Quality</b>	<b>Rarity</b>	<b>Visibility</b>	<b>Associations</b>	
Outstanding	Single example	open	Writers	
High	Rare	Overlooked	Artists	
Moderate	Frequent	Sheltered	Musicians	
Low	common	screened	Historic figures	
<b>Landmarks</b>				
Church spire/tower	Hill	Woodland	Positive	
Prominent buildings	Ridge	Tree	Neutral	
Telecoms mast	Cliff	copse	negative	
Pylons	valley			

Bridge			
Country house			
Cathedral			
Water tower			
Settlement			
Windmill			
Wind turbine			
Chimney			
Silo			
Agricultural building			
Folly			
Archway			
Stacks			
Light house			
Naval building			
wharf			
<b>Seascape condition</b>			
Littered/debris	Crumbling	Heritage features	Stone walls
Clean	Intact		Fences
managed	Slipped		Post and wire
	Erosion		Post and rail
<b>Seascape change</b>			
<b>Land Use</b>	<b>Industry</b>	<b>Infrastructure</b>	<b>Tourism/Recreation</b>
Grazing	Light industry	Pylons	Intrusive/recessive
Diversification	Heavy industry	Telecommunications masts	Noisy/quiet
Specialisation	Quarrying	turbines	Active/passive
Intensive management	Landfill		Honey pot
Under management	Fly-tipping		Erosion
Renewable initiatives			Littering



			Car parking
			Golf course
			Caravan park
			Fossiling
			Walking