

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Name: Outer Ards.

Unitary Authority/County: North Down Borough Council,
Ards Borough Council
County Down

Consultation proposal: Outer Ards and Ballymacormick Point Areas of Special Scientific Interest have been selected for designation as a Ramsar site because of their important breeding and wintering populations of waterfowl.

Site description: The Outer Ards site extends from Grey Point on the north Down coast, to Ballyquintin Point in the south. The site mainly encompasses the inter-tidal areas, but with some additional adjoining areas of notable habitat. It includes sand and mud dominated shores, cobble and boulder beaches together with rocky shores. Off shore islands are also present. Adjoining habitat includes areas of maritime grassland and heath. The principal interests are the breeding colonies of Arctic Tern and Manx Shearwater, together with the wintering populations of Light-bellied Brent Goose, Golden Plover, Turnstone and Ringed Plover. The boundary of the Ramsar site is entirely coincident with the Outer Ards Area of Special Scientific Interest together with the Ballymacormick Point Area of Special Scientific Interest.

Size of Ramsar site: The Ramsar site covers an area of 1278.82 ha.

International importance of Ramsar site: Outer Ards is a Wetland of International Importance because it qualifies under **Criterion 6** as it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird in any season:

Species	Count and season	Period	Biogeographic %
Arctic Tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	207 pairs – breeding	5 year mean	4.7% Irish population
Manx Shearwater <i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	Minimum 3581 pairs – breeding	2000	1.3% world population
Light-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>	209 individuals – wintering	5 year peak mean for 1991/92 – 1995/96	1.1% world population
Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	2109 individuals – wintering	5 year peak mean for 1991/92 – 1995/96	1.1% NW Europe population
Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	516 individuals – wintering	5 year peak mean for 1991/92 – 1995/96	1.2 % Eastern Atlantic Flyway population
Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	1210 individuals – wintering	5 year peak mean for 1991/92 – 1995/96	1.7 % Eastern Atlantic Flyway population

Bird figures from: WeBS database and Seabird 2000 census

Wetland of International Importance
Ramsar Convention

Designated by the Department of the
Environment

Date: 16 April 2005



Outer Ards Ramsar

Ramsar Site Code: UK12018

Wetland of International Importance, Ramsar Convention, shown thus:



The proposed Ramsar site includes all lands within the hatched red line down to low water mark. Marine areas below low water are not included.

The present map is for information purposes only. For queries relating to the boundary of this Ramsar site contact EHS.

Longitude: 05° 29' 02" W

Latitude: 54° 32' 47" N

Area of Ramsar Site: 1154.16 ha.

Map 1 of 1

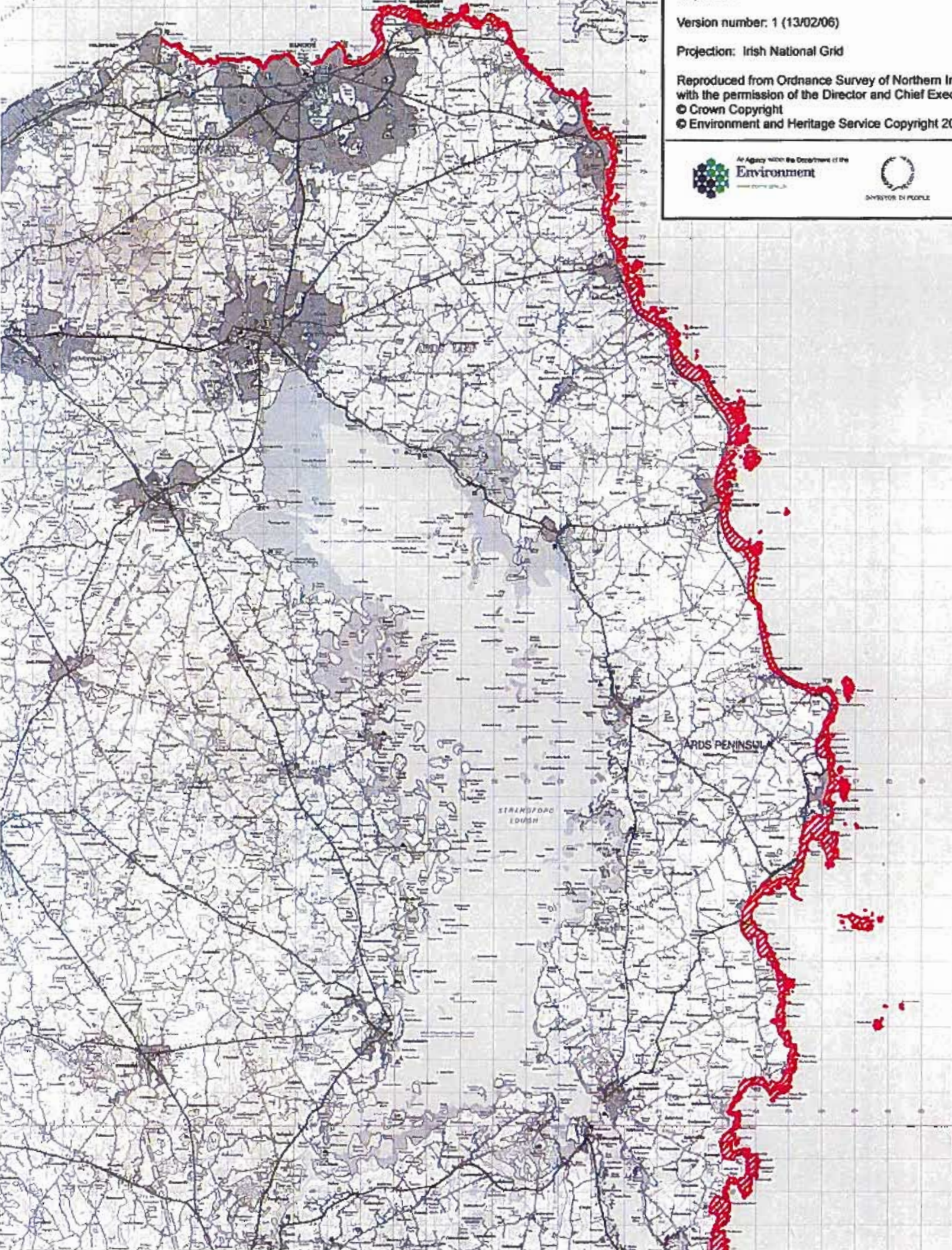
Version number: 1 (13/02/06)

Projection: Irish National Grid

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Scale 1:135,362

0 0.408 1.6 2.4 3.2
Kilometres
0 0.204 0.8 1.2 1.6
Miles

