

Wetlands designated, pursuant to Article 2(5) of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat by Ireland, to be included in the List of Wetlands of International Importance, established under the terms of the Convention.

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Rogerstown Estuary and Baldoyle Estuary Co. Dublin which were recently established as statutory nature reserves under Section 15 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 and shown outlined in black on attached maps are hereby designated by Ireland for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance under Article 2.5 of the Convention. The sites are state owned foreshore. This brings to 11 the total number of sites designated by Ireland.

Rogerstown Estuary is a small tidal bay in north County Dublin which is the estuary of several small rivers/streams which flow in at the western and north-western sides. It is sheltered from the open sea by a long sand spit running north from Portrane. Over 90% of the bay dries out at low tide, exposing extensive areas of mud, sand and gravel which provide rich feeding for waterfowl, and a small area comprising a permanent deep water channel.

Rogerstown Estuary is primarily important as a wintering area for waterfowl, especially for Pale-bellied Brent Geese Branta bernicla hrota from the Canadian Arctic/N. Greenland. For this species the site is internationally important. It also holds up to 5,300 wildfowl (ducks, geese and swans) and up to 7,800 waders.

Baldoyle Estuary situated north east of Dublin city is a tidal bay protected from the sea by a large sand dune system. The bay is also the estuary of some small streams - mainly muddy substrate at low tide with 95% of the area drying out at low springs. Large areas of *Spartina* occur in the northern portion. It is rated as of international importance as a wintering area for Pale-bellied Brent-Geese Branta bernicla hrota, and also supports a variety of other migratory waterfowl species.

The estuaries are the habitats of certain species of birds included in Annex 1 of EEC Council directive 409/79 on the conservation of wild birds (Bird Directive) and as such are the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. Accordingly they will shortly be designated as special protection areas under Article 4 of that Directive.

A description of Rogerstown Estuary has also been forwarded to the Canadian Wildlife Authority for inclusion in their network of Sister Reserves.