4.24	**Reen Point Pools, County Cork** O.S. V 888 399 O.S. Discovery Sheet 88

Conservation Designation:	Reen Point Shingle SAC 002281
General description:	
Situated 6km west of Durrus on the north shore of Dunmanus Bay, 2km east of Ahakista. A group of small (<1ha) natural **sedimentary lagoons** formed between two shingle/cobble barriers forming a spit which connects a small island to the mainland (tombolo). Salinity measured 8psu at the time of sampling (30/12/06).	

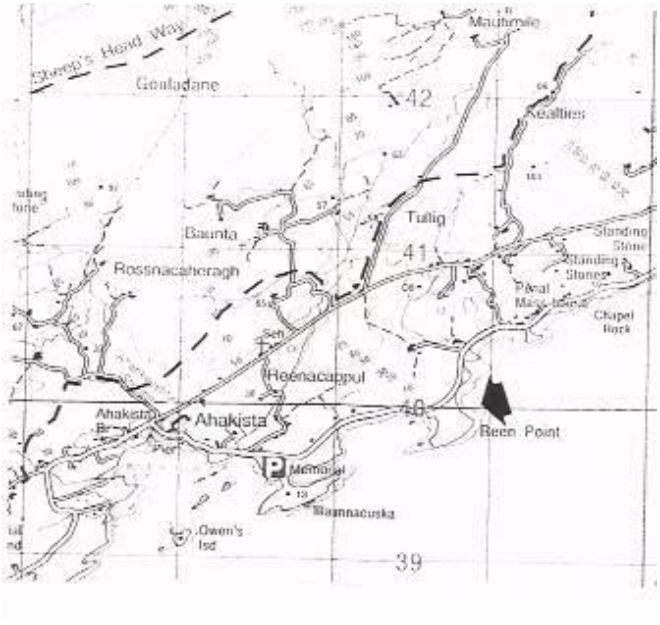

Figure 24.1 Location map of Reen Point Pools.

Very little is known about these pools, despite brief visits on several occasions. Only the main pool was sampled on 30/12/06 as all other pools appeared to be freshwater.

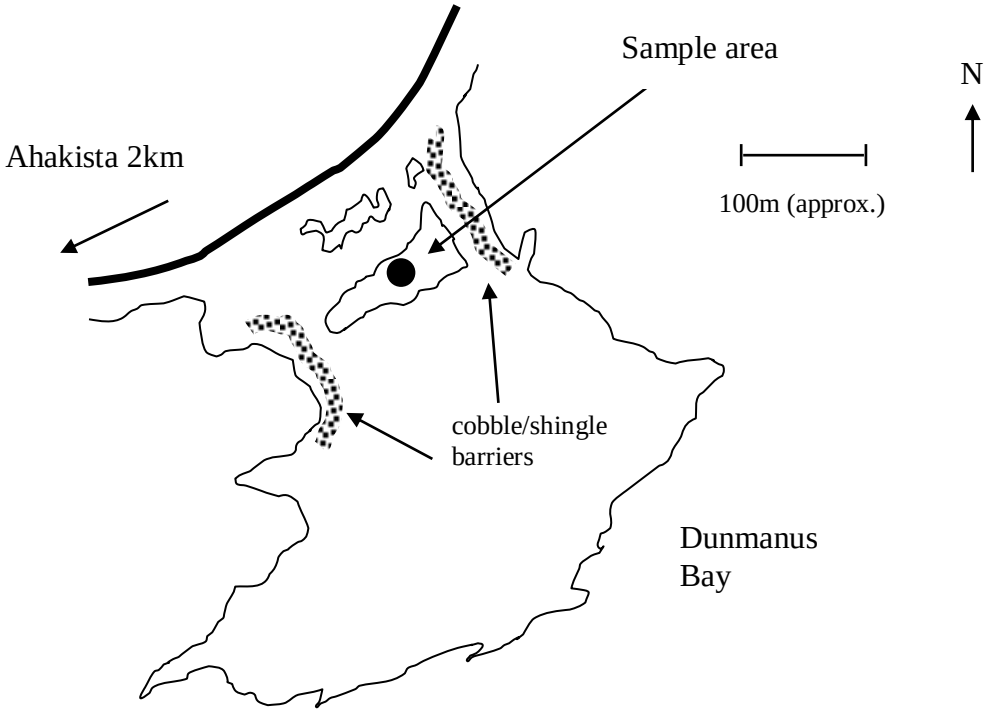

Figure 24.2 Sketch map of Reen Point pools based on aerial photographs. (NB The pools appear to alter shape considerably, perhaps following storms).

Flora

Table 24.1 Percentage cover of aquatic flora and bare ground, with salinity, water depth and type of substratum and recorded at Reen Point pools 30/12/2006

Name of site	Reen Point pools
Date of survey	30/12/2006
Salinity (psu) surface	8
Depth (cm)	0-100
Substratum	gravel, soft mud at depth
Percentage cover:	
Algae	
Chlorophyceae	
Enteromorpha sp.	20
Ulva sp.	5
Phaeophyceae	
Ascophyllum nodosum	+
Angiosperms	
Potamogeton pectinatus	40
Juncus sp.	
Gravel	25
Rotting vegetation	10

Despite the measured salinity of 8psu on 30/12/06 (Table 24.1), the pools appear to be dominated by *Potamogeton pectinatus*. The only other plants recorded were *Enteromorpha, Ulva*, bits of drift *Ascophyllum* and fringing vegetation of *Juncus ?maritimus*. The pools appear to be relatively deep, but are difficult to sample as the shingle is very unstable and the edges of the pools shelve steeply.

Based on aquatic vegetation, the site is regarded as of **low conservation value** as a coastal lagoon.

Fauna

Only 14 faunal taxa were recorded during a brief visit on 30/12/06, of which only 7 were identified to species. Judging by the dominance of insect taxa (beetles, corixids, diptera and caddis) it is assumed that salinity is generally low in these small pools. Only one lagoonal specialist was recorded (*S. stagnalis*), and this species is also found at inland, freshwater sites. One species (*J. ischiosetosa*) appears to have been recorded at only one non-lagoon site (see below), but it is very small, and would easily be overlooked.

Sigara stagnalis Hemipteran insect (water-boatman). A common lagoonal specialist found at 36 of the 87 (41.4%) lagoons surveyed.

Jaera ischiosetosa Isopod crustacean recorded at 12 sites from West Cork to Donegal. The only previous record appears to be for L. Hyne. Co. Cork (Goss Custard *et al.* 1979).

Table 24.2 Aquatic fauna recorded at sampling stations in Reen Point pools, Co. Cork 30/12/06. o = occasional; c = common; r = rare. Species in bold text are lagoonal specialist and notable species.

Taxa			Sampling Stations
			Sta 1
Cnidaria		*Laomedia angulata*	c
Annelida			
	Polychaeta	*Nereis diversicolor*	o
	Oligochaeta	Tubificidae indet.	o
Crustacea			
	Ostracoda	indet.	c
	Isopoda	***Jaera ischiosetosa***	o
	Amphipoda	*Gammarus duebeni*	o
Insecta			
	Trichoptera	Trichoptera sp. 1	o
		Trichoptera sp. 2	o
	Heteroptera	***Sigara stagnalis***	o
	Coleoptera	*Ochthebius ?minimus*	r
	Diptera	Chironomidae indet.	o
		Culicidae indet.	c
Mollusca		*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*	??
Pisces		*Gasterosteus aculeatus*	c

The aquatic fauna of the pools is very poor, with very few species recorded, none of which were abundant apart from the hydroid *L. angulata*. . Only one lagoonal specialist was recorded (*S. stagnalis*), and this species is also found at inland,

freshwater sites. One species (*J. ischiosetosa*) appears to have been recorded at only one non-lagoon site (see below), but it is very small, and would easily be overlooked.

Based on aquatic fauna, the site is regarded as of **low conservation value** as a coastal lagoon.

Summary

These pools are very small natural **sedimentary lagoons** formed between two shingle/cobble barriers forming a spit which connects a small island to the mainland (tombolo). As such they are very interesting landforms, but contain a relatively low number of taxa (5 floral, 14 faunal), none of which appear to be rare (with the possible exception of *J. ischiosetosa*) and only one is a lagoonal specialist. The overall conservation value as a lagoon is rated as low.

Overall Conservation Value = Low

Conservation Status Assessment (from Oliver 2007)	
Impacts	Small natural pools on dynamic gravel spit. Naturally eutrophic. Accumulation of organic material.
Conservation Status	Favourable

Further Information

Listed as a lagoon by Healy *et al.* 1997, Healy 2003 and Oliver 2005 and included in the Conservation Status Assessment (Oliver 2007).

References

Goss Custard, S., J. Jones, J.A. Kitching & Norton, T. A. 1979. Tidepools of Carrigathorna and Barloge Creek. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London.* Series B, **287**: 1-44.

Healy, B. 2003. Coastal Lagoons. In: *Wetlands of Ireland.* R. Otte (ed). Chapter 4. University College Dublin Press. Dublin. 44-78.

Healy, B., Oliver, G.A., Hatch, P. & Good, J.A. 1997. *Coastal lagoons in the Republic of Ireland. Vol. 3. Inventory of lagoons and saline lakes.* Report to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin.

Oliver, G.A. 2005. *Seasonal changes and Biological Classification of Irish Coastal Lagoons.* PhD Thesis. U.C.D., Dublin. Available on www.irishlagoons.com

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