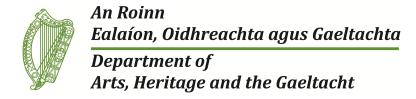
National Parks and Wildlife Service

Conservation Objectives Series

Streedagh Point Dunes SAC 001680



19 Mar 2015 Version 1 Page 1 of 13



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19 Mar 2015 Version 1 Page 2 of 13

Introduction

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

A site-specific conservation objective aims to define favourable conservation condition for a particular habitat or species at that site.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Notes/Guidelines:

- 1. The targets given in these conservation objectives are based on best available information at the time of writing. As more information becomes available, targets for attributes may change. These will be updated periodically, as necessary.
- 2. An appropriate assessment based on these conservation objectives will remain valid even if the targets are subsequently updated, providing they were the most recent objectives available when the assessment was carried out. It is essential that the date and version are included when objectives are cited.
- 3. Assessments cannot consider an attribute in isolation from the others listed for that habitat or species, or for other habitats and species listed for that site. A plan or project with an apparently small impact on one attribute may have a significant impact on another.
- 4. Please note that the maps included in this document do not necessarily show the entire extent of the habitats and species for which the site is listed. This should be borne in mind when appropriate assessments are being carried out.
- 5. When using these objectives, it is essential that the relevant backing/supporting documents are consulted, particularly where instructed in the targets or notes for a particular attribute.

19 Mar 2015 Version 1 Page 3 of 13

Qualifying Interests

* indicates a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive

001680	Streedagh Point Dunes SAC
1014	Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail Vertigo angustior
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
1220	Perennial vegetation of stony banks
1330	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)
1410	Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi)
2120	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Of { [] @###** ### (white dunes)
2130	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)E

Please note that this SAC adjoins Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC (000625). See map 2. The conservation objectives for this site should be used in conjunction with those for the adjacent site as appropriate.

19 Mar 2015 Version 1 Page 4 of 13

Supporting documents, relevant reports & publications

Supporting documents, NPWS reports and publications are available for download from: www.npws.ie/Publications

NPWS Documents

Year: 1999

Title: National Shingle Beach Survey of Ireland 1999

Author: Moore, D.; Wilson, F.

Series: Unpublished Report to NPWS

Year: 2007

Title: Management prescriptions for Vertigo angustior at cSAC sites for the species in the Republic

of Ireland

Author: Moorkens. E.

Series: Unpublished report to NPWS

Year: 2009

Title: Coastal Monitoring Project 2004-2006

Author: Ryle, T.; Murray, A.; Connolly, K.; Swann, M.

Series: Unpublished report to NPWS

Year: 2009

Title: Saltmarsh monitoring project 2007-2008

Author: McCorry, M.; Ryle, T.

Series: Unpublished report to NPWS

Year: 2011

Title: Monitoring and condition assessment of populations of Vertigo geyeri, Vertigo angustior and

Vertigo moulinsiana in Ireland

Author: Moorkens, E.; Killeen, I.

Series: Irish Wildlife Manual No. 55

Year: 2015

Title: Streedagh Point Dunes SAC (site code: 1680) Conservation objectives supporting document-

coastal habitats V1

Author: NPWS

Series: Conservation objectives supporting document

Year: 2015

Title: Streedagh Point Dunes SAC (site code: 1680) Conservation objectives supporting document-

marine habitats V1

Author: NPWS

Series: Conservation objectives supporting document

Other References

Year: 2008

Title: The phytosociology and conservation value of Irish sand dunes

Author: Gaynor, K.

Series: Unpublished PhD thesis, National University of Ireland, Dublin

Year: 2012

Title: Intertidal benthic surveys of Streedagh Point Dunes SAC

Author: MERC

Series: Unpublished report to the Marine Institute and NPWS

19 Mar 2015 Version 1 Page 5 of 13

Spatial data sources

Year: Interpolated 2014

Title: Intertidal survey, 2011

GIS Operations : Polygon feature classes from marine community types base data sub-divided based on

interpolation of marine survey data. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues

arising

Used For: 1140, marine community types (maps 3 and 4)

Year: 2005

Title: OSi Discovery series vector data

GIS Operations: High water mark (HWM) and low water mark (LWM) polyline feature classes converted into

polygon feature classes and combined; EU Annex I Saltmarsh and Coastal data erased out if

present

Used For: Marine community types base data (map 4)

Year: Revision 2010

Title: Saltmarsh Monitoring Project 2007-2008. Version 1

GIS Operations: QIs selected; clipped to SAC boundary; overlapping regions with Coastal CO data investigated

and resolved with expert opinion used

Used For: 1330, 1410 (map 5)

Year: 2009

Title: Coastal Monitoring Project 2004-2006. Version 1

GIS Operations: QIs selected; clipped to SAC boundary; overlapping regions with Saltmarsh CO data investigated

and resolved with expert opinion used

Used For: 2120, 2130 (map 6)

Year: 2015

Title: NPWS rare and threatened species database

GIS Operations: Dataset created from spatial references in database records. Expert opinion used as necessary

to resolve any issues arising

Used For: 1014 (map 7)

19 Mar 2015 Version 1 Page 6 of 13

1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide in Streedagh Point Dunes SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes. See map 3	Habitat area was estimated as 338ha using OSi data
Community distribution	Hectares	Conserve the following community types in a natural condition: Sand with <i>Pygospio elegans</i> and <i>Cerastoderma edule</i> community complex; Mobile sand with <i>Haustorius arenarius</i> and polychaetes community complex. See map 4	Based on an intertidal survey undertaken in 2011 (MERC, 2012). See marine supporting document for further information

19 Mar 2015 Version 1 Page 7 of 13

1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Perennial vegetation of stony banks in Streedagh Point Dunes SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession	Current area unknown. It was recorded as being present during the National Shingle Beach Survey (NSBS) (Moore and Wilson, 1999), but extent was not mapped from one sub-site: Streedagh. NB further unsurveyed areas maybe present within the SAC. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes. See map 6 for survey location	Full distribution unknown at present, although the habitat has been recorded at Streedagh by Moore and Wilson (1999) where it fronts the entire dune system. The dunes at Streedagh also support cobb based flats between the dunes similar to Ballyteige Burrow, County Wexford. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply	Presence/ absence of physical barriers	Maintain the natural circulation of sediment and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	The shingle beaches within this SAC appear to be funtioning naturally, with no artificial restrictions to beach dynamics (Moore and Wilson, 1999). Shingle features are relatively stable in the long term. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	The Streedagh sub-site is associated with shingle-based grassland, sand dunes and saltmarsh. Licher are present, indicating a degree of stability. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub- communities	Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain the typical vegetated shingle flora including the range of sub- communities within the different zones	Streedagh supports good quality vegetated shingle flora. Based on data from Moore and Wilson (1999) See coastal habitats supporting document for furth details
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage cover	Negative indicator species (including non-natives) to represent less than 5% cover	Based on data from Moore and Wilson (1999). Negative indicators include non-native species, species indicative of changes in nutrient status and species not considered characteristic of the habitat See coastal habitats supporting document for furth details

19 Mar 2015 Version 1 Page 8 of 13

1330 Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)

To restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) in Streedagh Point Dunes SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession. For sub-site mapped: Streedagh Point - 12.82ha. See map 5	Based on data from the Saltmarsh Monitoring Project (SMP) (McCorry and Ryle, 2009). One subsite that supports Atlantic Salt Meadows was mapped (12.82ha) and additional areas of potential ASM habitat (0.21ha) were identified from an examination of aerial photographs, giving a total estimated area of 13.03ha. NB further unsurveyed areas maybe present within the SAC. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes. See map 5 for known distribution	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). The saltmarsh at Streedagh is widely distributed throughout the SAC. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: sediment supply	Presence/ absence of physical barriers	Maintain natural circulation of sediments and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	See coastal habitats supporting document for furthe details
Physical structure: creeks and pans	Occurrence	Maintain creek and pan structure, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). A large area of ASM on the spit is unmodified and in relatively good condition. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: flooding regime	Hectares flooded; frequency	Maintain natural tidal regime	See coastal habitats supporting document for furthe details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). The ASM at Streedagh is quite diverse and several typica ASM communities were noted by the SMP. The ASM is part of a larger coastal ecosystem. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: vegetation height	Centimetres	Maintain structural variation within sward	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). Most of the saltmarsh is grazed by cattle though intensity varies and some areas are left ungrazed. Heavy grazing was noted adjacent to the sandhills at Streedagh in a commonage area. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: vegetation cover	Percentage cover at a representative sample of monitoring stops	Maintain more than 90% area outside creeks vegetated	Based on data from (McCorry and Ryle, 2009). At Streedagh there is some severe poaching of the saltmarsh by cattle in the commonage adjacent to the sandhills. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub- communities	Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain range of sub- communities with typical species listed in SMP (McCorry and Ryle, 2009)	See coastal habitats supporting document for furthe details
Vegetation structure: negative indicator species - Spartina anglica	Hectares	There is currently no common cordgrass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>) recorded at this SAC. This species should be prevented from establishing here	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). Common cord grass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>) is absent from the site. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details

19 Mar 2015 Version 1 Page 9 of 13

1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi)

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) in Streedagh Point Dunes SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession. For sub-site mapped: Streedagh Point - 6.69ha. See map 5	Based on data from the Saltmarsh Monitoring Project (SMP) (McCorry and Ryle, 2009). One sub- site that supports Mediterranean Salt Meadows was mapped, giving a total estimated area of 6.69ha. NB further unsurveyed areas maybe present within the SAC. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, subject to natural processes. See map 5 for known distribution	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: sediment supply	Presence/absence of physical barriers	Maintain natural circulation of sediments and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: creeks and pans	Occurrence	Maintain creek and pan structure, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: flooding regime	Hectares flooded; frequency	Maintain natural tidal regime	Mediterranean salt meadows is found high up in the saltmarsh but requires occasional tidal inundation. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain range of saltmarsh habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). The MSM at Streedagh is quite diverse and some transitional vegetation has developed along the upper MSM in places. It is part of a larger coastal ecosystem. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: vegetation height	Centimetres	Maintain structural variation in the sward	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: vegetation cover	Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain more than 90% of area outside creeks vegetated	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub- communities	Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain range of sub- communities with characteristic species listed in SMP (McCorry and Ryle, 2009)	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). Species of local distinctiveness such as saltmarsh flat-sedge (<i>Blysmus rufus</i>) was recorded in the MSM and forms a distinctive community in places in the upper marsh. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: negative indicator species - Spartina anglica	Hectares	There is currently no common cordgrass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>) recorded at this SAC. This species should be prevented from establishing here	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). Common cord grass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>) is absent from the site. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details.

19 Mar 2015 Version 1 Page 10 of 13

2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes)

To restore the favourable conservation condition of Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ('white dunes') in Streedagh Point Dunes SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area increasing, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession. For sub-site mapped: Streedagh Point - 2.12ha. See map 6	Habitat was mapped from a single site during the Coastal Monitoring Project (CMP) (Ryle et al., 2009) Habitat is very difficult to measure in view of its dynamic nature. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes. See map 6 for known distribution	Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply	Presence/ absence of physical barriers	Maintain the natural circulation of sediment and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	Dunes are naturally dynamic systems that require continuous supply and circulation of sand. Marram grass (<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>) reproduces vegetatively and requires constant accretion of fresh sand to maintain active growth encouraging further accretion. See coastal habitats supporting documen for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Based on data from Gaynor (2008) and Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: plant health of dune grasses	Percentage cover	More than 95% of marram grass (<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>) and/or lymegrass (<i>Leymus arenarius</i>) should be healthy (i.e. green plant parts above ground and flowering heads present)	Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub- communities	Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain the presence of species-poor communities dominated by marram grass (<i>Ammophila</i> <i>arenaria</i>) and/or lyme- grass (<i>Leymus arenarius</i>)	Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage cover	Negative indicator species (including non-natives) to represent less than 5% cover	Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). Negative indicators include non-native species, species indicative of changes in nutrient status and species not considered characteristic of the habitat. Seabuckthorn (<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>) should be absent or effectively controlled. See coastal habitat supporting document for further details

19 Mar 2015 Version 1 Page 11 of 13

2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)

To restore the favourable conservation condition of Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes') in Streedagh Point Dunes SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area increasing, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession. For sub-site mapped: Streedagh Point- 82.44ha. See map 6	Habitat was mapped from a single site during the Coastal Monitoring Project (CMP) (Ryle et al., 2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for furthe details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes. See map 6 for known distribution	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply	Presence/ absence of physical barriers	Maintain the natural circulation of sediment and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	Physical barriers can lead to fossilisation or over- stabilisation of dunes, as well as beach starvation resulting in increased rates of erosion. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: bare ground	Percentage cover	Bare ground should not exceed 10% of fixed dune habitat, subject to natural processes	Based on data from Gaynor (2008) and Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: sward height	Centimetres	Maintain structural variation within sward	Based on data from Gaynor (2008) and Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub- communities	Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain range of sub- communities with typical species listed in Ryle et al. (2009)	Based on data from Gaynor (2008) and Ryle et al. (2009). The habitat supports a typical dune flora. It also supports a population of the Annex II snail species <i>Vertigo angustior</i> . See coastal habitats supporting document and the conservation objective for <i>V. angustior</i> (1014) for further details
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species (including <i>Hippophae</i> <i>rhamnoides</i>)	Percentage cover	Negative indicator species (including non-natives) to represent less than 5% cover	Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). Negative indicators include non-native species, species indicative of changes in nutrient status and species not considered characteristic of the habitat. Seabuckthorn (<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>) should be absent or effectively controlled. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: scrub/trees	Percentage cover	No more than 5% cover or under control	Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details

19 Mar 2015 Version 1 Page 12 of 13

1014 Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail *Vertigo angustior*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail in Streedagh Point Dunes SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Distribution: occupied sites	Number	No decline. Streedagh Dunes can be considered as a single site for this species as the area of habitat is continuous. This overlaps with five 1km squares, G6350, G6450, G6551, G6552 and G6651. See map 7	Vertigo angustior occurs extensively within the SAC and there are confirmed records from the five 1km squares (Moorkens 2007; Moorkens and Killeen 2011) (site code VaCAM14)
Occurrence in suitable habitat	Percentage positive records at a representative number of monitoring stops	No decline. A minimum of 60% positive samples in areas of habitat that are optimal/suboptimal; 20% in areas defined as suboptimal	From Moorkens and Killeen (2011). Positive sample mean the confirmed presence of snails (living or recently dead adults and/or juveniles). See habitat extent target below for definition of optimal and sub-optimal habitat
Optimal soil wetness	Metres along transect; Percentage of representative number of monitoring stops	127.5m of the established monitoring transect assessed as optimal wetness; at least 75% of sampling stops assessed as optimal wetness	Transect established as part of condition assessme monitoring (Moorkens and Killeen, 2011). Optimal wetness also defined by Moorkens and Killeen (2011)
Habitat extent	Hectares	Stable or increasing, subject to natural processes. Area of habitat that is in at least suboptimal condition is at least 105ha	Optimal habitat is defined as either fixed dune, species-rich grassland with vegetation height of 10:30cm and dominated by Festuca rubra, with sparse Ammophila arenaria, Geum verum, Pilosella officinarum, Anacamptis pyramidalis, Plantago lanceolata and other low growing herbs, growing o damp, friable soil covered with a layer of humid, open structured thatch; or, transition marsh with vegetation height of 25-40cm of Iris pseudacorus, Equisetum palustre, Caltha palustris, Lychnis floscuculi, Mentha aquatica with an understorey of moss and litter. Sub-optimal fixed dune habitat is a above but either height is less than 10cm or between 30 and 50cm, or soil is dry and sandy, or thatch is wetter with a denser structure. Sub-optim transition marsh is as above but either vegetation is less than 25cm high or over 50cm, or soil is very wet with pools of standing water, or thatch is wetter with a denser structure (Moorkens and Killeen, 2011)

19 Mar 2015 Version 1 Page 13 of 13

