National Parks and Wildlife Service

Conservation Objectives Series

Dunbeacon Shingle SAC 002280



13 Dec 2017 Version 1 Page 1 of 7



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13 Dec 2017 Version 1 Page 2 of 7

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.

13 Dec 2017 Version 1 Page 3 of 7

Qualifying Interests

* indicates a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive

002280 Dunbeacon Shingle SAC

1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks

13 Dec 2017 Version 1 Page 4 of 7

Supporting documents, relevant reports & publications

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

NPWS Documents

Year: 2017

Title: Survey and assessment of vegetated shingle and associated habitats at 30 coastal sites in

Ireland

Author: Martin, J.R.; Daly, O.H.; Devaney F.M.

Series: Irish Wildlife Manual No. 98

Year: 2017

Title: Dunbeacon Shingle SAC (site code: 2280) Conservation objectives supporting document-

coastal habitats V1

Author: NPWS

Series : Conservation objectives supporting document

13 Dec 2017 Version 1 Page 5 of 7

Spatial data sources

Year: 2017

Title: Vegetated Shingle Monitoring Project

GIS Operations: QI selected; clipped to SAC boundary. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues

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Used For: 1220 (map 2)

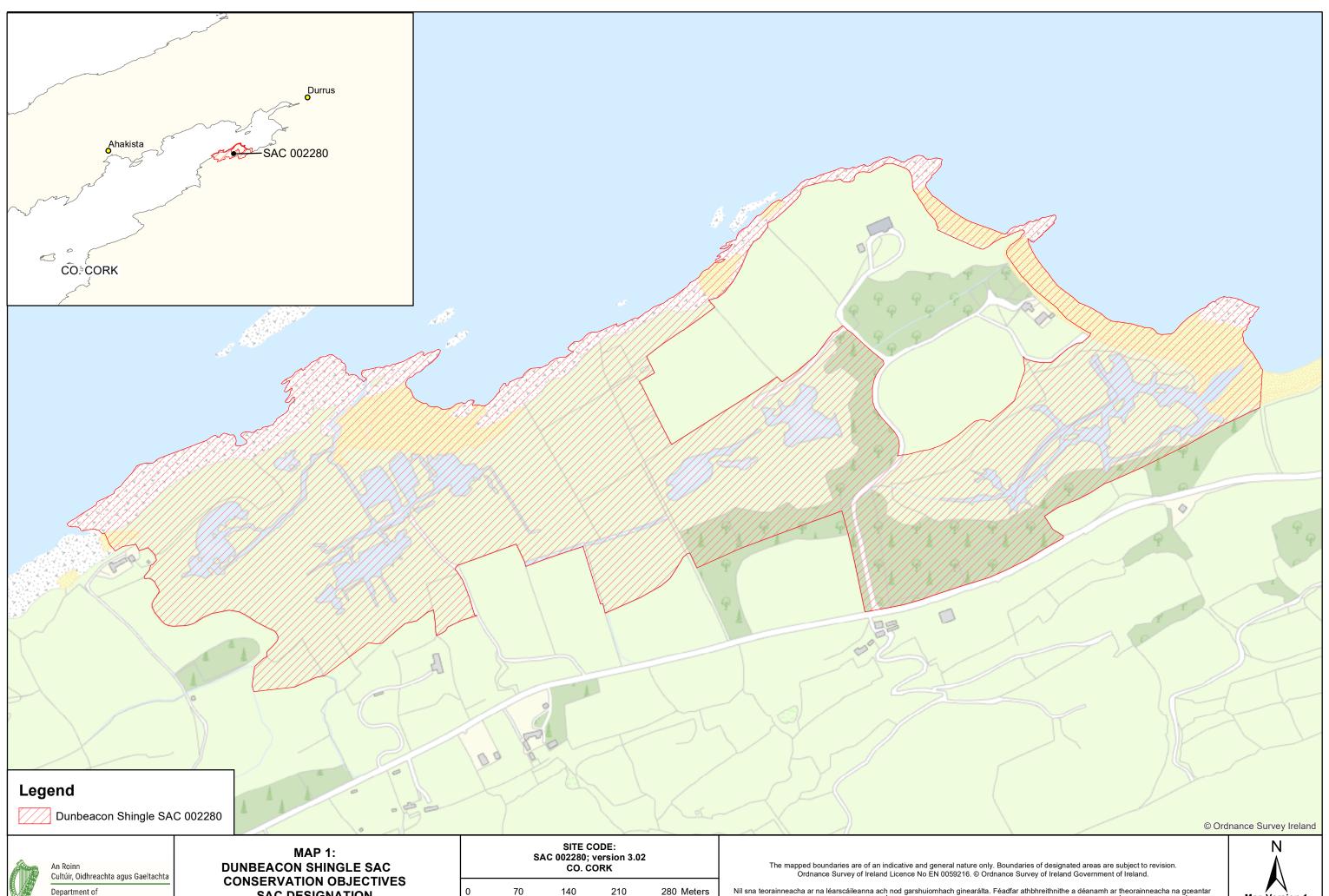
13 Dec 2017 Version 1 Page 6 of 7

Conservation Objectives for: Dunbeacon Shingle SAC [002280]

1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Perennial vegetation of stony banks in Dunbeacon Shingle 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	Based on data from the Vegetated Shingle Monitoring Project (VSM) (Martin et al., 2017). Perennial vegetation of stony banks was surveyed and mapped in the sub-site Rossmore (Dunbeacon) (VSM site code 017) to give a total estimated area of 0.17ha. See the Dunbeacon Shingle SAC conservation objectives supporting document for coastal habitats for further details. It is important to note that further unsurveyed areas of the habitat may be present within the SAC
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession. See map 2 for the distribution recorded by the VSM	Based on data from Martin et al. (2017). The habitat at Rossmore (Dunbeacon) occurs on a vegetated shingle spit on the southern side of Dunmanus Bay. See the coastal habitats supporting document for further details. It is important to note that further unsurveyed areas of the habitat may be present within the SAC
Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply	Presence/absence of physical barriers	Maintain the natural circulation of sediment and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	Based on data from Martin et al. (2017). See the coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: disturbance	Percentage	No more than 20% of the habitat affected by disturbance	Based on data from Martin et al. (2017). Disturbance can include damage from heavy trampling, vehicle damage and removal of substrate. See the 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 Martin et al. (2017). Saltmarsh occurs in association with the vegetated shingle habitat at Rossmore (Dunbeacon). See the coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: communities and typical species	Occurrence	Maintain the typical species within the range of vegetated shingle communities	Based on data from Martin et al. (2017) where information on the vegetated shingle communities and associated typical species lists are presented. See the coastal habitats supporting document for the list of typical species recorded within the pioneer and grassland communities of the habitat at Rossmore (Dunbeacon) during the VSM
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage	Negative indicator species cover in any individual monitoring stop should not be more than 25%; no negative indicator species should be present in more than 60% of monitoring stops	Based on data from Martin et al. (2017) where the list of negative indicator species for the habitat is also presented. Negative indicators include species indicative of changes in nutrient status and species not considered characteristic of the habitat. See the coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: non- native species	Percentage	Non-native species cover in any individual monitoring stop should not be more than 1%; non-native species should not be present in more than 20% of monitoring stops; cover of non-native species across the whole site should not be more than 1%	Based on data from Martin et al. (2017). See the coastal habitats supporting document for further details



Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht SAC DESIGNATION

Map to be read in conjunction with the NPWS Conservation Objectives Document.

140

Níl sna teorainneacha ar na léarscáileanna ach nod garshuiomhach ginearálta. Féadfar athbhreithnithe a déanamh ar theorainneacha na gceantar comharthaithe. Suirbhéarachta Ordonáis na hÉireann Ceadúnas Uimh EN 0059216. © Suirbhéarachta Ordonáis na hÉireann Rialtas na hÉireann.



