

# National Parks and Wildlife Service

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## *Conservation Objectives Series*

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Carlingford Shore SAC 002306



*An Roinn  
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta*  

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*Department of  
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht*



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## 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.

## Qualifying Interests

*\* indicates a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive*

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002306	Carlingford Shore SAC
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1210	Annual vegetation of drift lines
1220	Perennial vegetation of stony banks

**Please note that this SAC overlaps with Carlingford Lough SPA (004078). See map 2. The conservation objectives for this site should be used in conjunction with those for the overlapping site as appropriate.**

## Supporting documents, relevant reports & publications

*Supporting documents, NPWS reports and publications are available for download from: [www.npws.ie/Publications](http://www.npws.ie/Publications)*

### NPWS Documents

<b>Year :</b>	1999
<b>Title :</b>	National Shingle Beach Survey of Ireland 1999
<b>Author :</b>	Moore, D.; Wilson, F.
<b>Series :</b>	Unpublished Report to NPWS
<b>Year :</b>	2009
<b>Title :</b>	Coastal Monitoring Project 2004-2006
<b>Author :</b>	Ryle, T.; Murray, A.; Connolly, C.; Swann, M.
<b>Series :</b>	Unpublished report to NPWS
<b>Year :</b>	2013
<b>Title :</b>	Carlingford Shore SAC (site code 2306) Conservation objectives supporting document- coastal habitats V1
<b>Author :</b>	NPWS
<b>Series :</b>	Conservation objectives supporting document

### Other References

<b>Year :</b>	2008
<b>Title :</b>	The phytosociology and conservation value of Irish sand dunes
<b>Author :</b>	Gaynor, K.
<b>Series :</b>	Unpublished PhD thesis, National University of Ireland, Dublin

## Spatial data sources

**Year :** Revision 2013

**Title :** National Shingle Beach Survey

**GIS Operations :** Clipped to SAC boundary. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising

**Used For :** 1220 (map 3)

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**1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines**

**To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Annual vegetation of drift lines in Carlingford Shore 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, but thought to occur in a mosaic with perennial vegetation of stony banks (1220). Habitat is very difficult to measure in view of its dynamic nature, which means that it can appear and disappear within a site from year to year. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes	Current distribution unknown, but thought to occur in a mosaic with perennial vegetation of stony banks (1220). 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	Accumulation of organic matter in tidal litter is essential for trapping sand. Rock armour is present at Ballagan Point and Greenore. These physical barriers will affect sediment supply. 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	Thought to occur in a mosaic with perennial vegetation of stony banks (1220). 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 with typical species: sea rocket ( <i>Cakile maritima</i> ), sea sandwort ( <i>Honckenya peploides</i> ), prickly saltwort ( <i>Salsola kali</i> ) and orache ( <i>Atriplex</i> spp.)	Based on data from the Coastal Monitoring Project (CMP) (Ryle et al., 2009) and Gaynor (2008). 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	Negative indicators include non-native species, species indicative of changes in nutrient status and species not considered characteristic of the habitat. Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details

## Conservation Objectives for : Carlingford Shore SAC [002306]

### 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks

**To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Perennial vegetation of stony banks in Carlingford Shore 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. Habitat recorded during the National Shingle Beach Survey (NSBS) (Moore and Wilson, 1999) from three sub-sites: Whitestown to Cooley Point, Ballagan Point and Greenore. Although extent was not mapped, these contiguous sites extend for 3.5km along the coastline. Area of vegetated shingle is estimated to cover 130ha. 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 3 for mapped locations	Based on data from Moore and Wilson (1999). Exact current distribution unknown, although the habitat has been recorded along a 3.5km stretch of coastline from Greenore, extending south to Cooley Point (Moore and Wilson, 1999). 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	Based on data from Moore and Wilson (1999). West of Cooley Point there has been a lot of development at Templetown beach, including the installation of a car park. The NSBS noted two areas of coastal defences (rock armour), one in an area south of Ballagan Point and another in an area south of Greenore (approx. 200m in length). A number of tourism-related developments, including a promenade protected with rock armour, have been constructed at Greenore. 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	Based on data from Moore and Wilson (1999). At Ballagan Point the shingle vegetation is backed by cobble-based grassland. Elsewhere along the Carlingford shore, gradations to inland habitats are disrupted by a road. Habitat is thought to occur in a mosaic with annual vegetation of drift lines (1210). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover at a representative sample of monitoring stops	Maintain the typical vegetated shingle flora including the range of sub-communities within the different zones	Based on data from Moore and Wilson (1999). 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 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 further details

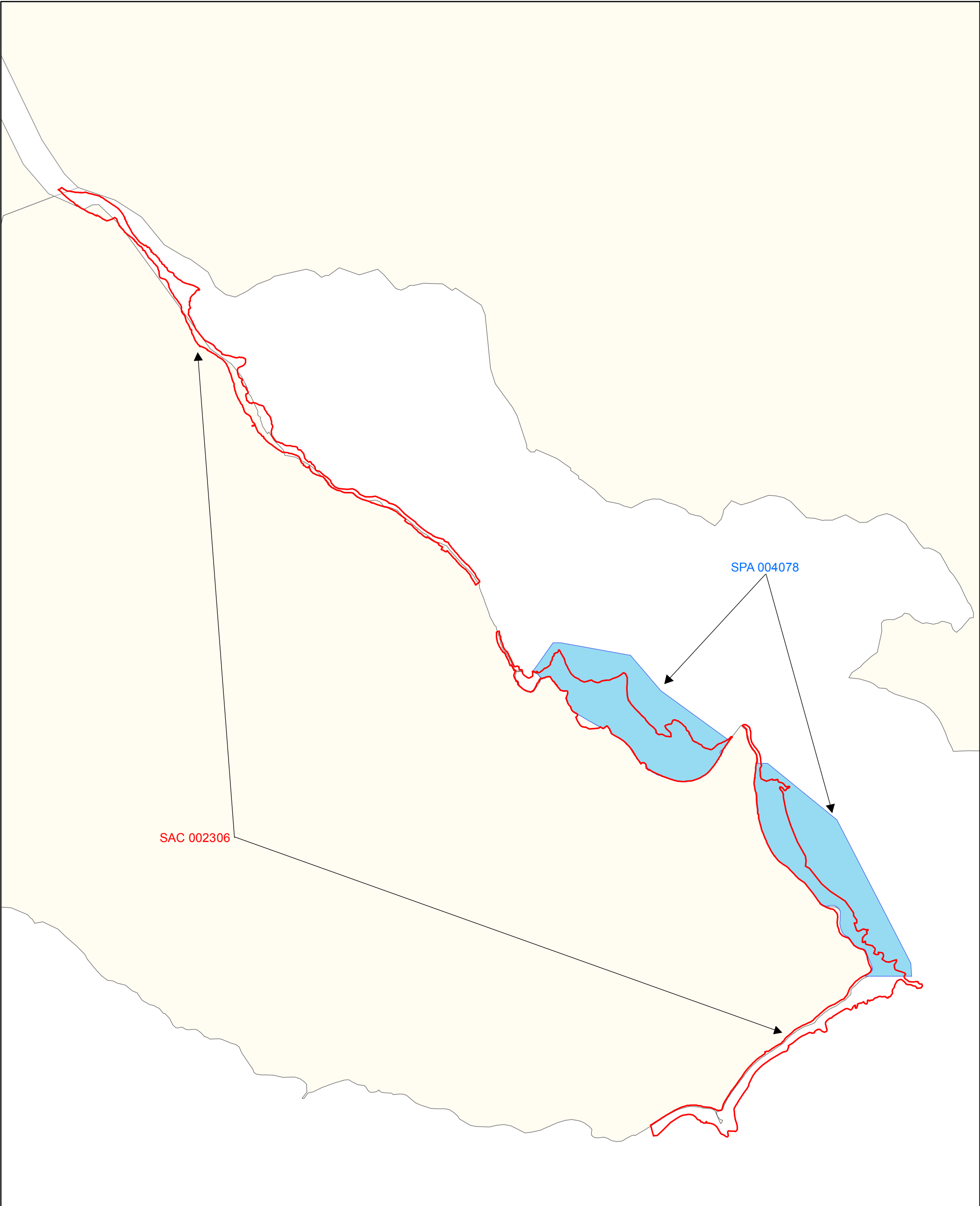







**Legend**

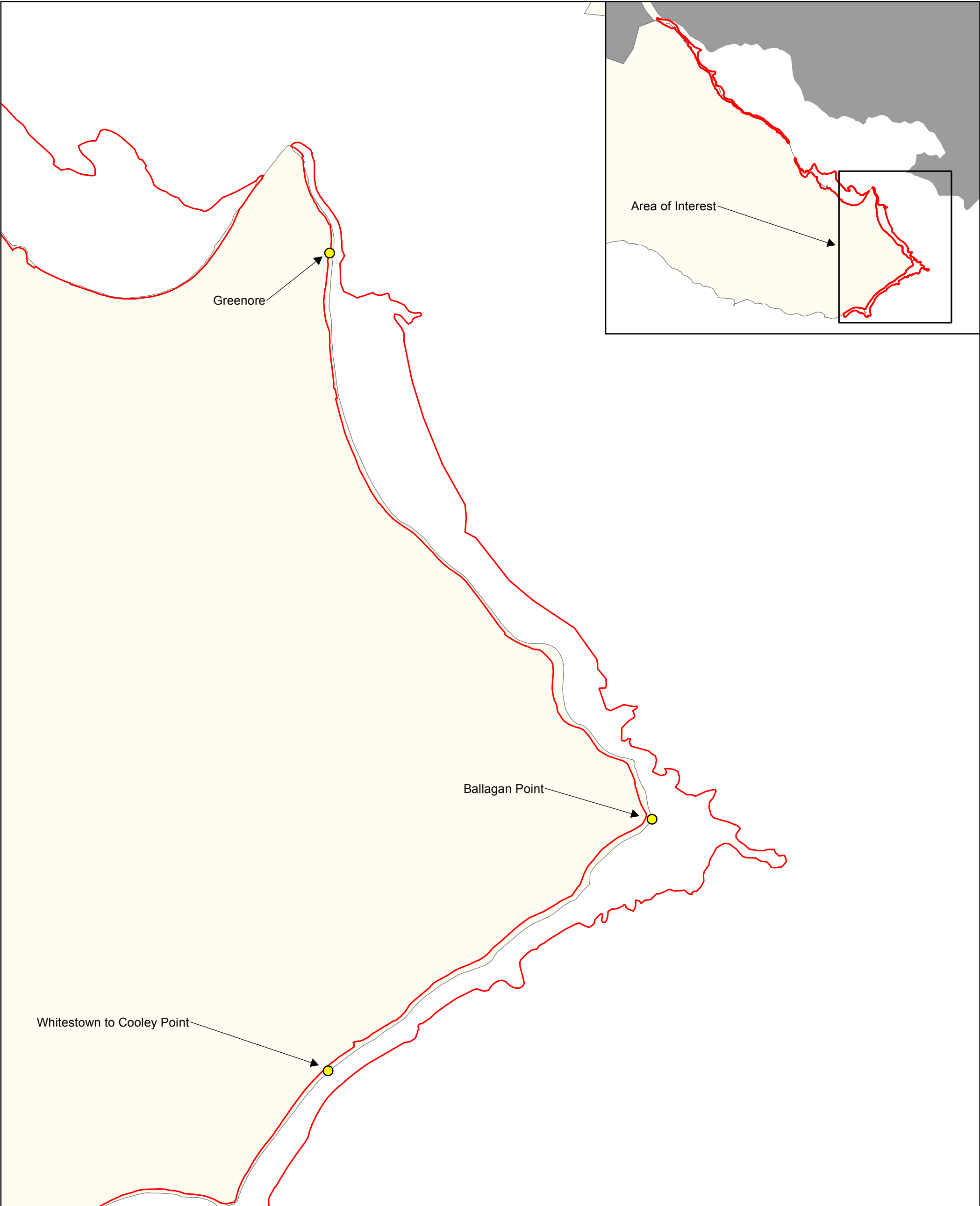
SAC 002306





**Legend**

-  Carlingford Shore SAC 002306
-  Carlingford Lough SPA 004078
-  OSI Discovery Series County Boundaries



**Legend**

- Carlingford Shore SAC 002306
- 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks (National Shingle Beach Survey of Ireland 1999)
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundaries