

Site Name: Clogher Head SAC

Site Code: 001459

Clogher Head is a promontory of Silurian quartzite, located approximately 10 km north-east of Drogheda in Co. Louth. The rocks are covered with a thin layer of soil that, in places, supports a coastal heath community. Areas of sea cliff, bedrock shore and dry grassland also occur within the site.

The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

[1230] Vegetated Sea Cliffs

[4030] Dry Heath

The dry heath at Clogher Head is dominated by Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), Bell Heather (*Erica cinerea*), Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), English Stonecrop (*Sedum anglicum*) and Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*). Other species at the site include Lousewort (*Pedicularis sylvatica*), Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*).

Cliff-top vegetation at the site includes such species as Thrift (*Armeria maritima*), Sea Campion (*Silene vulgaris* subsp. *maritima*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), Buck's-horn Plantain (*Plantago coronopus*), Burnet Rose (*Rosa pimpinellifolia*), amongst others. Spring Squill (*Scilla verna*), Golden-samphire (*Inula crithmoides*), Knotted Clover (*Trifolium striatum*) and Bird's-foot Clover (*Trifolium ornithopodioides*), all scarce plants in Ireland, have also been recorded from the site.

A salt-tolerant community, comprised of Thrift, Common Scurvygrass (*Cochlearia officinalis*), Sea Rush (*Juncus maritimus*) and Distant Sedge (*Carex distans*), occurs along the shore.

The main land use at Clogher Head is sheep grazing. The site is very susceptible to damage from a variety of sources including fire, over-grazing and amenity pressures such as littering and building.

This headland supports one of the best known examples of coastal heath in Co. Louth. It contains two habitats listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive and supports a good diversity of coastal heath plants.