



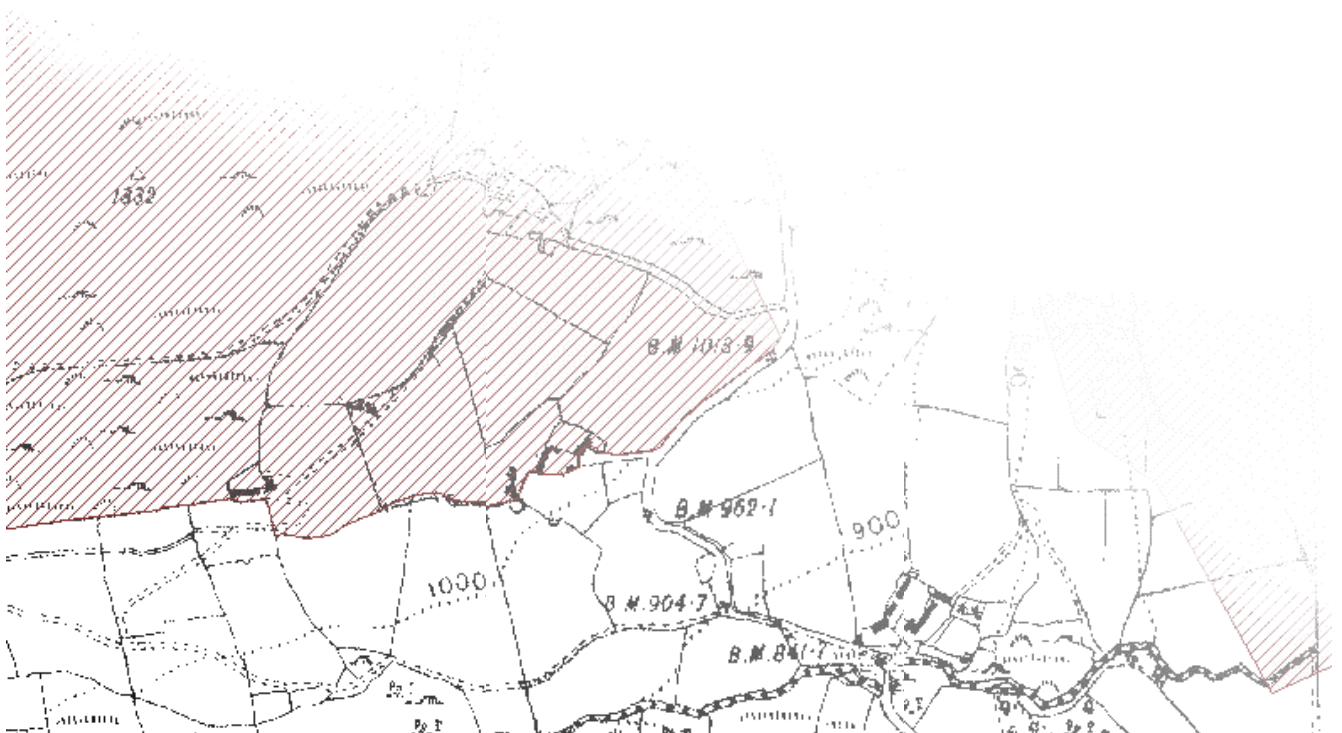
National Parks and Wildlife Service Conservation Plan for 2006-2011



Streedagh Point Dunes cSAC

Site Code 1680

Co. Sligo



SUMMARY

Introduction

Streedagh Point Dunes cSAC has been designated as a candidate Special Area of Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive. The site has been listed due to the presence of one priority habitat as listed on Annex I of the Habitats Directive; Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation) and five other Annex I habitats, comprising a variety of coastal habitats. These are; Atlantic saltmeadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*), Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*), Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide, Perennial vegetation of stony banks and Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (White dunes).

The site hosts the Land Snail *Vertigo angustior*, a species listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive which occurs on dunes within the site.

Description of Streedagh Point Dunes cSAC

Streedagh Point Dunes is a sand dune and estuarine system located approximately 4km west of Grange, Co. Sligo. The site is located immediately south of Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua Mullaghmore cSAC (site code 625).

The site illustrates tombolo formation, with a shingle spit joining Conor's Island to Streedagh Point. The spit is overlain by sand dunes with an estuary occurring behind the tombolo.

The Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation are species rich and contain many small herbs including Wild Pansy, Common Bird's-foot-trefoil, Daisy and Rue-leaved Saxifrage. Localised plants found within the dunes include Bee Orchid, Pyramidal Orchid and Variegated Horsetail. Several dune slacks occur. The sand dunes, which are eroding on the strand side, but accreting behind the tombolo, are dominated by Marram Grass. A typical species on the embryo dunes is Sea Sandwort with Colt's-foot common on the fore dunes.

Another habitat of interest is the estuary, which consists of sand flats with areas of saltmarsh around the margins. The saltmarsh vegetation is characterised by Thrift, Sea Plantain, Red Fescue and Lax-flowered Sea-lavender.

Large fossil rich boulders occur in the beach behind the strand.

Main conservation objectives

- To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; e.g. Fixed Coastal Dunes with Herbaceous Vegetation (18%), Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) (2%), Perennial vegetation of stony banks (2%), Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima*) (2%), Mediterranean salt meadows (2%) and Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (60%)
- To maintain the presence and if possible, enhance the population of the Annex II invertebrate, the Land Snail *Vertigo angustior* within the site
- To maintain the extent, biodiversity and species richness of the site.
- To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities

Main management issues

- Amenity management
- Natural erosion
- Removal of fossils
- Water polluting operations

Main strategies to achieve objectives

- Maintain sustainable grazing régime
- Restrict recreational use of the priority habitat
- Liaison with Local Authority

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READER'S GUIDE

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) has produced this plan to provide ecological information about the site and to outline the main objectives for the conservation of the special features of the site. The purpose of this draft is to provide stakeholders the opportunity to input into the development of the plan.

The **Introduction** section outlines the **policy background** to the site's designation and the relevant legislation.

The **Site Description** section contains **general information** on the site's boundaries and ownership and on the statutory bodies with responsibility for its conservation. It also contains sections on the **physical aspects** of the site such as the geology and hydrology as well as the **biological features**, in particular, the habitats and species found there. **Land use** and cultural features are also described.

The **Conservation Value** section assesses the main ecological attributes of the site.

The **Management Framework** section outlines the management necessary for the conservation of the site. It starts with a set of specific **conservation objectives**. These are followed by the main **management issues** that may impact on the conservation of the site and the **strategies** that are proposed to achieve the conservation objectives. In the final section, the site is divided into management **zones** to indicate where each strategy applies.

The appendices include a **glossary** where scientific and technical terms are explained, **reference material** consulted in the preparation of the plan and a list of **notifiable actions** relevant to each habitat within the site.

By preparing, implementing and reviewing this plan on a five-year basis, DEHLG aims to achieve the objectives of the EU Habitats Directive in relation to this site.

Introduction

Legal Background of Conservation Plans

The legal basis for selection and designation of **Special Areas of Conservation** (SACs) is the **EU Habitats Directive**, which was adopted in 1992. Focusing on the conservation of natural and semi-natural habitats and species of flora and fauna, the Habitats Directive seeks to establish “Natura 2000”, a network of protected areas throughout the European Community. The Habitats Directive includes a list of habitats that require SAC designation and specific conservation measures. This list is known as Annex I and the habitats are referred to as Annex I habitats. On this list, habitats that require special attention because they are in danger of disappearance, are termed ‘priority habitats’. A second list, Annex II in the Habitats Directive comprises species that must be afforded special protection.

In Ireland, the habitats and species that must be afforded protection under the Habitats Directive include:

- 16 Annex I priority habitats that require particular attention – including raised bogs, active blanket bogs, turloughs and machair,
- 45 other Annex I habitats – such as certain types of heaths, lakes and woodlands,
- 25 Annex II species – including Otter, Freshwater Pearl Mussel and Killarney Fern.

It is the responsibility of each member state to designate SACs to protect the Annex I habitats and Annex II species. These sites, together with the **Special Protection Areas** (SPAs) designated under the **EU Birds Directive** (1979), form the European “Natura 2000” network.

The Birds Directive contains annexes, which are lists of birds that require particular conservation measures (Annex I), and also species that may be hunted, and species that may be sold. There are 28 Annex I species regularly occurring in Ireland including Whooper Swan, Greenland White-fronted Goose, Peregrine Falcon, Corncrake and Terns. Member states are also required to protect sites that are important for migratory species such as ducks, geese and waders.

The Habitats Directive was transposed into Irish law through the **European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997**. The **Wildlife Act 1976** is the main statute governing the protection of wildlife in Ireland and was amended in 2000 to take account of European law, particularly the Habitats and Birds Directives. The **Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000** also makes legal provision for the designation and protection of a national network of **Natural Heritage Areas** (NHAs). Over 1,100 proposed NHAs were published in 1995 and almost 400 of these are also selected as candidate SACs.

The European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 include the following points:

The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government must transmit a candidate list of sites to the European Commission for consideration.

Following adoption of this list by the Commission, the Minister will formally designate the sites as SACs.

Sites are legally protected once they are publicly advertised.

Landowners and other users with a legal entitlement should be notified of designation, and the Minister must make all reasonable efforts to do so. Notification also includes a list of activities that may alter, damage, destroy or interfere with the integrity of the site. A person who illegally damages a site may be prosecuted or required to repair damage.

Landowners and other users with a legal entitlement may appeal the designation of lands on scientific grounds, within three months of the designation notification.

Landowners and other users with a legal entitlement will be compensated for actual loss of income arising from restrictions imposed as a result of designation.

DEHLG is the government department with responsibility for the designation and protection of wildlife habitats, species and areas of conservation interest. As part of their responsibility in relation to biodiversity and wildlife under the Wildlife Acts (1976 and 2000), the Minister's brief extends far beyond the habitats and species listed in the annexes of the Habitats and Birds Directives. For this reason, cSAC conservation plans may deal with species that are not mentioned in these annexes.

Reasons for Designation of Streedagh Point Dunes cSAC

HABITATS LISTED IN ANNEX I OF THE EU HABITATS DIRECTIVE	CONSERVATION VALUE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) (EU Habitat Code 2130) 	<p>The species diversity of the fixed dunes is high, particularly in the areas that are subject to moderate levels of grazing. Moss and lichen communities are well represented. Vegetation is fully representative of Irish west coast fixed dunes. These dunes are an excellent representation of this type of habitat.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlantic saltmeadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) (EU Habitat Code 1330) • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritim</i>) (EU Habitat Code 1410) 	<p>Both Atlantic and Mediterranean salt meadows are assessed together as they occur in a mosaic. Salt marshes fringe the estuarine sand flats at a number of locations. The salt marshes at this site are typical of the sandy estuarine type. Both Atlantic and Mediterranean types are well represented.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (EU Habitat Code 1140) 	<p>This fairly extensive area of intertidal flats extends between the mainland and the shingle/sand. The intertidal habitat supports moderate numbers of waterfowl in autumn and winter. These intertidal flats are a good representative of this habitat in north-west Ireland.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perennial vegetation of stony banks (EU Habitat Code 1220) 	<p>This is considered to be a significant example of stony bank vegetation in the north west of Ireland.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (White dunes) (EU Habitat Code 2120) 	<p>Mobile dunes dominated by Marram Grass occur along the entire length of Streedagh Strand. These shifting dunes are good representatives of this habitat type.</p>
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*Denotes Annex I Priority Habitat

SPECIES LISTED IN ANNEX II OF THE EU HABITATS DIRECTIVE	CONSERVATION VALUE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land snail (<i>Vertigo angustior</i>) 	<p>This species generally lives in wet, permanently marshy grassland or amongst wet, mossy sand-dunes, usually in open habitat with no shade. Such conditions are considered well developed at Streedagh. <i>Vertigo angustior</i> occurs in good numbers in the dune slacks behind the back strand.</p>

Implications of Site Designation for Landowners and other Site Users

In most areas designated as cSACs, current practices will not have to change significantly.

In cases where users with a legal entitlement are required to change practices or restrict activities to protect the wildlife interest of the site, compensation will be payable based on actual loss of income. See Appendix VI for further details.

If a user with a legal entitlement wishes to carry out certain activities, not covered by licence or consent from another statutory body, within the designated area, they must consult with, and get consent from, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. These activities are listed as “Notifiable Actions” for each habitat (see Appendix V).

SITE DESCRIPTION

Location Including Site Boundaries

Streedagh Point Dunes is a sand dune and estuary system located approximately 4km west of Grange, a village in Co. Sligo (see Map 1). The site is located immediately south of Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore cSAC (625).

Grid Ref.:	G630510
Latitude:	N 54°24'25"
Longitude:	W 08°32'00"
Area:	630 ha
Altitude Range:	0 m to 25 m
Townlands:	Conor's Island, Dernish Island, Grange, Moneygold and Streedagh.

Site Boundaries

Most of the inland boundary, that is, the southern and most of the eastern boundary, follows the high tide line and is physically demarcated by walls and fences. The most north-eastern corner of the site follows a wall boundary. All of the seaward boundary, that is, the northern and western boundary, follows the low tide mark.

Site Infrastructure

Buildings make up a very small area of the site and consist of farm buildings at Conor's Island and a boathouse at Streedagh Point. A road and a carpark are found within the site. The carpark is adjacent to Streedagh Point. The road meets the car park from the south and forms part of the southern boundary of the site.

Legal Status

Ownership

The area below the mean high water mark is State owned. 69 hectares are under commonage and divided among 10 shareholders and of these; Sligo County Council owns two shares. The remainder of the site is non-commonage private land.

Designations of the Site

candidate Special Area of Conservation	Sitecode IE00001680	Published on 01/03/07
proposed Natural Heritage Area	Sitecode 1680	1995

Government Departments and Agencies

Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG)

DEHLG is the government department with responsibility for the protection and conservation of Ireland's natural heritage.

National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS)

NPWS is the section of the DEHLG responsible for maintaining the nature conservation value of the site. Periodic inspection of the site is carried out by the local Conservation Ranger.

Regional staff also participate in research and survey projects by collecting data on the site, provide advice to planning authorities on the impacts of development applications and provide an education and advisory service to the public (see Appendix IX for further details of NPWS regional staff).

Sligo County Council

Sligo County Council is the planning authority for the site. As such it is obliged to ensure appropriate assessment of the implications of developments requiring planning permission that may have an impact, either individually or in combination with other developments on the designated area.

Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (DCMNR)

The DCMNR is responsible for licensing and regulating fishing, aquaculture, commercial and other development below mean high water; and under Regulation 31 of the EU Natural Habitats Regulations, for ensuring that such activities in the cSAC do not adversely affect it. Monitoring functions are carried out by individual divisions of the department and by the executive agencies under its direction namely the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards, The Marine Institute and an Bórd Iascaigh Mhara.

The Marine Institute

The statutory duties of the Marine Institute include weekly biotoxin monitoring of shellfish for human consumption, chemical monitoring of fish and shellfish in twenty three major shellfish growing areas, sea lice monitoring on marine fish farms and benthic monitoring.

The Central Fisheries Board

The Central Fisheries Board is the statutory body is responsible for the co-ordination and support of the seven regional fisheries boards. Its responsibilities also include the control of commercial salmon licensing.

Local Authority Policy in relation to the Site

Sligo County Council has published a draft County Development Plan for the period 2005-2011. Sections 6 and 7 are specifically relevant to the conservation of designated candidate Special Areas of Conservation and coastal sites.

The plan states that '*Coastal Zone Management aims to achieve a more efficient and sustainable use of the coastal resource*' and that it is an objective to '*ensure that physical development does not detract from the scenic quality of County Sligo's... coastline... landscapes*'.

Stated objectives for nature conservation in coastal areas are to: '*support the management of sites of conservation importance, including ...candidate Special Areas of Conservation..., take into account the potential conservation of all sites of interest within the coastal zone when assessing development proposals and to promote the natural interest of the Sligo Coast as a sustainable tourism, conservation and educational resource*'.

The '*natural environment objectives*' of the County Development Plan are to: '*seek the conservation and wise management of areas of natural environmental value*' and to '*protect, and where possible enhance, plant, animal species and their habitats, which have been identified under the EU Habitats Directive, EU Birds Directive, the Wildlife Act and the Flora Protection Order*'.

Specific objectives for the protection of designated nature conservation sites are to: '*maintain, and where possible enhance, the conservation value of all pNHAs, cSACs and SPAs, as identified by the Minister for the DoEHLG, as well as any other sites that may be proposed for designation during the lifetime of this Plan and to discourage development that would destroy or damage any sites of international or national importance, designated for their wildlife/habitat significance, including pNHAs, cSACs and SPAs*'.

The Plan lists objectives for the management of sensitive sites. These are to: '*apply the precautionary principle in relation to development proposals in sensitive areas of natural heritage value, by requiring a scientific/ecological risk assessment to ensure that the development will not undermine the conservation objectives for these sites*' and to '*work with landowners, the DoEHLG and other stakeholders to contribute to the effective management of sites of natural conservation*'.

Physical Features

Climate

The closest synoptic weather station to the site is the Belmullet station and 30-Year Average information for this station was obtained from the Met Éireann website. The full details are presented in Appendix III. In summary, the mean daily air temperature at the station is 9.6°C, ranging from an average low of 2.9°C in February to an average high of 17.2°C in August. The average annual rainfall is 1142.7 mm, and the average daily duration of sunshine is 3.5 hours. The average wind speed for the site is 13.1 knots. There is an annual average of 18.1 days with snow or sleet recorded for the Belmullet station, but only 2.3 days where snow was still lying on the ground by 9am.

Geology & Geomorphology

The basic underlying geology of the site is limestone (of the Glencar Formation), shale (of the Benbulbin Formation) and sandstone (of the Mullaghmore Formation). These rocks all date from the Carboniferous Period (c. 355 - 310 million years ago) and were formed in the delta of a shallow, muddy sea. This sea was colonised by large corals and brachiopods (lower Palaeozoic invertebrates), whose fossilised remains are locally abundant in exposed rock within the site. Several individual species have been identified within the site including *Solenodendron martini* and *S. irregularare*.

Soils & Soil Processes

Soils on this site are a mixture of gleys, peaty gleys, sand and some brown earth.

The Shingle spit between Conors Island and the main strand is being eroded.

Biological Features

Habitats and Vegetation

Note: Throughout the conservation plan, habitats are named and described under two different systems: the Annex I habitat(s) are as listed in the EU Habitats Interpretation Manual Version 15/2(1999), while all other habitats are as listed according to the classification system of ‘A Guide to Habitats in Ireland’ (Fossitt, 2000).

The following table lists the habitats within the site. The Annex I habitats of the Habitats Directive for which the site was selected are listed, with the relevant Guide to Habitats category also shown. The Annex I priority habitat is marked with an asterisk (*). The Indicative Habitat map for the site is presented in Map 3. The percentage area presented for each habitat type is based on the approximate geographic area of each habitat, as shown in Map 3.

Habitats Found within Streedagh Point Dunes cSAC

ANNEX I HABITAT TYPE	HABITAT CATEGORY	% AREA
*Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) (2130)	Fixed dunes (CD3)	14% (mapped with 2120).
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (White dunes) (2120)	Marram dunes (CD2)	Mapped with 2130 above
Atlantic saltmeadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) (1330)	Upper salt marsh (CM2)	3% (mapped with 1410)
Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) (1410)	Upper salt marsh (CM2)	Mapped with 1330 above.
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (1140)	Muddy sand shores (LS3)/Mud shores (LS4)	50%
Perennial vegetation of stony banks (1220)	Shingle and gravel banks (CB1)	2% (mapped with LR2/LR3)
	Dry calcareous and neutral grassland (GS1)	7%
	Estuary (MW4)/Tidal river (CW2)	6%
	Mixed broadleaved woodland (WD1)	<1%
	Exposed rocky shores (LR2/LR3)	10%
	Reed and large sedge swamps (FS1)	<1%
	Rocky sea cliffs (CS1)	<1%
	Sand shores (LS2)	7%
	Wet grassland (GS4)	1%
	Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)	<1%

Annex I Habitats:

Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) (2130) (14% of total site area or 89ha, mapped with habitat 2120.)

This priority habitat occurs in a mosaic with other sand dune types at Streedagh. The fixed areas are characterised as areas of large sand hills with species rich dune slacks occurring between them. Species present include Daisy (*Bellis perennis*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), Bulbous Buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*), Cornsalad (*Valerianella locusta*), Biting Stonecrop (*Sedum acre*), Wild Pansy (*Viola tricolor* subsp. *curtisii*) and Rue-leaved Saxifrage (*Saxifraga tridactylites*). Mosses present include *Rhytidiadelphus loreus*, *Calliargon cuspidatum*, and *Pseudoscleropodium purum*.

The dune slacks are Sedge rich (*Carex* sp.) with some Rush (*Juncus* sp.) and Variegated Horsetail (*Equisetum variegatum*).

A study of the vegetation of the Fixed Dunes at Streedagh was carried out in 1995 and a detailed list of recorded plants is presented in Appendix IV.

Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (White dunes) (2120) (mapped with 2130 above)

Shifting dunes occur to the seaward side of the *Fixed sand dunes. They are partially stabilised dunes with the characteristic species being Marram Grass (*Ammophila arenaria*). Other species occurring include Sea Sandwort (*Honkenya peploides*), Bladder Campion (*Silene vulgaris*) and a small amount of Sand Couch-grass (*Elymus farctus*).

Atlantic saltmeadows (*Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae*) (1330)

Both Atlantic and Mediterranean salt meadows are described together as they occur in a mosaic.

Saltmarsh habitat at the site comprises very low turf of Thrift (*Armeria maritima*), Sea Plantain (*Plantago maritima*), Sea-milkwort (*Polygala vulgaris*), Lax-flowered Sea-lavender (*Limonium humile*) and Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*) also occur. On drier margins, Sea Rush (*Juncus maritimus*) is abundant.

Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) (1410)

A more extensive area of saltmarsh occurs nearby at Rinroe by the mouth of the Grange River. The vegetation is similar to that found above but has a muddy substrate with more channels lined with dense areas of Sea Rush.

(3% of total site area or 19ha, including both 1330 and 1410 habitats)

A strip of saltmarsh runs along the northern edge of the inner estuary. Species similar to those listed above occur, along with Scurvygrass (*Cochlearia* spp.) and a small amount of Glasswort (*Salicornia* spp.).

Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (1140) (50% of total site area or 313ha)

Areas of mud and sand flats comprise a large proportion of the site. Invertebrates such as Lugworm (*Arenicola marina*) are a food source for waterfowl at the site (Appendix IV).

Perennial vegetation of stony banks (1220) (2% of total site area or 13ha)

This habitat occurs north of Mount Temple House in the south east. It consists of a stony upper shore with vegetation developed upon it. The upper shore has abundant Red Fescue, Common Scurvygrass (*Cochlearia officinalis*), Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) and Silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*). Below this zone, a zone with more maritime species occurs with Sea-milkwort, Sea Rush, Sea Aster (*Aster tripolium*), Common Sea-lavender (*Limonium vulgare*), Sea Plantain and Thrift. This zone is quite saltmarsh-like in character. A lower zone of brown algae occurs and includes Channel Wrack (*Pelvetia canaliculata*), Serrated Wrack (*Fucus serratus*), Spiral Wrack (*Fucus spiralis*) and Egg Wrack (*Ascophyllum nodosum*).



View of Backstrand and Sandhills showing the following habitats: sand shore, rocky shore, mosaic of *Fixed and embryonic/Marram dunes, Upper saltmarsh and Mud and Sand flats (NPWS, 2005).

Other Habitats:

Exposed rocky shores (LR1/LR2/LR3)

This habitat occurs at various locations within the site. At Conor's Island, the upper zone is dominated by Channel Wrack. Seaweed species (*Fucus* spp.) occur on the rocks and include Spiral Wrack and Bladder Wrack (*Fucus vesiculosus*). Below this, Egg Wrack, typically colonised by *Polysiphonia lanosa*, is dominant. Silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*) is common in the splash zone.

This habitat also takes the form of exposed boulder and bedrock shore at Conor's Island, backed by 3m high loose cliffs of angular boulders in a sand / soil mixture.

Rocky shore divides the sand shore at Back Strand from the adjacent sand dunes.

Dry calcareous and neutral grassland (GS1)

An example of this habitat type occurs at Rinnablonick, and consists of closely grazed, dry coastal grassland. These are old fields with the lazy-bed pattern still visible. They were included in the site because parts are very species rich and provide a contrast to the more coarse grassland of the dunes. The dominant grasses are Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Red Fescue and Bent species. Herbs present include Daisy, Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Bulbous Buttercup, Ribwort Plantain, Common Bird's-foot-trefoil, Clover species, Orchid species, Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*) and Wild Carrot. Field Wood-rush, Glaucous Sedge (*Carex flacca*), *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus* and some Marram Grass are present. Some nutrient enrichment in this area is indicated by the presence of Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Thistle species in places.

Similar vegetation occurs at Dernish Island where the habitat consists of low-lying sand dunes and coastal grassland areas.

Dry grassland also occurs at Conor's Island and consists of coastal grassland dominated by Red Fescue and Bent species. The land is undulating and hummocky, with areas of bare sand where there is much rabbit and sheep use. Common species present are Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), Buck's-horn Plantain (*Plantago coronopus*), Scurvygrass species, Daisy, Thrift, Mouse-ear species and Clover species. The sward is very short and heavily grazed by sheep.

The final area of this habitat type occurs near Streedagh Point. This area is characterised as coastal grassland dominated by Red Fescue and Bent species with a mixture of herbs including Violet (*Viola spp.*) species, Primrose, Common Bird's-foot-trefoil, Ribwort Plantain, Buck's-horn Plantain, Bulbous Buttercup and Clover species. The most common moss is *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*. Some nutrient enrichment is indicated by the presence of Ragwort and Thistle species.

Sand shores (LS2)

The beach at Trawgar consists of a sandy beach with some stony areas. Large quantities of seaweeds are washed up here and kelp rods are collected from the beach.

A larger area of this habitat occurs between Streedagh Point and Conor's Island. This consists of a long, shallow sloping beach backed by a rocky shore that is, in turn, backed by sand dunes with an eroding face. The boulders are rich in fossils.

Estuary (MW4)/Tidal river (CW2)

This habitat comprises the tidal river channel of the River Grange that becomes an estuarine channel and meanders its way through the sand and mud flat areas of the site.

Wet grassland (GS4)

This habitat occurs at three locations within the site. The first area of this habitat type is at Moneygold, which consists of wet grassland occasionally inundated by the sea and with some freshwater flushes occurring. Species in the very wet flushed areas include Common Scurvygrass, Yellow Iris, Bulbous Buttercup, Sweet Grass (*Glyceria*) species, Brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*), Marsh-marigold, Wild Celery (*Apium graveolens*), Fool's Water-cress (*Apium nodiflorum*), Pondweed species (*Potamogeton spp.*), Ivy leaved crowfoot (*Ranunculus hederaceus*) and Many-flowered Bog Cotton (*Eriophorum angustifolium*). Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*) and Common Reed occur in clumps around the margins of the wettest areas.

The other two locations of this habitat type occur at two separate areas at Streedagh Point. These comprise damp Sedge rich grassland tending to heath. Species indicating the damp nature of this habitat include Lesser Spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*) and Bog Pimpernel (*Anagallis tenella*). Glaucous Sedge and Black Sedge occur with Field Wood-rush, Daisy, Buck's-horn Plantain and Creeping Buttercup, Ling Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) occurs in the drier areas. There is some erosion on the ridge, revealing thin peat cover over rock. Primrose is also a frequent component of the sward along with Sheep's Fescue (*Festuca ovina*).

Mixed broadleaved woodland (WD1)	This habitat occurs within the site near Mount Temple House. It consists of wet, broad-leaved woodland containing both native and exotic species. Species recorded include Alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>), Blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>) and abundant Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>). The ground flora is characteristic of wetland areas with much Creeping Bent Grass, Meadowsweet, Yellow Iris and Marsh-marigold (<i>Caltha palustris</i>). Small areas of much drier ground occur and these have a dense cover of Bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scriptus</i>) and Primrose.
Reed and large sedge swamps (FS1)	This is a very small area of the site at the mouth of the Grange River, consisting of a reedbed of Common Reed (<i>Phragmites australis</i>).
Rocky sea cliffs (CS1)	This habitat occurs at Moneygold, and consists of sea cliffs of soft, crumbly, sedimentary rocks approximately 18-20 feet high. It is vegetated on ledges and less steep areas. Species occurring here include Red Fescue, Thrift and Sea Plantain.
Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)	Buildings make up a very small area of the site and consist of farm buildings at Conor's Island and a boathouse at Streedagh Point. A road and a carpark lie within the site boundary.

Notable Flora:

Higher Plants

There are several plants of interest occurring within the site. Variegated Horsetail (*Equisetum variegatum*) and Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*) are rare outside central areas of the country and Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera*) is rare throughout Ireland (Webb *et al.*, 1996).

Fauna:

Invertebrates

The Annex II invertebrate species, the Land Snail *Vertigo angustior*, occurs on dunes within the site. Living specimens of *V. angustior* were found in a sand dune hollow behind the back strand. *Pupilla muscorum*, a scarce mollusc occurs at this site and is noteworthy (Moorkens 1997). The local Dingy Skipper butterfly (*Erynnis tages* subsp. *tages*) has been recorded at this site.

Birds

Regular winter bird counts carried out on Streedagh Estuary by local NPWS staff, have recorded a diverse range of waterfowl. A summary of bird species recorded in 2002 is presented in Appendix IV.

Five species listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive have been recorded at Streedagh Estuary. These are Red-throated diver (*Gavia stellata*), Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) (both recorded in 2001), Great northern diver (*Gavia immer*), Golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) and Bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*). Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) was also recorded. This species is identified on the Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland (Newton *et al.*, 1999). Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) regularly hunt over the site.

Mammals

The sand dunes are grazed by a large Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) population. Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) has been recorded in the site. Common seals (*Phoca vitulina*) haul out on the mud and sandflats south of Rinnablonick. Grey seals (*Halichoerus grypus*) have also been recorded in this

area. Otter (*Lutra lutra*) has been recorded in the site. Common and Grey seals and Otter are listed in Annex II of the Habitats Directive.

Land Use

Land use on the site

Agriculture The main use of the site is for cattle grazing. It would appear that this grazing is maintaining the diversity of grassland communities in places. Some areas of the site appear to be suffering from poaching damage, although this is localised in extent. There are parts at the north end of Conor's Island which are damaged from cattle use.

12% of the site is under commonage. The impacts of grazing on the commonage areas of this site have been assessed by the CFP. The relevant commonage agricultural units are SL6A, SL6B and SL6J. The findings of these plans are reflected in the Management Strategies and zoning sections of this Conservation Plan (pages 24-26) and presented in the Management Zoning Map (Map 4).

Amenity management Sligo County Council has provided a car park adjacent to Streedagh Point and employs a Life Guard at the beach during summer months.

Kelp collection There is some small scale collection of the kelp cords which wash up along the beach on the western shores of Streedagh Point.

Recreation The area is a popular tourist site. The area to the rear of the beach is heavily used by caravans and campers during the summer months. There are no facilities for this unauthorised activity present on the site and access is via the mudflats. This activity is causing damage to dune and saltmarsh habitats in this area.

Horse riding occurs throughout the site and is currently unregulated. The horse riding occurs both in areas of priority habitat and on mud and sand flats within the site. It mostly occurs during the summer months. An agreement has been made with one horse-riding establishment to limit horse-riding activity to beach areas only, thus avoiding sensitive dune and saltmarsh habitats.

Sligo County Council Beach Bye-Laws 2000 regulate recreational activities on the beach and adjacent dunes (see Appendix VIII).

Land use adjacent to the site

Agriculture Agricultural usage adjacent to the site is of a similar nature to that occurring within the site, that is, cattle grazing.

Residential A number of residential houses excluded from the site in the west.

Past human use

Past agricultural use of the site was of a similar nature to that which occurs at present, i.e. grazing. Sand removal has occurred in the past, as recently as 2002. A bag net fishery operation was in place adjacent to the boathouse. This is now discontinued.

Recorded Monuments and Other Features

The site contains seven recorded monuments. These are listed below:

MONUMENT NO.	DESCRIPTION	NAT. GRID	TOWNLAND
SL002-02701	Enclosure	16689/35295	Conor's Island
SL002-02702	Mound	16688/35297	Conor's Island
SL002-034	Standing Stone (pair)	16644/35276	Conor's Island
SL002-03501	Kelp Drying Kiln	16661/35286	Conor's Island
SL005-017	Wedge-tomb	16290/35041	Streedagh
SL005-018	Midden	16307/35031	Streedagh
SL005-019	Ringfort (Rath/Cashel)	16331/34992	Streedagh

CONSERVATION VALUE OF STREEDAGH POINT DUNES cSAC

The site comprises a complex of coastal habitats listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive and supports a wide range of vegetation communities and plant species. Six habitats found on the site are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive; the presence of Fixed dunes, a habitat given priority status on this Annex, is of particular note.

The site is important for the presence of the rare snail, *Vertigo angustior*, an Annex II species. The diversity of habitats supports a range of wintering waterfowl, that add to the significance of the site. Common Seals haul out on sand banks in the site and Grey Seals have also been noted in the area. The Dingy Skipper butterfly has been recorded.

The geological interest of Streedagh Point enhances its overall importance; Streedagh Point clearly illustrates the carboniferous stratigraphy of the area.

The area is a popular tourist beach in north county Sligo and is of considerable scenic value. The views north of the site towards Mullaghmore and east towards Ben Bulbin are particularly scenic.

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Conservation Objectives

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain at favourable conservation status areas designated as candidate Special Areas of Conservation. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

According to the EU Habitats Directive, favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and
- the ecological factors that 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 as defined below.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced or 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.

Objective 1: To maintain the Annex 1 habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; e.g. Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (14%), Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (White dunes) (mapped with Fixed coastal dunes), Perennial vegetation of stony banks (2%), Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima*) (3%), Mediterranean salt meadows (mapped with Atlantic salt meadows) and Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (50%)

Objective 2: To maintain the favourable conservation status of the Annex II invertebrate, the Land Snail *Vertigo angustior* within the site

Objective 3: To maintain the extent, biodiversity and species richness of the site.

Objective 4: To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities

Management Issues

The following management issues have been identified for the site:

- **Amenity management**
- **Natural erosion**
- **Removal of fossils**
- **Water polluting operations**

Amenity management

The major amenity use of the site is the presence of vehicles such as cars, camper vans and Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs) parked in the dunes along the beach. Caravans are also sometimes parked in the dunes in summer months. Saltmarsh and dune vegetation has been damaged by this traffic. There are also problems with people camping, lighting camp fires and littering.

There is pedestrian damage to the dune system, particularly in the immediate vicinity of the car park. Horse riders make use of the beach, dunes and mudflats.

Natural erosion

The dunes within the site are being eroded by the action of the sea. The inter-tidal areas and sand and mudflats are being changed by the normal action of the tides. The shingle spit which links Conor's Island to the beach appears to have been washed away and it appears certain that the remaining sandy areas connecting the island to the beach will be washed away.

Removal of fossils

The rocks at Streedagh Point contain many fossil remains. This area is proposed for designation as a geological NHA. There have been instances of fossil theft from the area.

Water polluting operations

Sewage effluent is being emitted from an uncontrolled source adjacent to the site.

General Strategies

Specific strategies that relate to the above objectives are outlined below. However, there are a number of strategies that relate to the site as a whole. These are as follows:

Implement plan

DEHLG will seek to ensure that the aims of this conservation plan are achieved through:

- liaison with the landowners, relevant authorities and interested parties.
- implementation of REPS or DEHLG farm plans, which will use this document as a guideline for prescribing management on a farm by farm basis, and also will ensure that the agreed prescriptions for the relevant habitats are adhered to
- enforcement of Regulations under the Habitats/Birds Directives and the Wildlife Acts.
- enforcement of other relevant legislation such as the Water Framework Directive.

Establish a monitoring regime

The monitoring regime for the site will comprise:

Scientific monitoring Monitoring of the conservation status of the Annex I habitats and Annex II species will be done by, or on behalf of, the staff of the Monitoring Section of the NPWS or staff working to NPWS in accordance with the procedures laid down by that section.

Protocols for monitoring Streedagh Point Dunes cSAC will be developed, in consultation with other agencies where appropriate, to determine if the site is being maintained at favourable conservation status.

Site surveillance Regular inspection of the site by the NPWS staff, with special attention to the annexed habitats and species will identify any major changes, damaging operations, or threats should they arise.

Enforce notifiable actions

Certain activities may be restricted in SACs. Notifiable Actions for particular habitats and species are listed in Appendix V of this plan. Consent from the Minister may be required before these actions may be carried out within the designated area or example removal of soil, mud, gravel, sand or minerals is a notifiable action.

Specific Strategies

Objective 1.

To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (14%), Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (White dunes) (mapped with Fixed coastal dunes), Perennial vegetation of stony banks (2%), Atlantic salt meadows (*Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima*) (3%), Mediterranean salt meadows (mapped with Atlantic salt meadows) and Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (50%):

Strategies:

- 1.1. Control recreational use** The main mechanism for controlling recreational use on the dunes and other habitats adjacent to the beach are the Sligo County Council Beach Bye-Laws (2000) (see Appendix VIII). NPWS will liaise with the County Council as necessary to ensure that these are enforced.
- 1.2. Manage grazing on commonage** The impacts of grazing on commonage areas of the site have been assessed by the Commonage Framework Planning Project (Commonage Plan (CP) SL6). This plan recommends de-stocking rates in areas that have been damaged by over-grazing. These rates will be incorporated into REPS plans and/or farm plans produced by NPWS for each farm and must be achieved within an agreed timescale from the beginning of the REPS/farm planning period.
- If the CP specifies a de-stocking level of less than 10%, then no de-stocking is required. If the CP specifies a de-stocking of more than 10%, then de-stocking should occur as indicated. The relevant CP (i.e. SL6) recommends de-stocking rates of between 0-65%, depending on the agricultural unit (i.e. the single stockproof area of the land) concerned. The individual CP should be consulted for further details.
- The Zoning map (Map 4) reflects the findings of the CP assessments and these are specified in the prescriptions for each individual zone.
- 1.3. Assess grazing on non-commonage** For non-commonage land, NPWS will seek to ensure that sustainable grazing levels are maintained/established via REPS and NPWS farm plans, using similar methodology applied to commonage areas (see strategy 1.2.).

Objective 2.

To maintain the favourable conservation status of the Annex II invertebrate, the Land Snail *Vertigo angustior* within the site:

Strategies:

2.1. Maintain presence of *Vertigo angustior* within the site

The population of the Annex II invertebrate will be maintained through appropriate habitat management (Strategies 1.1-1.3).

The redistribution of large stones among the dune slacks will improve the microhabitat diversity in these areas for Mollusca, particularly *V. angustior*.

NPWS will liaise with Sligo County Council to ensure enforcement of Byelaws relevant to the site.

Objective 3.

To maintain the extent, biodiversity and species richness of the site:

Strategies:

3.1. Implement Commonage Framework Plans, Farm Plans and REPS Plans.

Strategies 1.2 and 1.3 also apply to the habitats not listed on Annex I of the Habitats Directive that are found at the site.

NPWS will continue winter bird counts.

Objective 4.

To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities:

Strategies:

4.1. Liaise with interested parties

NPWS will strive to initiate and maintain effective liaison with landowners, legal users, relevant authorities and interested parties on achieving the objectives for conservation of the site. Byelaw enforcement by Sligo County Council is considered essential for the protection of the site.

4.2. Liaise with REPS planners

REPS planners should consult with local NPWS staff when they are developing plans for land within the site.

Zoning

Note: Zoning is the division of a nature conservation site and neighbouring areas into a number of sub-units. Four types of zones are identified (not necessarily all occurring within a site): A, B and C are zone types within the site. D is a zone type outside the site where activities may have an impact on the site. The relevant strategies are listed for each site.

Zone A: A Natural Zone

Areas of high conservation value, that require no or little management intervention.

1A: NON-INTERVENTION AREAS

1A1: Exposed rocky shores, Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide, Eed and large sedge swamps, Rocky sea cliffs, Sand shores, Shingle and gravel banks/shores, Tidal river/estuary and Upper salt marsh.

Strategies 1.1-1.3, 4.1, 4.2 and the General Strategies apply.

2A: MAINTENANCE AREAS WITH LIMITED MANAGEMENT INTERVENTION

2A1: *Fixed dunes/Marram dunes mosaic and Dry calcareous and neutral grassland (commonage, agricultural units SL6A and SL6B).

These areas have been identified in the Commonage Framework Plan as being undamaged (category U and MU). See Commonage Framework Plans for further details. Strategies 1.1-1.3, 4.1 and 4.2 and the General Strategies apply.

Zone B: Active Management

Areas of high conservation value where high management input is needed to maintain, rehabilitate, restore to a more desirable state.

B1: *Fixed dunes/Marram dunes mosaic, Dry calcareous neutral grassland and Wet grassland (commonage, agricultural units SL6J).

These areas have been identified in the Commonage Framework Plan as being moderately damaged (category M) and requiring stock reductions. Strategies 1.1-1.3, 2.1, 4.1, 4.2 and the General Strategies apply.

B2: *Fixed dunes/Marram dunes mosaic, Dry calcareous neutral grassland and Wet grassland (non-commonage).

Grazing assessments are required for these privately owned areas. Strategies 1.1-1.3, 2.1, 4.1, 4.2 and the General Strategies apply.

Zone C: Intensive use Zone

Intensively used areas/infrastructure, which form an integral part of a nature conservation site.

C1: Carpark

Strategies 4.1, 4.2 and the General Strategies apply.

C2: Building

Strategies 4.1, 4.2 and the General Strategies apply.

C3: Road/Track

Strategies 4.1, 4.2 and the General Strategies apply.

Zone D: Impact Zone

Areas outside the site where activities may have an impact on the site.

D1: Water pollution from various locations outside the site

Strategies 4.1, 4.2 and the General Strategies apply.

Summary of Specific Strategies

Note: It is implicit with all the strategies presented that their implementation is dependent on availability of adequate resources in terms of staff, expertise and financial resources. Also, that cooperation with landowners and other key stakeholders is key to achieving the stated objectives.

	Strategy	Action required	Who to implement	When/Duration/Frequency	Estimated Total Cost	Additional Resources needed
1.1	Control recreational use	Vehicles (other than farm machinery) and horse riding to be prohibited within priority habitat. Installation of boulders to prevent vehicular access.	NPWS			
1.2	Manage grazing on commonage	Destocking levels identified in Commonage Plan to be implemented.	NPWS/REPS			
1.3	Assess grazing on non-commonage	Establish/maintain sustainable grazing levels via farm plans	NPWS/REPS			
2.1	Maintain presence of <i>Vertigo angustior</i> within site	Appropriate habitat management Enforcement of relevant legislation	NPWS NPWS/Sligo Co. Co.			
3.1	Maintain site as winter feeding ground for Annex I bird species	Appropriate habitat management	NPWS			
4.1	Liaise with interested parties	Initiate and maintain liaison with stakeholders	NPWS			
4.2	Liaise with REPS Planners	Consultation with NPWS staff	REPS			

APPENDIX I: GLOSSARY

ALTITUDE – Vertical height above sea level.

ANNEX I – of the EU Birds Directive, lists birds that are strictly protected so that they cannot be killed, captured, disturbed or traded.

ANNEX I – of the EU Habitats Directive, lists habitats including priority habitats for which SACs have to be designated.

ANNUAL VEGETATION OF DRIFT LINES – A habitat listed in Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. Formations of annuals or, representatives of annuals or perennials, occupying accumulations of drift material and gravels rich in nitrogenous organic matter.

AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT – Rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, springs and features that depend on natural waters e.g. marsh, bogs and wetlands.

ARABLE LAND – Farmland that includes all areas growing cereals or other crops, ploughed and planted annually.

BIODIVERSITY – A general term used to describe all aspects of biological diversity, including: the number of species present in a given environment; the genetic diversity present within a species; the number of different ecosystems present within a given environment.

BIRDS DIRECTIVE (Council Directive 79/ 409/ 2nd April 1979) – Under this Directive Ireland is required to conserve the habitats of two categories of wild birds: 1) Listed rare and vulnerable species and 2) Regularly occurring migratory species. The Directive also obliges Ireland to conserve wetlands, especially those of international importance and regulates the hunting and trading of wildbirds. It was transposed into Irish legislation by the EU (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997.

BoCCI – Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland. BirdWatch Ireland and RSPB Northern Ireland have agreed a list of priority bird species for conservation action on the island of Ireland. This list is divided into Red List (High Conservation concern), Amber List (Medium) and Green List (Not threatened).

COMMONAGE – An area of land which are undivided but are owned by more than one person / or the rights to use the land are owned by more than one person.

COMMUNITY – a well-defined assemblage of plants and/or animals, clearly distinguishable from other such assemblages.

CONSERVATION STATUS – The sum of the influences acting on a habitat and its typical species that may affect its long term distribution, structure and functions. Also refers to the long-term survival of its typical species within the European territory of the Member States.

DEHLG – Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

DEVELOPMENT PLANS – Local Authorities (Co. Councils & Corporations) are obliged under statute to produce a document which sets out the planned development of their areas for a given number of years. In the future Local Authorities will be asked to incorporate designated NHAs, SACs and SPAs classifications into their development plans.

DIVERSITY – see biodiversity.

DCMNR – Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources

ECOLOGY – The study of the interactions between organisms, and their physical, chemical and biological environment.

ENVIRONMENT – The biological and physical conditions in which an organism lives.

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency

EROSION – The processes whereby the materials of the Earth's crust are dissolved, or worn away and simultaneously moved from one place to another by natural agencies which include weathering, solution, corrosion and transportation.

EUROPEAN BIRDS DIRECTIVE (79/ 409/ 2nd April 1979) – See Birds Directive.

FACILITATOR – A person who, in consultation with others, assists NPWS staff in the production of a conservation or management plan.

FAUNA – Animal life.

FIXED DUNES WITH HERBACEOUS VEGETATION – A priority habitat listed in Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. These are static dunes, stabilised and colonised by more or less closed perennial grasslands and abundant carpets of lichens and mosses.

FLORA – plant life.

FORESHORE – That part of the shore below the high water. The foreshore is in most cases owned by the State.

FORMATION – A geological term for a body of rocks having easily recognised boundaries that can be traced in the field, and large enough to be represented on a geological map as a practical and convenient unit for mapping and description.

GEOMORPHOLOGY – The study of the form and structure of the landscape, which is shaped by the underlying geology.

GLEYS – A major soil group characteristically affected by periodic or permanent saturation by water in the absence of effective artificial drainage. Tends to be a grey or grey and brown mottled soil layer. Some varieties exhibit a distinct peaty topsoil overlaying the grey layer.

HABITAT – Refers to the environment defined by specific abiotic and biotic factors, in which a species lives at any stage of its biological cycle. In general terms it is a species home. In the Habitats Directive this term is used more loosely to mean plant communities and areas to be given protection.

HABITATS DIRECTIVE – (Council Directive 92/43/EEC). The Directive on the conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna. This Directive seeks to legally protect wildlife and its habitats. . It was transposed into Irish legislation by the EU (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997.

HYDROLOGY – The movement of water through a catchment area including freshwater and seawater inputs, water level changes and drainage mechanisms which are all influenced by the underlying geology.

I-WeBS – Irish Wetland Bird Survey, published by Birdwatch Ireland, summarises winter waterfowl counts from 923 sites in the Republic of Ireland.

INVERTEBRATES – Animals without backbones.

IUCN – World Conservation Union

LATITUDE – The angular distance measured in degrees north or south of the equator.

LAZY BED – Term used by archaeologists to describe a method of arable cultivation adopted in parts of Britain from the post-Roman period until the post-medieval period.

LOCAL – A term used in ecology which is applied to distribution of species when assessed on a national grid reference system. The assessment is made on the basis of the number of occupied 10 km National Grid squares. Local applies to 26-75, 10 km squares in this context.

MANAGEMENT – a) Controlling processes within a site (this can be actively carrying out work or can be doing nothing), preferably in accordance with a conservation plan. – b) The practical implementation of the management plan. – c) Undertaking any task or project identified in the management plan, including the identification of new opportunities.

MARINE – Found in, or relating to the sea.

MARITIME – Relating to, or near the sea.

MONITORING – A repeat or repeats of a survey using the same methodology. Designed to look for or measure specific changes and the rate or extent of change. Used to check the “health” quantity or quality of a habitat or species.

MOSAIC – Used to describe habitats that occur together and cannot easily be mapped separately.

MULTIPLE PRIVATE OWNERSHIP- Lands that are divided into areas which are privately owned. There must be more than one private landowner under this heading. (lands in commonage are not described under this heading).

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (NPWS) – the section of the Environment Infrastructure and Services division of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government with responsibility for nature conservation and implementation of Government conservation policy as enunciated by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

NATURA 2000 – A network of sites across the European Community, selected for the purpose of conserving natural habitats and species of plants and animals which are rare, endangered or vulnerable in the European Community. SACs and SPAs form the Natura 2000 network.

NATURAL HABITAT – Can be aquatic or terrestrial areas distinguished by geographic, abiotic and biotic features, whether entirely natural or semi-natural.

NHAs – Proposed Natural Heritage Areas. These are areas that are important for wildlife conservation. Some of these sites are small, such as roosting areas for rare bats; others can be large such as a blanket bog or a sand dune system.

NOTABLE SPECIES – Plants or animals which are worthy of mentioning either because they are particularly typical of a habitat, or because they are rare/ scarce/ atypical.

NOTIFIABLE ACTIONS – Actions specified under the cSAC regulations and are listed in the appendices of a conservation plan. These are actions which could cause damage to the site, and for which prior approval is required before they can be carried out.

NPWS – National Parks and Wildlife Service

NRFB – Northern Region Fisheries Board.

ORGANISM – Any living thing.

OS – Ordnance Survey

PATROL MONITORING – Regular monitoring of a site usually carried out by the Conservation Ranger to check for damaging activities and to carry out other activities such as to assess the vegetation, to assess the effectiveness of the management regime on the condition of the site, etc.

PERENNIAL – Referring to plants that live for two years at least.

PERENNIAL VEGETATION OF STONY BANKS – A habitat listed in Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. This habitat refers to perennial vegetation of the upper beaches of great shingle banks, formed by perennial species.

PRECIPITATION – Water moving from the atmosphere to the ground in the form of rain, fog, mist, snow or hail.

PRIORITY HABITAT – A subset of the habitats listed in Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. These are habitats which are in danger of disappearance and whose natural range mainly falls within the territory of the European Union. These habitats are of the highest conservation status and require measures to ensure that their favourable conservation status is maintained.

PRIVATE OWNERSHIP – Land which is owned by one private landowner.

RARE – An ecological term applied to distribution of species when assessed on a national grid reference system. The assessment is made on the basis of the number of occupied 10 km National Grid squares. A species is described as rare if has been recorded in to 3-10, 10 km squares.

REPS – Rural Environmental Protection Scheme. This is an Agri-Environmental programme which seeks to draw up agreements with farmers, according to the type of farming, landscape and features on the land. The overall objectives of REPS are to achieve: the use of farming practices which reduce the polluting effects of agriculture by minimising nutrient loss- an environmentally favourable extensification of crop farming, and sheep farming and cattle farming; - ways of using agricultural land which are compatible with protection and improvement of the environment, the countryside, the landscape, natural resources the soil and genetic diversity; - long-term set-aside of agricultural land for reasons connected with the environment; - land management for public access;- education and training for farmers in types of farming compatible with the requirements of environmental protection and upkeep of the countryside.

SACs – Special Areas of Conservation have been selected from the prime examples of wildlife conservation areas in Ireland. Their legal basis from which selection is derived is The Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC of the 21st May 1992). SAC's have also been known as cSAC's which stands for "candidate Special Areas of Conservation", and pcSAC's which stands for "proposed candidate Special Areas of Conservation."

SCIENTIFIC MONITORING – this is carried out by the monitoring section of the NPWS, whose function here is to ensure that the favourable conservation status of the site is maintained and where possible improved.

SEDIMENT – Solid particles that can originate by the weathering and erosion of pre-existing rock, by chemical precipitation from water, or by the breakdown of organisms.

SHELLFISH – The collective term used to describe mussels, oysters, clams, scallops, abalone and sea urchins.

SPAs – Special Protection Areas for Birds are areas which have been designated to ensure the conservation of certain categories of birds. Ireland is required to conserve the habitats of two categories of wild birds under the European Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/ 409/ 2nd April 1979). The NPWS is responsible for ensuring that such areas are protected from significant damage.

SPECIES – the lowest unit of classification normally used for plants and animals.

STRATEGY – A course of action or a broad approach towards achieving an objective . It is the general thrust of management towards achieving an objective. It is a description of how the objective is to be achieved.

SURVEY – a) Study/visit to produce an inventory of what is present / record a situation.- b) Establishing a baseline (study).

SUSTAINABLE – The highest rate at which a renewable resource can be used without reducing its supply (without causing damage to the resource).

TAXON – Any grouping within the classification of organisms (plural = taxa)

TERRESTRIAL – A term used to refer to living on land. The opposite of aquatic.

TOMBOLO – a sand or gravel bar or barrier that connects an island with the mainland or another island.

TOPOGRAPHY – the study or detailed description of the surface features of a region.

VERTEBRATES – Animals with backbones.

ZONING – The division of a nature conservation site (& neighbouring lands) into a number of sub-units. Within each zone the management prescriptions will be reasonably uniform and will differ in type or intensity from the other zones in the plan.

APPENDIX II: REFERENCE MATERIAL

Map References:

- O.S. 1/2 inch (1:126,720) map: 0007
O.S. Discovery (1:50,000) map: 16
O.S. 6 inch (1: 10,560) map: SO 005

Databases :

NHA database, NPWS, The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2.

Natura 2000 database, NPWS, The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2.

I-WeBS Database, BirdWatch Ireland, Rockingham House, Newcastle, Co Wicklow

Photographic Coverage:

Aerial photo No. 3159, Flight Line 16. Date: 1995, Aerial Photo No. 832, Flight Line 6478, Date, 2000. NPWS, The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2.

Relevant Legislation:

S.I. No. 39 of 1976: Wildlife Act 1976

S.I. No. 38 of 2000: Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000

S.I. No. 94/1997: European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997.

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APPENDIX III: CLIMATE

BELMULLET													
monthly and annual mean and extreme values													
1961-1990													
TEMPERATURE <i>(degrees Celsius)</i>	<i>jan</i>	<i>feb</i>	<i>mar</i>	<i>apr</i>	<i>may</i>	<i>jun</i>	<i>jul</i>	<i>aug</i>	<i>sep</i>	<i>oct</i>	<i>nov</i>	<i>dec</i>	<i>year</i>
<i>mean daily max.</i>	8.2	8.3	9.7	11.6	13.7	15.7	16.8	17.2	15.7	13.4	10.3	9	12.5
<i>mean daily min.</i>	3.1	2.9	3.9	4.9	7	9.5	11.1	11.1	9.8	8.2	5.1	4.3	6.7
<i>mean</i>	5.7	5.6	6.8	8.2	10.3	12.6	14	14.1	12.8	10.8	7.7	6.6	9.6
<i>absolute max.</i>	13	13.8	19.4	23.3	26	27	28.7	27.4	22.4	22.1	15.2	13.5	28.7
<i>absolute min.</i>	-8.1	-6.3	-5.7	-2.6	-0.4	1.4	5.1	3.1	0.8	-0.7	-2.5	-5.2	-8.1
<i>mean no. of days with air frost</i>	5	4.3	2.1	0.9	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	1.3	3.1	16.7
<i>mean no. of days with ground frost</i>	10.5	9.5	7.3	5.4	1.9	0.1	0	0	0.5	1.7	5.5	7.8	50.3
RELATIVE HUMIDITY (%)													
<i>mean at 0900UTC</i>	85	84	82	80	78	81	85	85	84	85	85	85	83
<i>mean at 1500UTC</i>	81	77	75	73	73	77	80	79	78	80	80	83	78
SUNSHINE (hours)													
<i>mean daily duration</i>	1.47	2.41	3.29	5.27	6.14	5.36	4.29	4.63	3.65	2.63	1.74	1.08	3.5
<i>greatest daily duration</i>	7.9	9.8	11.2	14	15.6	15.8	15.4	14	12.5	9.8	8.1	6.7	15.8
<i>mean no. of days with no sun</i>	10	6	5	3	2	3	3	3	4	6	8	12	66
RAINFALL (mm)													
<i>mean monthly total</i>	123.5	80.1	95.8	58.1	68	67.3	67.6	93.7	108	132.9	127.7	119.9	1142.7
<i>greatest daily total</i>	32.2	23.6	25.9	20.4	26.5	35.2	44.9	57.3	56.1	67.8	56.4	40.5	67.8
<i>mean no. of days with >= 0.2mm</i>	23	19	23	19	18	18	19	20	21	24	23	24	249
<i>mean no. of days with >= 1.0mm</i>	20	15	18	13	14	12	12	15	16	19	19	19	193
<i>mean no. of days with >= 5.0mm</i>	9	6	7	4	5	4	4	6	7	9	9	9	80
WIND (knots)													
<i>mean monthly speed</i>	14.7	13.9	14.2	12.2	12.4	11.9	11.6	11.3	13	14.3	13.6	14.3	13.1
<i>max. gust</i>	91	93	88	67	69	73	67	60	84	85	76	89	93
<i>max. mean 10-minute speed</i>	58	61	58	43	47	47	45	44	57	58	50	60	61
<i>mean no. of days with gales</i>	5.5	4.2	3.3	1.1	1	0.4	0.3	0.8	2.3	3.6	3.4	4.5	30.5
WEATHER (mean no. of days with..)													
<i>snow or sleet</i>	4.6	4.4	4	1.6	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0.7	2.6	18.1
<i>snow lying at 0900UTC</i>	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.4	2.3
<i>hail</i>	8.5	6.2	7.4	4	1.9	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.5	2.8	6.7	6.7	45.1
<i>thunder</i>	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.6	5.5
<i>fog</i>	1.1	0.6	0.7	1.7	1.3	2	3.3	2.4	1.1	1.2	0.6	0.6	16.6
<i>fog</i>	4.1	2	1.8	2.2	1.7	1.8	1.7	3.1	3	3.3	3.4	3.6	31.8

APPENDIX IV: DETAILED INFORMATION ON FLORA AND FAUNA

Plant species recorded at the site (NPWS, 1995)

Higher plants noted for the Fixed Dune habitat type at Streedagh include Scurvy grass (*Cochlearia danica*), Eyebright (*Euphrasia tetra*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Lesser Hawkbit (*Leontodon taraxacoides*), Bird's Foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), Creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinalis*), Clover (*Trifolium repens*), Speedwell (*Veronica chamaedrys*), Common Dog-violet (*Viola riviniana*), Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*), Thyme-leaved sandwort (*Arenaria serpyllifolia*), Mouse-ear Chickweed (*Cerastium fontanum*), Smooth Hawk's-beard (*Crepis capillaris*), Mouse-ear Hawkweed (*Hieracium pilosella*), Cat's Ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), Fairy Flax (*Linum catharticum*), Milkwort (*Polygala vulgaris*), Bulbous Buttercup, Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), Thyme (*Thymus praecox*), Spurge (*Euphorbia portlandica*), Pearlwort (*Sagina nodosa*), Sea Campion (*Silene maritima*), Red Bartsia (*Odontites verna*) and Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*).

Grasses noted include Bent grass (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Marram grass (*Ammophila arenaria*), Cock's foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Sand Sedge (*Carex arenaria*), Glaucous Sedge (*Carex flacca*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Meadow grass (*Poa pratensis*) and Dog's Tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*).

Mosses recorded on the *Fixed Dunes at Streedagh are: *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*, *Rhytidiadelphus triquetris*, *Calliargonella cuspidatum*, *Calliargon cuspidatum*, *Hypnum cupressiforme*, *Pseudoscleropodium puran*, *Eurhynchium praelongum*, *Plagiothecium undulatum*, *Hylocomnium splendens*, *Camptothecium lutuscens*, *Lophocolea bidentata*, *Brachythecium rutabulum*, *Tortula ruraliformes*, *Ceratodon purpurea*, *Bryum pendula*, *Pleurozium schreberi* and *Peltigera rufescens*.

Dog lichen (*Peltigera canina*) was also recorded.

Bird species recorded at the site (NPWS, 2002)

Species	17/01/2002	18/02/2002	26/03/2002
Great northern diver	1	3	3
Little grebe	4	2	0
Cormorant	4	0	1
Shag	33	13	13
Grey heron	2	0	4
Brent goose	126	25	56
Wigeon	16	46	1
Teal	7	0	2
Mallard	19	4	6
Scaup	0	0	1
Red-breasted merganser	25	13	11
Oystercatcher	153	86	111
Ringed plover	46	85	9
Golden plover	115	145	0
Grey plover	15	13	5
Sanderling	2	24	0
Dunlin	47	580	7
Snipe	1	0	1
Bar-tailed godwit	22	5	0
Curlew	71	25	1
Redshank	14	32	11
Greenshank	5	4	1
Turnstone	13	49	3
Black-headed gull	5	8	2
common gull	12	66	68
Herring gull	14	6	29
Great black-backed gull	8	9	10
Black guillemot	0	1	0
Sparrowhawk	0	0	1

APPENDIX V: NOTIFIABLE ACTIONS

The notifiable actions relating to the habitats that occur within the site are listed below:

- Notifiable Action 1.1 – Open marine waters, inlets and bays, tidal rivers and estuarine channels, marine caves, reefs, submerged sand banks
- Notifiable Action 1.2 Mudflats and sandflats, sandy coastal beaches, shingle beaches, boulder beaches, bedrock shores and marine caves.
- Notifiable Action 1.3 Saltmarshes
- Notifiable Action 1.4 Sand dunes or machair
- Notifiable Action 2.2 Dry lowland grasslands
- Notifiable Action 2.3 Wet lowland grasslands
- Notifiable Action 6.3 Marshes and reedbeds
- Notifiable Action 8.5 Vertigo species, shining sickle moss

HABITAT TYPE 1.1

OPEN MARINE WATERS, INLETS AND BAYS, TIDAL RIVERS AND ESTUARINE CHANNELS, MARINE CAVES, REEFS, SUBMERGED SAND BANKS

Under STATUTORY INSTRUMENT 94 of 1997, made under the EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ACT 1972 and in accordance with the obligations inherent in the COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 (the Habitats Directive) on the conservation of the natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora, all persons must obtain the written consent, (in circumstances prescribed at section A and B below) of the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government before performing any of the operations on, or affecting, the following habitats where they occur on lands / waters within the candidate Special Area of Conservation.

Please note that where a landowner has a current approved plan under the Rural Environmental Protection Scheme or any scheme which the Minister considers to be equivalent s/he need only notify the Minister of activities not covered in the plan.

<u>SECTION A</u>	<u>SECTION B</u>
<p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section A overleaf</i> are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government and should not be undertaken before consent.</p>	<p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section B overleaf</i> may, and in most cases do, require a license or consent from another statutory authority (e.g. the local planning authority, the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, or the Minister for Agriculture and Food).</p> <p>If so, these notifiable actions do not apply.</p> <p>However, if such activities are not regulated by another statutory authority, the said activities are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government.</p>

HABITAT TYPE 1.1

OPEN MARINE WATERS, INLETS AND BAYS, TIDAL RIVERS AND ESTUARINE CHANNELS, MARINE CAVES, REEFS, SUBMERGED SAND BANKS

<u>Section A</u>	<u>Section B</u>
<p>THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS REQUIRED TO BE NOTIFIED IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES AND SUCH ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT PROCEED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT</p> <p>operation of commercial recreation activities (e.g. sailing schools, diving tours, jet ski hire, dolphin watching tours)</p> <p>introduction (or re-introduction) into the wild of plants or animals of species not currently found in the area</p> <p>collection of species for aquaria</p> <p>any other activity of which notice may be given by the Minister from time to time</p>	<p>(NO REQUIREMENT TO NOTIFY IF ALREADY LICENSED BY ANOTHER MINISTER/BODY)</p> <p>use of anti-fouling paints containing organic tin</p> <p>commercial harvesting of sea urchins, winkles, or other marine invertebrates.</p> <p>removal of soil, mud, gravel, sand or minerals</p> <p>use of pesticides or antibiotics</p> <p>operation or extension of aquaculture facilities</p> <p>dumping or disposal of wastes</p> <p>fishing by any type of nets</p> <p>fishing by pots for lobster, crab, whelk, shrimp and other species</p> <p>dredging whether for fishing or for other purposes</p> <p>use of hydraulic or suction systems for removing any species or sediments</p> <p>placement of any structures or devices on the soil or bed of the sea seaward of high water mark</p> <p>use of the soil or bed of the sea for any activity</p> <p>cutting or harvesting growing algae (seaweeds)</p>

In a very limited number of cases it may be necessary for the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government to restrict existing activities. In these cases compensation will be payable for actual losses arising out of any such restriction. In the event of restrictions being imposed by the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government, an appropriate appeals procedure will be put in place.

HABITAT TYPE 1.2

MUDFLATS AND SANDFLATS, SANDY COASTAL BEACHES, SHINGLE BEACHES, BOULDER BEACHES, BEDROCK SHORES, MARINE CAVES

Under STATUTORY INSTRUMENT 94 of 1997, made under the EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ACT 1972 and in accordance with the obligations inherent in the COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 (the Habitats Directive) on the conservation of the natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora, all persons must obtain the written consent, (in circumstances prescribed at section A and B below) of the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government before performing any of the operations on, or affecting, the following habitats where they occur on lands / waters within the candidate Special Area of Conservation.

Please note that where a landowner has a current approved plan under the Rural Environmental Protection Scheme or any scheme which the Minister considers to be equivalent s/he need only notify the Minister of activities not covered in the plan.

SECTION A

Please note that the activities listed in *Section A overleaf* are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government and should not be undertaken before consent.

SECTION B

Please note that the activities listed in *Section B overleaf* may, and in most cases do, require a license or consent from another statutory authority (e.g. the local planning authority, the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, or the Minister for Agriculture and Food).

If so, these notifiable actions do not apply.

However, if such activities are not regulated by another statutory authority, the said activities are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

HABITAT TYPE 1.2

MUDFLATS AND SANDFLATS, SANDY COASTAL BEACHES, SHINGLE BEACHES, BOULDER BEACHES, BEDROCK SHORES, MARINE CAVES

<u>Section A</u>	<u>Section B</u>
<p>THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS REQUIRED TO BE NOTIFIED IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES AND SUCH ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT PROCEED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT</p> <p>operation of commercial recreation activities (e.g. sailing schools, diving tours, jet ski hire, dolphin watching tours)</p> <p>introduction (or re-introduction) into the wild of plants or animals of species not currently found in the area</p> <p>collection of species for aquaria</p> <p>collection of biological samples or organised educational activities where they occur on bedrock shores or boulder beaches</p> <p>driving vehicles over the area, except over rights of way or over access to licensed aquaculture facilities</p> <p>digging, ploughing or otherwise disturbing the substrate</p> <p>alteration of the banks, bed or flow of watercourses</p> <p>any other activity of which notice may be given by the Minister from time to time</p>	<p>(NO REQUIREMENT TO NOTIFY IF ALREADY LICENSED BY ANOTHER MINISTER/BODY)</p> <p>use of anti-fouling paints containing organic tin</p> <p>commercial harvesting of sea urchins, winkles, or other marine invertebrates.</p> <p>removal of soil, mud, gravel, sand or minerals</p> <p>use of pesticides or antibiotics</p> <p>operation or extension of aquaculture facilities</p> <p>dumping or disposal of wastes</p> <p>fishing by any type of nets</p> <p>fishing by pots for lobster, crab, whelk, shrimp and other species</p> <p>dredging whether for fishing or for other purposes</p> <p>use of hydraulic or suction systems for removing any species or sediments</p> <p>placement of any structures or devices on the soil or bed of the sea seaward of high water mark</p> <p>use of the soil or bed of the sea for any activity</p> <p>cutting or harvesting growing algae (seaweeds)</p>

In a very limited number of cases it may be necessary for the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government to restrict existing activities. In these cases compensation will be payable for actual losses arising out of any such restriction. In the event of restrictions being imposed by the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government, an appropriate appeals procedure will be put in place.

HABITAT TYPE 1.3

SALTMARSHES

Under STATUTORY INSTRUMENT 94 of 1997, made under the EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ACT 1972 and in accordance with the obligations inherent in the COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 (the Habitats Directive) on the conservation of the natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora, all persons must obtain the written consent, (in circumstances prescribed at section A and B below) of the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government before performing any of the operations on, or affecting, the following habitats where they occur on lands / waters within the candidate Special Area of Conservation.

Please note that where a landowner has a current approved plan under the Rural Environmental Protection Scheme or any scheme which the Minister considers to be equivalent s/he need only notify the Minister of activities not covered in the plan.

Please note that where a landowner has a current approved plan under the Rural Environmental Protection Scheme or any scheme which the Minister considers to be equivalent s/he need only notify the Minister of activities not covered in the plan.

<u>SECTION A</u>	<u>SECTION B</u>
<p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section A overleaf</i> are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government and should not be undertaken before consent.</p>	<p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section B overleaf</i> may, and in most cases do, require a license or consent from another statutory authority (e.g. the local planning authority, the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, or the Minister for Agriculture and Food).</p> <p>If so, these notifiable actions do not apply.</p> <p>However, if such activities are not regulated by another statutory authority, the said activities are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government.</p>

HABITAT TYPE 1.3

SALTMARSHES

<u>Section A</u>	<u>Section B</u>
<p>THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS REQUIRED TO BE NOTIFIED IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES AND SUCH ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT PROCEED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT</p> <p>alteration of the banks, bed or flow of watercourses</p> <p>grazing of livestock/ grazing of livestock treated within the previous week with a pesticide which leaves persistent residues in the dung</p> <p>cropping or removal of plants</p> <p>driving vehicles over the area, except over rights of way or over access to licensed aquaculture</p> <p>introduction (or re-introduction) into the wild of plants or animals of species not currently found in the area</p> <p>digging or otherwise disturbing the substrate</p> <p>harvesting shellfish by mechanical means</p> <p>reclamation, infilling, ploughing or land drainage</p> <p>reseeding, planting of trees or any other species, use of any pesticide or herbicide</p> <p>application of fertiliser, lime or organic materials</p> <p>dumping, burning or storing any materials</p> <p>operation of commercial recreation activities (e.g. pony trekking)</p> <p>any other activity of which notice may be given by the Minister from time to time</p>	<p>(NO REQUIREMENT TO NOTIFY IF ALREADY LICENSED BY ANOTHER MINISTER/BODY)</p> <p>Removal of soil, mud, gravel, sand or minerals</p> <p>Construction of fences, buildings, roads, embankments</p> <p>Dumping or disposal of wastes</p> <p>Operation or extension of aquaculture facilities</p> <p>Placement of any structures or devices on the soil or bed of the sea seaward of high water mark</p> <p>Use of the soil or bed of the sea for any activity</p>

In a very limited number of cases it may be necessary for the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government to restrict existing activities. In these cases compensation will be payable for actual losses arising out of any such restriction. In the event of restrictions being imposed by the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government, an appropriate appeals procedure will be put in place.

HABITAT TYPE 1.4

SAND DUNES OR MACHAIR

Under STATUTORY INSTRUMENT 94 of 1997, made under the EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ACT 1972 and in accordance with the obligations inherent in the COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 (the Habitats Directive) on the conservation of the natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora, all persons must obtain the written consent, (in circumstances prescribed at section A and B below) of the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government before performing any of the operations on, or affecting, the following habitats where they occur on lands / waters within the candidate Special Area of Conservation.

Please note that where a landowner has a current approved plan under the Rural Environmental Protection Scheme or any scheme which the Minister considers to be equivalent s/he need only notify the Minister of activities not covered in the plan.

<u>SECTION A</u>	<u>SECTION B</u>
<p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section A overleaf</i> are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government and should not be undertaken before consent.</p>	<p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section B overleaf</i> may, and in most cases do, require a license or consent from another statutory authority (e.g. the local planning authority, the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, or the Minister for Agriculture and Food).</p> <p>If so, these notifiable actions do not apply.</p> <p>However, if such activities are not regulated by another statutory authority, the said activities are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government.</p>

HABITAT TYPE 1.4

SAND DUNES OR MACHAIR

<u>Section A</u>	<u>Section B</u>
<p>THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS REQUIRED TO BE NOTIFIED IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES AND SUCH ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT PROCEED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT</p> <p>causing erosion by any means (e.g. driving vehicles, riding horses etc.)</p> <p>grazing of livestock above a sustainable density (as defined in approved farm plans)</p> <p>grazing by livestock treated within the previous week with a pesticide which leaves persistent residues in the dung</p> <p>supplementary feeding of stock (e.g. with hay, silage, concentrates, roots etc.)</p> <p>cropping or removal of plants</p> <p>reclamation, infilling, ploughing or land drainage</p> <p>reseeding, planting of trees or any other species</p> <p>application of fertiliser, lime or organic materials</p> <p>dumping, burning or storing any materials</p> <p>use of any pesticide or herbicide</p> <p>alteration of the banks, bed or flow of watercourses</p> <p>operation of commercial recreation facilities (e.g. pony trekking)</p> <p>introduction (or re-introduction) into the wild of plants or animals of species not currently found in the area</p> <p>any other activity of which notice may be given by the Minister from time to time</p>	<p>(NO REQUIREMENT TO NOTIFY IF ALREADY LICENSED BY ANOTHER MINISTER/BODY)</p> <p>construction of fences or embankments</p> <p>removal of soil, mud, gravel, sand or minerals</p> <p>construction of buildings or sewerage facilities</p> <p>construction of roads or car parks or access routes</p> <p>developing leisure facilities including golf courses, sports pitches, caravan or camping facilities</p>

In a very limited number of cases it may be necessary for the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government to restrict existing activities. In these cases compensation will be payable for actual losses arising out of any such restriction. In the event of restrictions being imposed by the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government, an appropriate appeals procedure will be put in place.

HABITAT TYPE 2.2

DRY LOWLAND GRASSLANDS

Under STATUTORY INSTRUMENT 94 of 1997, made under the EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ACT 1972 and in accordance with the obligations inherent in the COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 (the Habitats Directive) on the conservation of the natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora, all persons must obtain the written consent, (in circumstances prescribed at section A and B below) of the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government before performing any of the operations on, or affecting, the following habitats where they occur on lands / waters within the candidate Special Area of Conservation.

Please note that where a landowner has a current approved plan under the Rural Environmental Protection Scheme or any scheme which the Minister considers to be equivalent s/he need only notify the Minister of activities not covered in the plan.

<u>SECTION A</u>	<u>SECTION B</u>
<p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section A overleaf</i> are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government and should not be undertaken before consent.</p>	<p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section B overleaf</i> may, and in most cases do, require a Minister for the Marine and Natural license or consent from another statutory authority (e.g. the local planning authority, the Resources, or the Minister for Agriculture and Food).</p> <p>If so, these notifiable actions do not apply.</p> <p>However, if such activities are not regulated by another statutory authority, the said activities are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government.</p>

HABITAT TYPE 2.2

DRY LOWLAND GRASSLANDS

<u>Section A</u>	<u>Section B</u>
<p>THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS REQUIRED TO BE NOTIFIED IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES AND SUCH ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT PROCEED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT</p> <p>grazing of livestock above a sustainable density (as defined in approved farm plans)/grazing by livestock treated within the previous week with a pesticide which leaves persistent residues in the dung</p> <p>changing of traditional use from hay meadow (to either grazing or silage making), or from grazing to silage cutting</p> <p>adding lime/adding fertiliser of any sort to areas not previously fertilised/ applying fertiliser which would increase the level of nitrogen in the soil/applying fertiliser which would increase the level of phosphorous in the soil/ applying phosphorous to soils which already have in excess of the REPS index 2 levels mowing grass before the 30th June (<i>Note; if you have been notified that your lands hold breeding corncrakes, or certain rare meadows, special provisions will apply</i>)</p> <p>burning of vegetation /ploughing or cultivation of lands which have not been so managed for the last 20 years</p> <p>reclamation, infilling, or land drainage/ reseeding, planting of trees or any other species use of any pesticide or herbicide</p> <p>dumping, burning or storing any materials</p> <p>alteration of the banks, bed or low of watercourses</p> <p>operation of commercial recreation facilities (e.g. pony trekking)/introduction (or re-introduction) into the wild of plants or animals of species not currently found in the area</p> <p>any other activity of which notice may be given by the Minister from time to time</p>	<p>(NO REQUIREMENT TO NOTIFY IF ALREADY LICENSED BY ANOTHER MINISTER/BODY)</p> <p>developing leisure facilities including golf courses, sports pitches, caravan or camping facilities.</p> <p>removal of soil, mud, gravel, sand or minerals</p> <p>developing roads or car parks</p> <p>construction of fences, buildings or embankments</p> <p>afforestation</p>

In a very limited number of cases it may be necessary for the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government to restrict existing activities. In these cases compensation will be payable for actual losses arising out of any such restriction. In the event of restrictions being imposed by the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government, an appropriate appeals procedure will be put in place.

HABITAT TYPE 2.3

WET LOWLAND GRASSLANDS

Under STATUTORY INSTRUMENT 94 of 1997, made under the EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ACT 1972 and in accordance with the obligations inherent in the COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 (the Habitats Directive) on the conservation of the natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora, all persons must obtain the written consent, (in circumstances prescribed at section A and B below) of the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government before performing any of the operations on, or affecting, the following habitats where they occur on lands / waters within the candidate Special Area of Conservation.

Please note that where a landowner has a current approved plan under the Rural Environmental Protection Scheme or any scheme which the Minister considers to be equivalent s/he need only notify the Minister of activities not covered in the plan.

<u>SECTION A</u>	<u>SECTION B</u>
<p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section A overleaf</i> are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government and should not be undertaken before consent.</p>	<p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section B overleaf</i> may, and in most cases do, require a license or consent from another statutory authority (e.g. the local planning authority, the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, or the Minister for Agriculture and Food).</p> <p>If so, these notifiable actions do not apply.</p> <p>However, if such activities are not regulated by another statutory authority, the said activities are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government.</p>

HABITAT TYPE 2.3

WET LOWLAND GRASSLANDS

<u>Section A</u>	<u>Section B</u>
<p>THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS REQUIRED TO BE NOTIFIED IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES AND SUCH ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT PROCEED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT</p> <p>grazing of livestock above a sustainable density (as defined in approved farm plans)/grazing by livestock treated within the previous week with a pesticide which leaves persistent residues in the dung</p> <p>changing of traditional use from hay meadow (to either grazing or silage making), or from grazing to silage cutting</p> <p>adding lime/adding fertiliser of any sort to areas not previously fertilised/ applying fertiliser which would increase the level of nitrogen in the soil/applying fertiliser which would increase the level of phosphorous in the soil/ applying phosphorous to soils which already have in excess of the REPS index 2 levels mowing grass before the 30th June (<i>Note; if you have been notified that your lands hold breeding corncrakes, or certain rare meadows, special provisions will apply</i>)</p> <p>burning of vegetation</p> <p>reclamation, infilling, ploughing or land drainage/ reseeded, planting of trees or any other species use of any pesticide or herbicide</p> <p>dumping, burning or storing any materials</p> <p>alteration of the banks, bed or low of watercourses</p> <p>operation of commercial recreation facilities (e.g. pony trekking)/introduction (or re-introduction) into the wild of plants or animals of species not currently found in the area</p> <p>any other activity of which notice may be given by the Minister from time to time</p>	<p>(NO REQUIREMENT TO NOTIFY IF ALREADY LICENSED BY ANOTHER MINISTER/BODY)</p> <p>developing leisure facilities including golf courses, sports pitches, caravan or camping facilities.</p> <p>removal of soil, mud, gravel, sand or minerals</p> <p>developing roads or car parks</p> <p>construction of fences, buildings or embankments</p> <p>afforestation</p>

In a very limited number of cases it may be necessary for the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government to restrict existing activities. In these cases compensation will be payable for actual losses arising out of any such restriction. In the event of restrictions being imposed by the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government, an appropriate appeals procedure will be put in place.

HABITAT TYPE 6.3

MARSHES AND REEDBEDS

Under STATUTORY INSTRUMENT 94 of 1997, made under the EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ACT 1972 and in accordance with the obligations inherent in the COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 (the Habitats Directive) on the conservation of the natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora, all persons must obtain the written consent, (in circumstances prescribed at section A and B below) of the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government before performing any of the operations on, or affecting, the following habitats where they occur on lands / waters within the candidate Special Area of Conservation.

Please note that where a landowner has a current approved plan under the Rural Environmental Protection Scheme or any scheme which the Minister considers to be equivalent s/he need only notify the Minister of activities not covered in the plan.

<u>SECTION A</u>	<u>SECTION B</u>
<p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section A overleaf</i> are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government and should not be undertaken before consent.</p>	<p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section B overleaf</i> may, and in most cases do, require a license or consent from another statutory authority (e.g. the local planning authority, the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, or the Minister for Agriculture and Food).</p> <p>If so, these notifiable actions do not apply.</p> <p>However, if such activities are not regulated by another statutory authority, the said activities are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government.</p>

HABITAT TYPE 6.3

MARSHES AND REEDBEDS

<u>Section A</u>	<u>Section B</u>
<p>THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS REQUIRED TO BE NOTIFIED IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES AND SUCH ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT PROCEED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT</p> <p>grazing of livestock above a sustainable density (as defined in approved farm plans) within 50m of the marsh or reedbed</p> <p>grazing by livestock treated within the previous week with a pesticide which leaves persistent residues in the dung</p> <p>supplementary feeding of stock within 50m of the marsh or reedbed</p> <p>adding lime within 50m of the marsh or reedbed</p> <p>adding fertiliser of any sort within 50m of the marsh or reedbed</p> <p>extracting water for irrigation or other purposes</p> <p>operation of boat angling or shore angling Business</p> <p>restocking with fish.</p> <p>reclamation, infilling, ploughing or land drainage within 50m of the marsh or reedbed</p> <p>reseeding, planting of trees or any other species within 50m of the marsh or reedbed</p> <p>removal of trees or any aquatic vegetation within 50m of the marsh or reedbed</p> <p>use of any pesticide or herbicide in the marsh or reedbed or within 50m of the marsh or reedbed</p> <p>dumping rubbish or other materials or disposing of any chemicals or wastes in marsh or reedbed or into water-courses Running into them.</p> <p>dumping, burning or storing any materials within 50m of the marsh or reedbed including the land spreading of used pesticides (e.g. sheep dip).</p> <p>alteration of the banks, channel, bed or flow of the marsh or reedbed or of watercourses running into or out of it</p> <p>harvesting or burning of reed or willow.</p> <p>causing siltation</p> <p>operation of commercial recreation facilities (e.g. bird watching tours)</p> <p>introduction (or re-introduction) into the wild of plants or animals of species not currently found in the area</p> <p>any other activity of which notice may be given by the Minister from time to time</p>	<p>(NO REQUIREMENT TO NOTIFY IF ALREADY LICENSED BY ANOTHER MINISTER/BODY)</p> <p>developing leisure facilities including golf courses, sports pitches, caravan or camping facilities.</p> <p>any activity which might cause pollution of the marsh or reedbed</p> <p>removal of soil, mud, gravel, sand or minerals</p> <p>developing roads or car parks</p> <p>construction of fences, buildings or embankments</p> <p>construction or operation of an aquaculture facility.</p> <p>fishing for eels</p> <p>bank maintenance and grading</p> <p>creation of weirs and dams</p>

In a very limited number of cases it may be necessary for the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government to restrict existing activities. In these cases compensation will be payable for actual losses arising out of any such restriction. In the event of restrictions being imposed by the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government, an appropriate appeals procedure will be put in place.

HABITAT TYPE 8.5

VERTIGO SPECIES, SHINING SICKLE MOSS

Under STATUTORY INSTRUMENT 94 of 1997, made under the EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ACT 1972 and in accordance with the obligations inherent in the COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 (the Habitats Directive) on the conservation of the natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora, all persons must obtain the written consent, (in circumstances prescribed at section A and B below) of the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government before performing any of the operations on, or affecting, the following habitats where they occur on lands / waters within the candidate Special Area of Conservation.

Please note that where a landowner has a current approved plan under the Rural Environmental Protection Scheme or any scheme which the Minister considers to be equivalent s/he need only notify the Minister of activities not covered in the plan.

<u>SECTION A</u>	<u>SECTION B</u>
<p>Please note that the activities listed in Section A below are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government and should not be undertaken before consent.</p>	<p>Please note that the activities listed in Section B overleaf may, and in most cases do, require a license or consent from another statutory authority (e.g. the local planning authority, the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, or the Minister for Agriculture and Food).</p> <p>If so, these notifiable actions do not apply.</p> <p>However, if such activities are not regulated by another statutory authority, the said activities are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government.</p>

HABITAT TYPE 8.5

VERTIGO SPECIES, SHINING SICKLE MOSS

<u>Section A</u>	<u>Section B</u>
<p>THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS REQUIRED TO BE NOTIFIED IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES AND SUCH ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT PROCEED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT</p> <p>grazing of livestock above a sustainable density (as defined in approved farm plans) within 50m of the lake, pond or canal</p> <p>grazing by livestock treated within the previous week with a pesticide which leaves persistent residues in the dung</p> <p>supplementary feeding of stock within 50m of the lake, pond or canal</p> <p>adding lime within 50m of the lake, pond or canal</p> <p>adding fertiliser of any sort within 50m of the lake, pond or canal</p> <p>extracting water for irrigation or other purposes</p> <p>operation of boat angling or shore angling business</p> <p>restocking with fish.</p> <p>reclamation, infilling, ploughing or land drainage within 50m of the lake, pond or canal</p> <p>reseeding, planting of trees or any other species within 50m of the lake, pond or canal</p> <p>removal of trees or any aquatic vegetation within 50m of the river/stream.</p> <p>use of any pesticide or herbicide in the lake, pond or canal or within 50m of the lake, pond or canal</p> <p>dumping rubbish or other materials or disposing of any chemicals or wastes in streams/rivers or into water-courses running into them.</p> <p>dumping, burning or storing any materials within 50m of the lake, pond or canal pond or canal including the land spreading of used pesticides (e.g. sheep dip).</p> <p>alteration of the banks, channel, bed or flow of the lake, pond or canal or of watercourses running into or out of it</p> <p>harvesting or burning of reed or willow.</p> <p>causing siltation</p> <p>operation of commercial recreation facilities (e.g. bird watching tours)</p> <p>introduction (or re-introduction) into the wild of plants or animals of species not currently found in the area</p> <p>any other activity of which notice may be given by the Minister from time to time</p>	<p>(NO REQUIREMENT TO NOTIFY IF ALREADY LICENSED BY ANOTHER MINISTER/BODY)</p> <p>bank maintenance and grading</p> <p>creation of weirs and dams</p>

In a very limited number of cases it may be necessary for the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government to restrict existing activities. In these cases compensation will be payable for actual losses arising out of any such restriction. In the event of restrictions being imposed by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, an appropriate appeals procedure will be put in place.

APPENDIX VI: COMPENSATION PROCEDURES

The Government is committed, as part of the social partnership process, to the payment of a fair and proper level of compensation to landowners who have lands proposed as part of an SAC or SPA and to other users who have a legal entitlement in the site.

A landowner or user with a legal entitlement may seek compensation for actual losses incurred due to restrictions imposed as a result of designation. Eligible persons should submit to NPWS details of the losses incurred as a result of the inclusion of lands in an SAC/SPA and outlining the basis for the calculations. Documentary evidence of past earnings and the activities that produced these should be included with the claim. Should the applicant be dissatisfied with a compensation offer, the case may be referred to an independent arbitrator who will review the matter and make a final decision.

Where a landowner or user with a legal entitlement is restricted in carrying out an activity on their land or licensed area, the compensation due will exclude any payments that have been attracted under grant schemes.

For farmers, there are two options available for receiving compensation for possible restrictions to their farming practices. Farmers may also receive payments for carrying out actions that enhance a nature conservation area.

Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS)

Lands within SACs, SPAs, NHAs or commonages are defined as 'Target Areas' under this scheme. A REPS plan usually covers an entire farm, but a farmer with land in a target area receives a higher payment for that area. Farmers with small areas of land in a designated area can get REPS payments for that part of their farm. In either case, the farmer is subject to certain conditions regarding farming and land use practices, set out in the REPS plan for the farm. REPS is administered by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

NPWS Farm Plan Scheme

Where a farmer chooses not to participate in REPS, and NPWS seeks to change the farm operation in some way or to restrict a particular activity, NPWS will pay for preparation of a farm plan. This scheme also applies to land within SACs, SPAs, NHAs and commonages.

An NPWS farm plan will normally be confined just to the designated land and will address the conservation requirements, as well as any costs arising. Payment may also be made for work carried out that enhances the nature conservation value of the designated area. The farmer will have a substantial input into the plan.

A list of trained and approved farm planners is available for farmers to choose from. For further information, contact NPWS.

APPENDIX VII: FARMING CONDITIONS UNDER REPS

Conditions for the conservation of Sand Dunes & Machair areas to be applied under REPS

General Provisions

The conditions set out in this document are supplementary to the agri-environmental specifications. Planners may take a case to the Department of Agriculture and Food (DAF), which in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS), of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government may vary them in individual cases. All REPS plans in respect of Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) must have an environmental input and REPS plans must be approved and signed by the Planning Agency's Environmentalist.

Both Departments shall exercise their respective statutory and administrative responsibilities in close co-operation.

Sand Dunes & Machairs - Descriptions

Sand Dunes and Machairs are coastal habitats consisting of hills and hollows in which unique communities of plants and animals are found in response to the very demanding nature of the dry, windy and salty environment.

Machairs are flat, level plains over lime-rich sands which have evolved in response to a unique interaction between wind, high rainfall and historical land use. They are found only in western Ireland and Scotland.

Detailed Conditions

Farming Conditions Recommended for these Areas:

The primary recommendation is to avoid farming practices that cause environmental damage and all following recommendations are designed to meet that objective. If a practice is environmentally damaging it should be stopped or modified, but the following are only general guidelines and may be superseded by specific recommendations for individual farms. The NPWS or the local Farm

Development Service (FDS) of the DAF should be contacted if the situation on-farm warrants an exception to the general rules.

Grazing Regime:

On Sand Dunes and Machairs, the objective is to maintain extensive agricultural practices, and to prevent a further increase in stock numbers. Cattle stock should be kept at the level the land can support- see also the section on Supplementary Feeding.

Cattle grazing should continue in line with agricultural practices. The land should normally be grazed only in winter. However, in areas where summer grazing has traditionally (i.e. over the previous 10 years) been practised, this can continue, provided, of course, that stock levels at all times do not exceed what the land can bear on a sustainable basis. Grazing on young and fore-dune areas should be avoided.

Grazing levels should not exceed 1 Livestock Unit (LU) per hectare on a year round average and should never exceed 2 LU at any one time. This change would enable 2 LUs to be overwintered on the sand dune/machair system provided it is deemed to be sustainable by the planner.

The introduction of sheep into areas where they have not been traditionally grazed should be avoided, but areas, which have kept sheep traditionally, can retain them, though perhaps at a lower level.

Sustainable Stocking Levels:

Stocking levels for each farm should be set by the REPS planner or the DAHGI planner in the farm plan. The levels should be set below the level which causes eutrophication, over-grazing or erosion, but still high enough to control the encroachment of coarse vegetation and scrub. Where the stock level set by the planner requires a reduction, this must be achieved within 12 months of the start of the plan. Where the stock level is to increase, this can be spread over the period of the plan, as specified by the planner – The same level will apply for a REPS plan as for a DAHGI plan.

DEHLG will prepare a conservation plan to cover all aspects of the SAC in question, including farming. In so far as the farming aspects are concerned, the plan will be prepared in consultation with the DAF in accordance with the terms of these conditions. Where an area conservation plan has been prepared for the SAC in question, this should be used to assist in determining where damage has occurred or is occurring, where damage is moderate, and where damage has not occurred. Official conservation plans, when available, can be obtained from the local office of the NPWS.

Supplementary Feeding:

The introduction of supplementary feeding can bring additional nutrient into sand dune and machair areas, and thus bring about a very fundamental change in the vegetation of these areas.

The use of silage and other feed can pollute the groundwater and also facilitate excessive stocking levels. Consequently, the use of any supplementary feeds in areas where it has not been customary over the last 10 years may be allowed only in consultation with the DAF and the DAHGI.

Round baled silage can be stored in these areas. Loose silage can only be stored where an approved effluent collection system is in place, and the effluent removed from the machair/sand dune system.

No supplementary feeding can take place on young and fore-dune areas.

In machair and grey dune areas where supplementary feed has been used over the last 10 years, it may be continued, provided that:

- The number of LUs fed does not increase
- The species of stock fed does not change
- The total amount of feed equivalent does not increase
- The amount of feed does not exceed 3.5 tonnes of silage or 0.75 tonnes of hay per LU per annum
- No meals and concentrates are fed

However, in exceptional circumstances, such as in unusually severe weather conditions (i.e. when there are heavy snowfalls or floods), and with the agreement of the DAGHI, feeding will be permitted. Weanling cattle may be fed small quantities of concentrates.

Cultivation, Reseeding & Pesticides:

Ploughing, harrowing or any other forms of cultivation should be avoided since this will destabilise the dune structure. Small traditional tillage plots on machair may be retained.

The bringing in of any seeds to these areas will disturb the vegetation balance on which the dune depends and must be avoided. The feeding of hay should only be from round feeders.

The fixed dune parts of sand dune systems are essentially areas with low levels of plant nutrients in the soil and this has contributed to the development of their distinctive flora. These are also areas most used for grazing. However, the spreading of organic (slurry, farmyard manure), or inorganic fertilisers should not take place as the flora in these areas would be damaged.

On machairs, where fertilisers have not been applied in the past, none should be applied now. However, where low levels of phosphorus have traditionally been applied on machairs, this may continue, provided that the soil Phosphorus levels do not increase above their present levels or in any event do not exceed Soil Index 2.

Pesticides & Herbicides:

All spraying or broadcast application of herbicides should be avoided, but spot application and wipe on treatment to eradicate docks, thistles and similar noxious weeds can, of course, be used.

Animal Treatments:

Worm doses may be used normally, but animals which have been given pesticides the residues of which persist in the dung, should be kept off the dune for at least a week after treatment.

Dumping & Infilling:

The dumping of domestic or industrial refuse, farm wastes, rubble, rock, or any similar materials which could disturb the natural environment by bringing in unsuitable nutrients or unsuitable soils and seeds should be avoided.

APPENDIX VIII: SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL BEACH BYE-LAWS

Relating to Streedagh Point Dunes (2000)

1. WHEREAS: -

Sligo County is empowered by virtue of the Statutes above referred to, to make Bye-Laws: -

for the regulation of public bathing within their Sanitary District, or in coastal waters adjoining their Sanitary District,

for or in relation to the use, operation, protection, regulations or management of any land (which includes land covered with water (whether inland or coastal) services or any other thing whatsoever provided by or under the control or management of the Local Authority or in relation to any matter connected therewith,

where in its opinion it is desirable in the interests of the common good of the local community that any activity or matter should be regulated or controlled or that any nuisance should be controlled or suppressed.

Sligo County Council, being of the opinion that it is in the interests of the local community that the activities and matters therein referred to should be regulated or controlled in the manner herein appearing has made these Bye-Laws.

TITLE

These Bye-Laws may be cited as the Sligo County Council Beach Bye-Laws 2000.

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INTERPRETATION

In these Bye-Laws the following expressions shall have the meanings set forth after same respectively:

-

“The Beach”: “Beach” refers to that area of the seashore and the foreshore as shown shaded in yellow on the attached map of the beaches at Mullaghmore, Streedagh and Rosses Point, Co. Sligo and in addition includes any coastal water, bank, cliff, sand dunes and rocks contiguous to the foreshore and any sea for a distance from the strand to 200 metres (seawards) from the low water mark. The words “seashore” and “foreshore” have the same meanings as defined in the Foreshore Act, 1933. For the purpose of these Bye Laws a “beach” shall include: -

(i) Any strand.

Any walls, railing, barriers, fence, roadway, seats, footpaths, ramps alleyways, access, walkways, step, sewer, drain or gully thereon:

Any post, sign, notice, sign board, life saving apparatus or equipment, toilet, litter receptacle, lamp, lamppost, appliance, flagpole, flag, water pipe, gas pipe, hut, shelter, ornament, building or other structure forming part thereof or erected by the Council or by the authority of the Council either on the beach or adjacent to the beach for the benefit of users of the beach.

Any trees, shrub, bush, hedge, flower, flower bed, turf, grass or other plant growing thereon or placed thereon by the authority of the Council;

Any implement, barrow, article, tractor, trailer or thing thereon belonging to the Council or placed thereon by the authority of the Council.

“The Sea”: the sea for a distance of 200 meters from the beach.

“The 1994 Act”: the Local Government Act, 1994.

“Council”: means the Council of the County of Sligo.

(e) **“Employee of the Council”** shall include every Superintendent, Supervising Official, Litter Warden, Dog Warden, Beachguard or other person employed by and duly authorised by the Council to administer and enforce these bye-laws.

(f) **“Authorised Person”:** means any employee of the Council or any person designated by the Council for the purposes of these bye laws.

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(g) **“Horse”:** includes donkey, mule and hinny.

“Consent of the Council”: means the permission in writing of an authorised person.

“Swimming”: includes floating, paddling, fishing or otherwise being in the sea for leisure purposes.

“Permit”: has the same meaning as “Consent of the Council” at (i) above.

JET SKIS AND FAST POWER BOATS

No person shall operate any power boat or jet ski within 200 metres of the low water mark, save for the purposes of rendering assistance in the event of an emergency or while obtaining access to or egress from the sea at a designated area as referred to at 4(ii) below.

(ii) The Council may designate areas of the beach which will be clearly designed where access to or egress from the sea may be obtained by persons using jet skis or power boats.

(iii) Every person in charge of a jet-ski or power boat shall act in such a manner as not to cause injury, annoyance or danger to any person using a beach or windsurfing or swimming in the sea or to

disturb naturally occurring flora and fauna. Electrical suppression shall be included for all motors of such jet skis and fast power boats.

(iv) Any person bringing a jet-ski or power boat onto the beach area who contravenes these Bye-laws must remove it from the beach if so directed by an authorised person.

(v) Operators of jet-skis or power boats shall travel at such reduced speed as necessary in the vicinity of other water users so as not to cause them fear or anxiety.

(vi) This bye-law shall not apply to vessels kept by An Garda Siochana and wholly used by a member of An Garda Siochana in the execution of his/her duty or other Emergency Services.

5. NO PERSON SHALL CARRY OUT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ACTS ON THE BEACH: -

(a) Nuisance

Cause a nuisance or do any of the following acts which would be likely to cause a nuisance: -

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Litter: -

Bring, deposit or discharge soil, filth, refuse, rubbish, stones, earth or throw deposit or leave any item of litter as defined in the Litter Pollution Act, 1997.

Motor Vehicles: -

Drive, propel or park any motor car, or other mechanically propelled vehicle including a beach buggy or motor cycle on the beach (other than in an area designated for such purposes, or persons gaining access to and egress from O'Connor's and Dernish islands who have traditionally accessed these islands via Streedagh beach) save with the permission in writing of the Council and subject to the terms and conditions of such permission. This restriction does not apply to patrol cars or Garda motorcycles when being used by a member of An Garda Siochana while on duty or other Emergency Services.

Firearms: -

Bring onto the beach any firearm, airgun, catapult or any other weapon.

Golf: -

Play the game of golf or practice any aspect of the game in any part of the beach.

Disorder: -

Act in a disorderly, menacing, threatening, or offensive manner.

Beg Gamble: -

Beg, gamble, importune or otherwise cause annoyance.

Noise: -

Play musical instruments, radio, stereos, etc. at such noise level as to cause annoyance to others.

Obscene Behaviour/Language: -

Behave indecently or use obscene or profane language.

Graffiti: -

Injure, disfigure, write graffiti on, mark or remove any structure, seat, chair sculpture notice or notice board.

Damage Safety Equipment: -

Remove, cause damage to, or otherwise interfere with any safety equipment or any sign providing advise or warnings to the public provided on or at the beach or at the car park.

Obstruct Access: -

No person shall park or place any vehicle or other object so as to obstruct access to the beach.

(b) Dogs

The council may designate areas of the beach where dogs are prohibited. No person shall bring a dog into, or allow a dog under his or her control to remain in an area so designated

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(other than persons gaining access to egress from O'Connor's and Dernish Islands who have traditionally accessed these islands via Streedagh beach.

Persons in charge of a dog on a beach shall ensure the following:-

it is on a leash or under adequate control.

It is not causing annoyance to any person using the beach or worrying, chasing, injuring or disturbing any animals, birds or other creatures on the beach;

Removal of its faeces and depositing it in a litter bin or other receptacle which may be designated for this purpose.

Guide dogs for the blind are exempt from this bye-law as also are dogs kept by An Garda Siochana and wholly used by a member of an Garda Siochana in the execution of his/her duty.

(c) Horses

Persons in charge of a horse on a beach shall ensure the following:-

It is at all times under control.

It is not causing annoyance, danger or nuisance to any person using the beach.

Removal of its faeces and depositing it in a litter bin or a receptacle which may be designated for this purpose.

It is not allowed on any part of the beach which comprises of sand dunes.

Horse-riding takes place below mean high water mark, except for the purposes of obtaining access to or egress from the beach, provided always that such access to or egress from the beach does not involve a horse being in an area of the beach that comprises of sand dunes.

This bye-law does not apply to horses kept by An Garda Siochana and wholly used by an employee or member of An Garda Siochana while on duty or other Emergency Services.

(d) Trade, advertising, etc.

No person shall sell, hire, expose or offer for sale any vehicle, boat conveyance, chair, article, animal, commodity or thing whatsoever, save with the consent of the Council, **or** exhibit any advertising board, placard, wares, merchandise or play any musical instrument or sing for gain on the beach, save with the consent of the Council.

(e) Obstruction, etc.

No person shall wilfully cause danger, obstruction or annoyance to persons using the beach or wilfully obstruct any officer or

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employee of the Council in the execution of his duty or in the proper execution of any work in connection with the enforcement of these bye-laws.

(f) Alcoholic Beverages

No person shall drink, consume or partake of alcoholic beverages on the beach between the hours 8.00 p.m. to 10.00 a.m.

(g) Caravans, etc

No person shall place or keep any caravan or mobile-home on any part of the beach save with the permission in writing of the Council and subject to the terms and conditions of such permission.

(h) Filming

No person shall make any movie or film on a commercial basis on a beach except with the consent of the Council and subject to the terms and conditions of such consent.

(i) Fishing

The Council may designate areas of the beach and periods of time with respect to the beach where and during which fishing will be prohibited. No person shall fish in an area, or during a period, so designated.

6. REFUSAL OF PERMISSION

The Council may refuse permission for any of the purposes mentioned in these bye-laws if, having regard to the character of the applicant, the number of persons already holding permits of the class applied for, and the general comfort and convenience of visitors to the beach, they consider that a permit should not be granted.

PERMITS

Any permission granted to any person, club or organisation for the exclusive and/or specific occupation by such person, club or organisation of any portion of the beach shall be in accordance with such conditions as the Council consider appropriate having regard to the circumstances in any particular case.

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8. OFFENCES

(i) It shall be lawful for any Authorised Person or member of the Garda Síochána to enforce these bye-laws and to exclude or remove from any part of the beach any person committing any breach of the above bye-laws and to take such other steps as authorised by law.

(ii) A person who contravenes a provision of these bye-laws shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £ 1,000.00.

(iii) If the contravention of a provision of these bye-laws is continued after conviction, the person causing the contravention shall be guilty of a further offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £ 100.00 per day.

(iv) A person who obstructs or impedes or refuses to comply with a request of a member of An Garda Síochána or of an authorised person acting in the exercise of the functions conferred on an authorised person by these bye-laws shall be guilty of an offence.

Where an authorised person or a member of the Garda Síochána is of the opinion that a person is committing or has committed an offence to which the bye-laws relate, the authorised person or Garda, as the case may be, may demand the name and address of such person and if this demand is refused or the person gives a name or address which is false or misleading, the person shall be guilty of an offence.

(vi) Where a member of the Garda Síochána is of the opinion that a person is committing or has committed an offence to which these bye-laws relate, that member may arrest the person without warrant.

(vii) An offence under these bye-laws may be prosecuted by the Council, by any other local authority acting on its behalf or by a member of the Garda Síochána.

APPENDIX IX: NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE MANAGEMENT STAFF

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Deputy Regional Manager

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Divisional Manager

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Email: pat.warner@environ.ie

Divisional Ecologist

VACANT

National Parks and Wildlife Service

The Department of the Environment, Heritage
and Local Government

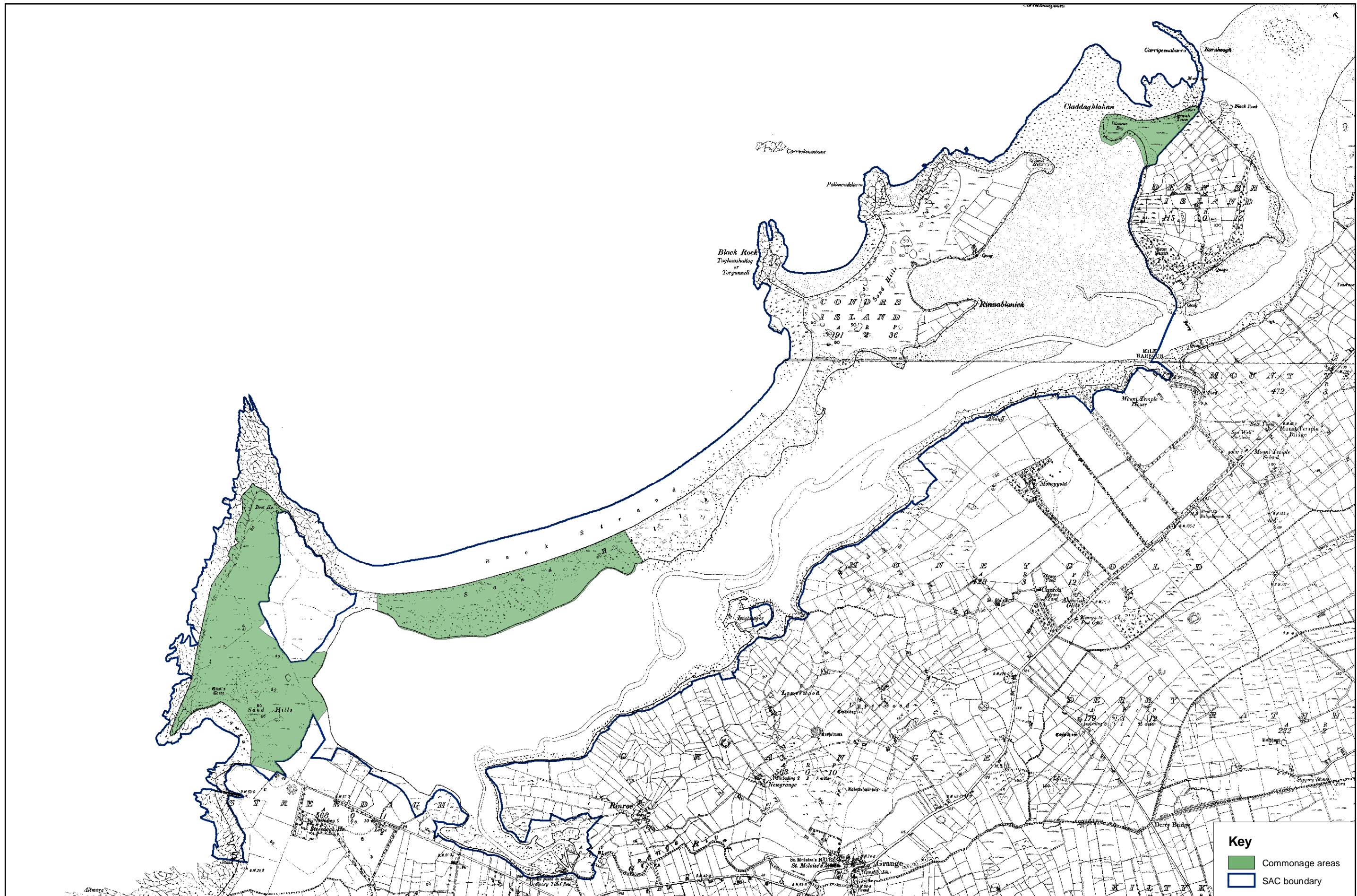
7 Ely Place,

Dublin 2

Phone Lo Call 1890 202021, (01) 8882000

Fax (01) 8883272

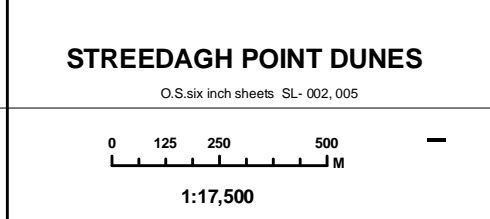
www.npws.ie



CEANTAR SPEISIALTA CAOMHNAITHE
CANDIDATE SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION

STREEDAGH POINT DUNES
 O.S.six inch sheets SL- 002, 005

The mapped boundaries are of an indicative and general nature only. Boundaries of designated areas are subject to revision. Reproduced from Ordnance Survey material by permission of the Government (Permit number 5953).
 Níl sna teorainneacha ar na léarscáileanna ach nod garshuíomhach ginearálta. Féadfar athbheithnithe a déanamh ar theorainneacha na gceantar comharthaithe. Macasamhail d'ábhar na Suirbhéarachta Ordonáis le chead ón Rialtas (Ceadúnas Uimh. 5953)



MAP 2:
COMMONAGE

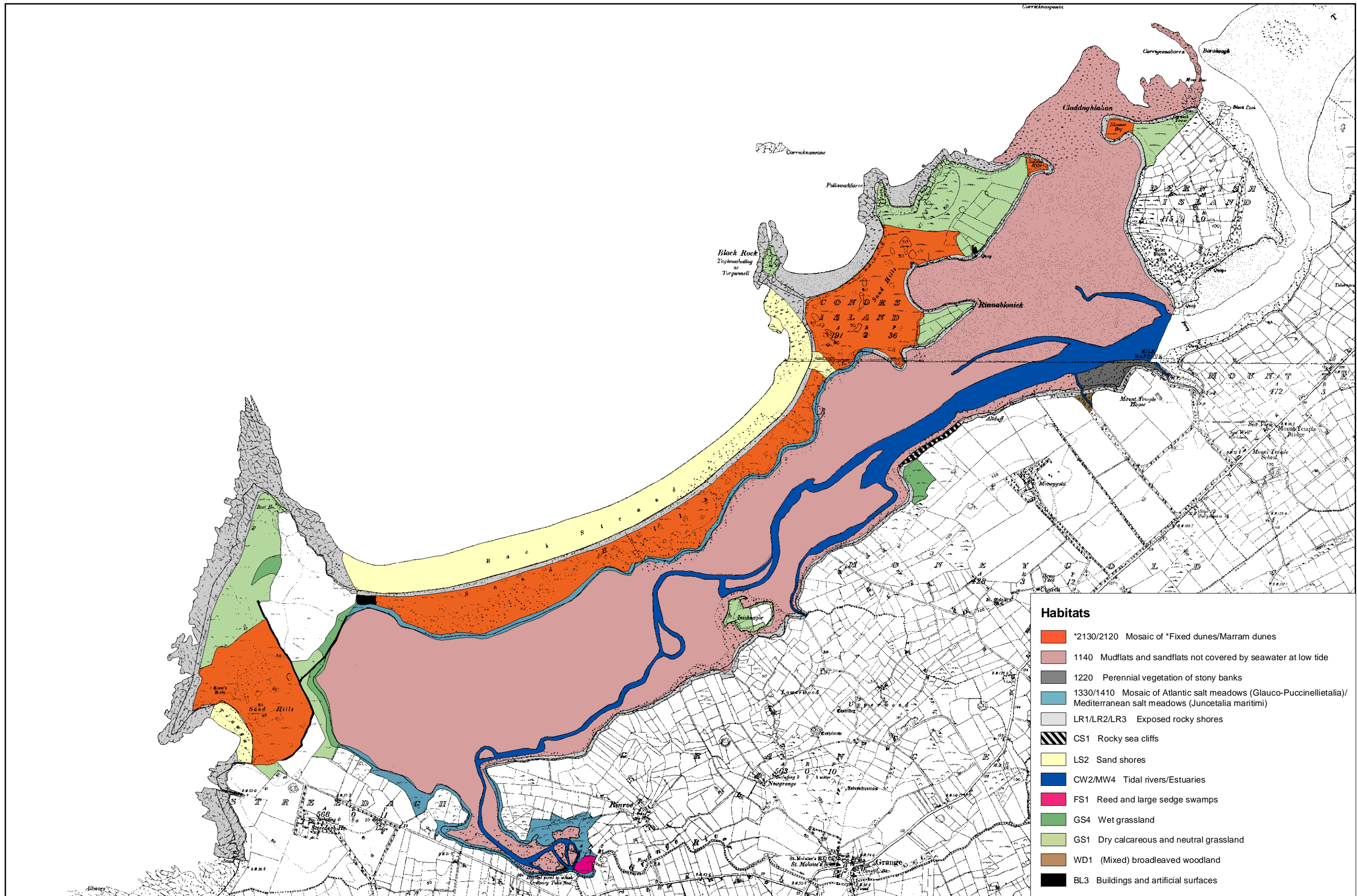
Map to be read in conjunction with the conservation plan.

Key

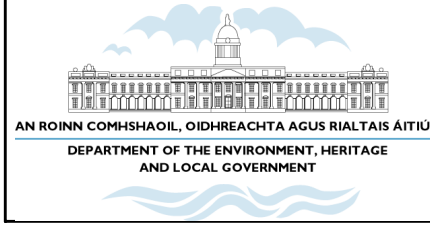
- Commonage areas
- SAC boundary

SITE CODE
 cSAC1680
 Version 1.00

Date: July 2006



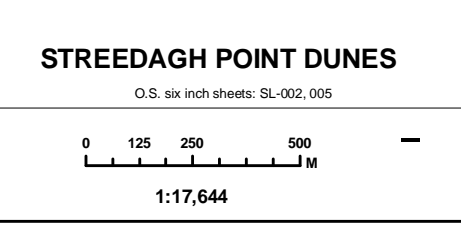
Habitats	
■	*2130/2120 Mosaic of *Fixed dunes/Marram dunes
■	1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
■	1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks
■	1330/1410 Mosaic of Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia)/Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi)
■	LR1/LR2/LR3 Exposed rocky shores
	CS1 Rocky sea cliffs
■	LS2 Sand shores
■	CW2/MW4 Tidal rivers/Estuaries
■	FS1 Reed and large sedge swamps
■	GS4 Wet grassland
■	GS1 Dry calcareous and neutral grassland
■	WD1 (Mixed) broadleaved woodland
■	BL3 Buildings and artificial surfaces



CEANTAR SPEISIALTA CAOMHNAITHE
CANDIDATE SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION

STREEDAGH POINT DUNES
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MAP 3:
INDICATIVE HABITAT MAP

Map to be read in conjunction with the conservation plan.

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