

Site 11 - Streedagh

Site description

Streedagh is a medium-sized site (89.9 ha) located approximately 2 km north of Grange and 4 km west of Cliffony, Co. Sligo. It comprises a shingle spit, overlain by sand dunes, which connects Streedagh Point in the west to Conor's Island in the east in a tombolo formation. It forms the major part of the Streedagh Point Dunes SAC (001680) (NPWS, 2013). A small area of the site is also located on Dernish Island, just east of Conor's Island. The entire site is within the SAC boundary.

Based on the currently available mapping, eight coastal Annex I habitats occur within Streedagh Point Dunes SAC, four of which are listed as Qualifying Interests (Table 1).

Table 1. Annex I habitats present at Streedagh Point Dunes SAC, the area they occupy (based on the most recent mapped available) and status as a Qualifying Interest of the SAC. An asterisk denotes a priority Annex I habitat and habitats that were not the target of this survey are excluded.

Habitat Code	Area (ha)	Qualifying Interest?
1210 Drift line vegetation	0.399	No
1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks	0.363	Yes
1330 Atlantic salt meadows	0.059	Yes
2110 Embryonic shifting dunes	0.543	No
2120 Marram dunes (white dunes)	2.052	Yes
*2130 Fixed dunes (grey dunes)	78.450	Yes
2190 Humid dune slacks	2.138	No

Conservation assessments were carried out within one sub-site occupying a total area of 89.83 ha (Table 2. Summary of Conservation Status for all habitats assessed at Streedagh.).

Table 2. Summary of Conservation Status for all habitats assessed at Streedagh.

Subsite	Habitat	Area	Structure and Functions	Future Prospects	Overall assessment
11.01 Trawgar to Dernish Island	1210	Favourable (NA)	Favourable (NA)	Favourable	Favourable (NA)
11.01 Trawgar to Dernish Island	1220	Favourable (NA)	Favourable (NA)	Favourable	Favourable (NA)
11.01 Trawgar to Dernish Island	2110	Favourable (NA)	Favourable (NA)	Favourable	Favourable (NA)
11.01 Trawgar to Dernish Island	2120	Favourable (Stable)	Favourable (Stable)	Favourable	Favourable (Improving)
11.01 Trawgar to Dernish Island	*2130	Favourable (Stable)	Favourable (Increasing)	Unfavourable - Inadequate	Unfavourable - Inadequate (Improving)
11.01 Trawgar to Dernish Island	2190	Favourable (Stable)	Favourable (Stable)	Favourable	Favourable (Stable)

Sub-site 1 Trawgar to Dernish Island

The main land uses are agriculture and recreation. The site is situated in a scenic area, overlooked by Ben Bulbin, and is easily accessed via a network of local roads. It is grazed by sheep, cattle and horses, and some agricultural improvement has taken place.

Summary Information

Survey Date: 20/21 July 2022

Water Framework Directive Waterbody: not applicable

Previous survey identifiers: CMP137, VSM005

Current survey details:

Table 3: Current survey details for Annex I habitats at Streedagh

Habitat Code	Area	Monitoring stops
1210 Drift line vegetation	0.399	8
1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks	0.363	4
2110 Embryonic shifting dunes	0.543	4
2120 Marram dunes (white dunes)	2.052	8
*2130 Fixed dunes (grey dunes)	78.450	12
2190 Humid dune slacks	2.138	9

1210 Drift line vegetation

Area

The habitat **1210 Drift line vegetation** has expanded over the most recent reporting cycle due to natural processes. This is consistent with an Area assessment of Favourable. The small area of habitat present during the CMP (0.020 ha) was no longer present during VSM, but it has increased again (0.4 ha). This is a normal trend for this habitat, that could be absent in some years due to natural fluctuations. The trend was not assessed because no assessment was carried out for **1210 Drift line vegetation** during CMP.

Structure and Functions

Eight monitoring stops have been recorded in **1210 Drift line vegetation**. The vegetation types detected were the *Atriplex prostrata* - *Tripleurospermum maritimum* strandline community, and the *Cakile maritima* - *Salsola kali* strandline community. No criteria failed the Structure and Functions assessment, so the Structure and Functions were assessed as Favourable. The trend was not assessed because no assessment was carried out for **1210 Drift line vegetation** during CMP.

Future Prospects

Vehicle trampling was a medium intensity negative impact, however this only affected less than 1% of the habitat and the trend of the impact was assessed as decreasing. Future Prospects were therefore assessed as Favourable. The trend was not assessed because no assessment was carried out for **1210 Drift line vegetation** during CMP.

Conservation assessment

The conservation status assessments of the three parameters are as follows:

- Area: Favourable (NA)
- Structure and Functions: Favourable (NA)

- Future Prospects: Favourable (NA)

Because all parameters were assessed as Favourable, the overall conservation assessment for **1210 Drift line vegetation** at Trawgar to Dernish Island was Favourable. Since the habitat hadn't been assessed during CMP, the trend is unknown.

Overall Conservation Status: Favourable (NA)

Condition of the habitat by area

100% of the habitat was considered to be in good condition.

1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks

Area

The habitat **1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks** had never been found in the previous reports. Nonetheless, it has appeared over a small portion located on the easternmost point of the Trawgar peninsula, on the north-westernmost part of Dernish island and in some spots along the south coast of the peninsula. The area recorded for **1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks** in 2022 was 0.36 ha. The appearance of the habitat could be ascribed to natural causes such as transport of stony material from storm events or colonization of bare stony banks previously established over the shoreline. This is consistent with an Area assessment of Favourable. The vegetation was poor and similar to that of **1210 Drift line vegetation**, therefore the habitat may not have been mapped previously because of a different interpretation. Anyway, the features found were consistent with the interpretation manual. The trend was not assessed because no assessment was carried out before.

Structure and Functions

Four monitoring stops have been recorded. The vegetation type founded was a pioneer community dominated by *Rumex crispus*, with a species composition quite similar to that of **1210 Drift line vegetation** communities, even though it grows on different substrates. No criteria failed the Structure and Functions assessment, so the Structure and Functions were assessed as Favourable. The trend was not assessed because no assessment was carried out before.

Future Prospects

No pressures have been recorded in 2022 survey. Future Prospects were therefore assessed as Favourable. The trend was not assessed because no assessment was carried out before.

Conservation assessment

The conservation status assessments of the three parameters are as follows:

- Area: Favourable (NA)
- Structure and Functions: Favourable (NA)
- Future Prospects: Favourable (NA)

Since all of the three parameters were assessed as Favourable, the overall conservation assessment for **1220 Perennial vegetation of stony** at Trawgar to Dernish island was Favourable. The habitat was not assessed before and for this reason the trend is assessed as unknown.

Overall Conservation Status: Favourable (NA)

Condition of the habitat by area

100% of the habitat was considered to be in good condition.

2110 Embryonic shifting dunes

Area

The Area of the **2110 Embryonic shifting dunes** habitat has increased from 0.15 ha to 0.54 ha since VSM. No habitat loss due to human activities has been detected. This is consistent with an Area assessment of Favourable and the trend is unknown because the habitat was not assessed before, since it was originally thought to be below the minimum assessment area.

Structure and Functions

Four monitoring stops have been recorded. No criteria failed the Structure and Functions assessment, so the Structure and Functions were Favourable. The habitat was not assessed before, so the trend is unknown.

Future Prospects

Animal trampling (cattle) was considered a low intensity neutral pressure on the habitat, because it didn't cause a significant alteration of vegetation structure on this type of habitat, which is still not stabilized. Future Prospects were therefore assessed as Favourable; the habitat was not assessed in VSM, so the trend is unknown.

Conservation assessment

The conservation status assessments of the three parameters are as follows:

- Area: Favourable (NA)
- Structure and Functions: Favourable (NA)
- Future Prospects: Favourable (NA)

Since all parameters were assessed as Favourable, the overall conservation assessment for **2110 Embryonic shifting dunes** at Trawgar to Dernish Island was Favourable. The habitat was not assessed in VSM, so the trend is unknown.

Overall Conservation Status: Favourable (NA)

Condition of the habitat by area

100% of the habitat was considered to be in good condition.

2120 Marram dunes (white dunes)

Area

The area of **2120 Marram dunes (white dunes)** has decreased from 3.7 ha to 2 ha since VSM. In the 2016 area increased compared to CMP (2.1 ha) due to natural processes such as succession of **2110 Embryonic shifting dunes**, natural expansion and development of the habitat, and in some places, due to a change from ***2130 Fixed dunes (grey dunes)** to **2120 Marram dunes (white dunes)** after an erosion event. In this case, part of the white dunes that have formed in the recent years have eroded again and increased the area of **2110 Embryonic shifting dunes**. Decrease was therefore induced by natural processes of erosion. This is consistent with an Area assessment of Favourable. Compared to the VSM assessment, the trend of the area is stable.

Structure and Functions

No criteria failed the Structure and Functions assessment, so the Structure and Functions were Favourable. Compared to CMP, the trend is therefore stable.

Future Prospects

During VSM, walking, horse riding, paths, tracks and litter were recorded as negative impacts. Paths and tracks only affected 1% of the habitat while walking and horse riding had effect on 50% of the habitat. In the 2022 survey, recreational activities seemed to have reduced, in fact the only negative pressures recorded were overgrazing and trampling; littering has not been recorded and the effects of walking and riding seemed to have reduced. Future Prospects were therefore assessed as Favourable and the trend, compared to CMP, is increasing. The abandonment of silage bales and natural erosion were considered as being neutral pressures because they haven't had any impact on habitat conservation.

Conservation assessment

The conservation status assessments of the three parameters are as follows:

- Area: Favourable (stable)
- Structure and Functions: Favourable (stable)
- Future Prospects: Favourable (increasing)

Since all three parameters were assessed as Favourable, the overall conservation assessment for **2120 Marram dunes (white dunes)** at Trawgar to Dernish was deemed Favourable. Compared to VSM assessment, the trend is therefore improving.

Overall Conservation Status: Favourable (improving)

Condition of the habitat by area

100% of the habitat was considered to be in good condition.

*2130 Fixed dunes (grey dunes)

Area

The Area of ***2130 Fixed dunes (grey dunes)** decreased from 82.2 ha to 78.4 ha between VSM and 2022 due to the reinterpretation of a large area located at the northernmost point of the peninsula which has been previously mapped as ***2130 Fixed dunes (grey dunes)** but has been reclassified as dry-humid acid grassland (Heritage Council Habitat GS3). That portion of the peninsula is in fact characterized by non-sandy substrates. Given that the loss of habitat area is entirely due to interpretation and natural transition to shifting dunes, the Area of ***2130 Fixed dunes (grey dunes)** was assessed as Favourable. Comparing to CMP, the trend is therefore stable.

Structure and Functions

Twelve monitoring stops have been recorded and all indicators passed the assessment that is therefore Favourable. Vegetation height was the only criterion that failed the Structure and Functions assessment during VSM, but in 2022 the vegetation height was in line with the requirements. The trend is therefore increasing compared to CMP.

Future Prospects

The main negative impacts on the site recorded in 2022 were vehicle tracks, offroad driving, pedestrian tracks and walking that were impacting 40% of the habitat; moreover, vehicle trampling and car parking were strongly impacting about 1% of the habitat. All these impacts (especially related to vehicles) were mainly widespread at the north-western portion of the site. Overgrazing and trampling were present in small patches but were balanced by a positive influence of non intensive grazing on 100% of the habitat. In the last report, one of the main pressures that has been detected was agricultural intensification, which was probably related to the north-east portion of the site that have been reclassified as non-habitat. The other

pressures recorded are analogous. Due to the negative impact of recreational activities on the site, Future Prospects were assessed as Unfavourable - Inadequate, and the trend compared to CMP, is stable.

Conservation assessment

The conservation status assessments of the three parameters are as follows:

- Area: Favourable (stable)
- Structure and Functions: Favourable (improving)
- Future Prospects: Unfavourable - Inadequate (stable)

Since at least one of the three parameters was assessed as Unfavourable - Inadequate, the overall conservation assessment for ***2130 Fixed dunes (grey dunes)** at Trawgar to Dernish was Unfavourable - Inadequate. Compared to CMP, the trend is improving.

Overall Conservation Status: Unfavourable - Inadequate (improving)

Condition of the habitat by area

Considering the low impact of recreational activities and the positive result regarding Structure and Functions, only 5% of the habitat was considered to be in poor conditions. The remaining 95% of the habitat was considered to be in good condition.

2190 Humid dune slacks

Area

The area of **2190 Humid dune slacks** has increased from 1.1 ha to 2.2 ha over the most recent reporting cycle for different mapping methods and interpretation: in fact, a considerable proportion of the habitat located in the north-eastern part of the peninsula, which hadn't been previously mapped, was added during the 2022 survey. Two small polygons of **2190 Humid dune slacks** located in the middle of the peninsula hadn't been mapped in 2022, probably for interpretation reasons. Further surveys are needed to clarify the real extent of the habitat in the site. Anyway, no loss of area due to human activities has been recorded, which is consistent with an area assessment of Favourable and the trend is stable compared to CMP.

Structure and Functions

Nine monitoring stops have been recorded and no criteria failed in the Structure and Functions assessment, so the Structure and Functions for **2190 Humid dune slacks** was assessed as Favourable. Compared to CMP the trend is stable. No notable species were found.

Future Prospects

A medium intensity positive pressure of non intensive grazing has been recorded on 100% of the habitat. Future Prospects were therefore assessed as Favourable and the trend was assessed as stable compared to CMP.

Conservation assessment

The conservation status assessments of the three parameters are as follows:

- Area: Favourable (stable)
- Structure and Functions: Favourable (stable)
- Future Prospects: Favourable (stable)

Since all three parameters were assessed as Favourable, the overall conservation assessment for **2190 Humid dune slacks** at Trawgar to Dernish was Favourable. Compared to CMP, the trend is stable.

Overall Conservation Status: Favourable (stable)

Condition of the habitat by area

100% of the habitat was considered to be in good condition.

Site 11 Subsite 1-Trawgar to Dernish Island: Appendices

Appendix 1 Area

Total habitat area recorded during reporting cycles to date.

Habitat	2007	2013	2019	2025
1210	0.020	NS	0.000	0.399
1220	0.000	NS	0.000	0.363
2110	0.420	NS	0.150	0.543
2120	2.120	NS	3.750	2.052
2130	82.620	NS	82.220	78.450
2190	1.110	NS	1.110	2.138

Favourable Reference Area and cumulative changes in area due to human activities (restoration and loss) recorded during reporting cycles to date. Natural fluctuations are not taken into account.

Habitat	Favourable Reference area (ha)	2007 change (ha)	2013 change (ha)	2019 change (ha)	2025 change (ha)
1210	0.020	NA	NS	NR	0
1220	0.360	NR	NS	NR	0
2110	0.420	NA	NS	NA	0
2120	2.120	>1% per year	NS	0	0
*2130	82.620	<1% per year	NS	0	0
2190	1.110	0	NS	0	0

Appendix 2. Structure and functions

Negative indicator species and non-native invasive species

Habitat	Species name	Cover (%)
*2130	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	5.5
*2130	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	0.8
*2130	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	5.0
2190	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	0.8
2190	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	1.0

Positive indicator species and notable species

Habitat	Species name	Cover (%) (if recorded)
1210	<i>Atriplex species</i>	
1210	<i>Cakile maritima</i>	
1210	<i>Honckenya peploides</i>	
1210	<i>Polygonum oxyspermum</i>	
1210	<i>Salsola kali</i>	
1220	<i>Cochlearia officinalis</i>	1.0
1220	<i>Honckenya peploides</i>	27.5
1220	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	4.2
1220	<i>Silene uniflora</i>	7.5
1220	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	5.0
2110	<i>Elytrigia juncea</i>	
2120	<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	
2120	<i>Elytrigia juncea</i>	
*2130	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	
*2130	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	
*2130	<i>Carex arenaria</i>	
*2130	<i>Carex flacca</i>	
*2130	<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	
*2130	<i>Daucus carota</i>	
*2130	<i>Euphrasia officinalis ag.</i>	
*2130	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	
*2130	<i>Galium verum</i>	
*2130	<i>Homalothecium lutescens</i>	
*2130	<i>Hylocomium splendens</i>	
*2130	<i>Hypnum cupressiforme s.s.</i>	
*2130	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	
*2130	<i>Linum catharticum</i>	
*2130	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	
*2130	<i>Luzula campestris</i>	
*2130	<i>Peltigera species</i>	
*2130	<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	
*2130	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	
*2130	<i>Pleurozium schreberi</i>	
*2130	<i>Poa pratensis</i>	
*2130	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	
*2130	<i>Rhytidadelphus squarrosus</i>	
*2130	<i>Rhytidadelphus triquetrus</i>	
*2130	<i>Thymus polytrichus</i>	
*2130	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	

*2130	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	
*2130	<i>Viola canina</i>	
*2130	<i>Viola riviniana</i>	
2190	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	
2190	<i>Anagallis tenella</i>	
2190	<i>Calliergon cuspidatum</i>	
2190	<i>Campylium stellatum</i>	
2190	<i>Carex arenaria</i>	
2190	<i>Carex flacca</i>	
2190	<i>Carex nigra</i>	
2190	<i>Dactylorhiza species</i>	
2190	<i>Equisetum species</i>	
2190	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	
2190	<i>Galium palustre</i>	
2190	<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>	
2190	<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	
2190	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	
2190	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	
2190	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	
2190	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	
2190	<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	
2190	<i>Sagina nodosa</i>	

Structure and Functions Assessment Criteria

Habitat	Indicator	Pass/Fail
1210	Positive indicator species	Pass
1210	Negative indicator species	Pass
1210	Non-native species	Pass
1210	Notable/rare species	Pass
1210	Interference with the sediment dynamics	Pass
1210	Damage due to disturbance	Pass
1220	Shingle habitat	Pass
1220	Native species	Pass
1220	Notable/rare species	Pass
1220	Negative indicator species	Pass
1220	Non-native species	Pass
1220	Interference with the sediment dynamics	Pass
1220	Damage due to disturbance	Pass
2110	Positive indicator species	Pass
2110	Negative indicator species	Pass
2110	Non-native species	Pass
2110	Flowering or fruiting of positive indicator species	Pass
2110	Notable/rare species	Pass
2110	Interference with the sediment dynamics	Pass
2110	Damage due to disturbance	Pass
2120	Positive indicator species	Pass
2120	Negative indicator species	Pass
2120	Non-native species	Pass
2120	Flowering or fruiting of positive indicator species	Pass
2120	Notable/rare species	Pass
2120	Interference with the sediment dynamics	Pass

2120	Damage due to disturbance	Pass
*2130	Positive indicator species	Pass
*2130	Negative indicator species	Pass
*2130	Non-native species	Pass
*2130	Cover of trees and scrub other than <i>Juniperus communis</i>	Pass
*2130	Trees or saplings from adjacent plantations	Pass
*2130	Height of vegetation	Pass
*2130	Flowering or fruiting of positive indicator species	Pass
*2130	Bare sand	Pass
*2130	Notable/rare species	Pass
*2130	Interference with the sediment dynamics	Pass
*2130	Damage due to disturbance	Pass
2190	Positive indicator species	Pass
2190	Bryophytes	Pass
2190	Cover of <i>Salix repens</i>	Pass
2190	Negative indicator species	Pass
2190	Non-native species	Pass
2190	Cover of scrub	Pass
2190	Forb:grass ratio (mean)	Pass
2190	Bare ground	Pass
2190	Notable/rare species	Pass
2190	Interference with the sediment dynamics	Pass
2190	Damage due to disturbance	Pass

Appendix 3. Impacts and Activities

Impacts recorded

Habitat code	Impact code	Impact description	Relative importance	Influence	Source	Timing	Trend	Area
1210	PA25	Vehicle trampling	Medium	Negative	Inside	Ongoing	Decreasing	0.1
1220	PX04							
2110	PA07	Trampling (cattle)	Low	Neutral	Inside	Ongoing	Stable	50.0
2120	PA06	Silage bales	Medium	Neutral	Inside	Ongoing	Stable	0.1
2120	PA07	Overgrazing and trampling	Medium	Neutral	Inside	Ongoing	Stable	1.0
2120	PM07	Natural erosion	Medium	Neutral	Inside	Ongoing	Stable	10.0
*2130	PA07	Overgrazing and trampling (cattle)	High	Negative	Inside	Ongoing	Stable	1.0
*2130	PA08	Non intensive grazing	Medium	Positive	Inside	Ongoing	Stable	100.0
*2130	PA25	Vehicle trampling and tracks	High	Negative	Inside	Ongoing	Stable	0.5
*2130	PE01	Car park	High	Negative	Inside	Ongoing	Stable	0.5
*2130	PF05	Vehicle tracks, offroad driving, pedestrian tracks and walking	Low	Negative	Inside	Ongoing	Increasing	40.0
*2130	PI02	Acer pseudoplatanus	High	Negative	Inside	Ongoing	Stable	0.1
*2130	PM07	Natural erosion and encroachment (Rubus fruticosus and Fraxinus spp)	Medium	Neutral	Inside	Ongoing	Stable	5.0
2190	PA08	Non-intensive grazing	Medium	Positive	Inside	Ongoing	Stable	100.0

Appendix 4. Condition of the habitat by area

Summary of habitat condition

Habitat code	% remaining habitat in poor condition	% remaining habitat in good condition
1210	0	100
1220	0	100
2110	0	100
2120	0	100
*2130	5	95
2190	0	100