



<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Ammophila arenaria</i> duneland
<b>Common name</b>	Marram duneland
<b>Community code</b>	DU1B

### Vegetation

*Ammophila arenaria* forms the vast majority of the vegetation in this duneland community, although cover here is often incomplete with areas of bare sand occurring between the tall tussocks. There are no other constant species. *Elytrigia juncea* and *Festuca rubra* are frequent, the former lingering from an earlier seral stage whilst the latter colonises more stabilised sands. Occasionally, one will encounter the yellow flowers of *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Taraxacum officinale* agg. and *Senecio jacobaea*, but they are seldom plentiful.

### Ecology

This is the classic coastal community of mobile (or white) dunes found between embryonic dunes to the seaward and fixed dunes to the landward, or in blow-outs. *Ammophila arenaria* traps wind-blown sand leading to the formation of dunes that can be several metres high.

### Sub-communities

No sub-communities are described.

### Similar communities

*Ammophila arenaria* can also be abundant in the DU2A *Ammophila arenaria* – *Festuca rubra* duneland, but there it is usually co-dominant with *Festuca rubra* and accompanied by a number of fixed dune species.

### Records and distribution

#### Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	240
Transitional:	5
Total:	245

#### Number of records (mapped)

2001-2017:	21
1986-2000:	173
1971-1985:	33
Pre-1971:	18
Total:	245

#### Number of hectads (most recent records)

2001-2017:	17
1986-2000:	37
1971-1985:	1
Pre-1971:	1
Total:	56

#### Number of hectads (all mapped records)

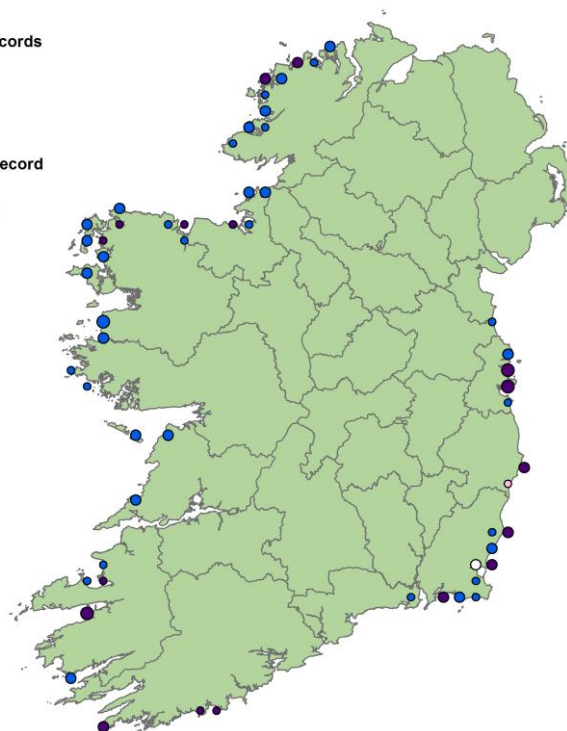
2001-2017:	17
1986-2000:	49
1971-1985:	5
Pre-1971:	5

#### Number of records

- 1-3
- 4-10
- 11-25
- 26+

#### Most recent record

- 2001-2017
- 1986-2000
- 1971-1985
- pre-1971



**Synoptic table (n = 224)**

Species	Frequency	Cover	Species	Frequency	Cover
	(from I-V)	min (med) max		(from I-V)	min (med) max
<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	V	3-(7)-10	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	I	+- (2)-5
<i>Elytrigia juncea</i>	III	+- (3)-7	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	I	+- (2)-3
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	III	+- (3)-5	<i>Poa pratensis/humilis</i>	I	1-(3)-5
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	II	+- (2)-5	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	I	1-(3)-5
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	II	+- (2)-3	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	I	+- (2)-5
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	II	+- (2)-4	<i>Daucus carota</i>	I	+- (2)-3
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	II	+- (2)-5	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	I	+- (3)-8
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	I	+- (3)-6	<i>Cakile maritima</i>	I	+- (2)-7
<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	I	+- (3)-5	<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	I	+- (2)-5
<i>Carex arenaria</i>	I	+- (2)-5	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	I	+- (2)-3
<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	I	+- (3)-5	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	I	1-(2)-3
<i>Calystegia soldanella</i>	I	+- (4)-7	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	I	1-(3)-4
<i>Leontodon saxatilis</i>	I	+- (2)-5	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	I	+- (2)-2
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	I	+- (2)-5	<i>Atriplex prostrata</i>	I	+- (2)-3
<i>Galium verum</i>	I	+- (2)-5	<i>Ononis repens</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	I	+- (2)-4	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	I	+- (2)-3
<i>Tripleurospermum maritimum</i>	I	+- (2)-4	<i>Salsola kali</i>	I	+- (2)-4
<i>Leymus arenarius</i>	I	+- (3)-7	<i>Crepis vesicaria</i>	I	+- (2)-2
<i>Cerastium diffusum</i>	I	+- (3)-4	<i>Euphorbia portlandica</i>	I	+- (2)-2
<i>Honckenya peploides</i>	I	+- (3)-5	<i>Phleum arenarium</i>	I	+- (2)-2

**Affinities**

GHI: CD2 Marram dunes

ZM: JD Ammophiletea (65.3%)

EUNIS: B1.321 Atlantic white dunes

NVC: SD6e *Ammophila arenaria* mobile dune community *Festuca rubra* sub-community (74.6%)

Annex I: 2120 Marram dunes (white dunes)

**Proxy environmental data**

Light: 8.8    Reaction: 6.1    Wetness: 4.3    Fertility: 3.6    Salinity: 2.6

**Conservation value**

This community corresponds to EU HD Annex I habitat 2120 Marram dunes (white dunes). It is very species-poor.

**Management**

Mobile dunes are unstable habitats and part of the dynamic duneland system. They may be naturally removed by storms and high tides. Anthropogenic impacts include recreation and modification of the coastline.

**Key references**

Gaynor, K. (2007) Flora and vegetation of Irish sand dune systems. (Ph.D. thesis). University College Dublin.

Crawford, I., Bleasdale, A., Conaghan, J. (1996) Biomar survey of Irish machair sites 1996. Volume 2: Plant communities. (unpublished). National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin.

Delaney, A., Devaney, F.M, Martin, J.M., Barron, S.J. (2013) Monitoring survey of Annex I sand dune habitats in Ireland. *Irish Wildlife Manuals*, No. 75. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin.

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**Synopsis date:** November 2019

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Photo 1. DU1B *Ammophila arenaria* duneland, Inchydoney, Cork (K. Connolly, October 2011)



Photo 1. DU1B *Ammophila arenaria* duneland, Castlefreke, Cork (G. Smith, September 2011)