



Scientific name	<i>Salix repens</i> – <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> duneland
Common name	Creeping Willow – Common Bird's-foot-trefoil duneland
Community code	DU3A

Vegetation

The silvery leaves and scrambling stems of *Salix repens* are the dominant feature of this duneland community. It is accompanied by the constant graminoids *Festuca rubra*, *Carex flacca*, *Agrostis stolonifera*, *Carex arenaria* and *Poa pratensis/humilis*. *Lotus corniculatus* and *Trifolium repens* usually provide the majority of the forb cover. On damper soils, *Holcus lanatus*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris* or *Carex nigra* may be found. *Rhynchospora squarrosus*, *Rhynchospora triquetrus*, *Scleropodium purum* and *Calliergonella cuspidata* are all frequent in the moss layer.

Ecology

This community typically occurs towards the rear of coastal duneland systems, around the margins of dune slacks where it is seasonally inundated. It may also occur on adjacent dune ridges and less frequently within the dune slack basin.

Sub-communities

No sub-communities are described.

Similar communities

The abundance of *Salix repens* marks this community out from most others. However, this shrub is frequent and can be abundant in DU3B *Agrostis stolonifera* – *Calliergonella cuspidata* – *Carex arenaria* duneland. That community, however, occurs lower down within dune slacks where species indicative of regular inundation, such as *Potentilla anserina*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris* and *Mentha aquatica*, occur more regularly. Less often, *Salix repens* occurs in DU3D.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	61
Transitional:	6
Total:	67

Number of records (mapped)

2001-2017:	30
1986-2000:	28
1971-1985:	9
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	67

Number of hectads (most recent records)

2001-2017:	11
1986-2000:	6
1971-1985:	2
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	19

Number of hectads (all mapped records)

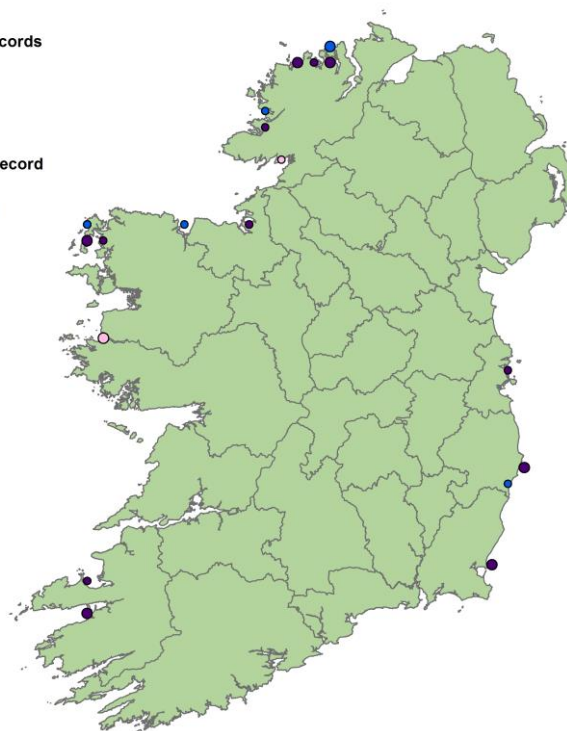
2001-2017:	11
1986-2000:	11
1971-1985:	3
Pre-1971:	0

Number of records

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

Most recent record

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



Synoptic table (n = 60)

Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max	Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max
<i>Salix repens</i>	V	3-(7)-9	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	II	2-(3)-8
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	V	2-(4)-8	<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>	II	2-(4)-7
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	V	+-(4)-7	<i>Carex nigra</i>	II	2-(3)-7
<i>Carex flacca</i>	IV	1-(4)-8	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	II	+-(3)-5
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	IV	1-(4)-8	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	II	1-(3)-4
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	IV	+-(3)-8	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	II	+-(2)-3
<i>Carex arenaria</i>	IV	+-(4)-6	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Poa pratensis/humilis</i>	IV	1-(3)-5	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	I	1-(2)-3
<i>Rhynchospora squarrosus</i>	III	2-(3)-7	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	III	2-(3)-8	<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	I	+-(2)-3
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	III	+-(3)-5	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	I	+-(2)-3
<i>Calliergonella cuspidata</i>	III	+-(4)-8	<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	I	+-(2)-7
<i>Rhynchospora triquetrus</i>	III	2-(4)-7	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	I	2-(2)-4
<i>Euphrasia officinalis</i> agg.	III	1-(3)-8	<i>Danthonia decumbens</i>	I	+-(3)-4
<i>Galium verum</i>	III	2-(3)-6	<i>Hylocomium splendens</i>	I	2-(4)-7
<i>Scleropodium purum</i>	III	+-(4)-7	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	I	1-(3)-5
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	II	+-(2)-3	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	I	2-(3)-5
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	II	1-(3)-5	<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	I	1-(2)-5
<i>Leontodon saxatilis</i>	II	+-(3)-5	<i>Luzula campestris</i>	I	+-(2)-3
<i>Homalothecium lutescens</i>	II	+-(4)-8	<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	I	2-(2)-4

Affinities

GHI: CD5 Dune slacks

ZM: CM Molinio-Arrhenatheretea (75.9%)

EUNIS: B1.83 Dune-slack fens

NVC: SD8d *Festuca rubra* – *Galium verum* fixed dune community *Bellis perennis* – *Ranunculus acris* sub-community (62.3%), but also SD16b *Salix repens* – *Holcus lanatus* dune-slack community *Rubus caesius* sub-community (62.2%)

Annex I: 2170 Dunes with creeping willow / 2190 Dune slacks

Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.5 Reaction: 6.0 Wetness: 5.8 Fertility: 3.5 Salinity: 0.4

Conservation value

Where *Salix repens* is present, this vegetation usually corresponds with EU HD Annex I habitat 2170 Dunes with creeping willow. Some instances from within dune slack basins, where there is a greater preponderance of wet-loving species, may correspond to habitat 2190 Dune slacks.

Management

This duneland is often grazed by livestock and overgrazing can be a problem as can intensification of agricultural practices.

Key references

Delaney, A., Stout, J.C. (2018) Principles of cross congruence do not apply in naturally disturbed dune slack habitats: Implications for conservation monitoring. *Ecological Indicators* 93, 358-364.

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

Beckers, A., Brock, T., Klerkx, J. (1976) A vegetation study of some parts of Dooaghtry, Co. Mayo, Republic of Ireland. (unpublished). National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin.

Synopsis version: V1.0

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Synopsis author(s): P.M. Perrin



Photo 1. DU3A *Salix repens* – *Lotus corniculatus* duneland, The Raven, Wexford (K. Duff, August 2011)



Photo 2. DU3A *Salix repens* – *Lotus corniculatus* duneland, Rossbehy, Kerry (M. Swann, April 2012)