



Scientific name	<i>Festuca rubra</i> – <i>Bellis perennis</i> duneland
Common name	Red Fescue – Daisy duneland
Community code	DU3D

Vegetation

A mixture of *Festuca rubra*, *Carex flacca* and *Agrostis stolonifera* form the majority of the sward in this diverse dune grassland. Almost invariably there is a scattering of *Trifolium repens* and *Prunella vulgaris* is very common. Other constants are *Bellis perennis*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris* and *Leontodon saxatilis*. Frequent species include *Euphrasia officinalis* agg., *Poa pratensis/humilis* and *Cynosurus cristatus*. In the bryophyte layer, *Calliergonella cuspidata* is the main species, accompanied by *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*.

Ecology

This community seems to primarily represent areas of fixed dunes and machair that have been agriculturally improved and in many cases also overgrazed

Sub-communities

No sub-communities are described.

Similar communities

The high frequency of *Bellis perennis*, *Prunella vulgaris* and *Carex flacca* will help identify this community from amongst the range of dune grasslands.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	78
Transitional:	12
Total:	90

Number of records (mapped)

2001-2017:	17
1986-2000:	52
1971-1985:	21
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	90

Number of hectads (most recent records)

2001-2017:	9
1986-2000:	20
1971-1985:	0
Pre-1971:	0
Total:	29

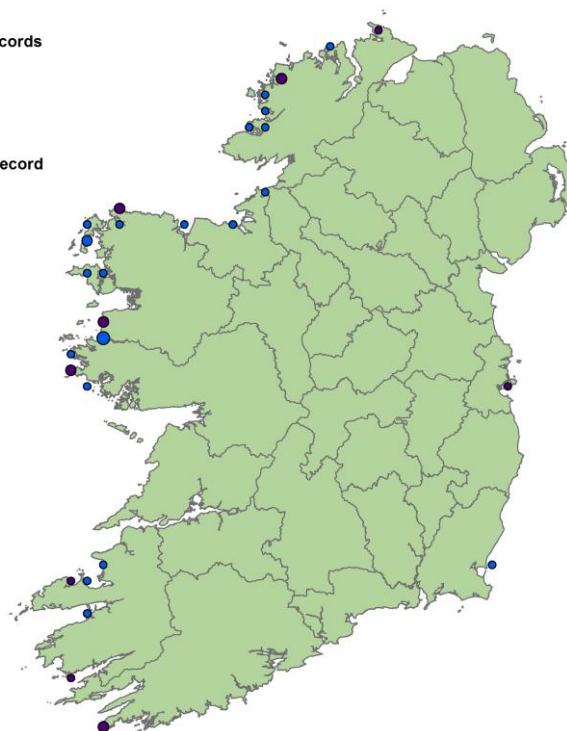
Number of hectads (all mapped records)

2001-2017:	9
1986-2000:	25
1971-1985:	3
Pre-1971:	0

Number of records



Most recent record



Synoptic table (n = 65)

Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max	Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	V	+- (3)-7	<i>Sagina nodosa</i>	III	+- (2)-5
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	V	2-(5)-8	<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	II	+- (3)-7
<i>Carex flacca</i>	V	3-(5)-8	<i>Anagallis tenella</i>	II	2-(3)-5
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	V	2-(3)-7	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	II	1-(3)-7
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	IV	+- (3)-7	<i>Danthonia decumbens</i>	II	2-(3)-4
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	IV	2-(5)-9	<i>Homalothecium lutescens</i>	II	+- (3)-8
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	IV	2-(3)-7	<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	II	+- (3)-4
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	IV	2-(3)-7	<i>Plantago maritima</i>	II	2-(3)-7
<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>	IV	2-(4)-5	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	II	2-(3)-5
<i>Calliergonella cuspidata</i>	IV	+- (4)-8	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	II	+- (2)-5
<i>Leontodon saxatilis</i>	IV	2-(3)-5	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	II	+- (2)-3
<i>Euphrasia officinalis</i> agg.	III	1-(3)-5	<i>Salix repens</i>	II	2-(4)-7
<i>Poa pratensis/humilis</i>	III	1-(3)-5	<i>Selaginella selaginoides</i>	II	+- (3)-3
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	III	2-(3)-5	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	II	+- (3)-5
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	III	1-(3)-8	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	I	2-(2)-4
<i>Carex arenaria</i>	III	2-(3)-5	<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	I	1-(2)-4
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	III	1-(3)-5	<i>Centaureum erythraea</i>	I	+- (2)-2
<i>Carex nigra</i>	III	2-(4)-7	<i>Galium verum</i>	I	2-(3)-4
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	III	2-(3)-5	<i>Scleropodium purum</i>	I	+- (2)-4
<i>Rhytidadelphus squarrosus</i>	III	+- (3)-6	<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	I	+- (2)-3

Affinities

GHI: CD5 Dune slacks / CD6 Machair

ZM: CM Molinio-Arrhenatheretea (97.0%)

EUNIS: B1.83 Dune-slack fens / B1.9 Machair

NVC: SD17b *Potentilla anserina* – *Carex nigra* dune-slack community *Carex flacca* sub-community (63.6%)

Annex I: 2190 Dune slacks / *21A0 Machair

Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.4 Reaction: 6.0 Wetness: 5.7 Fertility: 3.7 Salinity: 0.6

Conservation value

Most examples of this vegetation correspond to the EU HD Annex I habitat 2190 Dune slacks. On the northwest coast, this assemblage can be a component of priority habitat *21A0 Machair.

Management

This dune grassland is often grazed by livestock and rabbits and overgrazing can be a problem, as can disturbance due to recreational activities in popular coastal areas.

Key references

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.

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.

Synopsis version: V1.0

Synopsis date: November 2019

Synopsis author(s): P.M. Perrin



Photo 1. DU3D *Festuca rubra* – *Bellis perennis* duneland, Barleycove, Cork (G. Smith, September 2011)



Photo 1. DU3D *Festuca rubra* – *Bellis perennis* duneland, Doonloughan, Galway (A. Murray, September 2011)