

<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Cakile maritima</i> – <i>Salsola kali</i> strandline community
<b>Common name</b>	Sea Rocket – Prickly Saltwort strandline community
<b>Community code</b>	ST1B

### Vegetation

This a patchy community characterised by clumps of *Cakile maritima*. Prickly patches of *Salsola kali* are frequently present as are tufts of *Elytrigia juncea*, but they offer very sparse cover. Occasionally encountered are *Atriplex prostrata*, *Leymus arenarius* and *Ammophila arenaria*. Mean maximum vegetation height = 25.4 cm,  $n = 12$ .

### Ecology

This is a loose assemblage of drift lines, occurring in a narrow linear zone along the high tide mark on sandy beaches. Mean altitude = 1.3 m,  $n = 4$ ; mean extent of bare sand = 88.8%,  $n = 4$ .

### Sub-communities

No sub-communities are described.

### Similar communities

The abundance of *Cakile maritima* serves to distinguish this community from other strandline types.

### Records and distribution

#### Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	27
Transitional:	7
Total:	34

#### Number of records (mapped)

2001-2020:	9
1986-2000:	23
1971-1985:	1
Pre-1971:	1
Total:	34

#### Number of hectads (by most recent time period)

2001-2020:	6
1986-2000:	14
1971-1985:	1
Pre-1971:	1
Total:	22

#### Number of hectads (records in each time period)

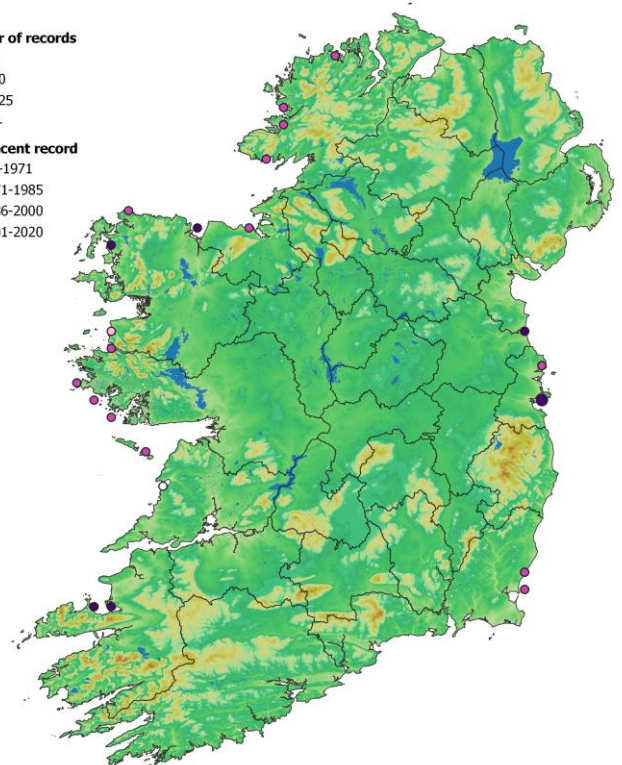
2001-2020:	6
1986-2000:	16
1971-1985:	1
Pre-1971:	1

#### Number of records

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

#### Most recent record

- pre-1971
- 1971-1985
- 1986-2000
- 2001-2020



### Synoptic table (n = 24)

Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max	Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	V	+-(3)-8			
<i>Elytrigia juncea</i>	III	+-(2)-4			
<i>Salsola kali</i>	III	+-(2)-5			
<i>Atriplex prostrata</i>	II	+-(2)-3			
<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	II	2-(2)-4			
<i>Leymus arenarius</i>	II	+-(3)-3			
<i>Atriplex laciniata</i>	I	2-(3)-3			
<i>Honckenya peploides</i>	I	+-(+)-+			
<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	I	+-(+)-2			
<i>Atriplex glabriuscula</i>	I	+-(1)-2			
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	I	+-(+)-+			

#### Affinities

GHI: LS1 Shingle and gravel shores / LS2 Sand shores

ZM: JC01B Salsolo-Minuartion peploidis Tx. in Br.-Bl. et Tx. 1952

EUNIS: B2.12 Atlantic and Baltic shingle beach drift lines / B1.12 Middle European sand beach annual communities

NVC: SD2 *Honckenya peploides-Cakile maritima* strandline community (65.1%)

Annex I:1210 Drift lines

#### Proxy environmental data

Light: 9.0 Reaction: 6.9 Wetness: 5.7 Fertility: 6.6 Salinity: 3.0

#### Conservation value

Most examples of this low diversity vegetation (species/4 m<sup>2</sup> = 3.3, n = 17) correspond to EU HD Annex I habitat 1210 Drift lines

#### Management

This is unstable and dynamic habitat that does not require active management. It is threatened however by recreational pressure, mechanical beach cleaning and the creation of coastal defences which can interfere with sediment dynamics.

#### Key references

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.

Crawford, I., Bleasdale, A., Conaghan, J. (1998) BIOMAR survey of Irish machair sites 1996. Volume 2: Plant communities. *Irish Wildlife Manuals* No. 4. Dúchas, The Heritage Service, Dublin.

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

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Photo 1. ST1B *Cakile maritima* – *Atriplex prostrata* strandline community, Castlegregory, Kerry  
(A. Delaney, September 2011)



Photo 2. Plot recording in vegetation ascribable to ST1B *Cakile maritima* – *Atriplex prostrata* strandline community, North Bull Island, Dublin (J. Martin, August 2019)