

Volume 10 - Onshore Appendices

Appendix A23.4
**Annex 1 Habitat Quadrat
and Assessment Sheets
2025**

Appendix A23.4 Annex 1 Habitat Quadrat and Assessment sheets 2025

Vegetated Sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts (1230) – Swath 1

Swath 1	Location (ITM): 719818.99, 764945.40		
			
			
Date	14.07.2025		
GPS reading	Lat: 53.62148514 Lon: -6.18724326		
Size m ²	100		
Soft pioneer bare soil %	15		
Soft pioneer herbaceous cover %	20		
Soft pioneer graminoid cover %	65		
Coastal grassland bare soil %	5		
Coastal grassland herbaceous cover %	20		
Coastal grassland graminoid cover %	75		
Coastal grassland Shrub/ericoid cover %	1		
No. plant species in quadrat	32		
Species	% cover	DOMIN	Zone
Agrostis stolonifera	25	5	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
Ammophila arenaria	7	4	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
Anthyllis vulneraria	2	3	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
Arrhenatherum elatius	10	4	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs

<i>Atriplex prostrata</i>	1	3	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	1	3	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	2	3	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
<i>Cirsium dissectum</i>	1	3	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
<i>Daucus carota</i>	1	3	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	3	3	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
<i>Elytrigia atherica</i>	20	5	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	7	3	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
<i>Galium verum</i>	2	3	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	4	3	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
<i>Honckenya peploides</i>	3	3	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
<i>Leymus arenarius</i>	10	4	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
<i>Ononis repens</i>	0.5	2	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
<i>Puccinellia maritima</i>	40	7	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	8	4	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	1	3	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
<i>Senecio jacobea</i>	1	3	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	1	3	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
<i>Syntrichia ruralis</i>	.5	2	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	7	4	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Kindbergia praelonga</i>	.5	1	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Daucus carota</i>	1	3	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	.5	2	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	2	3	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	50	7	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	7	4	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	0.5	3	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Helictotrichon pubescens</i>	1	3	Soft cliff pioneer

Vegetated Sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts (1230) – Swath 2

<p>Swath 2</p>	<p>Location (ITM): 719812.25, 765076.86</p>
	
	
<p>Date</p>	<p>14.07.2025</p>
<p>GPS reading</p>	<p>Lat: 53.62266742 Long: 6.18729448</p>
<p>Size m²</p>	<p>100</p>
<p>Slope (degrees)</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>Soft pioneer bare soil %</p>	<p>60</p>
<p>Soft pioneer herbaceous cover %</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>Soft pioneer graminoid cover %</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>Coastal grassland bare soil %</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>Coastal grassland herbaceous cover %</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>Coastal grassland graminoid cover %</p>	<p>80</p>
<p>Coastal grassland Shrub/ericoid cover %</p>	<p>15</p>

No. plant species in quadrat	37		
Species	% cover	DOMIN	LEVEL
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	7	4	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Atriplex prostrata</i>	3	3	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	1	3	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	3	3	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	7	4	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	2	3	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Daucus carota</i>	1	3	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Galium aparine</i>	1	3	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Galium verum</i>	6	4	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	3	3	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Honckenya peploides</i>	1	3	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	<1	2	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	10	4	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	2	3	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	5	4	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	<1	1	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	10	4	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Tripleurospermum</i>	1	3	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	2	3	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Leontodon hirsuta</i>	1	3	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Pucinnella</i>	5	4	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	10	4	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	25	5	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	1	3	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Elymus repens</i>	5	3	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	30	6	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Leymus arenaria</i>	60	8	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Lolium pratensis</i>	7	4	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	15	5	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	1	3	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Ononis repens</i>	1	3	Soft cliff pioneer
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	2	3	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	3	3	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	15	5	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	45	7	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	15	5	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	15	5	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs

Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts (1230) – Swath 3

Swath 3	Location (ITM): 719824.44, 765207.18
	
	
Date	14.07.2025
GPS reading	Lat: 53.62383513 Long: 6.18706014
Size m²	100
Soft pioneer bare soil %	15
Soft pioneer herbaceous cover %	15
Soft pioneer graminoid cover %	75
Coastal grassland bare soil %	0
Coastal grassland herbaceous cover %	5
Coastal grassland graminoid cover %	90
Coastal grassland Shrub/ericoid cover %	10

No. plant species in quadrat	27		
Species	% cover	DOMIN	LEVEL
Achillea millefolium	1	3	Soft cliff pioneer
Cirsium arvensis	1	3	Soft cliff pioneer
Ononis repens	1	3	Soft cliff pioneer
Potentilla reptans	3	3	Soft cliff pioneer
Rumex crispus	<1	2	Soft cliff pioneer
Sonchus arvensis	3	3	Soft cliff pioneer
Plantago lanceolata	1	3	Soft cliff pioneer
Potentilla anserina	3	3	Soft cliff pioneer
Potentilla reptans	35	7	Soft cliff pioneer
Dactylis Glomerata	<1	2	Soft cliff pioneer
Lotus glomerata	3	3	Soft cliff pioneer
Agrostis stolonifera	5	3	Soft cliff pioneer
Arrhenatherum elatius	7	4	Soft cliff pioneer
Elymus atherica	10	4	Soft cliff pioneer
Festuca rubra	50	7	Soft cliff pioneer
Elymus repens	30	6	Soft cliff pioneer
Puccinellia maritima	20	5	Soft cliff pioneer
Agrostis stolonifera	7	4	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
Arrhenatherum elatius	70	8	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
Cirsium arvensis	3	3	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
Festuca rubra	60	8	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
Galium verum	<1	2	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
Heracleum sphondylium	10	4	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
Lathyrus pratensis	3	3	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
Ononis repens	0.5	2	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
Plantago lanceolata	1	3	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs
Rubus fruticosus	10	4	Coastal grassland on soft cliffs

Swath structural information

Site ID	1	1	1
Site Name	Balbriggan	Balbriggan	Balbriggan
Swath ID	1	2	3
Ecologist ID	EC	EC	EC
Date	14/07/25	14/07/25	14/07/25

Grid references

Swath centre	0719819 0764945	0719812 0765077	0719824 0765207
Swath LHS	0719824 0764933	0719807 0765056	0719826 0765192
Swath RHS	0719820 0764951	0719809 0765077	0719828 0765213

Cliff profiling

Cliff slope	90%	95%	90%
Height of cliff	5m	6m	3.5m
Cliff aspect	East	East	East

Cliff type

Hard cliff			
Soft cliff	Soft	Soft	Soft

Adjacent habitats

Cliff top	GS2	GS2	GS2
Cliff base	GS2	GS2	GS2

Fauna

Rabbits	-		
Hares	-		
Anthills	-		
Solitary bee	X	X	X
Solitary wasp			
Sand martin		X	X
Annex I bird			
Other			
Other			

Bird colonies

Species			
Count (nests)			

Impacts

Impact code	Erosion at top 1m	Erosion & bramble on top	Bramble encroaching
% area affected		15% at top	
Intensity (H/M/L)		M	
+ / - / 0		-	
Internal/External		Internal	
Notes		Probably natural scrub colonisation by bramble	

Structure and function assessment criteria

Site name: Balbriggan Number: Swath 1		Site	1	2	3
Vegetation zone	Target	Scale of assessment	Pass/fail	Pass/fail	Pass/fail
All zones	No sea defences such as rock armour, sea walls or fences affecting the zonation, geomorphology or natural hydrology of the cliff are present. If target is failed record the cliff section(s) this occurs in	Within visible area of the site.	P	P	P
All zones	No artificial structures including piers and slipways affecting the zonation, geomorphology or natural hydrology of the cliff are present. If target is failed record the cliff section(s) this occurs in.	Within visible area of the site.	F	P	P
All zones	No access points such as paths or tracks which affect the zonation, geomorphology or natural hydrology of the cliff are present. If target is failed record the cliff section(s) this occurs in.	Within visible area of the site.	F	P	P
All zones	No non-native species are present. If target is failed record the cliff sections(s) this occurs in, the non-native species occurring and the approximate extent.	Within visible area of the site.	P	P	P
Splash zone	Number of positive indicator species present ≥ 1 .	Within zone in swath.	n/a	n/a	n/a
Crevice and ledge zone	Number of positive indicator species present ≥ 4 .	Within zone in swath.	n/a	n/a	n/a
Coastal grassland on hard or soft cliffs	Combined cover of <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> and woody species (inc. <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg., <i>Ulex europaeus</i> , <i>Prunus spinosa</i> , <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> , <i>Hedera helix</i> etc.) is $<5\%$.	Within zone in swath.	P	F	P
Coastal grassland on hard cliffs	No negative indicator species present	Within zone in swath.	n/a	n/a	n/a

Grazed coastal grassland on hard cliffs	Average grassland sward height is <10 cm.	Within zone in swath.	n/a	n/a	n/a
Grazed coastal grassland on hard cliffs	Number of positive indicator species present ≥ 3 .	Within zone in swath.	n/a	n/a	n/a
Grazed coastal grassland on hard cliffs	Broadleaf herb component is 20 – 90%.	Within zone in swath.	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ungrazed coastal grassland on hard cliffs	Ungrazed grassland sward height is ≥ 10 cm.	Within zone in swath.	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ungrazed coastal grassland on hard cliffs	Number of positive indicator species present ≥ 2 .	Within zone in swath.	n/a	n/a	n/a
Coastal grassland on soft cliffs	Number of positive indicator species present ≥ 2 .	Within zone in swath.	P	P	P
Soft cliff pioneer	Number of positive indicator species present ≥ 1 .	Within zone in swath.	P	P	P
Flush on soft cliff	No evidence of anthropogenic impacts on the	Within zone in swath.	n/a	n/a	n/a
Flush on soft cliff	Number of positive indicator species present ≥ 1 .	Within zone in swath.	n/a	n/a	n/a
Coastal heath	Number of positive indicator species present ≥ 2 .	Within zone in swath.	n/a	n/a	n/a
Coastal heath	No negative indicator species present.	Within zone in swath.	n/a	n/a	n/a
Coastal heath	Cover of <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> < 10%.	Within zone in swath.	n/a	n/a	n/a
Coastal heath	Cover of scattered native trees, shrubs and woody climbers < 20%.	Within zone in swath.	n/a	n/a	n/a
Coastal heath	No signs of burning of heath habitat on the cliff. If target is failed record the cliff section(s) this occurs in.	Within visible area of the site.	n/a	n/a	n/a