



## Rosslare Golf Club

Biodiversity audit and actions 2026



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<b>Field survey date</b>	12 May 2025, dry with sunny spells and occasional cloud
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## 1. COURSE OVERVIEW

*A brief course overview is provided outlining the history of the club, its landscape and important biogeographical context*

Rosslare Golf Club was established in 1905, originally as a nine-hole course, with the current 18-hole main layout completed in 1926. A 12-hole course, the Burrow Links, was later added and complements the main championship course. It is a classic links course, located entirely within a coastal sand dune system at the southern end of Rosslare Strand. The club occupies an area of around c.80 hectares, including the Old Course, Burrow Course, practice area, modern clubhouse, and parking.

The course is set within a narrow dune peninsula flanked by Wexford Harbour to the west and the Irish Sea to the east. These extensive dune habitats are of high ecological interest and are adjacent to designated conservation areas, including an SAC and SPA (see Section 2). The course includes a mix of managed in-play areas and more natural dune grasslands, and supports characteristic flora and fauna of the fixed dune habitat.

The course team have begun implementing biodiversity-friendly practices including reducing inputs, retaining areas of natural rough, and creating and maintaining sand scrapes. There was a significant area of apparent “decalcified dune heath” habitat which may constitute a significant habitat in Irish terms.

## 2. NATURE DESIGNATIONS AND PROTECTED SPECIES

*Designated sites are the central mechanism for the protection of nature. High priority species are given special protection. Both of these factors can constrain certain activities on a course, or can form the biodiversity priorities and targets for course actions and should be carefully considered when planning for biodiversity action.*

There are two terrestrial European designated sites which either directly adjoin or lie immediately adjacent to the course boundary. These are listed below along with a summary of their special interest (features of highest relevance to the course are shown in **bold**):

SAC: 000781 Slaney River Valley SAC	SPA: 004019 – Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA <sup>1</sup>
<p><b>Estuaries [1130]</b>  <b>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</b>            Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]            Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]            Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]            Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]            Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]  <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]  <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095]  <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096]  <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099]  <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> (Twait Shad) [1103]  <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106]  <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]  <i>Phoca vitulina</i> (Harbour Seal) [1365]</p>	<p><b>Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046]</b>            Greenland White-fronted Goose [A395]            Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]            Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]  <b>Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</b></p>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa/004019>

In addition, a further SPA (004237 - Seas off Wexford SPA) lies to the seaward side of the peninsula, extending from the high water mark out to sea and holding importance for a large number of high priority seabird species.

The SAC lies directly adjacent to the NW boundary of the course. The fixed dunes and slacks, while not part of the SAC are complementary habitats providing high ecological connectivity. There is some potential overlap with habitats present within out-of-play areas on the course and in some places the SAC and SPA boundary is within a few metres of play.

The SACs and SPA do not clearly overlap with the golf course itself, though may share or very marginally overlap in the intertidal zone, but are located nearby and share the broader coastal and estuarine landscape. Brent Geese and other overwintering species are likely to use the short-sward habitats of the course on occasion for feeding, particularly in winter.

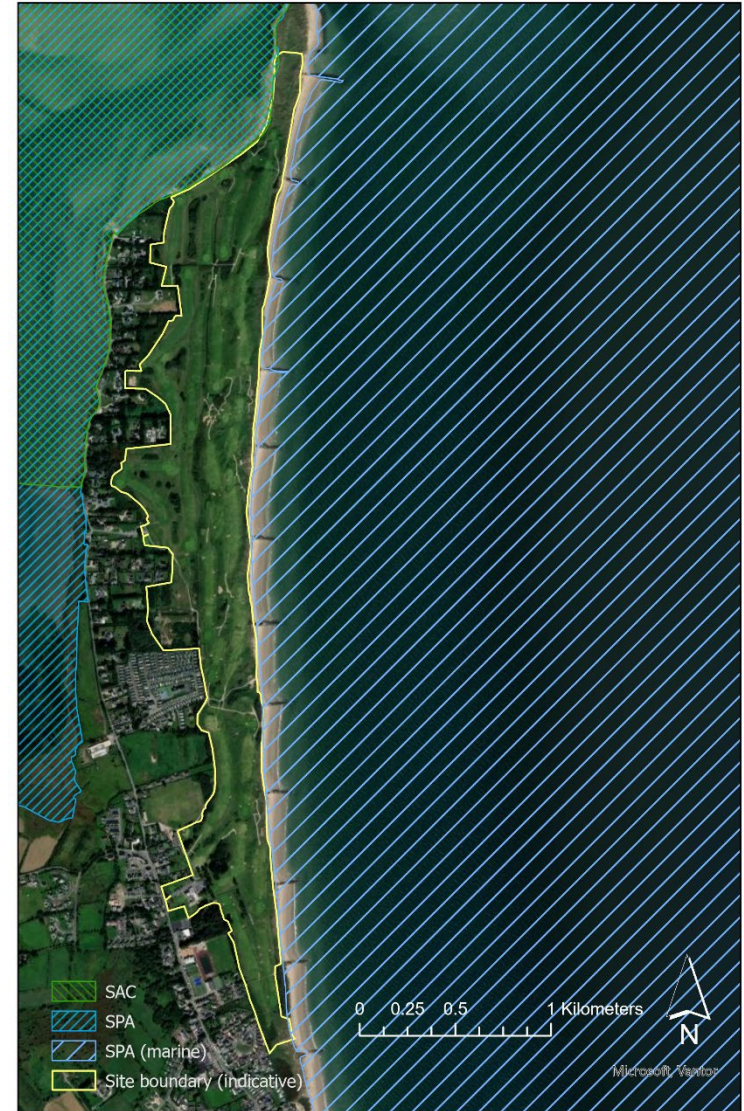


Figure 1 Incidence of designated sites in relation to the Rosslare GC

### 3. HABITAT ASSESSMENT AND MAPPING

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*Habitat mapping follows the best practice guidance for Ireland (Fossitt (2000)<sup>2</sup> and Smith et al. 2011<sup>3</sup>. Given the unique nature of golf courses, the following general rules for habitat mapping apply for the purpose of golf course biodiversity audit:*

- *Habitat areas <0.01ha are not mapped unless they are of significant biodiversity value or risk.*
  - *Playing areas and areas associated with play are mapped in aggregate under habitat code GA2 “Amenity grassland” this includes areas such as greens, fairways, tee boxes, managed rough, scattered trees and small tree lines, ornamental plantings of a non-significant extent, bunkers, paths etc.*
  - *Built infrastructure, hard standing, roads and other artificial surfaces are mapped as habitat code BL3 “buildings and artificial surfaces”*
  - *Habitat codes applied are based on “look see” survey and ground truthing of aerial imagery. Where the full extent of the course has not been covered, interpolation and interpretation of best available aerial imagery is applied.*
  - *Mapping tolerances/resolution are variable but are typically +/- 2 to 5 metres.*
  - *All habitat, feature and landholding boundaries should be taken as indicative. Lines on maps do not represent an accurate indication of tenure or legal agreements.*
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Habitat mapping is provided at Figure 3. The overall habitat of the course is Fixed Dunes. While in play areas are assigned “GA2 Amenity grassland”, large parts of these in play areas (notably bunkers, light rough and fairways), retain significant characteristics of fixed dune grasslands, while greens and tee boxes are more typical play surfaces. The deeper rough, many bunkers and peripheral areas hold high quality fixed dune habitat. Table 1 and Table 2 provide a synopsis of habitats present and their biodiversity value.

The site habitat range is not diverse but is of high value overall, given the site holds a significant resource of European priority Fixed Dune habitat and a range of associated species.

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<sup>2</sup> Fossitt, J. (2000) [A Guide to Habitats in Ireland](#). The Heritage Council.

<sup>3</sup> Smith, G. et al. (2011) [Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping](#). The Heritage Council

Table 1 Habitat synopsis

Habitat code	Habitat type	Area (ha)	Site-specific description	habitat	Site-specific synopsis of biodiversity value	Biodiversity value (VH/H/M/L/N)
BL3	Buildings and Artificial Structures	0.57	Built structures, car parks, paths, tarmac, gravel surfaces. Includes areas with occasional natural vegetation.		Potential for Swallow nesting in sheds; sandy or gravel surfaces may support invertebrates.	Low
CD3	Fixed Dune	9.18	Natural fixed dune habitats in various states, from untouched to lightly managed.		European priority habitat. High floristic and invertebrate diversity.	Very High
ED3	Recolonising Bare Ground	1.84	Early successional habitat, some bare ground and colonising species. Likely disturbed or recovering.		May support colonising species or dune restoration areas; botanical interest in early stages.	Mod
FL58/FS1	Eutrophic lake/reedswamp	0.39	Pond margins with vegetation, small wetland or slack features near the course periphery.		Wetland habitat likely to support dragonflies, amphibians and wetland flora.	High
GA2	In-play areas (amenity grassland)	56.19	Main in-play areas including fairways, greens, tee boxes and light rough. Includes scattered trees and managed bunkers.		Fairways and light rough retain some dune flora. Potential feeding ground for wintering birds and invertebrate activity in rougher areas.	Low-Mod
GS1	Dry neutral/calcareous grassland	4.84	Calcareous grassland-dune mosaic, drier grassland with herb-rich communities.		Species-rich habitat; supports dry-adapted herbs, invertebrates and in places is showing signs of development of <u>decalcified dune heath (requires further investigation)</u>	High
WD1/WD2	Mixed woodland	1.45	Coniferous and mixed deciduous planted woodland		Generally young deciduous or more mature non-native conifer species with poor woodland structure – of some value for birds and bats, limited and somewhat out of place in a links environment	Low-Mod

Habitat code	Habitat type	Area (ha)	Site-specific description	habitat	Site-specific synopsis of biodiversity value	Biodiversity value (VH/H/M/L/N)
WS1	Scrub - gorse etc.	1.28	Scrub dominated by Gorse, with some willow and other species.		Important scrub habitat for birds and pollinators, but management of gorse for playability remains important	Mod
WS1 (SB)	Scrub – Sea Buckthorn	1.65	Scrub dominated by Sea Buckthorn, mainly on dune edges and some invasion into fixed dunes.		Important scrub habitat but Sea Buckthorn is invasive and can outcompete native species.	Negative

*Table 2 Habitat areas*

Habitat value	Area (ha)	% area	Comments
Area of habitat of VERY HIGH biodiversity value	9.2	11.85	Priority European habitat – fixed dune
Area of habitat of HIGH biodiversity value	5.23	6.75	Dry grassland and wetland habitats of notable diversity
Area of habitat of MODERATE biodiversity value	3.12	4.03	Scrub and early successional areas with ecological potential
Area of habitat of LOW biodiversity value	58.21	75.12	Includes main in-play areas. Potential for enhancement moderate
Area of habitat of NEGATIVE biodiversity value	1.75	2.26	No invasive non-native species of high risk may need further investigation



Figure 2 Habitat map

## 4. SPECIES ASSESSMENT

*Comprehensive species lists for a wide range of groups are not practical or possible during short survey visits. Selected notable species recorded on the site, during the audit visit and from desk searches of species data for the area, are noted as part of an overall assessment of key species groups, based on species and habitats observed and data located. Species or species groups are identified for further recording or targeted actions. Common or vernacular names are used throughout. Conservation status is noted where relevant and is based on national and international convention e.g. Irish Red Lists<sup>4</sup>*

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### Mammals

Signs of four mammal species were observed:

- Fox – scat recorded in multiple locations
- Irish Hare – one individual observed
- Badger – a sett confirmed on site
- Rabbit – present

The open dune habitats, particularly in out-of-play areas and undisturbed rough, provide a suitable environment for a number of terrestrial mammals. Hare and fox were both active on-site and a badger sett was noted. Rabbits use the sandy soils and dunes. The lack of woodland or significant tree cover means the course is generally unsuitable for bats, though incidental foraging may occur near scrub and the few treelines, or around the clubhouse.

The course is situated in an area of MODERATE bat landscape suitability<sup>5</sup>, with the potential presence of up to eight bat species. These include widespread generalist species such as Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, and Leisler's Bat, as well as scarcer species like Brown Long-eared Bat, Whiskered Bat, Daubenton's Bat and Natterer's Bat. Mature trees, woodland margins and wetland edges on the course are likely to provide some valuable foraging and commuting habitat. Some effort to record bats on the course and to identify potential roost sites would be of value, and consideration of bats in tree and woodland management should be highlighted, though in general bat interest is most likely to be for foraging.

### Birds

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.npws.ie/publications/red-lists>

<sup>5</sup> [https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/metadata/Landscape\\_Conservation\\_for\\_Irish\\_Bats\\_metadata\(v.3\).pdf](https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/metadata/Landscape_Conservation_for_Irish_Bats_metadata(v.3).pdf)

In all, 27 species were noted within or over the course (see Appendix 2). The species observed were typical of the habitats present and reflective of the course's coastal setting. The location of Rosslare Golf Club adjacent to the Wexford Harbour and Slob's SPA increases the likelihood of overlap with waterbird species of conservation concern. Shelduck, for example, may breed in nearby dune systems, while other SPA-featured birds such as Oystercatcher and Brent Goose are known to forage on short-sward habitats. Regular monitoring of bird use, particularly over winter and migration periods, would contribute valuable data given the proximity of the course to designated European sites.

### Trees, Shrubs and Plants

No nationally rare or protected plant species were recorded during the visit. The vegetation observed was typical of a coastal dune landscape, with a mix of fixed dune, scattered scrub and planted areas. Gorse was present in small patches, mainly in the northern part of the course, and does not dominate any area.

Fixed dune vegetation was recorded within close proximity of fairways in several locations. These areas are of high ecological value and should be protected from overspill of management activities. A detailed botanical survey would be useful to assess condition and support future biodiversity planning.

### Amphibians and Reptiles

No amphibians or reptiles were recorded during the survey. However, Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*) and Smooth Newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*) are likely to occur, particularly around the vegetated pond near the Burrow Course. NBDC records confirm the presence of *Rana temporaria* in the area, with a verified record from 2016<sup>6</sup>. Further survey in spring would help confirm presence and inform future management.

### Insects and Other Invertebrates

Conditions were not suitable for invertebrate recording during the visit due to relatively cold and overcast weather. However, several species of butterfly and bumblebee were noted, and the fixed dune, slack and pond habitats are likely to support a wide range of invertebrates, notably Odonata. NBDC records for the area include two Near Threatened species, Patchwork Leafcutter Bee *Megachile centuncularis* and Red-tailed Bumblebee *Bombus lapidarius*. These species favour warm, flower-rich, lightly managed grassland with bare/ friable soil for nesting. Maintaining cut-and-remove meadows as rough, leaving sunny banks or sand scrapes, and avoiding pesticide use around roughs and pond margins will best support them<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> National Biodiversity Data Centre (2024). [www.biodiversityireland.ie](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie) – Species records for grid square T01Y.

## Fungi

No fungi were noted during the visit. The dune grassland habitat is not typically rich in macro fungi, though species may occur seasonally in damper areas.

## Aquatic species

There are several wetlands on the course which likely support a wide range of aquatic life – surveys would uncover this. The nearby Wexford Harbour supports a wide range of estuarine and intertidal species, some of which may use the course occasionally for feeding or roosting.

## Coastal and Marine Species (where relevant)

The course is located entirely within a coastal dune system on a narrow peninsula between Wexford Harbour and the Irish Sea. Many of the species and habitats present are associated with coastal processes. The course contributes to the ecological function of the broader coastal system and lies adjacent to both SAC and SPA designated areas. No marine species are specifically listed here as they are covered under species groups noted above.

## Invasive species

Sea buckthorn is heavily established in parts of the site and is spreading into fixed dune areas. This species is invasive and its control should be considered a management priority to avoid further impact on dune and grassland habitats.

Tree planting around the clubhouse includes sycamore, spruce and other non-native species. Three-cornered leek was noted close to built areas, and New Zealand flax is present in some ornamental beds. Measures to tackle the mix of non-native invasive species would be of value to prevent further spread and to start the process of removal. A plan for this would be of value.

## 5. CURRENT ISSUES AND BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT

*Current issues and past biodiversity management are identified from site survey and from discussion with course personnel. These are discussed here to inform recommended actions.*

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### 1. Fixed dune management & invasive species

The club has taken a clear and proactive approach to managing its fixed dune habitats, with a focus on reducing invasive species pressure and enhancing the value of out-of-play areas. The course includes fixed dune adjacent to the boundary of the SAC, and maintaining compatibility with SAC objectives is of value, notably so as a clear ecological extension and connection to the SAC. Continued liaison with NPWS is advisable to ensure that management actions remain aligned with conservation requirements, especially in areas of fixed dune grassland.

Sea buckthorn management is underway and has already achieved positive results in some areas. This represents good practice and a clear understanding of the site's ecological sensitivity. Scrub control remains an ongoing requirement, particularly along dune edges and where scattered gorse and woody growth are beginning to spread. Regular removal of colonising scrub and vigilance for regrowth will be needed to protect fixed dune integrity. In the absence of grazing livestock some periodic strimming and removal of rank areas would be of value in areas which are becoming dominated by e.g. Bramble.

Non-native species such as sycamore and ornamental plantings including New Zealand flax and three-cornered leek occur around the clubhouse and in landscaped areas. While these are currently confined, their ongoing presence near sensitive dune zones makes regular monitoring important and an approach to tackling the three cornered leek would be of high value given its propensity to spread.

The club has retained and actively managed sand scrape features across parts of the site, which are outside the SAC. These areas mimic natural dune dynamics and provide high-value habitat for dune specialist species, including invertebrates associated with bare sand. These are a strong example of best-practice dune management. There may be additional areas for consideration, notably where coarse grasses have taken hold in enriched soils.



*Figure 4 Sand scrapes have been created from over enriched areas and are restoring dune character to the course*

There is also potential to increase ecological value in roughs by selectively reducing mowing to suit development as native grassland, where feasible. Some semi-natural rough currently supports developing fixed dune vegetation or areas of calcareous grassland, and additional patches could be enhanced through reduced cutting regimes. This would need to be carefully balanced with course playability. Introduction of Yellow Rattle in places could also be trialled to support meadow structure and reduce vigour in areas of species-poor sward.

Importantly there is an area of apparent de-calcified dune heath. This is a rare and priority habitat but is interspersed with dune and dry grassland and further work to identify its extent and condition would be of value, ideally done in liaison with NPWS.

## 2. Wetland management

There are several small wetlands on site, these are remnant dune slacks and feature well developed reedbeds. Given their location at the south east corner of the country, their role in attracting and supporting colonising Odonata species (dragonflies and damselflies) amongst other migratory invertebrates, which are spreading through climate change, is important and these could be of significance for biodiversity recording. Encouraging some access in suitable conditions by local volunteers for recording would be a contribution to national recording. Maintaining a vegetated fringe as a buffer to course activities and maintaining the reedbed and open water mosaic is important. While ‘cleaning’ is not essential, some rotational reed cutting or infrequent clear out may be of benefit.



*Figure 5 Candidate decalcified dune heath - requires detailed examination to map extent of this potentially valuable habitat type*

## 5. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR BIODIVERSITY

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*The actions recommended are based on findings from the course survey and are informed by priorities identified in earlier sections. These are not intended to be comprehensive or to replace the need for a fully considered biodiversity action plan. They are identified as initial, or further, steps to enhancing biodiversity management on the course. Detailed approaches and methods are not provided and can be informed by best practice guidance and through discussion with an ecologist.*

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### Course management policies

**Recommendation 1: Further development of a biodiversity plan for the site**

**Priority: Moderate**

There is no plan at present for biodiversity action. This audit provides a starting point for a biodiversity plan but to achieve the highest level benefits for biodiversity, further detailed habitat mapping and species group surveys would be desirable. Planning actions is a key consideration to inform and guide any future application for *On Course* accreditation with GEO. A plan could be produced either wholly by, or with the advice of, a professional ecologist but is a significant resource commitment – development of this by club volunteers is possible with advisory input from an ecologist also. An important aspect in

**Recommendation 2: Continue to follow best practice guidance on reducing inputs generally and specifically avoid spraying/applications on semi-natural habitat areas**

*Priority: High*

Reducing inputs as a whole is identified as best practice and specifically benefits biodiversity in semi-natural habitats by reducing herbicide, pesticide and nutrient drift effects. It is essential to avoid transfer to semi-natural habitats, wetlands are particularly susceptible. Developing buffer areas around wetlands would be of high value. These buffers could include vegetated areas where necessary and be of variable width, with a target minimum of 5 metres where possible. The single pond on site and any watercourse are notable and would benefit from this.

**Recommendation 3: Establish annual liaison with NPWS**

*Priority: Moderate*

The status of the course being adjacent to European sites and containing priority European habitats, means liaison with the statutory body for protection of nature is important to ensure activities are approved wherever necessary. Doing this through regular liaison would be of high value and is best practice. This may also result in the identification of opportunities for support from NPWS by way of expertise or funding support.

## Habitat actions

**Recommendation 4: Maintain and enhance fixed dune, dry grassland and dune heath habitats**

*Priority: High*

- a) Continue current good practice in scrape management - identify and manage sand scrapes to ensure early-successional structure is retained.
- b) Enhance fixed dune structure & function in unmanaged rough where feasible, potentially through single annual cuts with removal
- c) Continue light disturbance (e.g. trampling) in humid dune grassland areas to support open structure.
- d) Remove Sea buckthorn and other scrub in sensitive locations – plan and consider feasibility
- e) Undertake periodic botanical survey or use fixed-point photos to monitor condition
- f) Survey the extent and define desirable management for dune heath habitats

## Species actions

**Recommendation 5: Invasive species control**

*Priority: High*

- a) Create a plan for invasive species control and carry out targeted removal of Sea buckthorn, Three-cornered leak, Sycamore and other invasive plants from sensitive areas.

## Monitoring and recording actions

### **Recommendation 6: Develop annual monitoring of key features which contribute to biodiversity actions and *On Course GEO*<sup>7</sup> accreditation**

*Priority: Moderate*

- a) Develop and promote increased species recording (for all species) on the course using NBDC recording app<sup>8</sup>
- b) Bird survey – consider recruiting volunteers to carry out annual breeding bird survey and create an annual bird species list
- c) Invertebrate and pollinator recording – consider developing volunteer effort to monitor pollinating insects annually and facilitate volunteer access to wetlands to monitor these for dragonflies
- d) Botanical re-survey of key habitats – identify the extent and condition of dune heath habitat
- e) Develop and promote volunteer recording of biodiversity on site

## Awareness and engagement actions

### **Recommendation 7: Organise one or more biodiversity events, each year, for members and the community – e.g. a mini-BioBlitz, biodiversity talks, dawn chorus walk**

*Priority: Moderate*

- a) Activities to engage the members and the community in biodiversity of the course highlights the value of the site from an ecosystem services perspective and promotes support for new initiatives.

## Actions mapping

A map of recommended actions and opportunities is provided in Figure 6.

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<https://ecorus.biodiversityireland.ie/start-recording>



Figure 6 Indicative locations of main biodiversity recommended actions

# APPENDICES

## Appendix 1 Classification of habitat biodiversity value

Value	Definition
<b>Very High</b>	Habitats classified as EU Annex I or Qualifying interest features of European sites, or which are critical to support of European sites or features or other legal requirements (Examples include: designated wetland habitats of various types, ancient woodland types and coastal heath or dune grasslands)
<b>High</b>	Semi-natural habitats of national or regional value due to their scarcity or as high quality examples of a semi-natural habitat type or due to their value as an important resource for priority species or as ecological corridors or connectivity (examples include: rivers and streams in good water quality status, ponds with frog or newt populations, high quality hedgerows or meadows with strong semi-natural characteristics and a suite of scarce species or communities)
<b>Moderate</b>	Semi-natural habitats or managed habitats with significant semi-natural characteristics, or habitats which play a valuable ecological function such as supporting pollinator populations, significant habitats for breeding birds or bat foraging areas roosts (examples include: grasslands or heathlands with nesting skylarks or resident Irish Hares, newly created meadow areas or wildflower areas)
<b>Low</b>	Habitats of lower importance, generally man-made, cultivated or planted habitats, species poor with minimal ecological function or naturalness. (examples include flower beds, heavily improved or managed grassland, forestry and young plantations,)
<b>Negative</b>	Habitats or habitat features which create a significant ecological risk (Examples include: areas infested with invasive species, highly artificial waterbodies with poor water quality status which enter other watercourses).

## Appendix 2 Bird list from survey visit

Species	Breeding?	Breeding Code
Moorhen	Confirmed	FL
Oystercatcher	Non-breeding	
Black-headed Gull	Non-breeding	
Herring Gull	Non-breeding	
Woodpigeon	Confirmed	ON
Swallow	Possible	H
House Martin	Non-breeding	
Meadow Pipit	Confirmed	FF
Pied Wagtail	Possible	H
Wren	Probable	T
Dunnock	Probable	T
Mistle Thrush	Confirmed	FF
Blackbird	Confirmed	FF
Song Thrush	Possible	S
Stonechat	Confirmed	FF
Robin	Possible	S
Willow Warbler	Possible	S
Whitethroat	Possible	S
Chiffchaff	Possible	S
Sedge Warbler	Probable	T
Blue Tit	Possible	H
Great Tit	Possible	H
Hooded Crow	Possible	H
Rook	Non-breeding	
Magpie	Confirmed	FL
Jackdaw	Possible	H
Starling	Probable	ON
House Sparrow	Possible	H
Chaffinch	Probable	M
Linnet	Probable	T
Goldfinch	Probable	(P)

## Breeding Status Codes

Non-breeding	
<b>F</b>	Flying over
<b>M</b>	Species observed but suspected to be still on Migration
<b>U</b>	Species observed but suspected to be sUmmering non-breeder
<b>Possible breeder</b>	
<b>H</b>	Species observed in breeding season in suitable nesting Habitat
<b>S</b>	Singing male present (or breeding calls heard) in breeding season in suitable breeding habitat
<b>Probable breeding</b>	
<b>P</b>	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season
<b>T</b>	Permanent Territory presumed through registration of territorial behaviour (song etc) on at least two different days a week or more part at the same place or many individuals on one day
<b>D</b>	Courtship and Display (judged to be in or near potential breeding habitat; be cautious with wildfowl)
<b>N</b>	Visiting probable Nest site
<b>A</b>	Agitated behaviour or anxiety calls from adults, suggesting probable presence of nest or young nearby
<b>I</b>	Brood patch on adult examined in the hand, suggesting Incubation
<b>B</b>	Nest Building or excavating nest-hole
<b>Confirmed breeding</b>	
<b>DD</b>	Distraction-Display or injury feigning
<b>UN</b>	Used Nest or eggshells found (occupied or laid within period of survey)
<b>FL</b>	Recently FLedged young (nidicolous species) or downy young (nidifugous species). Careful consideration should be given to the likely provenance of any fledged juvenile capable of significant geographical movement. Evidence of dependency on adults (e.g. feeding) is helpful. Be cautious, even if the record comes from suitable habitat.
<b>ON</b>	Adults entering or leaving nest-site in circumstances indicating Occupied Nest (including high nests or nest holes, the contents of which can not be seen) or adults seen incubating
<b>FF</b>	Adult carrying Faecal sac or Food for young
<b>NE</b>	Nest containing Eggs
<b>NY</b>	Nest with Young seen or heard

31 species, 26+ breeding (red and amber shading relates to BoCCI status)

**ENDS**

