NATIONAL TOURISM MONITORING PROGRAMME 2021-2025

ANNUAL RESULTS FOR 2022

FANAD

for: **Fáilte Ireland**

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February 2023

Document Control

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Status of this version	Draft	

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Fanad – Interesting Finds

ECOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Fanad Head is a noted whale watching site. There is high quality heathland habitat surrounding Fanad. This habitat supports special conservation interest species for which Fanad is designated such as chough.

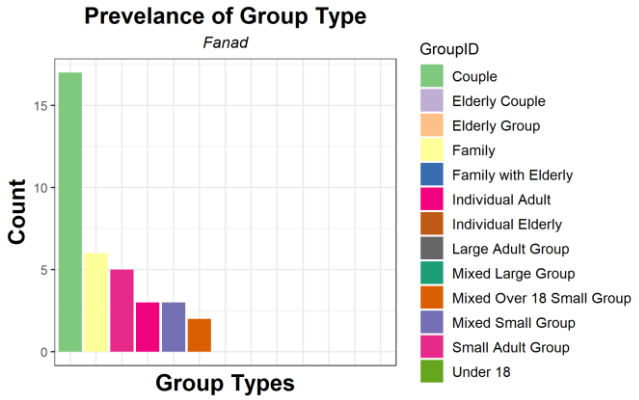
The coastal area itself plays host to a number of marine mammal species such as bottle nosed dolphins and grey seals, while there have been sightings of passing fin whale, minke whale, orcas, dolphins and porpoise

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Areas of the path at the entries to the site should be managed in order to reduce impacts seen in these areas.
- Access to cliff top areas that are designated as hazardous should be managed.
- The heath habitats on site could me managed to increase the floral diversity of the area.
- More interpretative site signage that focuses on the ecology surrounding the site could potentially increase visitor engagement with the site.

VISITOR NUMBERS AND DWELL TIME

- 98 people visited the site over 8 hours
- Average dwell time of 50 minutes



VISITOR INTERACTION & MANAGEMENT

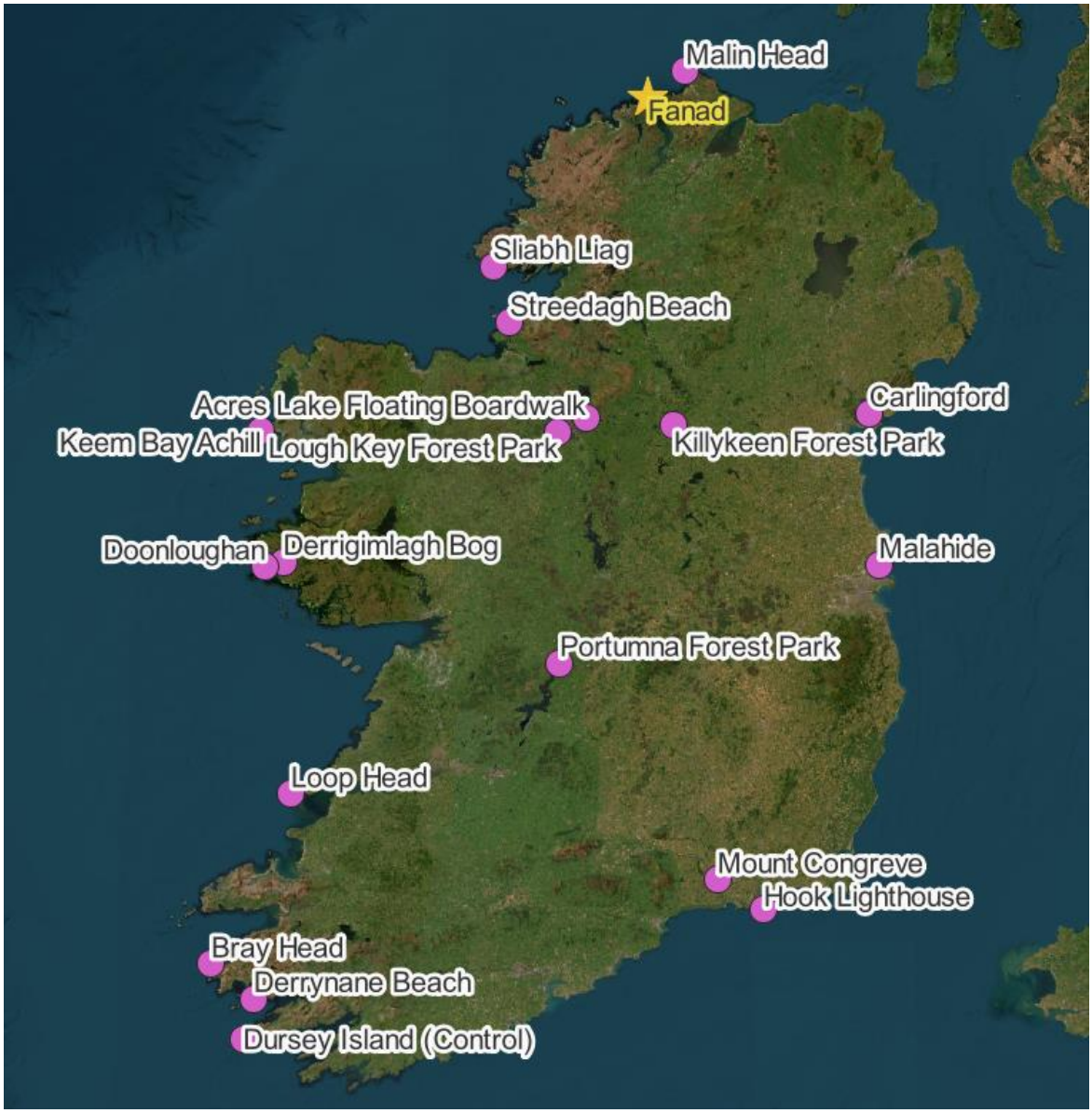
- Visitor interactions on site well controlled with strong management practices in place.
- Majority of all activities undertaken were considered to be low level activities.
- Most of the visitors to the site stayed for at least 50 minutes –an increase of 15 minutes from 2021.
- Most visitors read signage that was available on site, however, there is a decrease in the percentage of visitors that read signage on site.
- Large decrease in the number of visitors to the site when compared to 2021.
- Large number of impacts recorded, which mainly relate to desire lines and impacts to substrate.

1 Fanad

1.1 Purpose & Outputs of the Programme

Building on the success of the Wild Atlantic Way (WAW) environmental monitoring programme which ran from 2015-2019 – Fáilte Ireland has decided to expand the programme to a national level. The programme will monitor 19 individual sites located in all of Fáilte Irelands regional areas; The Wild Atlantic Way, Irelands Hidden Heartlands, Irelands Ancient East and Dublin. The programme will run for 5 years from 2021-2025.

The sites that are included in the programme vary in type from inland forest parks, to coastal sites, to privately owned attractions and diverse urban locations - can be seen below.



The purpose of the programme is as follows:

- To gain more insight from an environmental perspective as to what is happening at a variety of sites where we encourage visitors to frequent,
- To gather information (visitor behaviour, movement, path and trail conditions, surveys for birds, flora etc) for each site over the course of 5 years,
- To understand if there are observable trends and/or observable variations amongst site types over a 5-year period,
- To note good & bad practice at sites in order to;

- Make recommendations where appropriate for site management which is intended will have sustainable benefits for the site, the visitor and the natural environment.

The Wild Atlantic Way Environmental Monitoring Programme allowed us to monitor the behaviour & movement of over 26,000 visitors, identify where there were stresses on the environment or potential future risks as well as good and bad practice.

This culminated in our ability to make useful recommendations to site owners and managers and ultimately to development a practical set of Guidelines for Visitor management (from Planning thorough to Site Operation).

It is hoped that we can build on the learnings of this previous programme and by engaging with site managers, to knowledge share, can enhance the information that we gather for each site chosen nationally for this new programme.

The key areas of focus within the data being gathered is to answer the following questions:

- How do the learning outcomes from the WAW monitoring compare when using repeat measures at fixed locations over a long period? Hence, what are the predictors of impact occurrence and severity?
- Following on from the WAW monitoring data – with the refined methods we aim to understand what activities cause which impact; and what are the factors which influence these activity choices in visitors?
- Understanding visitor movement patterns with respect to ranging behaviours – i.e., is there a distance threshold where impacts are less severe or negligible?
- Undertake pathway condition assessments to understand the relative sensitivities or tolerances of path types to visitor movements – taking note of habitat type and visitor numbers/load capacity.

These questions will be answered upon completion of the full suite of surveys and data collected annually over the course of the monitoring programme. However, each year will have annual interim reports to enable emerging findings and management recommendation to be identified and shared with the relevant stakeholders to support progressive management practices.

1.1.1 Looking Ahead

The National Tourism Monitoring Programme aims to assess and characterise visitor movements and impacts in 19 popular Failte Ireland tourism sites across Ireland within a 5-year period. This will be achieved through building on the methodologies and findings of the Wild Atlantic Way Environmental Monitoring Programme (2015-2019), by monitoring yearly trends in visitor numbers and movements during the high tourism season at each site. In addition to the annual visitor trend monitoring; visitor impact assessments, which examine visitor activity levels relative to condition assessments, will also be taken every two years for each site. At the end of the 5-year period, the resultant extensive data set will be analysed for long term trends and correlations between visitor numbers, visitor activity, and site condition assessments, at each site across the 5 years of the programme.

This monitoring programme will allow an examination of year-on-year shifts in visitor impact and trends, across each of Fáilte Ireland's regional areas; The Wild Atlantic Way, Irelands Hidden Heartlands, Irelands Ancient East and Dublin, resulting in an annual interim report for each year - while also assessing visitors trends, and changes in the condition of the each of the sites' habitats in relation to visitor trends, over a the entire 5-year period of the programme.

The long-term aim of the Monitoring Programme will be to inform local authorities and stakeholders to help in the design and implementation of methods that will encourage the sustainable management of visitor numbers and tourism activities, while also aiming to protect vulnerabilities of the local area's habitats in order to reduce environmental impact and enable more effective local conservation of each site.

1.2 Methods & Surveys

The following surveys were undertaken at Fanad:

1.2.1 Visitor Characterisation Survey

Visitor characterisation surveys were undertaken at each of the monitoring sites during the weekend period between June-August. The survey at Fanad was undertaken on the 6th of August 2022, with max temperatures reaching approximately 17.3° C, low levels of rainfall and moderately high levels of wind on the day[1]. These surveys followed an 8-hour time period recording samples of visitor behaviour of an many visitors on site as possible. Visitor movement patterns, demographic data and activities undertaken were recorded for all sampled visitors. Where activities had associated impacts, these were also recorded and the relevant severity was recorded using the same coding system as with the WAW monitoring (see Appendix I for details). It is important to note that the visitor characterisation surveys are indiscriminate between visitors and local amenity use. It is also important to note that there was a lack of interaction with the subject matter of the surveys to ensure that there is no influence of the surveyor at all on the resultant data.

1.2.2 Ecological & Path Assessments

In addition to the visitor movement and behavioural records an ecological assessment and path network assessment was undertaken at each site. This consisted of mapping all tracks and trails – with records of hazards, notable damage etc. In addition to this, all habitats were mapped according to the Fossitt Habitat coding system while information on bird populations was gathered from National Biodiversity Centre Data.

1.3 Site Description of Fanad

Centred on Fanad Lighthouse, this Discovery Point also directs visitors to views and trails along the rocky Atlantic shore. The site is contained within both the Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head SAC along with the Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA and contains large areas of dry siliceous heath.

There have been no significant changes in signage and features between the 2021 and 2022 surveys.

[1] Weather data gathered from: https://www.met.ie/climate/available-data/historical-data

Figure 1.1 Fanad

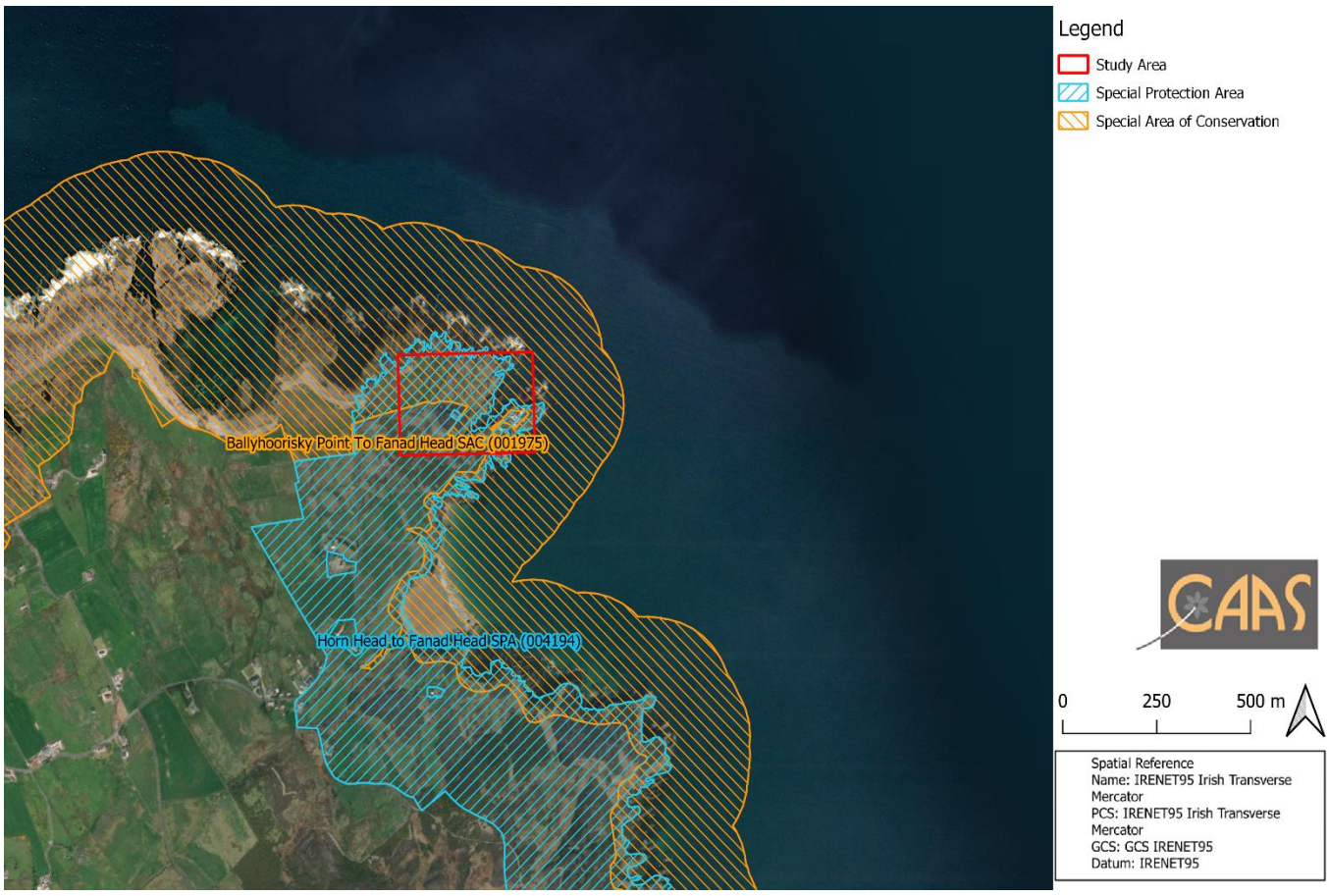


Figure 1.2 Study Area within Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head SAC

1.3.1 Critical Infrastructure

Table 1.1 Summary of Wastewater infrastructure at Fanad

Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)	Irish Water Indication of Capacity	Comment
Toilet facilities are available on site at the visitor centre No current WWTP on site at Fanad Nearest settlement with WWTP in Milford (WWTP Reg #D0342).	No spare capacity available at present[2].	Current wastewater facilities are sufficient

Table 1.2 Summary of Drinking Water infrastructure at Fanad

Drinking Water	Water Resource Name (WRZ)	Irish Water Indication of Capacity	Comment
Nearest serviced settlement to Fanad is Milford	Letterkenny & Inishowen East & Pollan Dam	Capacity available – Level of service (LoS) improvement required[3].	Current water supply is sufficient

Table 1.3 Summary of Transport infrastructure at Fanad

[2] https://www.water.ie/connections/developer-services/capacity-registers/wastewater-treatment-capacity-register/donegal/
[3] https://www.water.ie/connections/developer-services/capacity-registers/wastewater-treatment-capacity-register/donegal/

Nearest Settlement	Current Transport Infrastructure	Comment
Milford/Rathmullan	Fanad is accessible from the Knockalla Coast Road via the R247 Car park facilities available on site	Current transport infrastructure is sufficient

1.4 Pathways and Features Condition Results

1.4.1 Pathway Condition

Due to the small size and complex surfaces at this site there are not many designated pathways. There is a road (Figure 1.4) at the site along with highly varied soft infrastructure pathways and desire lines, which have seen compaction to the soil due to use of vehicles and a large number of walkers in the area.

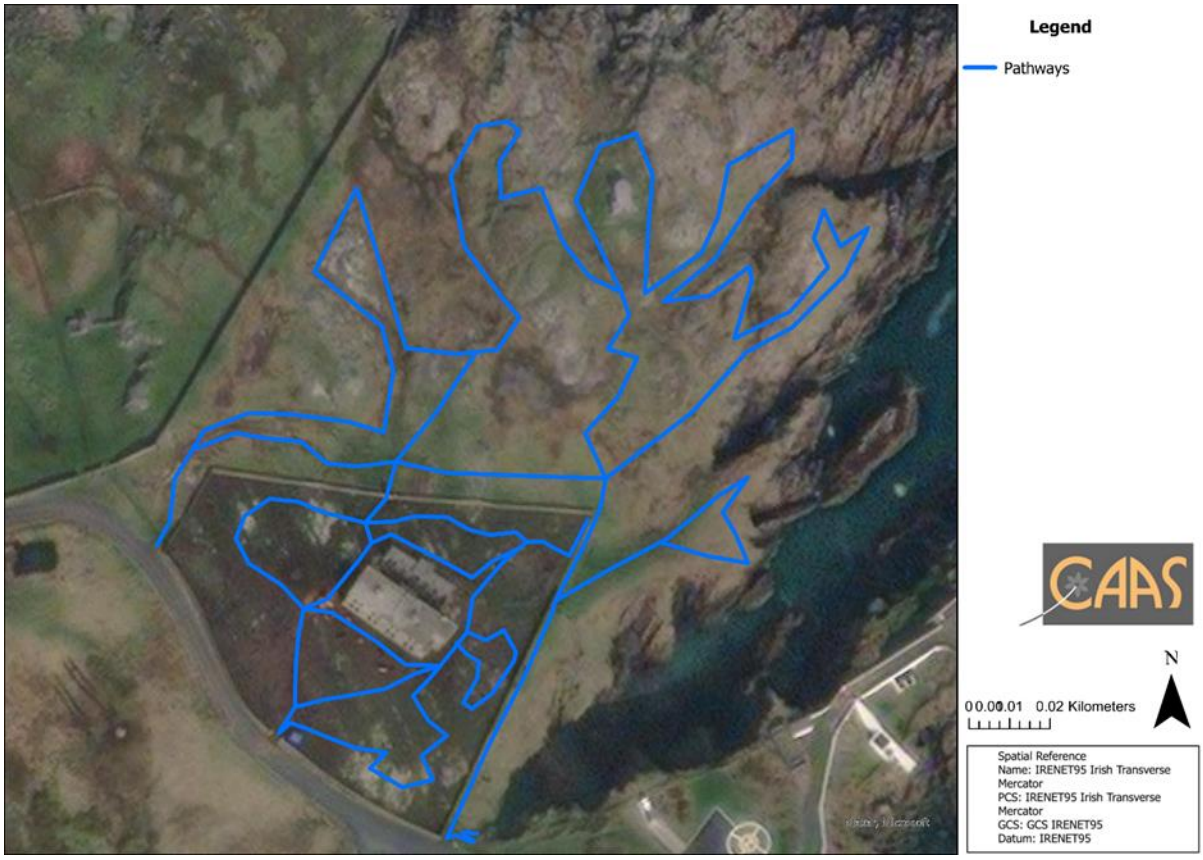


Figure 1.3 Pathways identified at Fanad

Figure 1.4 Pathways at Fanad

1.4.2 Features Condition

At Fanad, there are various tourism signage, including information signs giving information on the surrounding area and trails as well as road signs and a sign designating Fanad as part of the Wild Atlantic Way (Figure 1.6). Along with the noted lighthouse, there are also abandoned buildings in the area. In terms of amenities, there is a Visitor Centre, car park, toilets and cafe.

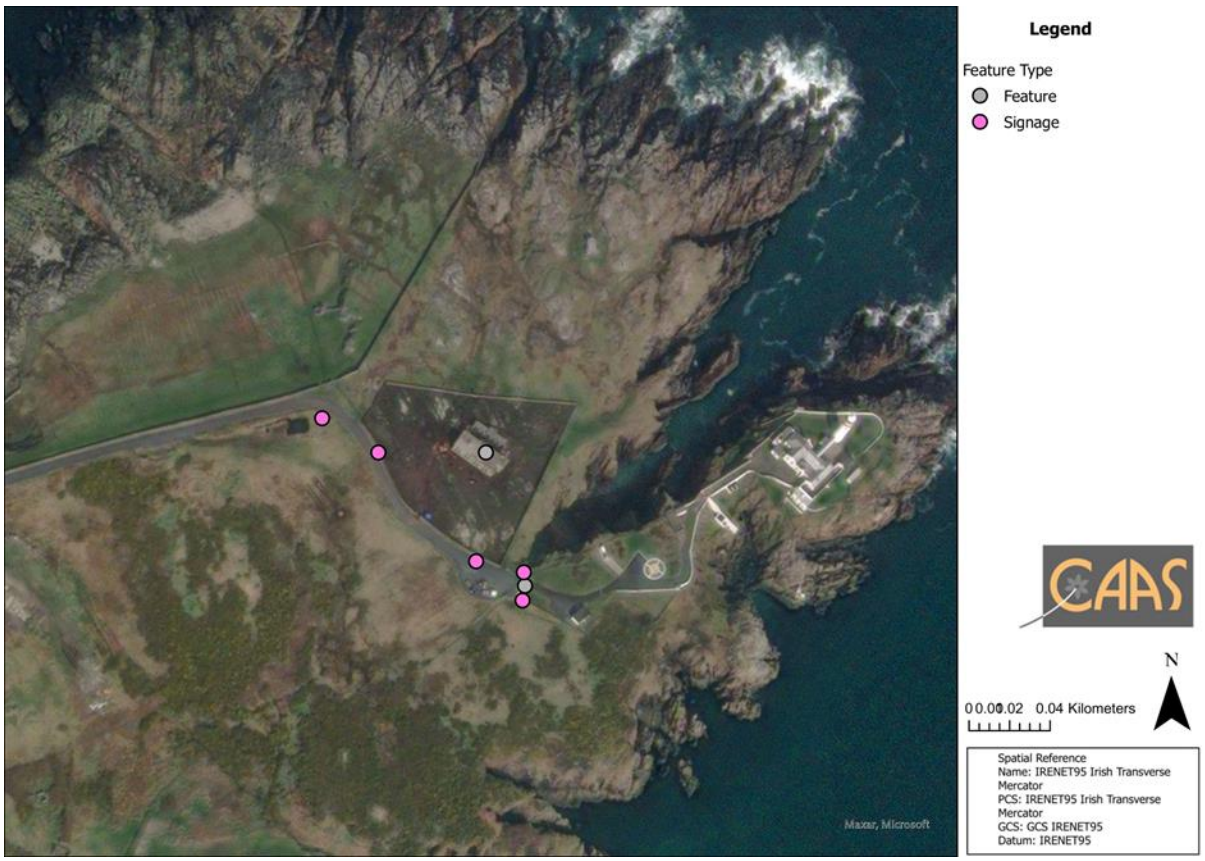


Figure 1.5 Features recorded at Fanad

Figure 1.6 Features at Fanad

1.4.3 Hazards

In terms of hazards, it was noted that a broken fence led to an unprotected cliff edge (Figure 1.8) that showed signs of regular activity. This was the only hazard that was recorded during habitat mapping.

Figure 1.7 Hazards recorded at Fanad

Figure 1.8 Hazard at Fanad

1.5 Visitor Characterisation Survey

The visitor monitoring surveys resulted in a total of 98 visitors (which represent 36 group observations), a decrease from 311 visitors in 2021. The site is most popular amongst the couple group, while the family group visited the site the most in 2021, with the dominant mode of transport being car. The average dwell time for the site was 50 minutes, an increase from 35 minutes in 2021; with the following activities undertaken during the survey (listed in order of occurrence rate):

Activity Type
Exploring off trail
Photographing
Fishing
Dogwalking (on lead)
Sitting
Picnicking
Dogwalking (off lead)
Horse-riding
Other

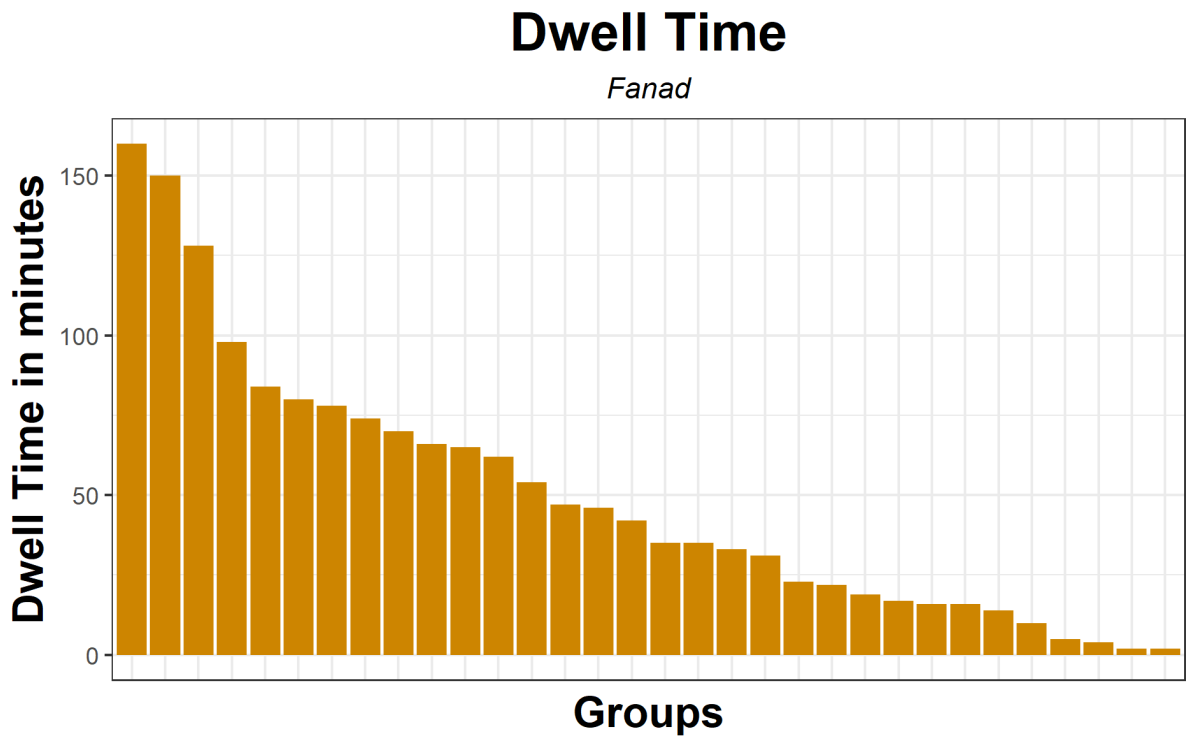


Figure 1.9 Duration of Time Spent at Fanad

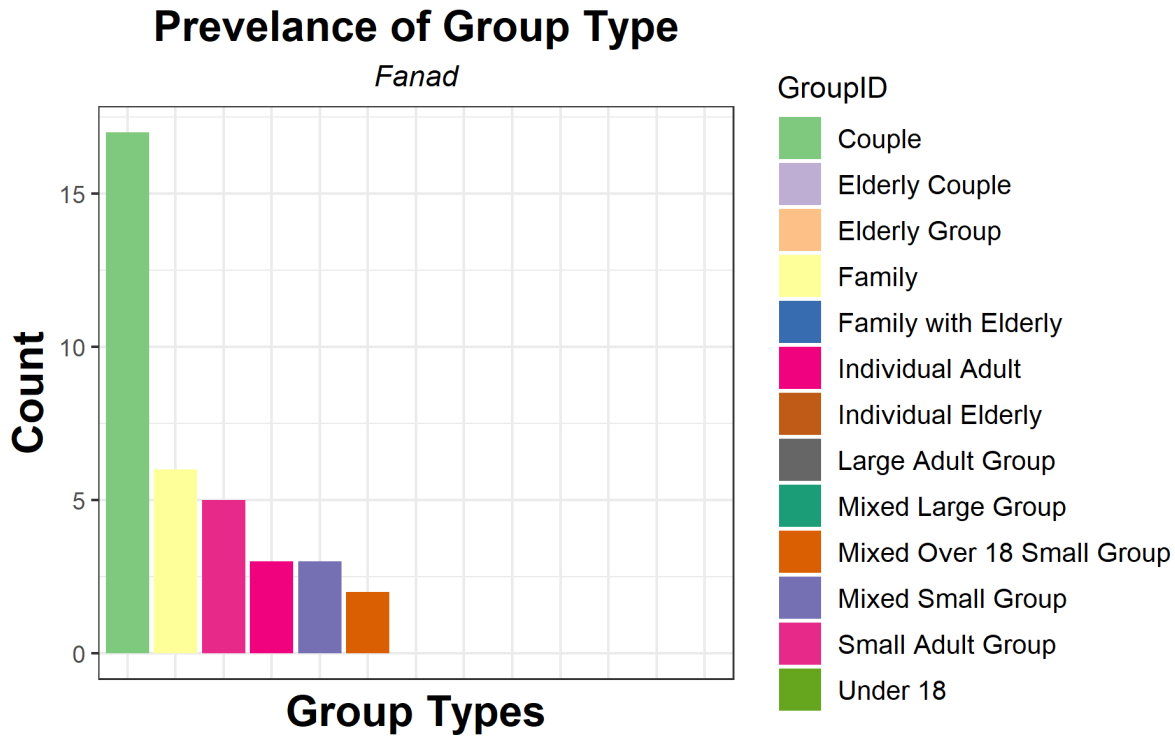


Figure 1.10 Groups of visitors that visited Fanad

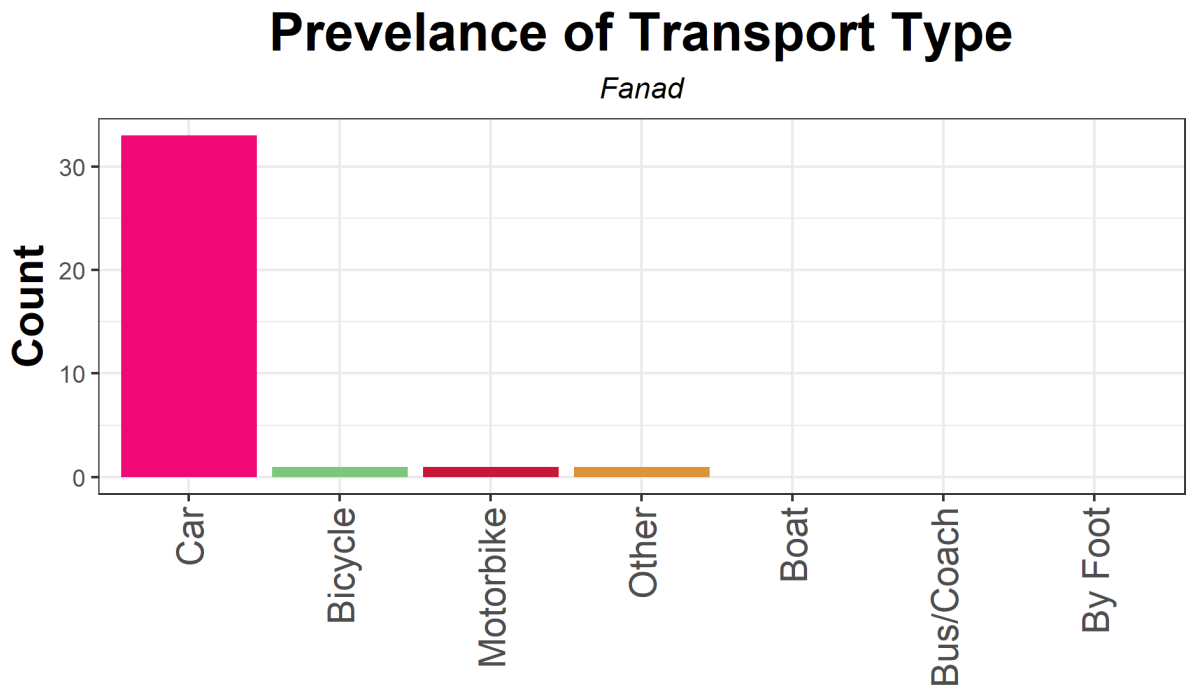


Figure 1.11 Mode of transport used to visit Fanad

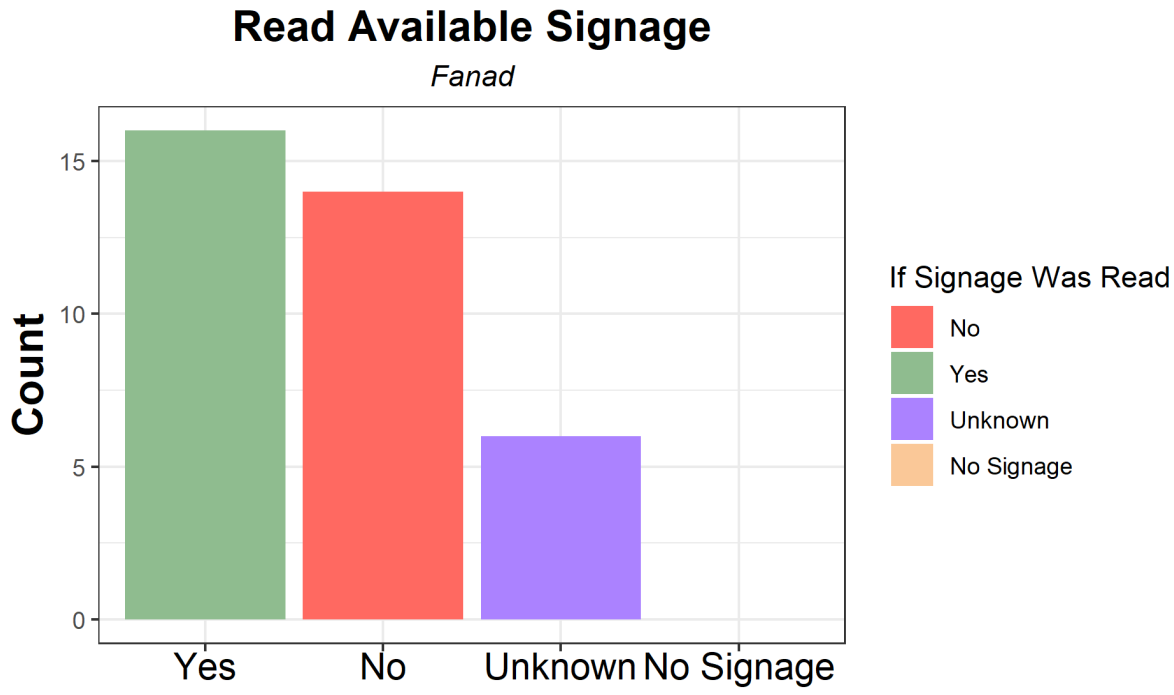


Figure 1.12 Use of Interpretive Material at Fanad

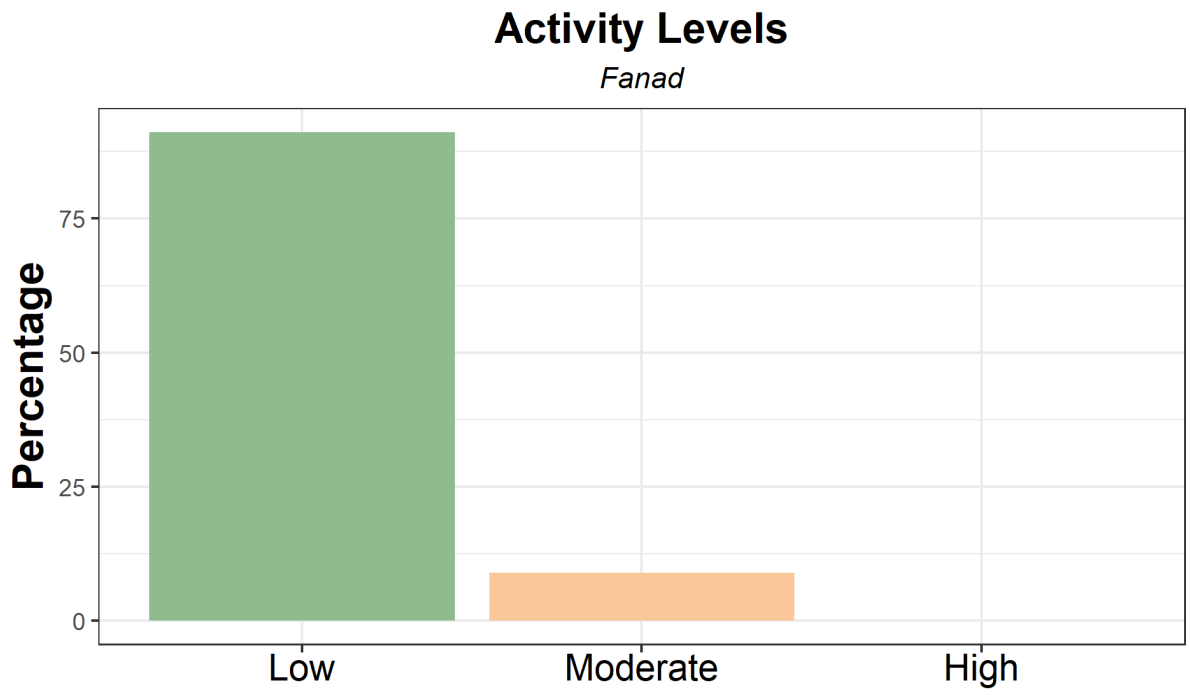


Figure 1.13 Categories of Activity Levels Observed at Fanad

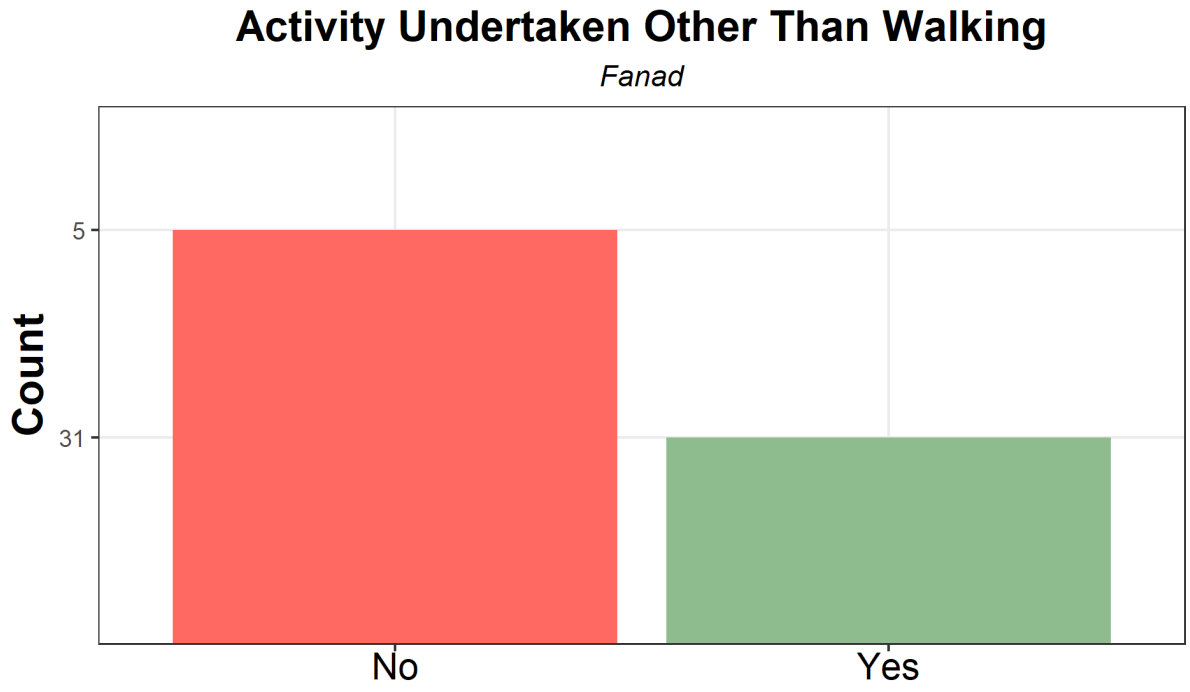


Figure 1.14 Activities undertaken other than walking

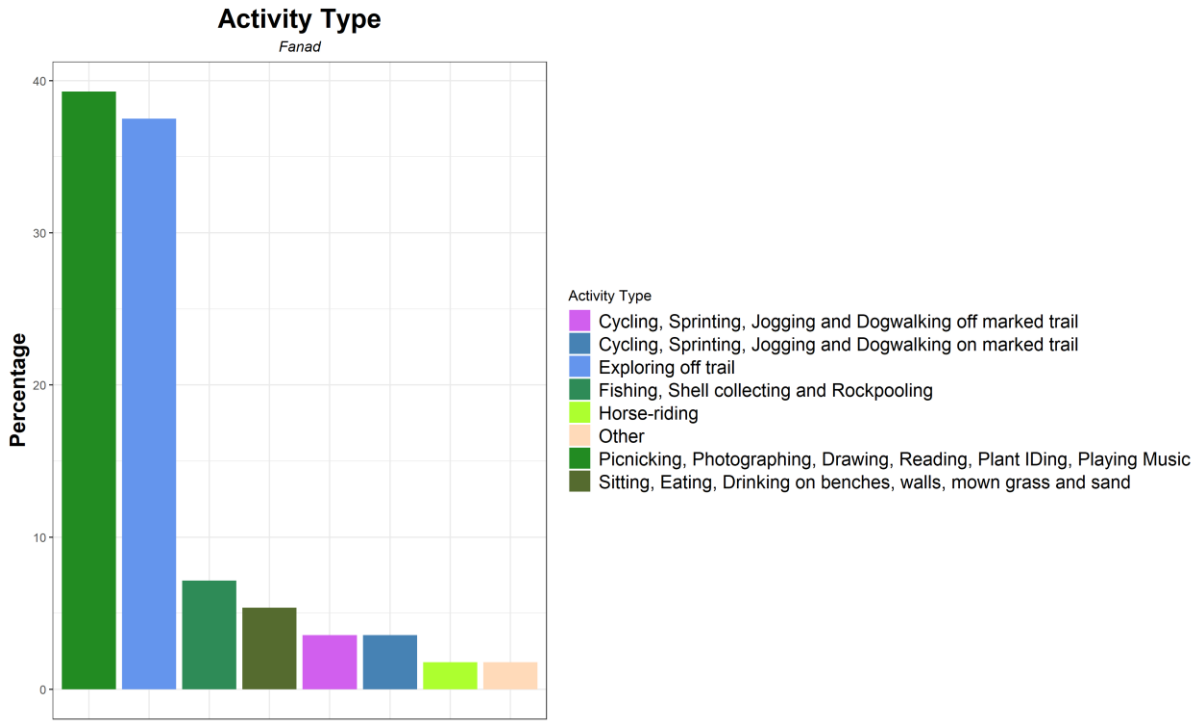


Figure 1.15 Range of Visitor Activities Observed at Fanad

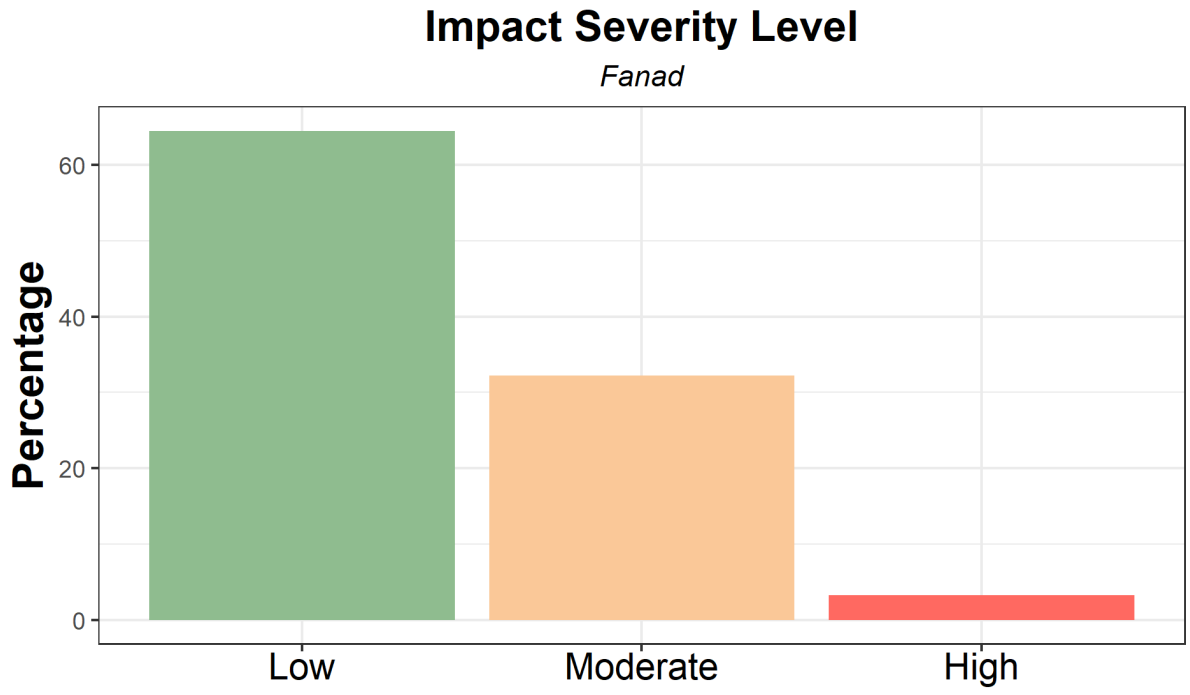


Figure 1.16 Categories of Environmental Impact Levels Observed at Fanad as a result of Visitor Activities

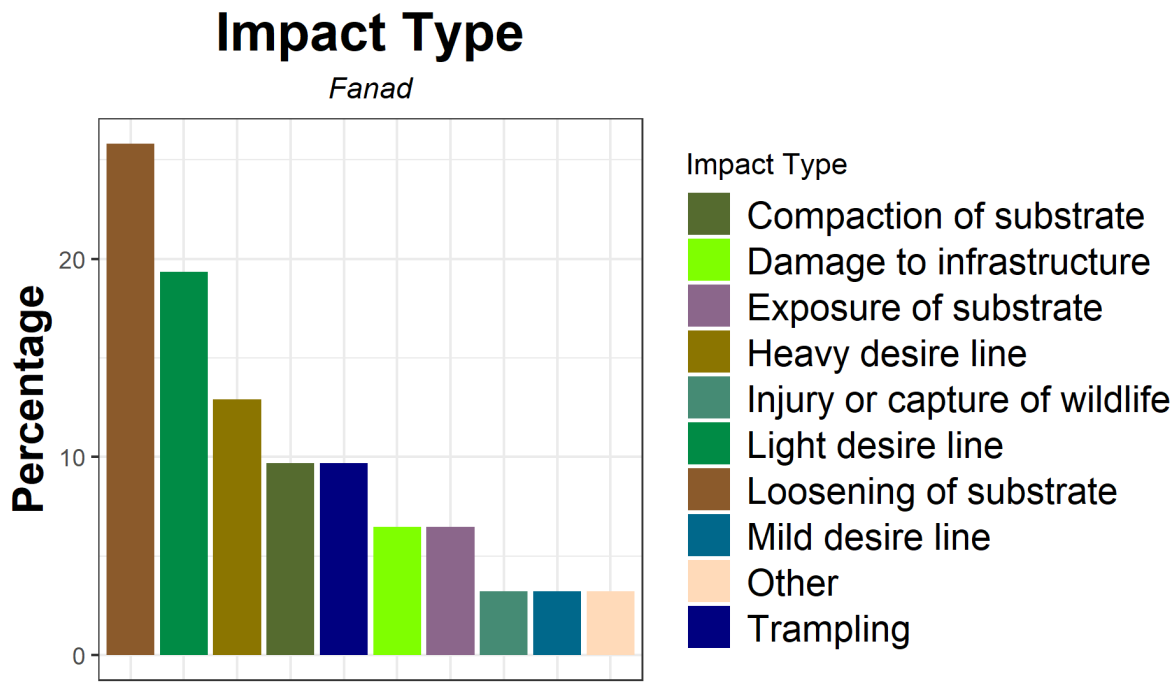


Figure 1.17 Range of Environmental Impacts Observed at Fanad

The environmental impacts that were observed and recorded used the same coding system as the Wild Atlantic Way Monitoring[4]. These impacts were recorded if a visitor's activity or movement resulted in one of the defined impacts noted in said coding system, which were categorised by severity level to the environment, ranging from light desire lines to disturbance of wildlife to burning of materials.

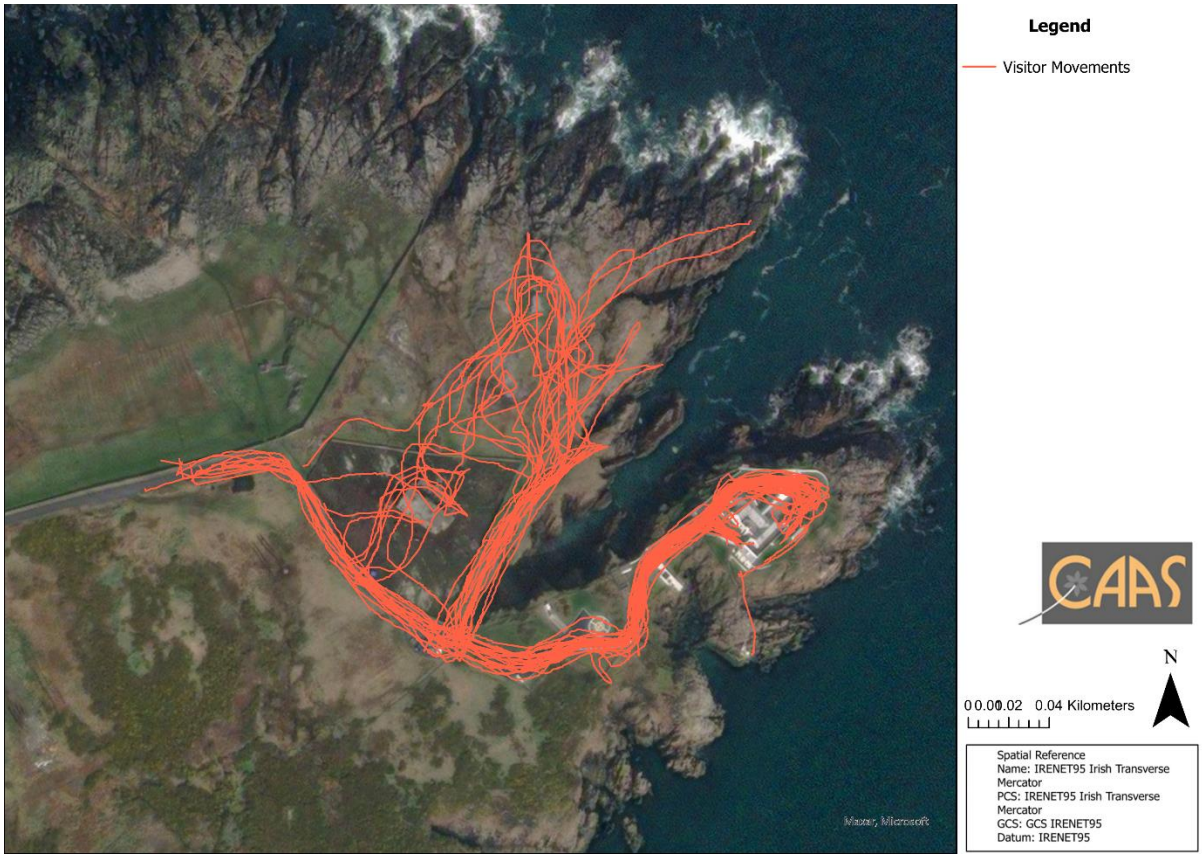


Figure 1.18 Visitor movement patterns at Fanad

[4] See Appendix I for more detail

Of the 36 groups recorded on site 86% of them undertook activities other than walking, an increase from 45% in 2021. These activities (identified above) resulted in 31 impacts being observed on site during the survey, a severe increase from 5 in 2021. Thus, 55% of activities on site resulted in impacts on the environment, with 13% of activities resulting in impacts in 2021. The impact severity levels varied with 65% of the impacts being low, 32% of impacts being moderate, and 3% of impacts being high severity. The impacts identified for the site were:

Impact Type	Count
Compaction of substrate	3
Damage to infrastructure	2
Exposure of substrate	2
Heavy desire line	4
Injury or capture of wildlife	1
Light desire line	6
Loosening of substrate	8
Mild desire line	1
Other	1
Trampling	3

1.6 Comparison with Previous Survey Results

The data obtained has provided an opportunity to compare significant changes results with previous years. Where this occurs, this will be noted in the relevant sections.

The 2022 Visitor Characterisation Survey in Fanad produced a number of changes from the 2021 Visitor Characterisation Survey. Noted changes include;

- A large increase was noted between the number of impacts observed from 2022 when compared to 2021;
- A decrease in the percentage of visitors who read available signage on site;
- An increase in the percentage of visitors who explored off trail, which lead to impacts such as desire lines; and,
- Reduction of visitors during the 8-hour survey by 68% to 98 visitors over 36 groups with average dwell time increasing by 43%.

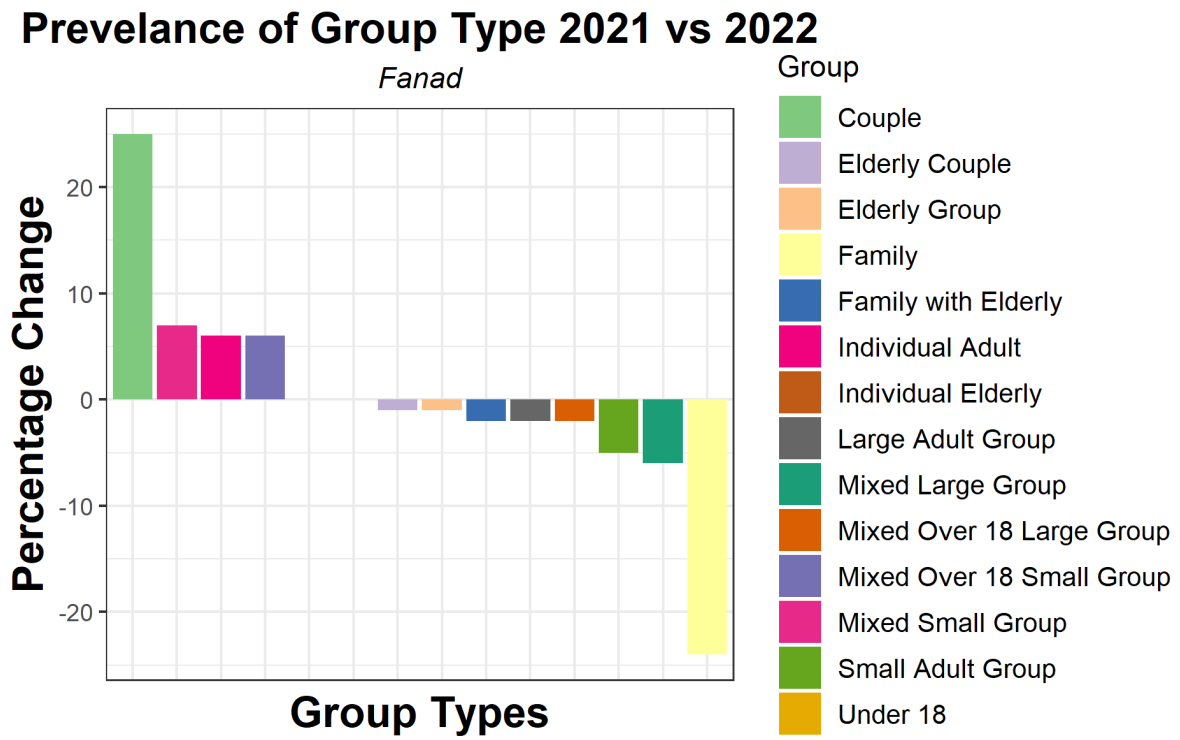


Figure 1.19 Percentage Change in groups of visitors that visited Fanad between 2021 and 2022

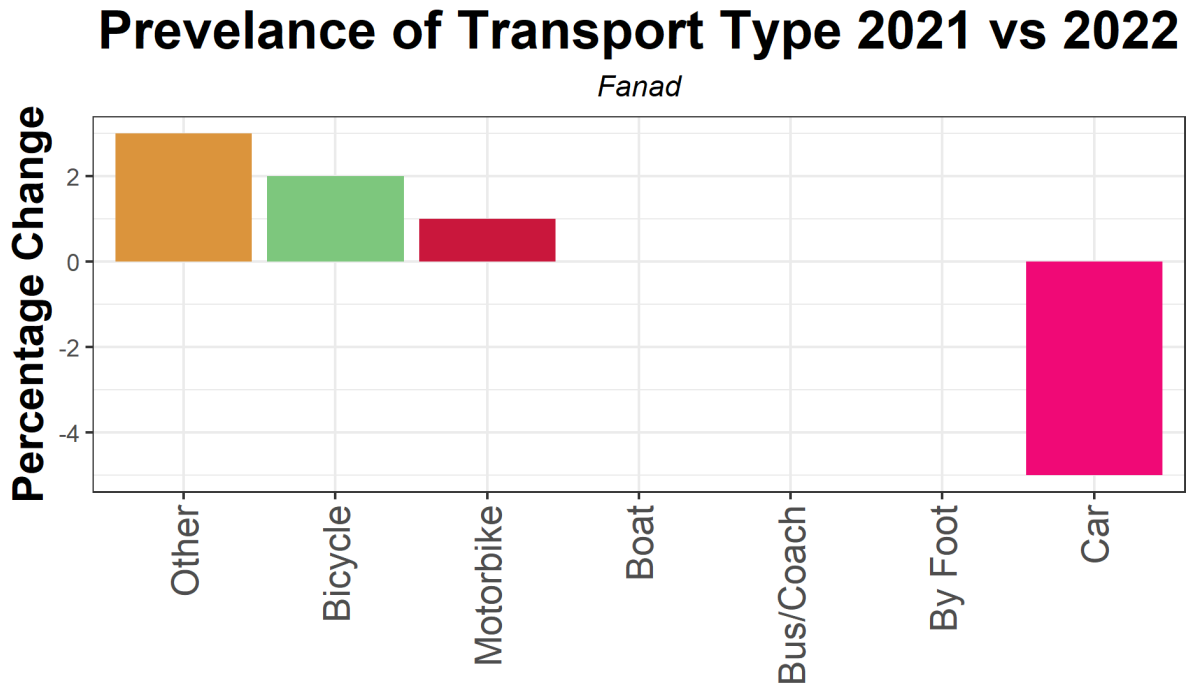


Figure 1.20 Percentage Change in mode of transport used to visit Fanad between 2021 and 2022

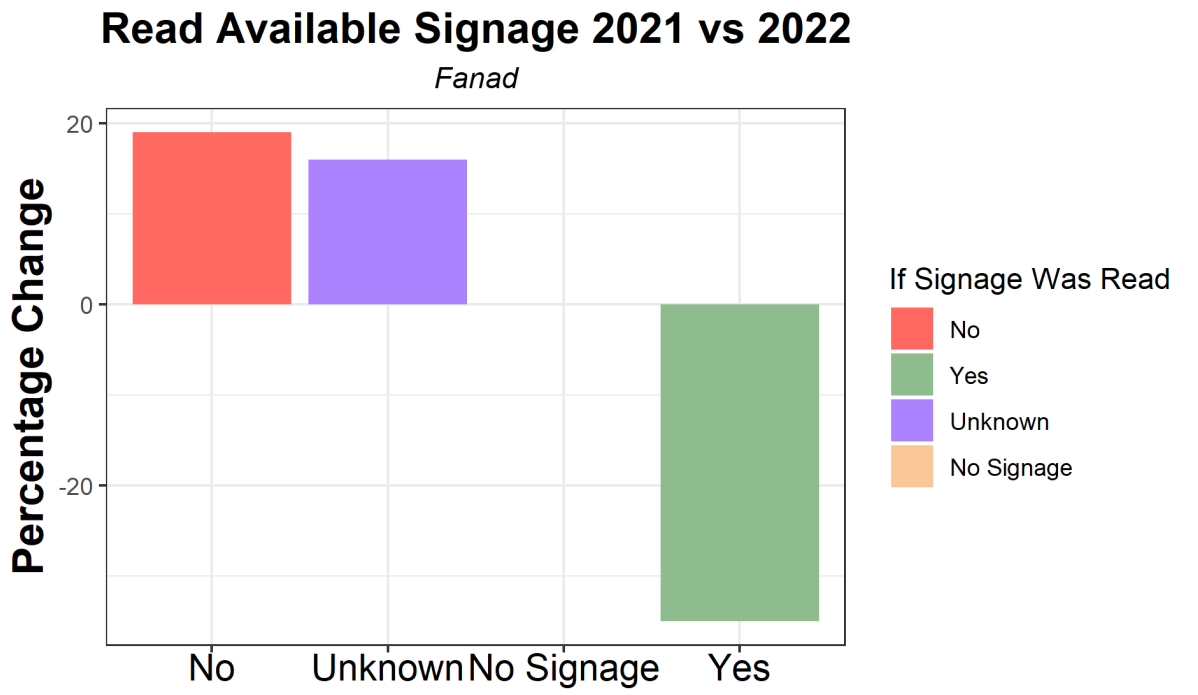


Figure 1.21 Percentage change in use of Interpretive Material at Fanad between 2021 and 2022

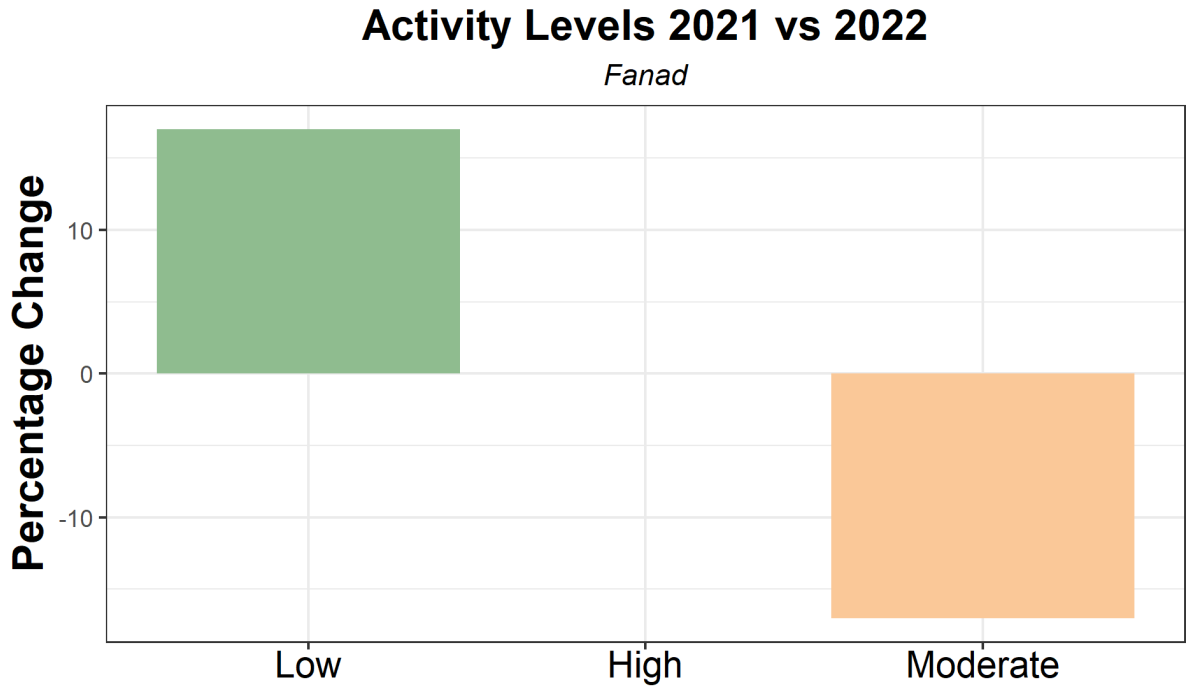


Figure 1.22 Percentage change in categories of Activity Levels Observed at Fanad between 2021 and 2022

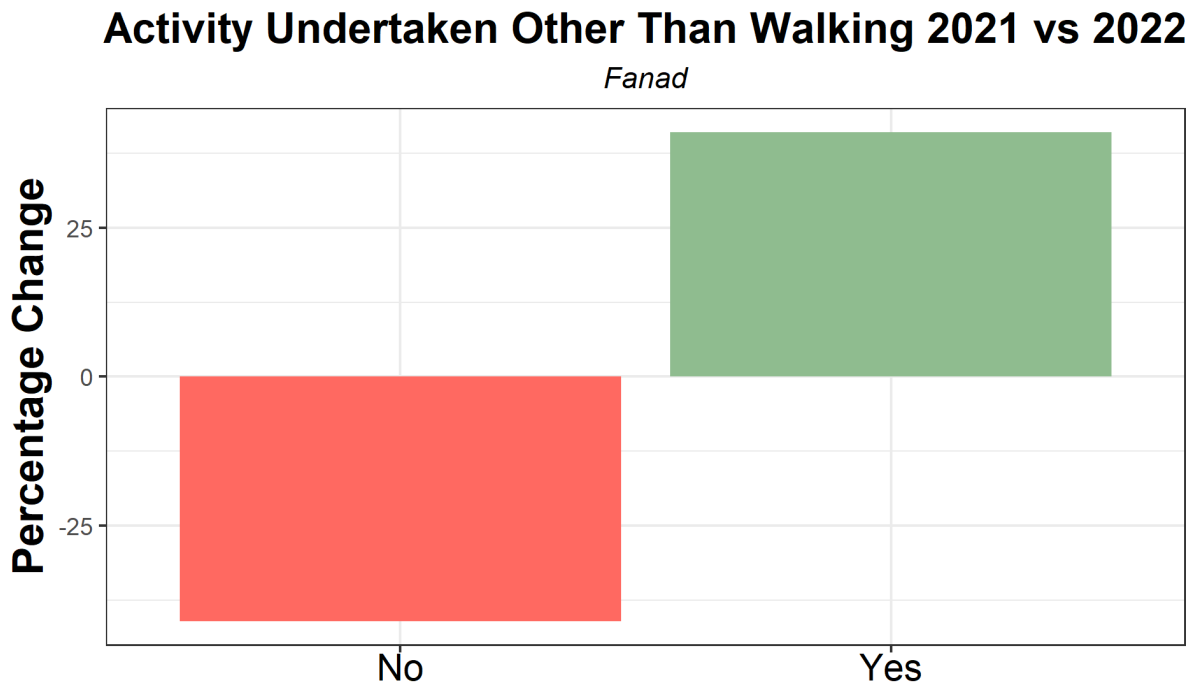


Figure 1.23 Percentage change in activities undertaken other than walking at Fanad between 2021 and 2022

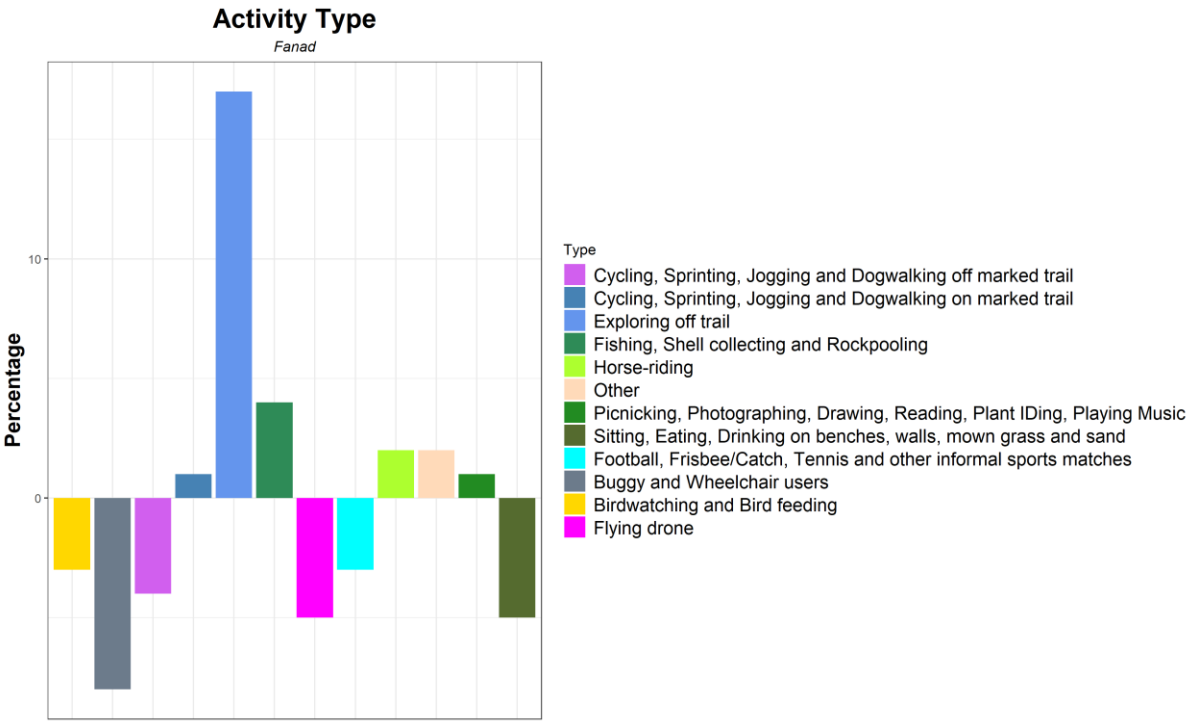


Figure 1.24 Percentage change in range of Visitor Activities Observed at Fanad between 2021 and 2022

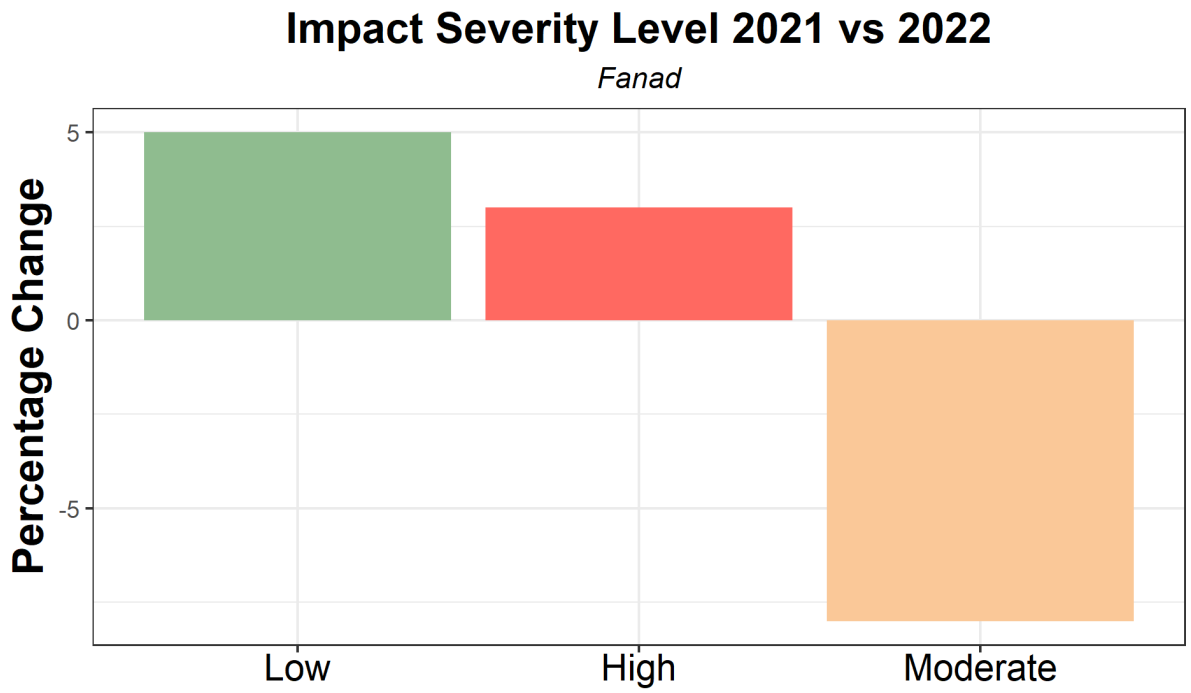


Figure 1.25 Percentage change in categories of Environmental Impact Levels Observed at Fanad as a result of Visitor Activities[5] between 2021 and 2022

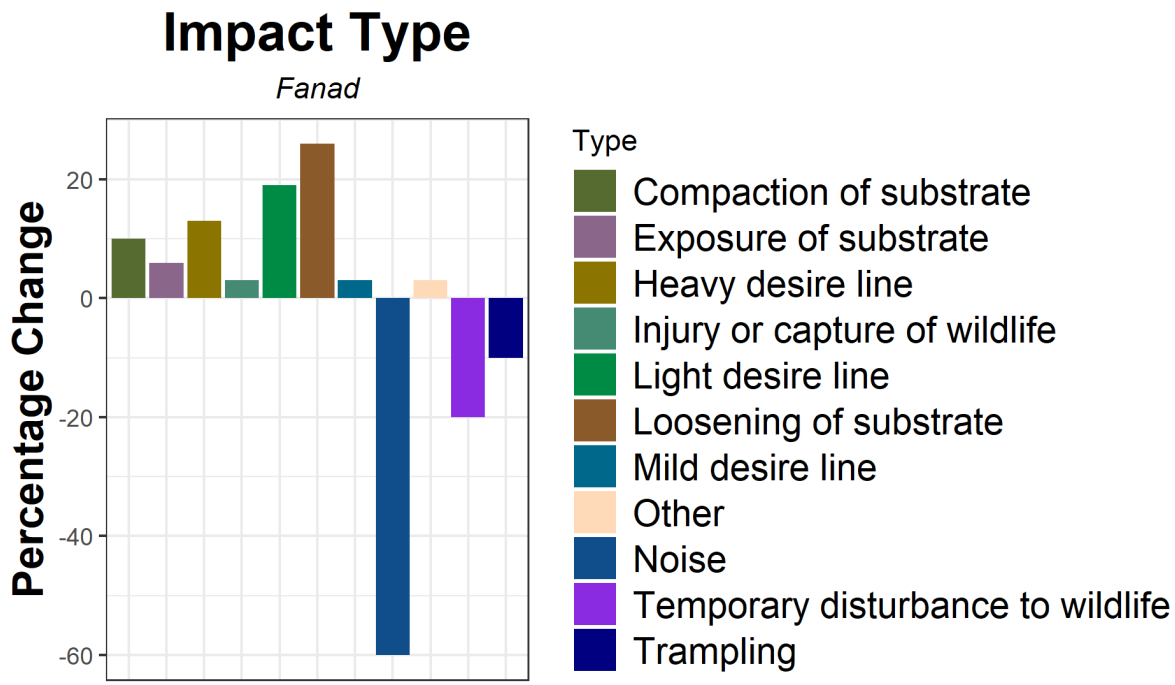


Figure 1.26 Percentage change in range of Environmental Impacts Observed at Fanad between 2021 and 2022

[5] Impact severity was measures as a categorical variable which has a range of impact factors that are pre-determined; such as injuring, killing or taking wildlife as a severe impact (high) and temporary disturbance of wildlife being a low impact. These are explained fully in the method section above.

Table 1.4 Summary of changes with previous survey results

Survey	Notable Differences	Comment
Visitor Dwell Time	• Overall average dwell time increased by 43%	The survey was conducted later in the season compared to 2021 and a severe decrease in number of visitors could have led to a large increase in dwell time
Prevalence of Group Type	• 25% increase in couples • 24% decrease in families	Increase in percentage of couples and decrease in percentage of families visiting the site Other small changes noted, which could be attributed to the survey taking place later in the season
Prevalence of Transport Type	• No significant differences	No significant changes were observed
Read Available Signage	• Signage not read increased by 19% • 35% decrease in signage read • Unknown increased by 16%	Significant decrease in the percentage of visitors reading signage available on site
Activity Levels	• No change in high activity levels • Low activity levels increased by 17% • Moderate activity levels decreased by 17%	Percentage of visitors undertaking low level activities increased by 17% while moderate level activities decreased by 17%
Activity Undertaken Other Than Walking	• Activities undertaken other than walking increased by 41%	Significant increase in the percentage of visitors undertaking activities other than walking on site
Activity Type	• 17% increase in exploring off trail	Increase in percentage of visitors exploring off trail No other significant differences noted
Impact Severity Level	• High impact level increased by 3% • Low impact level increased by 5% • Moderate impact level decreased by 8%	No significant changes observed
Impact Type	• 60% decrease in noise • 26% increase in loosening of substrate • 19% increase in light desire line • 20% decrease in temporary disturbance to wildlife • 10% decrease in trampling	High number of impacts recorded when compared to 2021 despite a severe decrease in the number of visitors to the site Noted increase in both loosening of substrate and light desire lines.

1.7 Ecological Monitoring Results

1.7.1 Ecological Constraints

The habitats and species within Fanad are sensitive to aquaculture, land use management, pollution and hydrological changes.

Table 1.5 Designated sites within 2km of Fanad and relevant ecological receptors

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Site Type	Qualifying Feature
[001975]	Ballyhoorisky Point To Fanad Head pNHA	0	pNHA	

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Site Type	Qualifying Feature
[001975]	Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head SAC	0	SAC	Slender Naiad *(Najas flexilis)* [1833], Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea [3130], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230], Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail *(Vertigo angustior)* [1014], Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]
[004194]	Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA	0	SPA	Chough *(Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax)* [A346], Guillemot *(Uria aalge)* [A199], Kittiwake *(Rissa tridactyla)* [A188], Shag *(Phalacrocorax aristotelis)* [A018], Barnacle goose *(Branta leucopsis)* [A045], Fulmar *(Fulmarus glacialis)* [A009], Peregrine falcon *(Falco peregrinus)* [A103], Razorbill *(Alca torda)* [A200], Cormorant *(Phalacrocorax carbo)* [A017], Greenland White-fronted Goose *(Anser albifrons flavirostris)* [A395]

1.7.2 Habitat Descriptions

The habitats of Fanad are mainly made up of areas of dry siliceous heath (Fossitt Code HH1), which align with the special conservation interests for which the SPA, Horn Head to Fanad, is designated as it is suitable foraging habitat for these species. The more managed part of Fanad, the lighthouse and the immediate surrounding area contains more managed habitats such as agricultural grassland (Fossitt Code GA1).

There is a network of desire lines through the heathland to the north of the roadway where there is visitor access. The area to the south is fenced off with no authorised access to visitors. The desire lines to the north have mild compaction and show indications of low visitor numbers.

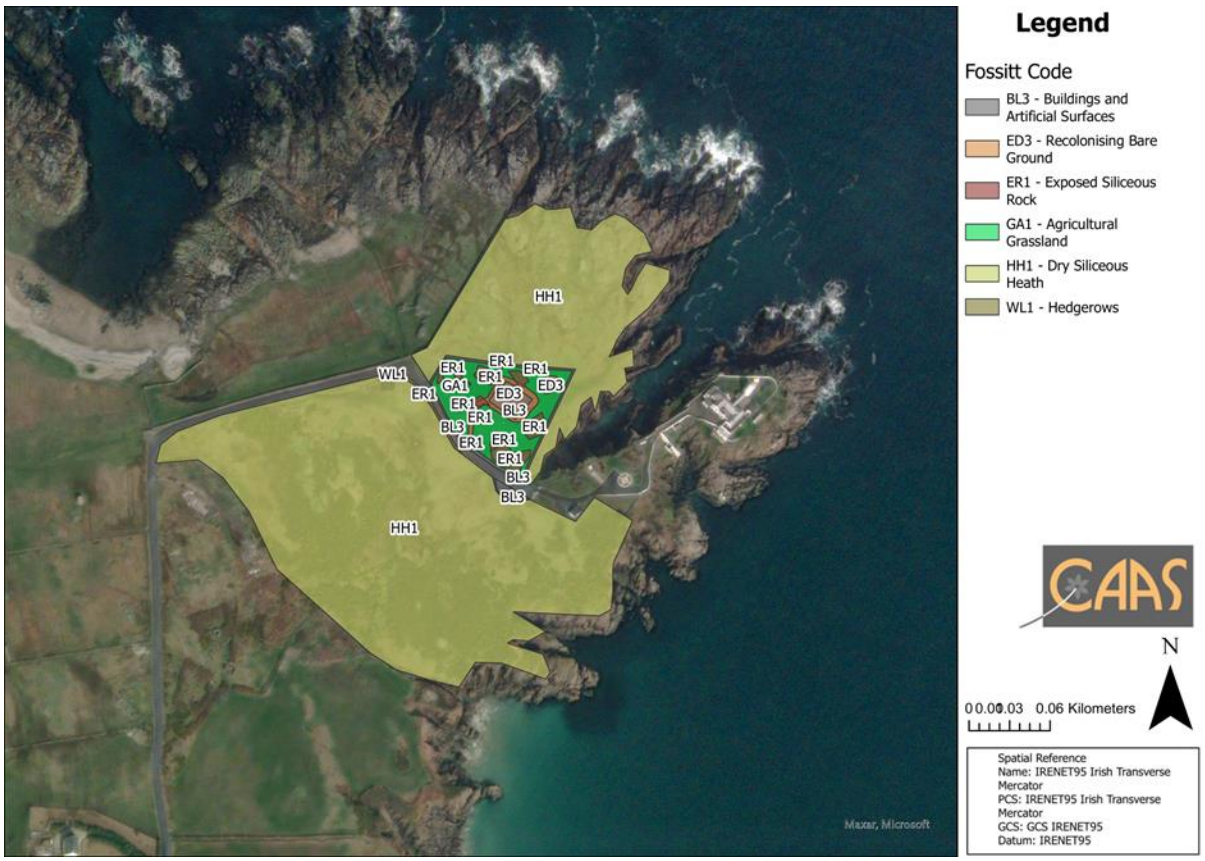


Figure 1.27 Habitats present at Fanad

1.7.3 Condition Assessment

Habitat condition assessments are an integral part of the National Tourism Monitoring Programme. They will allow an assessment of how habitat degradation due to human disturbance may relate to visitor monitoring data gathered at each of the 19 Failte Ireland sites for the duration of the programme.

Each habitat condition assessment will follow a rating scale, that has been designed specifically for this monitoring programme as a standardised, repeatable measurement for assessing habitat condition across all Failte Ireland sites (details on the full methodology are supplied in Appendix II of this report). In order to adequately capture possible changes to habitat condition at each site in relation to tourism activities, the habitat condition assessments will be conducted every second year of the 5-year monitoring programme. Carrying out this condition assessment every second year, creates a sufficient timescale for changes in site condition in relation to visitor movements and activities on site to become apparent, and therefore to be reflected in the resultant data.

The initial habitat condition assessments that will form the baseline for the programme's condition assessments for each of the 19 sites, were carried out in the inaugural year of this programme in 2021. The next year of habitat condition assessment will be conducted in 2023. Each assessments results will be detailed within their relevant year's interim report, with the overall analysis of trends in habitat condition in relation to visitor movements for every site reported in the final year of the monitoring programme in 2025.

1.7.4 NBDC Records of mammals

NBDC data shows that the majority of recorded mammals in the area are marine mammals, due to the location of Fanad on the northern coast of Ireland with bottle-nosed dolphins and grey seals having been the species that were spotted the most. In terms of terrestrial mammals, otters and rabbits occur the most according to the NBDC data.

Table 1.6 List of mammals that have been recorded at NBDC Hectad[6] C24

Group	Common name	Scientific name	Number recorded
Marine mammal	Bottle-nosed Dolphin	*Tursiops truncatus*	17
Marine mammal	Common Dolphin	*Delphinus delphis*	3
Marine mammal	Common Porpoise	*Phocoena phocoena*	9
Marine mammal	Common Seal	*Phoca vitulina*	7
Marine mammal	Cuvier's Beaked Whale	*Ziphius cavirostris*	1
Marine mammal	Grey Seal	*Halichoerus grypus*	9
Marine mammal	Humpback Whale	*Megaptera novaeangliae*	1
Marine mammal	Killer Whale	*Orcinus orca*	2
Marine mammal	Long-finned Pilot Whale	*Globicephala melas*	6
Marine mammal	Minke Whale	*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*	3
Marine mammal	Phocidae	*Phocidae*	1
Marine mammal	Pinnipedia	*Pinnipedia*	1
Terrestrial mammal	American Mink	*Mustela vison*	1
Terrestrial mammal	Eurasian Badger	*Meles meles*	1
Terrestrial mammal	Eurasian Pygmy Shrew	*Sorex minutus*	1
Terrestrial mammal	European Otter	*Lutra lutra*	5
Terrestrial mammal	European Rabbit	*Oryctolagus cuniculus*	4
Terrestrial mammal	Irish Hare	*Lepus timidus subsp. hibernicus*	3
Terrestrial mammal	Pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*	2
Terrestrial mammal	Red Fox	*Vulpes vulpes*	2
Terrestrial mammal	West European Hedgehog	*Erinaceus europaeus*	1

1.7.5 NBDC Records of Wintering Birds

Table 1.7 List of wintering birds that have been recorded at NBDC Hectad[7] C24

Group	Common name	Scientific name	Number recorded
Bird	Alcidae	*Alcidae*	9
Bird	Arctic Skua	*Stercorarius parasiticus*	1

[6] 10km^2 grid
[7] 10km^2 grid

Group	Common name	Scientific name	Number recorded
Bird	Arctic Tern	*Sterna paradisaea*	1
Bird	Atlantic Puffin	*Fratercula arctica*	4
Bird	Baird's Sandpiper	*Calidris bairdii*	1
Bird	Black Guillemot	*Cepphus grylle*	12
Bird	Black-headed Gull	*Larus ridibundus*	7
Bird	Black-legged Kittiwake	*Rissa tridactyla*	29
Bird	Black-throated Diver	*Gavia arctica*	1
Bird	Common Eider	*Somateria mollissima*	10
Bird	Common Goldeneye	*Bucephala clangula*	2
Bird	Common Guillemot	*Uria aalge*	52
Bird	Common Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus*	7
Bird	Common Redshank	*Tringa totanus*	6
Bird	Common Sandpiper	*Actitis hypoleucos*	2
Bird	Common Scoter	*Melanitta nigra*	1
Bird	Common Shelduck	*Tadorna tadorna*	1
Bird	Common Snipe	*Gallinago gallinago*	7
Bird	Common Tern	*Sterna hirundo*	3
Bird	Dunlin	*Calidris alpina*	4
Bird	Eurasian Curlew	*Numenius arquata*	12
Bird	Eurasian Oystercatcher	*Haematopus ostralegus*	15
Bird	Eurasian Teal	*Anas crecca*	1
Bird	Eurasian Wigeon	*Anas penelope*	1
Bird	Eurasian Woodcock	*Scolopax rusticola*	2
Bird	European Shag	*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*	29
Bird	Gavia	*Gavia*	3
Bird	Glaucous Gull	*Larus hyperboreus*	1
Bird	Great Black-backed Gull	*Larus marinus*	19
Bird	Great Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	11
Bird	Great Northern Diver	*Gavia immer*	2
Bird	Great Skua	*Stercorarius skua*	1
Bird	Grey Heron	*Ardea cinerea*	9
Bird	Greylag Goose	*Anser anser*	1
Bird	Herring Gull	*Larus argentatus*	37
Bird	Iceland Gull	*Larus glaucoides*	2
Bird	Kumlien's Iceland Gull	*Larus glaucoides subsp. kumlieni*	3
Bird	Larus	*Larus*	2
Bird	Lesser Black-backed Gull	*Larus fuscus*	6
Bird	Little Egret	*Egretta garzetta*	1
Bird	Little Grebe	*Tachybaptus ruficollis*	7
Bird	Long-tailed Duck	*Clangula hyemalis*	2
Bird	Long-tailed Tit	*Aegithalos caudatus*	3
Bird	Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	14
Bird	Manx Shearwater	*Puffinus puffinus*	4
Bird	Mew Gull	*Larus canus*	17
Bird	Mute Swan	*Cygnus olor*	7
Bird	Northern Eider	*Somateria mollissima subsp. borealis*	2
Bird	Northern Fulmar	*Fulmarus glacialis*	147
Bird	Northern Gannet	*Morus bassanus*	45
Bird	Northern Lapwing	*Vanellus vanellus*	8
Bird	Purple Sandpiper	*Calidris maritima*	2
Bird	Razorbill	*Alca torda*	14
Bird	Red-breasted Merganser	*Mergus serrator*	3
Bird	Red-throated Diver	*Gavia stellata*	3
Bird	Ringed Plover	*Charadrius hiaticula*	10
Bird	Ruddy Turnstone	*Arenaria interpres*	4
Bird	Sanderling	*Calidris alba*	2
Bird	Sandwich Tern	*Sterna sandvicensis*	1
Bird	Semipalmated Sandpiper	*Calidris pusilla*	1
Bird	Sooty Shearwater	*Puffinus griseus*	2
Bird	Tufted Duck	*Aythya fuligula*	7
Bird	Twite	*Carduelis flavirostris*	2
Bird	Velvet Scoter	*Melanitta fusca*	1
Bird	Water Rail	*Rallus aquaticus*	2
Bird	White-throated Dipper	*Cinclus cinclus*	2
Bird	Wilson's Storm-petrel	*Oceanites oceanicus*	1

1.8 Recommendations

- Areas of the path at the entries to the site should be managed in order to reduce impacts seen in these areas.
- Access to cliff top areas that are designated as hazardous should be managed.
- The heath habitats on site could me managed to increase the floral diversity of the area.
- More interpretative site signage that focuses on the ecology surrounding the site could potentially increase visitor engagement with the site.

Appendix I

Activities		
Category 1 Low Level		
Walking, running or cycling on paths, marked trails or hard surfaces		LA 1
Walking, running, cycling or playing in mown grass, managed grassland or level sand		LA 2
Sitting on benches, walls, mown grass, sand		LA 3
Swimming, sailing, surfing, kayaking in water		LA 4
Resting, reading, looking, picnicking, sightseeing, painting, photographing		LA 5
Vehicular movement on roads and parking areas		LA 6
Watching nature in hedges, woods, streams, pools and intertidal areas		LA 7
Category 2 Medium Level		
Powered movement through water		MA 1
Any movement leaving an existing trail or marked path		MA 2
Any movement leaving a trail through leafy vegetation		MA 3
Any movement leaving a trail through woody vegetation		MA 4
Climbing on walls, loose stones, sand, soil etc.		MA 5
Fishing		MA 6
Category 3 High Level		
Walking through wet/muddy soil		HA 1
Scrambling on steep or loose slopes		HA 2
Off road vehicular movement		HA 3
Disturbance of wildlife		HA 4
Deliberate building or moving or knocking site materials - parts of monuments, walls, stones, sand etc.		HA 5
Picking herbaceous vegetation		HA 6

Appendix I Activity and impact code index used for recording visitor behaviours on site

Category 1 Low Impact		
No identifiable effect		LIE 1
Desire lines or trails visible on grass and leafy vegetation		LIE 2
Temporary disturbance (including chasing and feeding) of insects, fish, amphibian, reptiles, insects, birds and mammals		LIE 3
Temporary change of character - due to the appearance or nature of activities (noise, crowds, etc.)		LIE 4
General/light littering		LIE 5
Category 2 Medium Impact		
Desire lines or tracks visible outside of existing trail or marked path		MIE 1
Trampling of herbaceous vegetation		MIE 2
Damage to woody vegetation		MIE 3
Incidentally moving or knocking site materials - parts of monuments, walls, stones, sand, rooted vegetation, flora, fauna etc.		MIE 4
Addition/alteration of site features, transient emissions, noise		MIE 5
Transient disturbance, emissions, noise		MIE 6
Disturbance of wildlife		MIE 7
Category 3 Severe Impact		
Direct interference with site material - parts of monuments, walls, stones, sand, rooted vegetation, flora, fauna etc.		SIE 1
Removal of material - parts of monuments, walls, stones, sand, rooted vegetation, flora, fauna etc.		SIE 2
Vandalism or graffiti		SIE 3
Destruction of structures, vegetation or fauna		SIE 4
Heavy littering or dumping quantities of waste		SIE 5
Burning materials or lighting a fire		SIE 6
Injuring, killing or taking wildlife		SIE 7

Appendix II

Habitat Condition Assessment Methodology

A rating scale has been designed for this monitoring programme as a standardised, repeatable measurement for assessing habitat condition across all sites[8]. For the purposes of this monitoring programme, habitat condition is assessed at every site by the surveyor examining four core criteria:

1. The extent to which habitat degradation (due to human activity), if any, is observed;
2. If habitat degradation is observed, the degree to which the impact is localised or widespread;
3. The potential ability for the habitat to recover (related to scale of degradation); and,
4. The requirement for intervention (related to the degree of the previous 3 elements).

For these assessments the term 'degradation' is taken to mean any change that reduces the long-term viability habitats and its qualifying interests [flora and fauna]. Degradation can include readily visible evidence of factors such as surface erosion or compaction, vegetation loss, crowd disturbance [noise], disturbance by pets, littering, burning or pollution.

Based on these four criteria, each site is walked along transects established by the principal pathways that are used for visitor access and movement through each site. At 100 metres intervals along the selected pathways, an assessment of habitat condition is made, using an established rating scale of 1 to 5; 1 being no impact and 5 being high impact. Each rating is then translated into a condition assessment, as displayed in Table II - 1 below.

These ratings are gathered for each site, and are then grouped; from which the mode is taken (i.e., the rating that occurs most frequently. This then recorded and reported as the resultant overall rating of the assessed habitat condition assessment for each site.

Table II-1 Habitat rating scale and condition assessment

Scale	Condition
1	No evidence of any habitat degradation observed.
2	Localised habitat degradation, but slight and capable of rapid recovery.
3	Widespread habitat degradation, but slight and capable of rapid recovery.
4	Localised habitat degradation, requiring intervention to allow full recovery.
5	Widespread habitat degradation, requiring intervention to allow full recovery.

[8] Note: Where possible, the same surveyor is used across multiple sites – but in some instances, different surveyors survey different sites. This can lead to a human variation in the assigning of the rating scale for impact. However, there will be sufficient repetition of the data through the several years of the monitoring programme to account for any variations in human interpretation on this scale.