NATIONAL TOURISM MONITORING PROGRAMME 2021-2025

ANNUAL RESULTS FOR 2022

LOOP HEAD

for: **Fáilte Ireland**

88 – 95 Amiens Street

Dublin 1

D01 WR86

by: **CAAS Ltd.**

1st Floor,

24-26 Ormond Quay Upper

Dublin 7

February 2023

Document Control

	Author/Reviewer	Date
Prepared by	Andrew Torsney & Callum O'Regan	Various dates to 02 February 2023
Reviewed by	Conor Skehan & Maeve Walsh	02 February 2023
Status of this version	Draft	

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Loop Head – Interesting Finds

ECOLOGICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Loop Head is well-known site for watching migratory birds as well as off shore whales and dolphins. Fulmars and Kittiwakes breed on the northern tip of Loop Head and Dermot and Grania's Rock. The cliffs at Bullaunnaleama host colonies of Guillemots, Razorbills and Kittiwakes

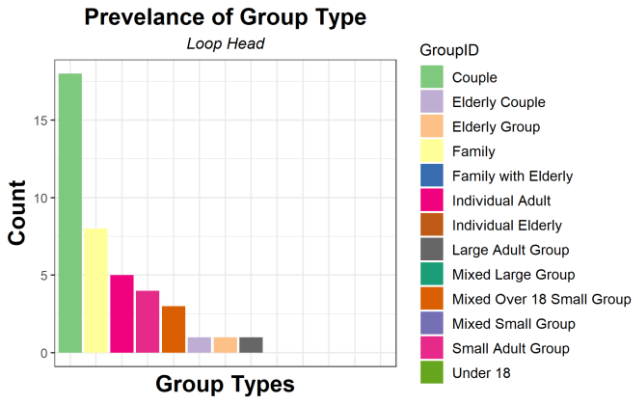
Loop Head also hosts a large population of grey seal

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- As was recommended in 2021, vehicular access to the heathlands beyond the carpark should be managed. The announcement of new parking facilities should help avoid vehicular impacts.
- As was also recommended in 2021, trail network management should be explored to alleviate pressures occurring. Plans have since been announced to create a loop trail on site.
- Habitat management strategies could be developed for the site to increase the floral diversity of the grass and heathland habitats on site.
- Signage should be introduced to provide information on resident bird populations.

VISITOR NUMBERS AND DWELL TIME

- 106 people visited the site over 8 hours
- Average dwell time of 47 minutes



VISITOR INTERACTION & MANAGEMENT

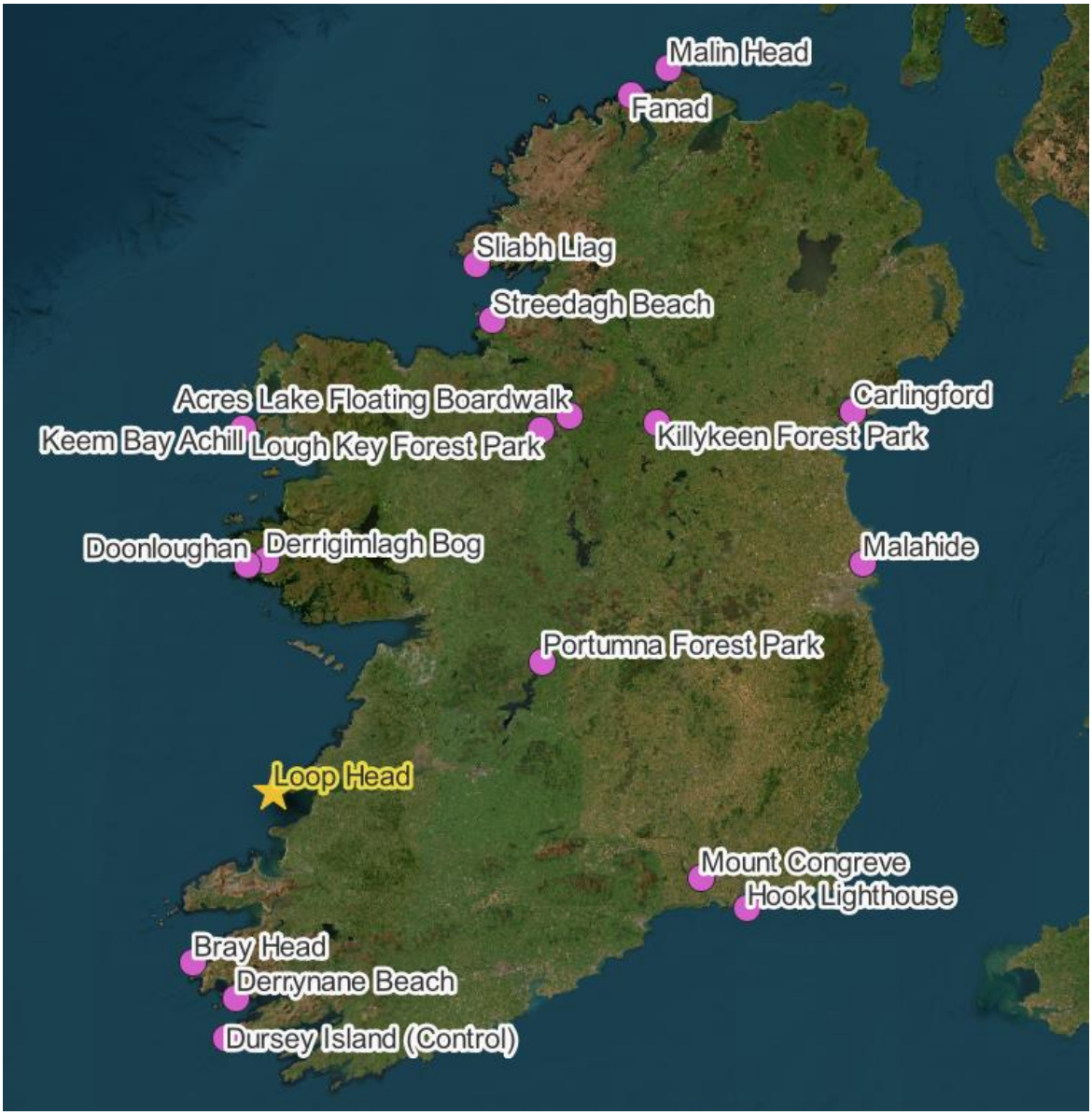
- Visitor interactions on site well controlled with strong management practices in place.
- Nearly 100% of all activities undertaken were considered to be low level activities.
- Majority of impacts were related to off trail activities, such as desire lines and damage to substrate
- Most of the visitors to the site stayed for at least 47 minutes.
- Majority of visitors did not read signage that was available on site.

1 Loop Head

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 Loop Head:

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 Loop Head was undertaken on the 21st of August 2022, with max temperatures reaching approximately 22.7° C, low levels of rainfall and low 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 Loop Head

Loop Head contains attractions such as the Loop Head lighthouse (Figure 1.1), access to water sports and boat journeys to view marine mammals. It is also a Signature Discovery Point on the Wild Atlantic Way. The area itself is completely encompassed by the Loop Head SPA and the Lower Shannon SAC with expected habitats that range from dry siliceous heath.

The visitor centre at Loop Head was recently upgraded with further plans to introduce a looped trail and new parking facilities also announced.

Figure 1.1 Loop Head

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

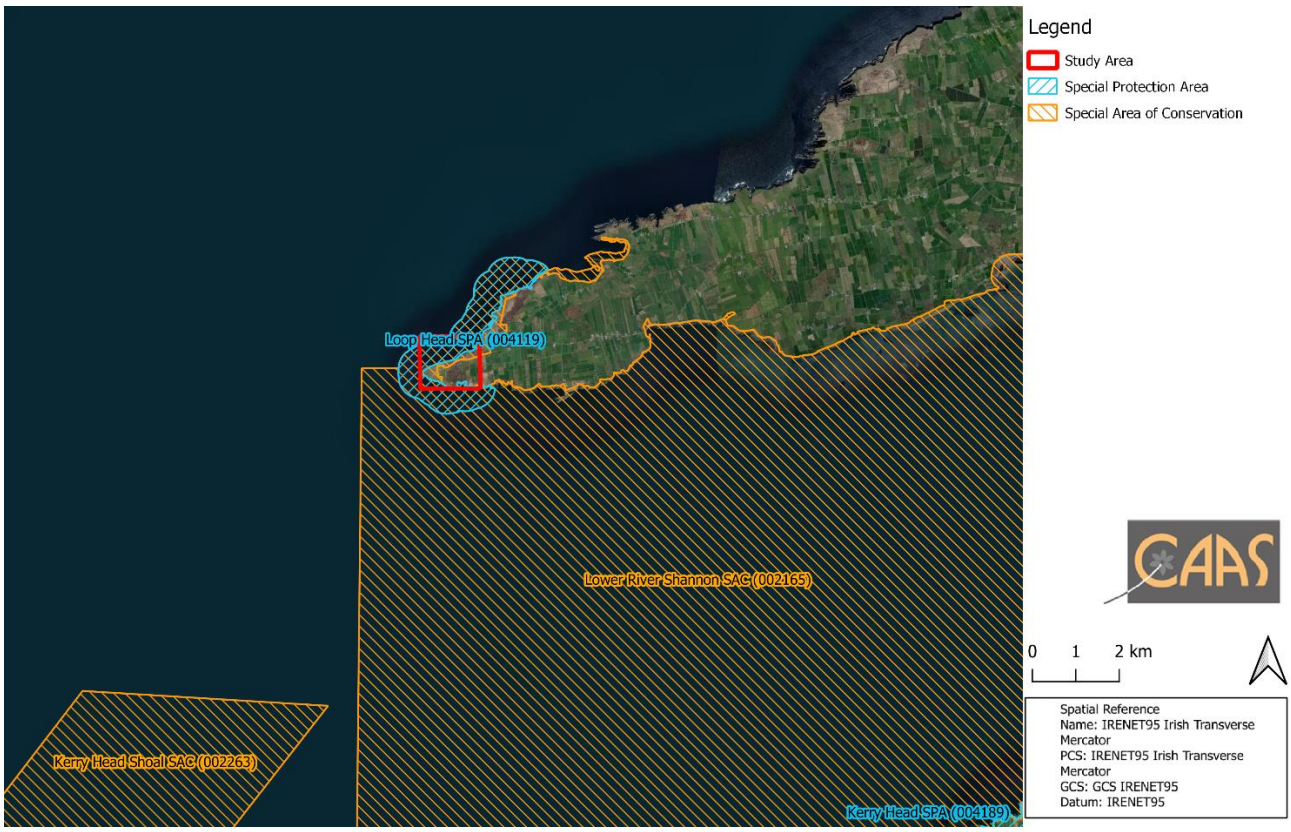


Figure 1.2 Study Area within Lower River Shannon SAC

1.3.1 Critical Infrastructure

Table 1.1 Summary of Wastewater infrastructure at Loop Head

Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)	Irish Water Indication of Capacity	Comment
There are no toilet facilities on site No current WWTP on site at Loop Head Nearest settlement with WWTP in Kilkee (WWTP Reg #D0078)	No spare capacity available[2]	There is limited capacity available within the treatment plant as stated in the Draft Clare CDP 2023-2029[3] if wastewater facilities are introduced

Table 1.2 Summary of Drinking Water infrastructure at Loop Head

Drinking Water	Water Resource Name (WRZ)	Irish Water Indication of Capacity	Comment
Nearest serviced settlement to Loop Head is Kilkee Drinking water is supplied via the West Clare Regional (Doolough Lake) Water Supply (RWS)[4]	West Clare	Capacity available[5]	Current water supply is sufficient

[2] https://www.water.ie/connections/developer-services/capacity-registers/wastewater-treatment-capacity-register/clare/
[3] https://clarecdp2023-2029.clarecoco.ie/stage2-draft/display/volume-3d-west-clare-municipal-district-settlement-plans-45168.pdf
[4] https://clarecdp2023-2029.clarecoco.ie/stage2-draft/display/volume-3d-west-clare-municipal-district-settlement-plans-45168.pdf
[5] https://www.water.ie/connections/developer-services/capacity-registers/wastewater-treatment-capacity-register/clare/

Table 1.3 Summary of Transport infrastructure at Loop Head

Nearest Settlement	Current Transport Infrastructure	Comment
Kilkee	Loop Head is accessible via the R487 with car parking facilities on site	As per the Draft Clare CDP 2023-2029, Kilkee experiences seasonal traffic problems[6] Outside of this, the current transport infrastructure is sufficient

1.4 Pathways and Features Condition Results

1.4.1 Pathway Condition

The paths at Loop Head mainly consist of managed pathways which are of varying width. These pathways also show localised severe levels of soil compaction along with evident trampling due to walkers. There is also a small section of hard infrastructure pathways which were seen to have slight damage at the road side.

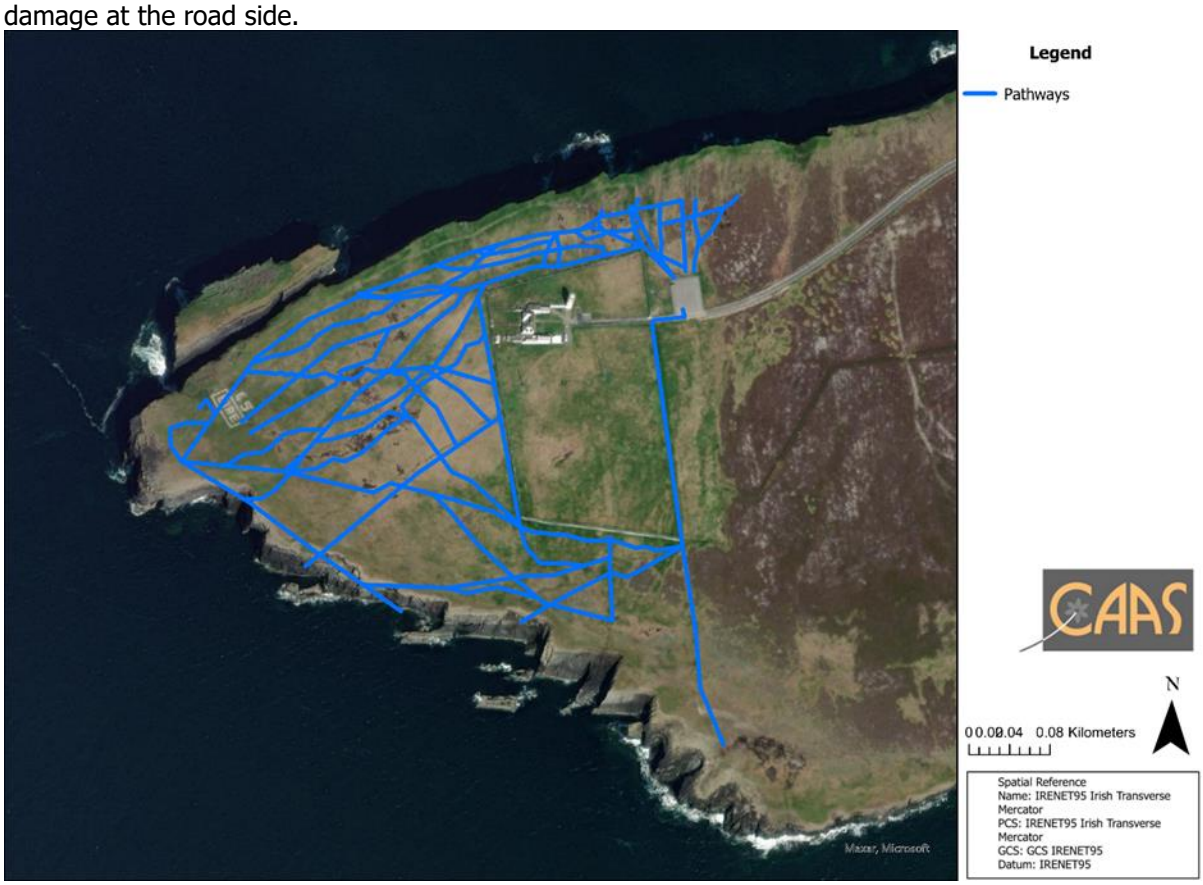


Figure 1.3 Pathways identified at Loop Head

1.4.2 Features Condition

Other than the lighthouse at Loop Head itself, there are not many features on this site. There is also a car park on site which is used by visitors. In regards to signage, there are multiple signs which warn visitors of potentially dangerous unprotected cliff edges along with a small number of signs that provide information on the area along with a sign that designates Loop Head as part of the Wild Atlantic Way (Figure 1.5).

[6] https://clarecdp2023-2029.clarecoco.ie/stage2-draft/display/volume-3d-west-clare-municipal-district-settlement-plans-45168.pdf

Figure 1.4 Features recorded at Loop Head

Figure 1.5 Features at Loop Head

1.4.3 Hazards

No direct hazards were recorded at Loop Head during the hazard mapping. However, it is noted that there are points on site where there are unprotected cliff edges, which could be deemed as a hazard but were not mapped.

1.5 Visitor Characterisation Survey

The visitor monitoring surveys resulted in a total of 106 visitors (which represent 41 group observations), down from 124 visitors in 2021. The site is most popular amongst the couple group with the dominant mode of transport being car. The average dwell time for the site was 47 minutes, an increase of 20 minutes from the average dwell time in 2021; with the following activities undertaken during the survey (listed in order of occurrence rate):

Activity Type
Exploring off trail
Photographing
Sitting
Tour
Cafe
Dogwalking (on lead)
Picnicking
Off road driving
Cycling
Other
Reading

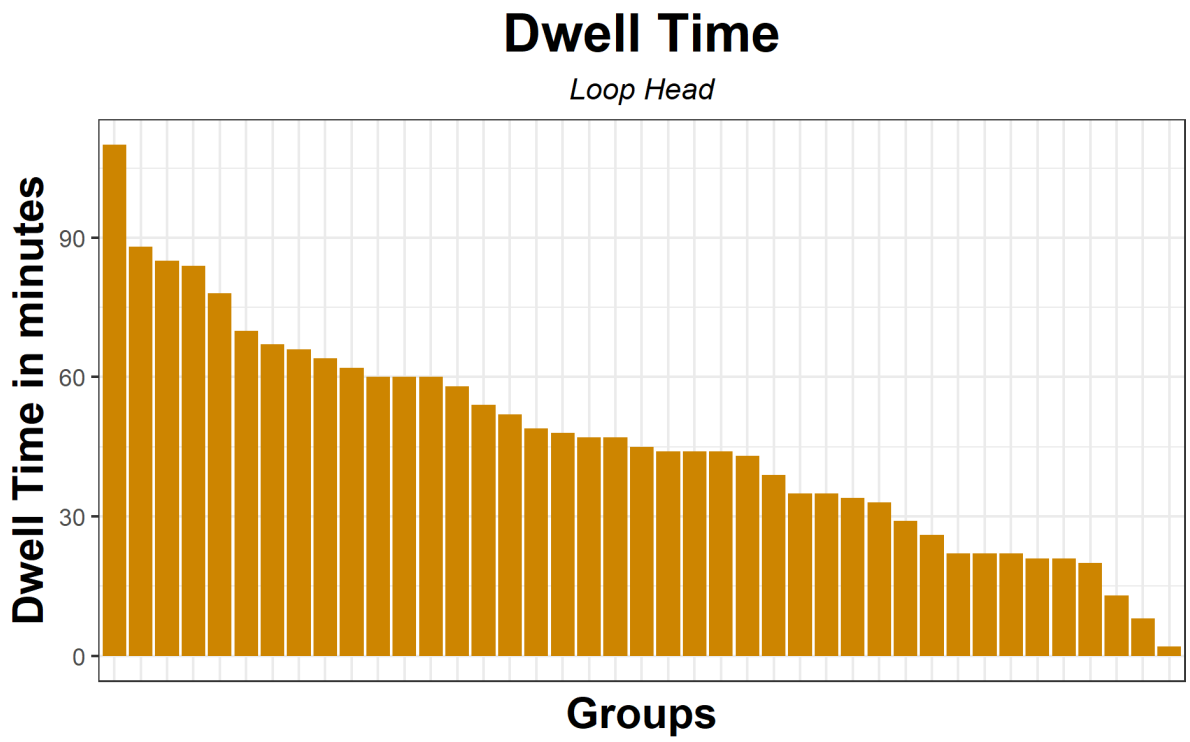


Figure 1.6 Duration of Time Spent at Loop Head

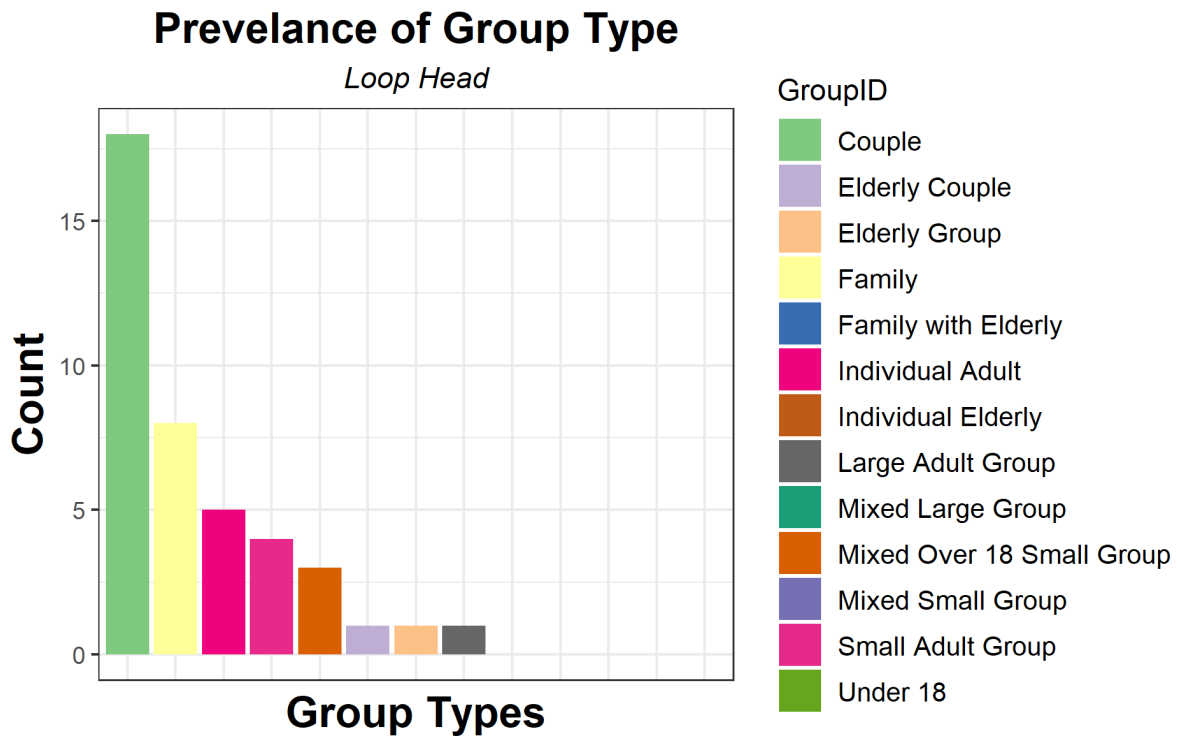


Figure 13.2 Groups of visitors that visited Loop Head

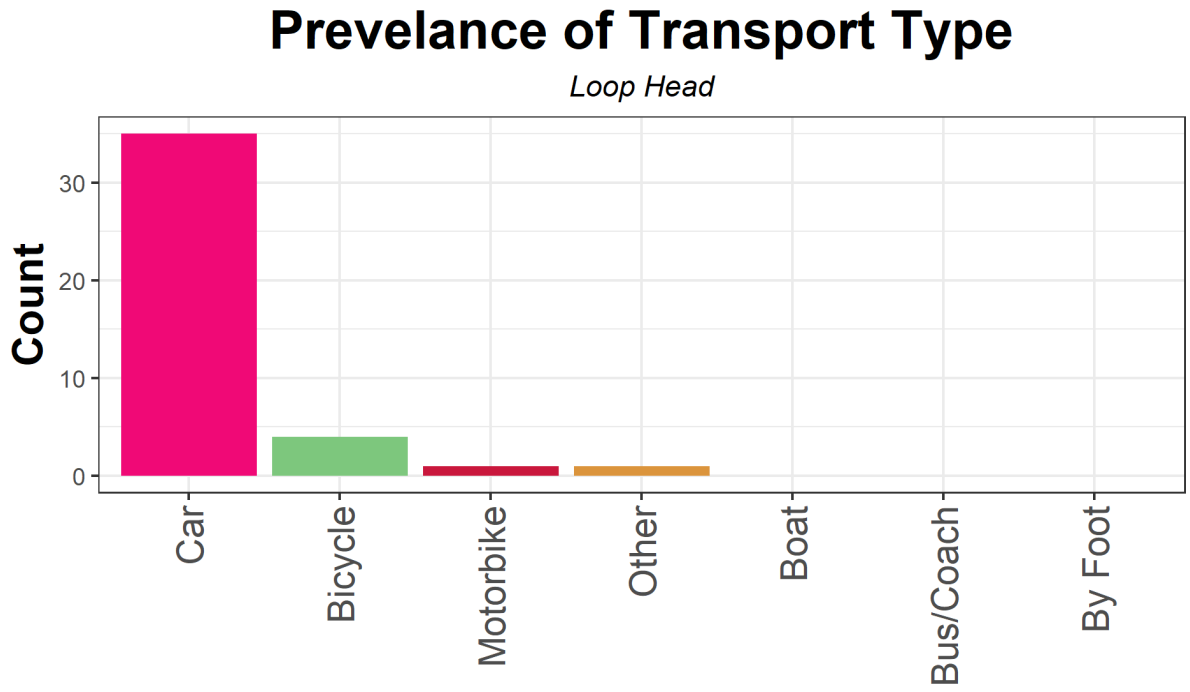


Figure 1.7 Mode of transport used to visit Loop Head

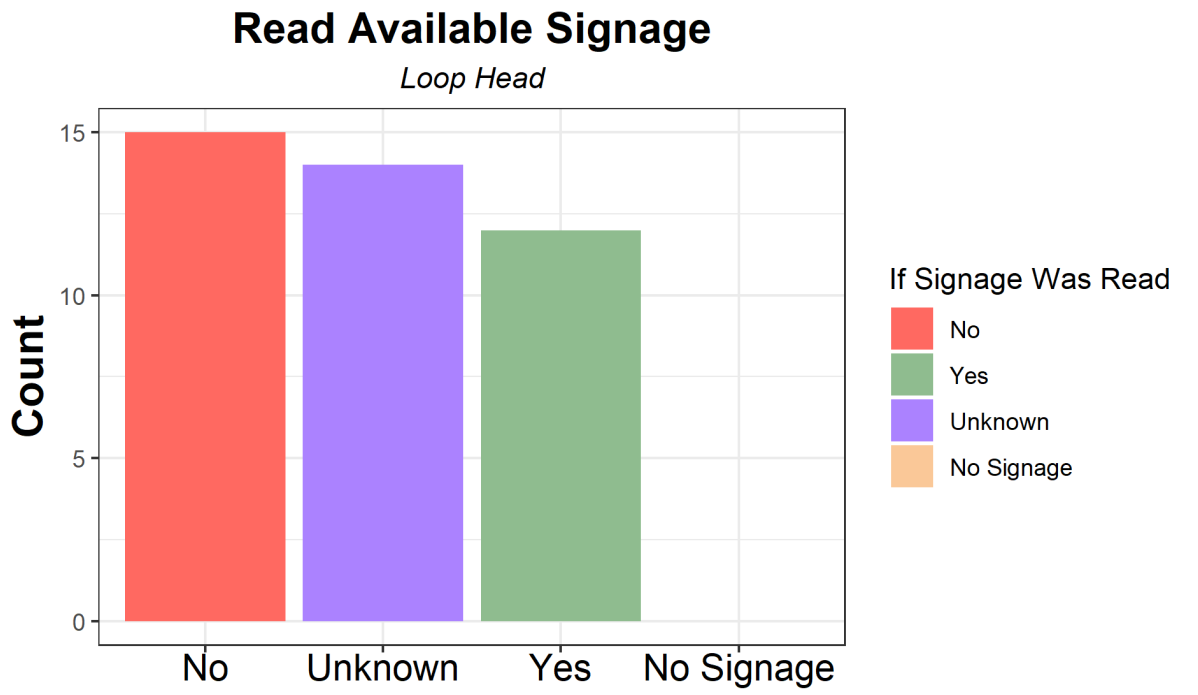


Figure 1.8 Use of Interpretive Material at Loop Head

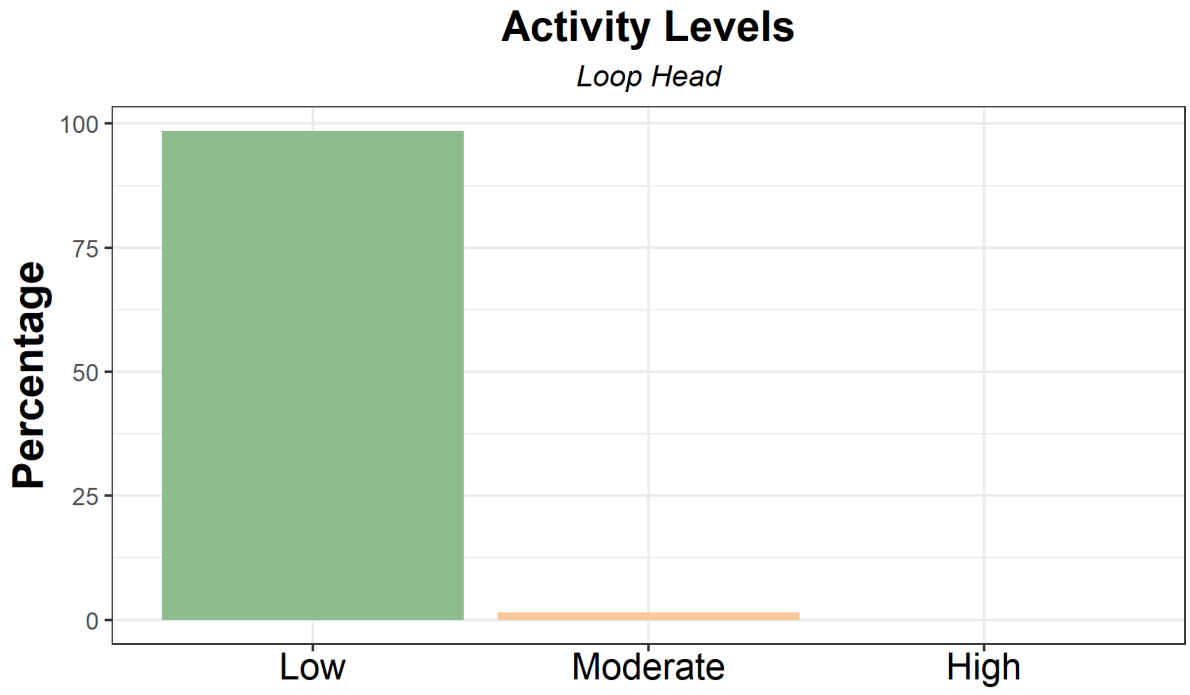


Figure 1.9 Categories of Activity Levels Observed at Loop Head

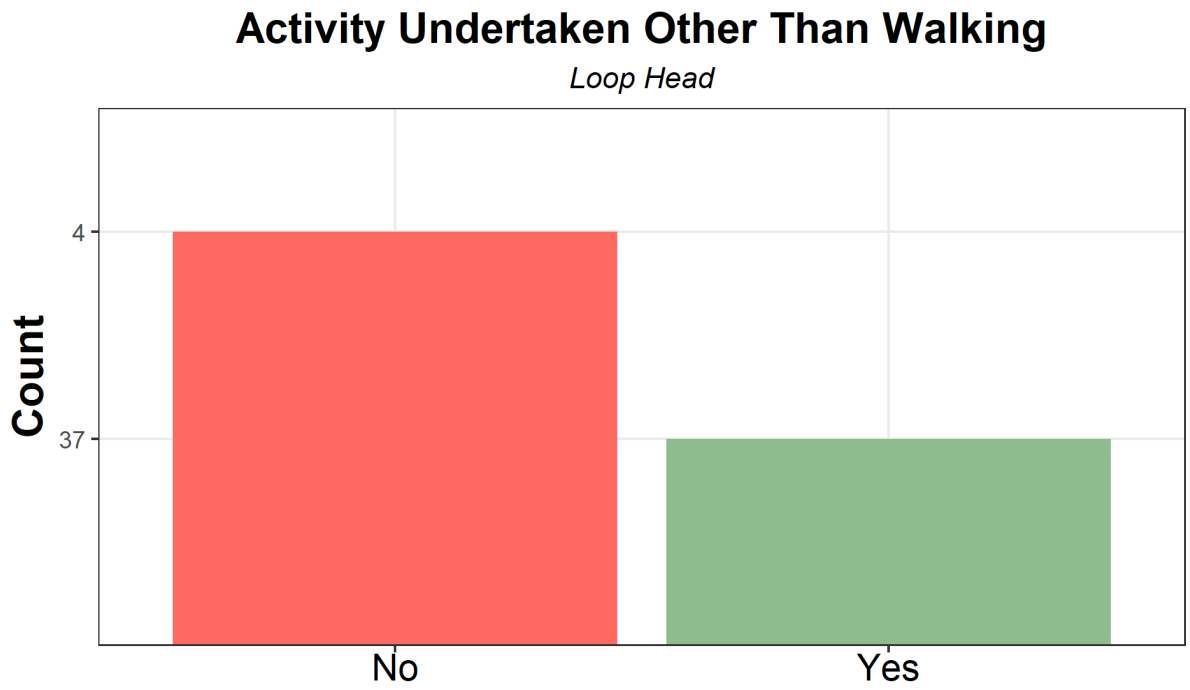


Figure 1.10 Activities undertaken other than walking

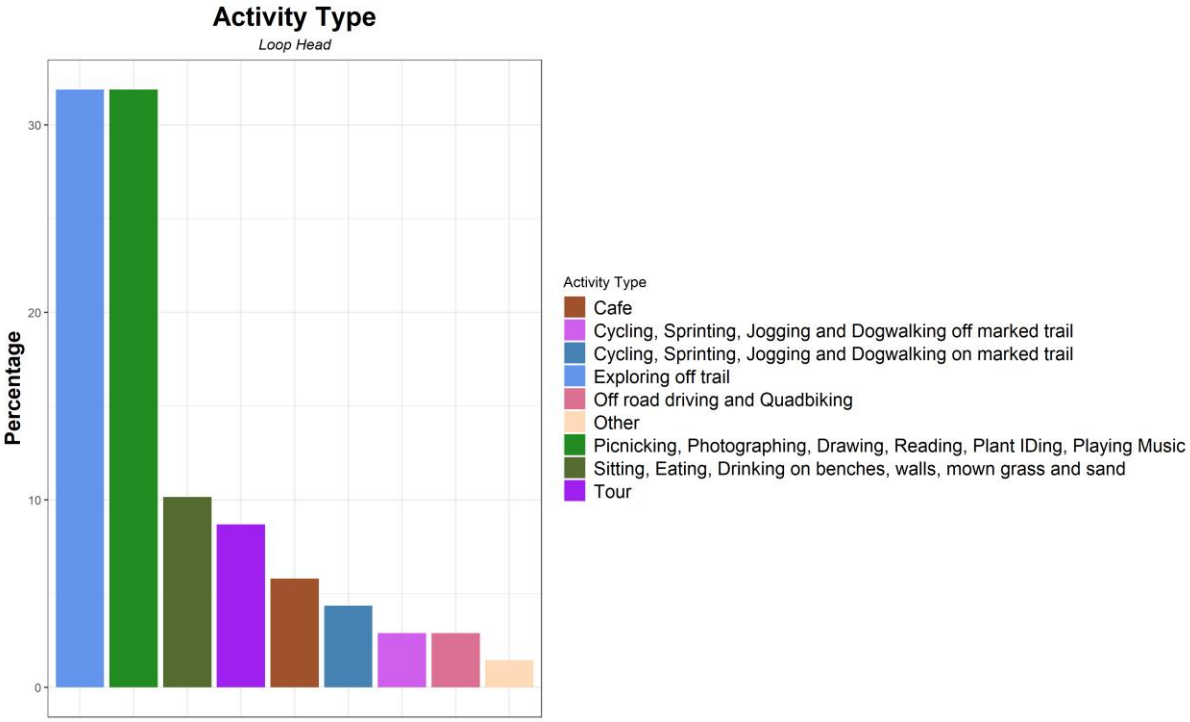


Figure 1.11 Range of Visitor Activities Observed at Loop Head

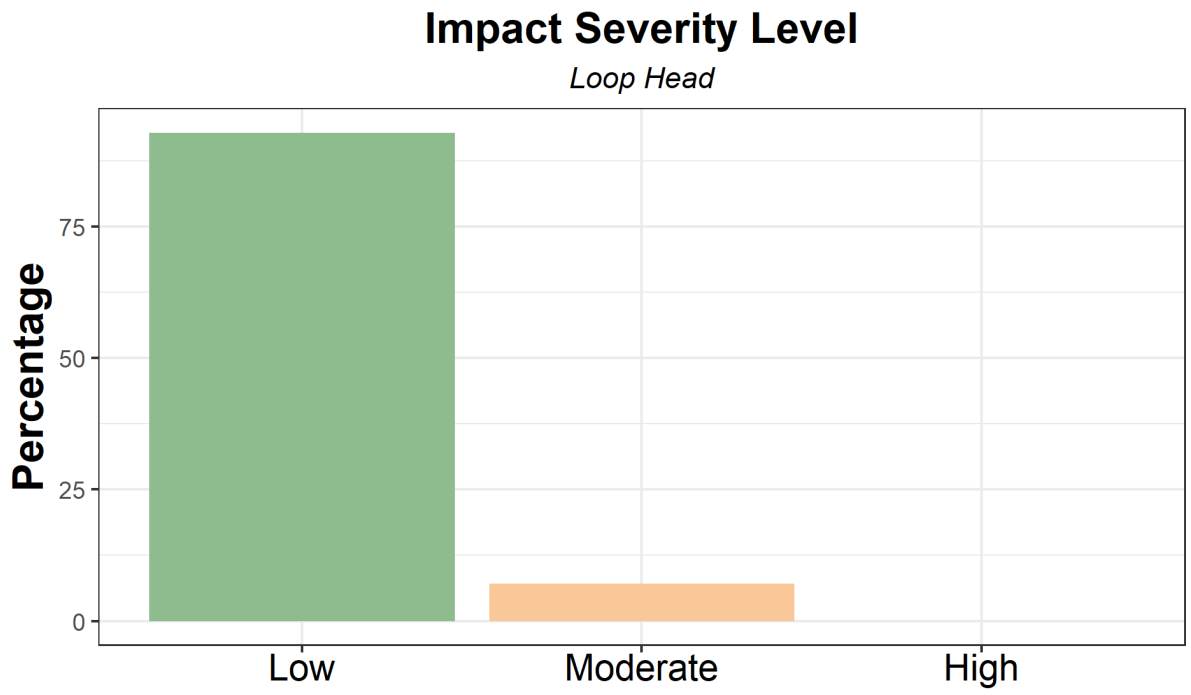


Figure 1.12 Categories of Environmental Impact Levels Observed at Loop Head as a result of Visitor Activities

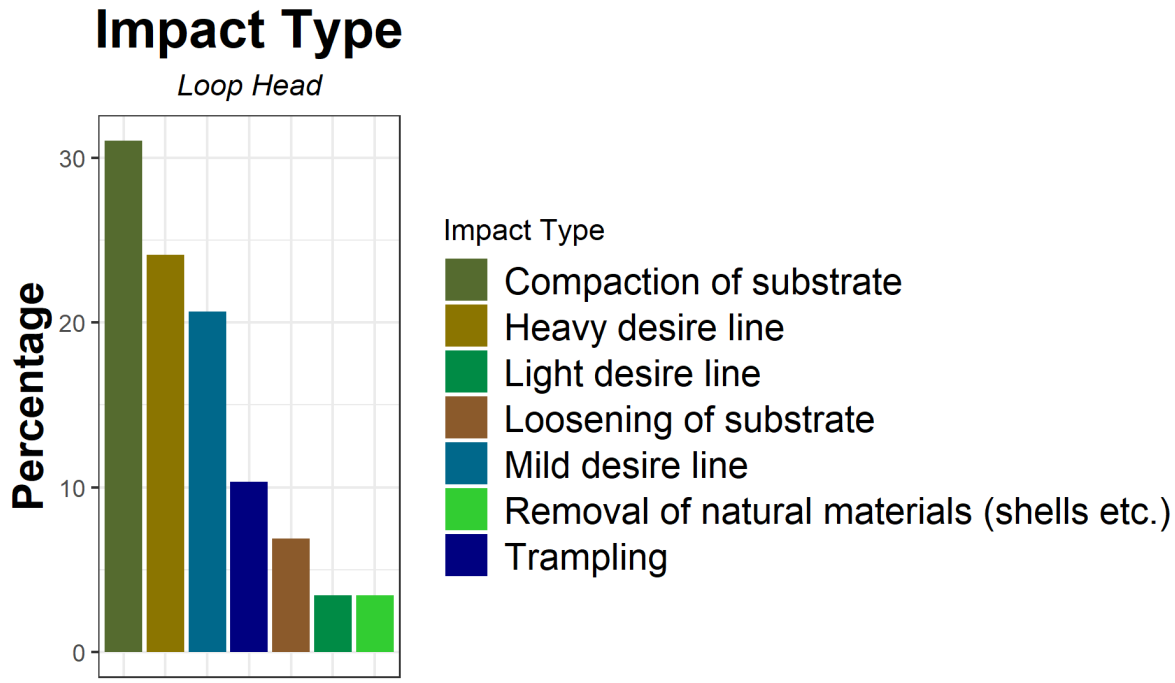


Figure 1.13 Range of Environmental Impacts Observed at Loop Head

The environmental impacts that were observed and recorded used the same coding system as the Wild Atlantic Way Monitoring[7]. 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.

[7] See Appendix I for more detail

Figure 1.14 Visitor movement patterns at Loop Head

Of the 41 groups recorded on site 90% of them undertook activities other than walking, a large increase from 42% in 2021. These activities (identified above) resulted in 29 impacts being observed on site during the survey, compared to 9 impacts being recorded in 2021. Thus, 42% of activities on site resulted in impacts on the environment. The impact severity levels varied with 93% of the impacts being low, with 67% being low in 2021, 7% of impacts being moderate, 33% being moderate in 2021, and 0% of impacts being high severity. The impacts identified for the site were:

Impact Type	Count
Compaction of substrate	9
Heavy desire line	7
Light desire line	1
Loosening of substrate	2
Mild desire line	6
Removal of natural materials (shells etc.)	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 Loop Head 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, with most impacts noted being related to off trail activities;
- An increase in the percentage of visitors exploring off trail and decrease in percentage of activities (cycling, dog walking, jogging etc.) along marked trails and,
- Reduction of visitors during the 8-hour survey by 15% to 106 visitors over 41 groups with average dwell time increasing by 74%.

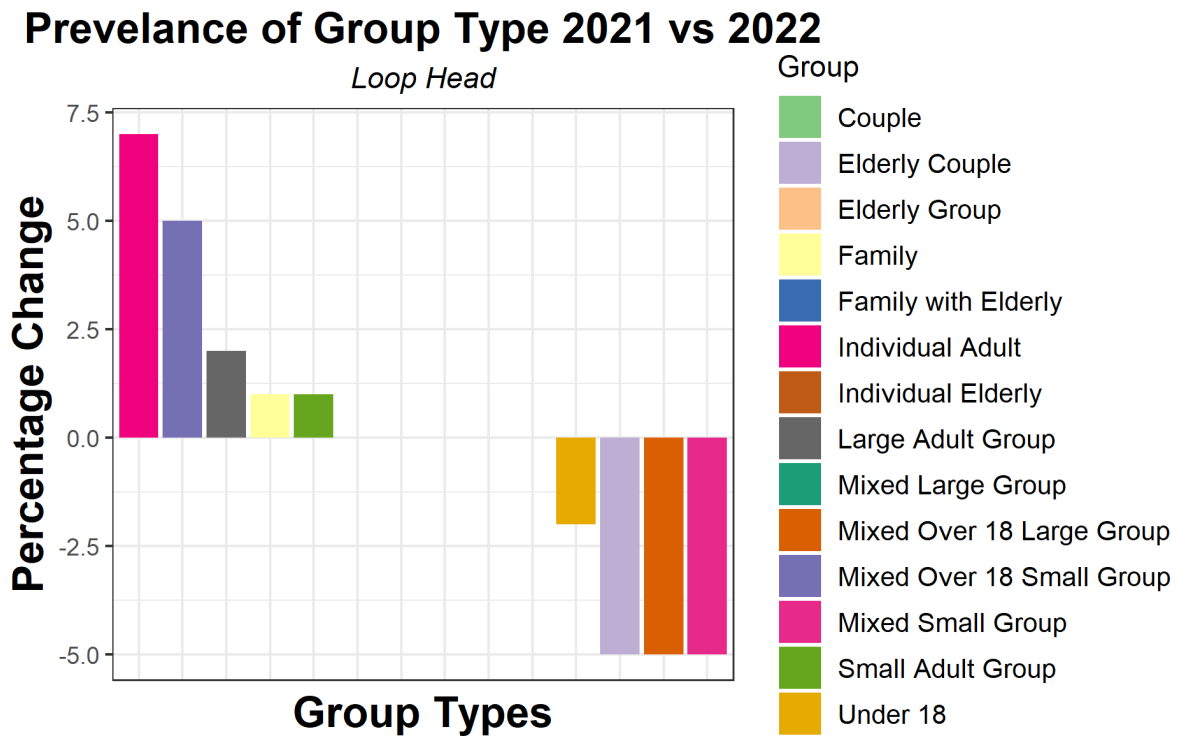


Figure 1.15 Percentage Change in groups of visitors that visited Loop Head between 2021 and 2022

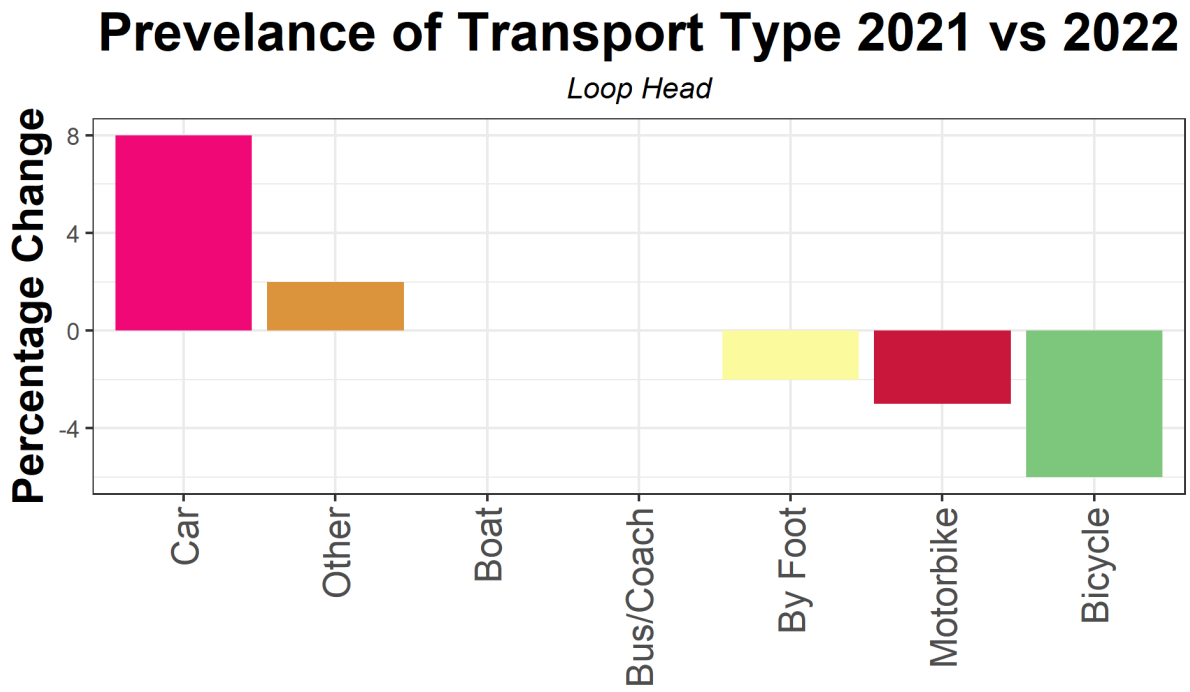


Figure 1.16 Percentage Change in mode of transport used to visit Loop Head between 2021 and 2022

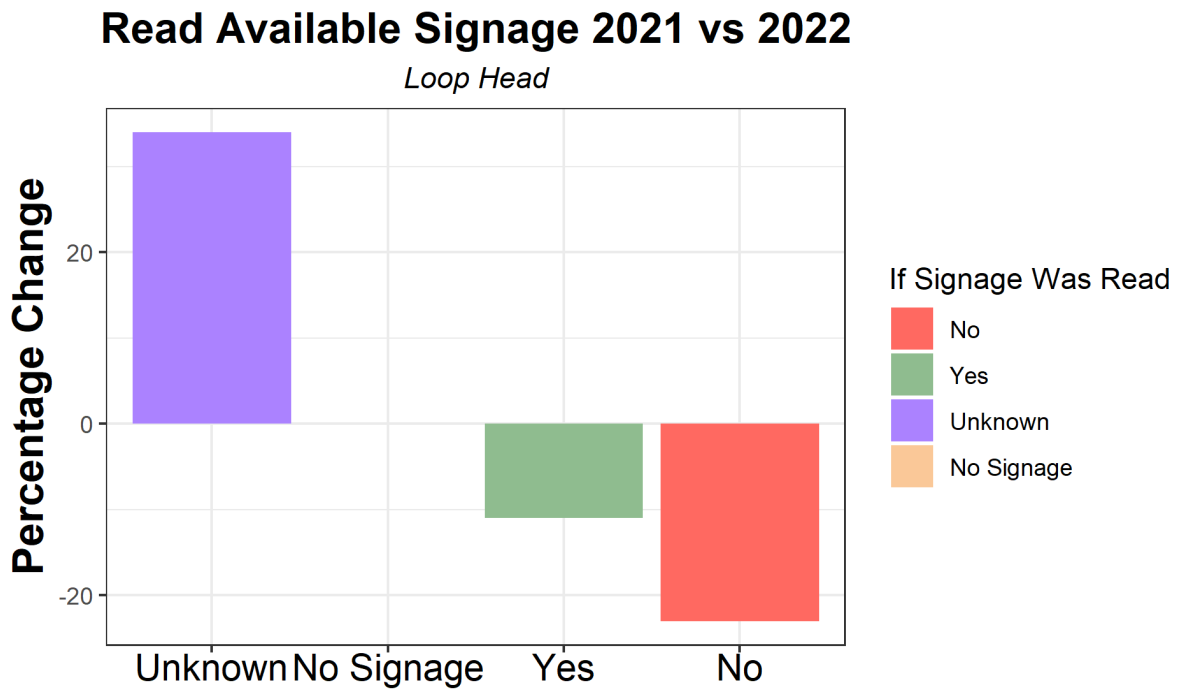


Figure 1.17 Percentage change in use of Interpretive Material at Loop Head between 2021 and 2022

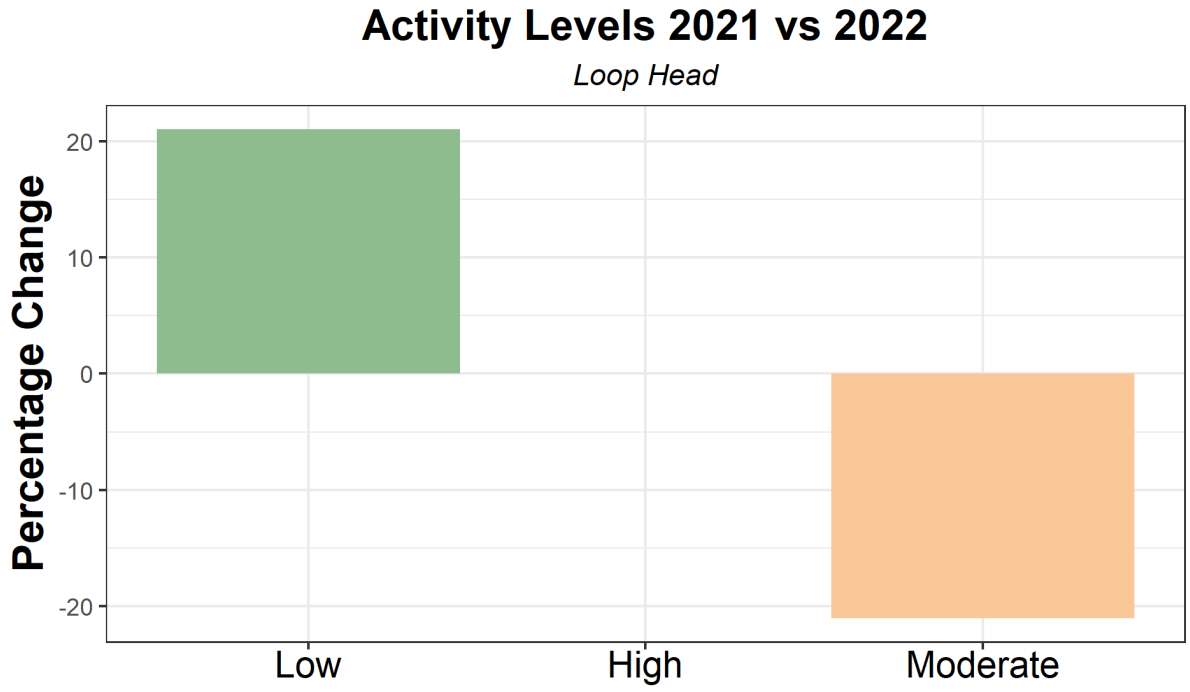


Figure 1.18 Percentage change in categories of Activity Levels Observed at Loop Head between 2021 and 2022

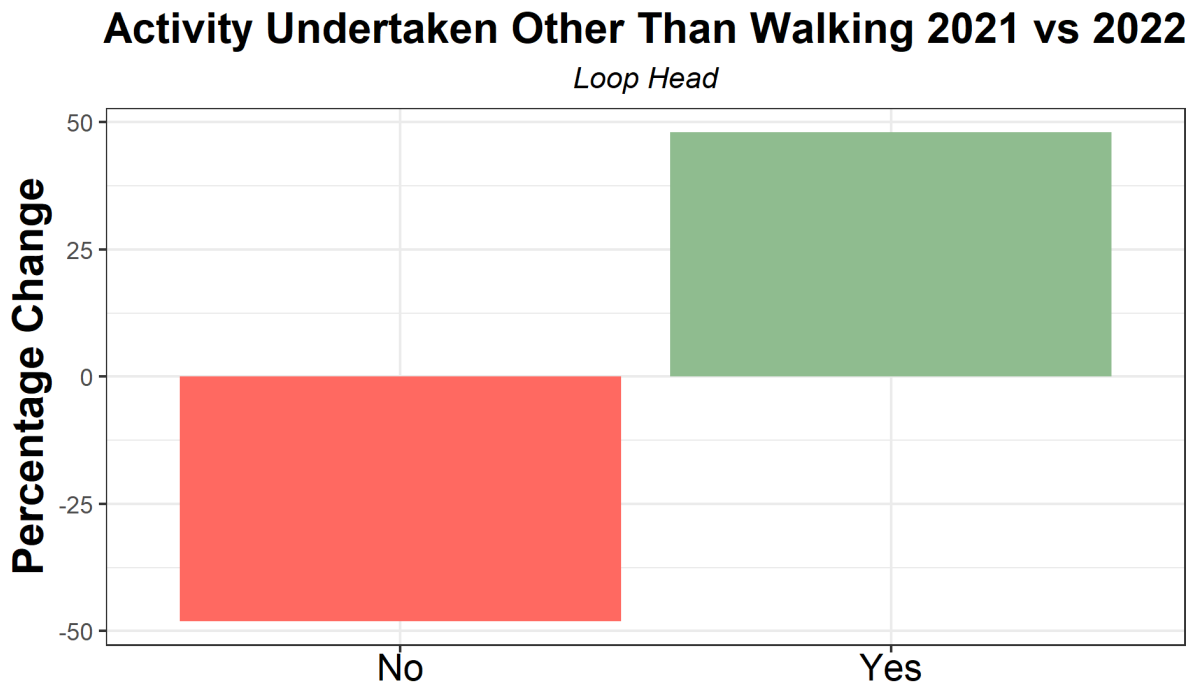


Figure 1.19 Percentage change in activities undertaken other than walking at Loop Head between 2021 and 2022

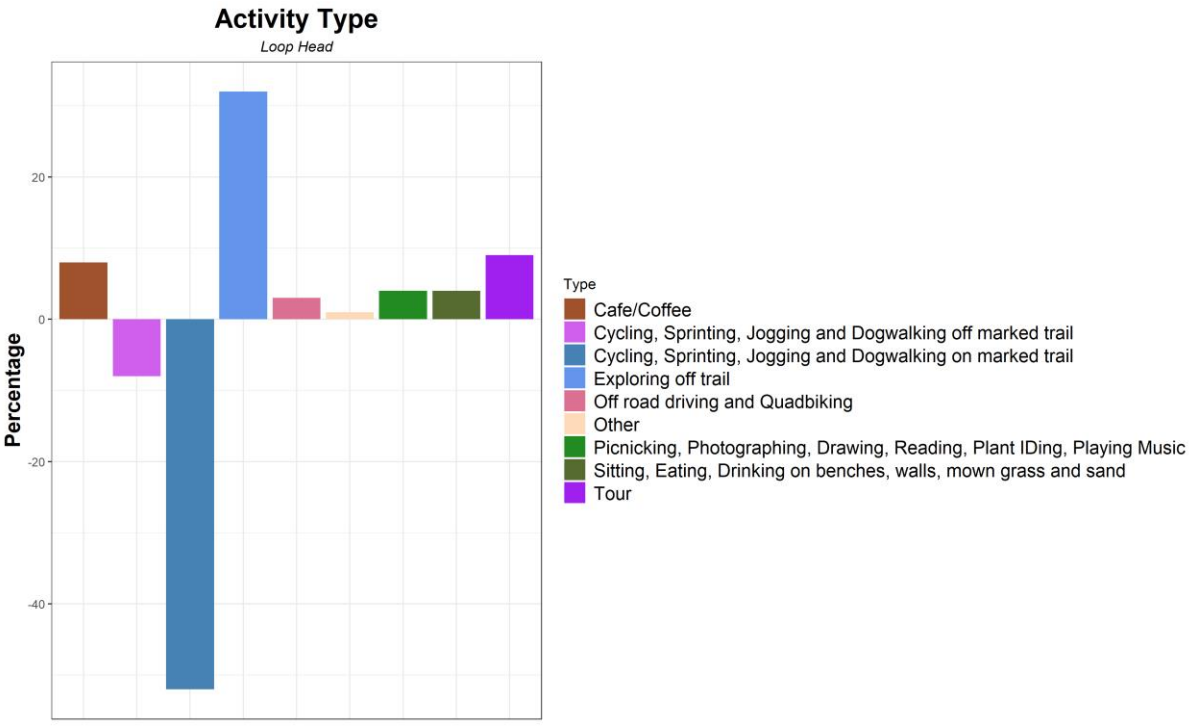


Figure 1.20 Percentage change in range of Visitor Activities Observed at Loop Head between 2021 and 2022

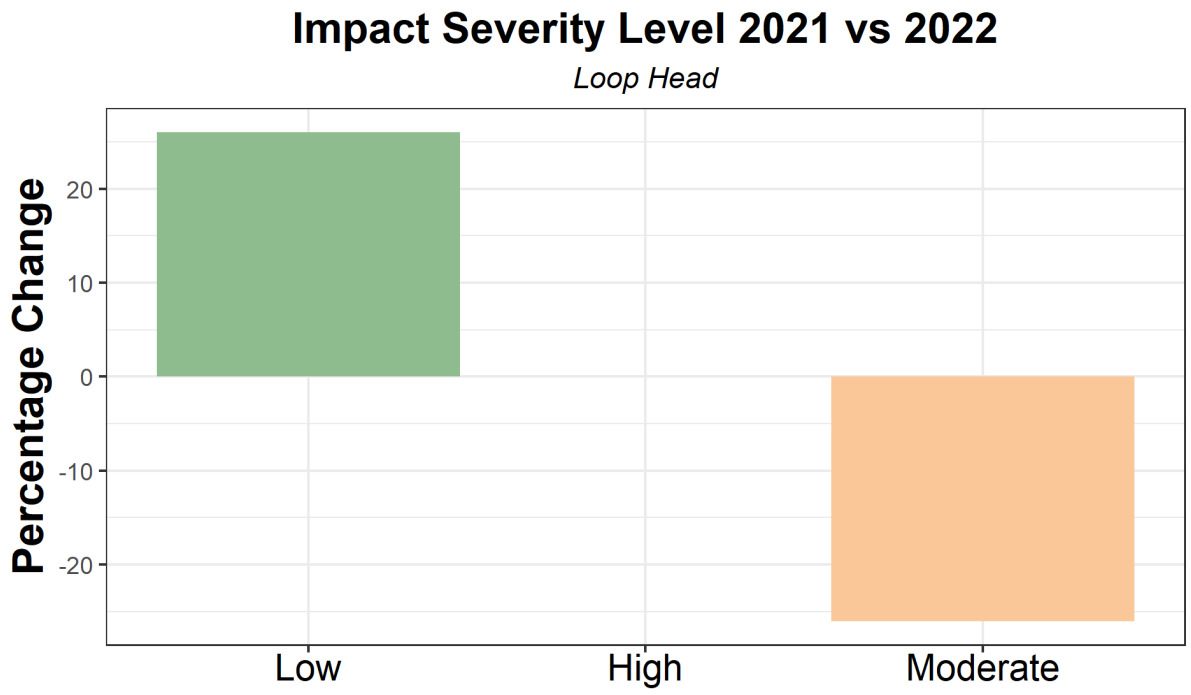


Figure 1.21 Percentage change in categories of Environmental Impact Levels Observed at Loop Head as a result of Visitor Activities[8] between 2021 and 2022

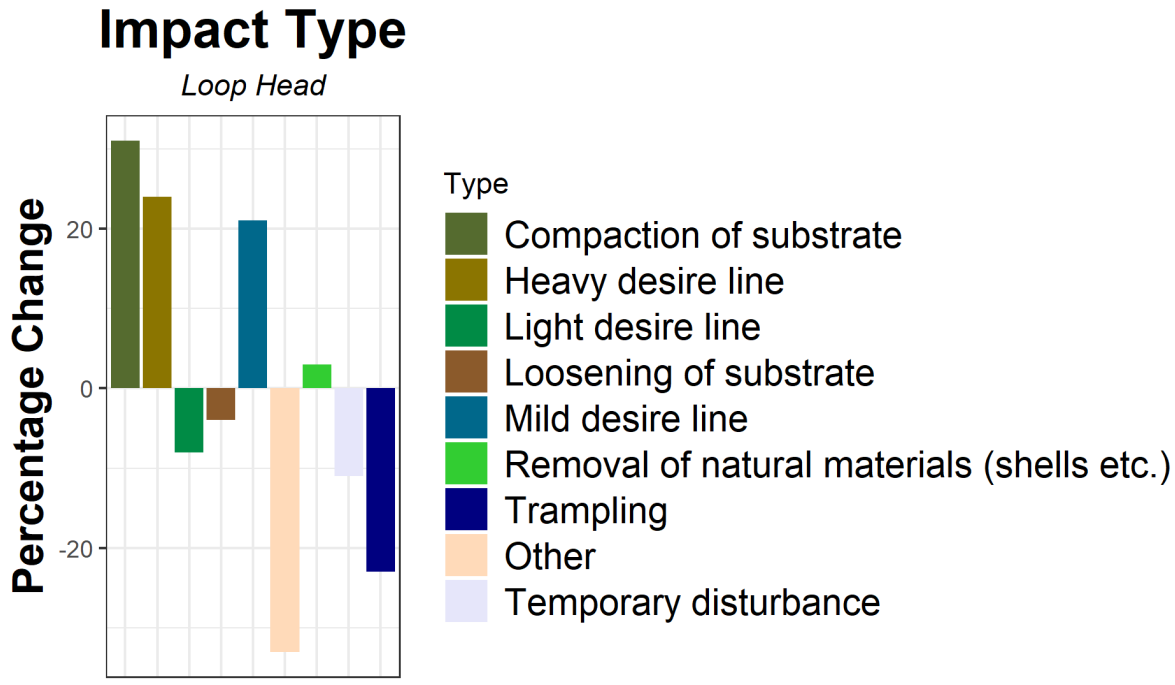


Figure 1.22 Percentage change in range of Environmental Impacts Observed at Loop Head between 2021 and 2022

[8] 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 74%	Survey was conducted later in the season compared to 2021 which could have lead to increased average dwell time
Prevalence of Group Type	• No significant differences noted	Slight changes in visitor group types could be attributed to the 2022 survey taking place later in the season
Prevalence of Transport Type	• 8% increase by car	Slight increase in percentage of visitors arriving to the site by car No other significant changes were noted
Read Available Signage	• Signage not read decreased by 23% • 11% decrease in signage read • Unknown increased by 35%	Changes observed can be attributed to an increase in percentage of unknown if visitors read available signage
Activity Levels	• No change in high activity levels • Low activity levels increased by 21% • Moderate activity levels decreased by 21%	Increase in the percentage of low-level activities
Activity Undertaken Other Than Walking	• Activities undertaken other than walking increased by 18%	Moderate increase in the percentage of visitors who undertook activities other than walking
Activity Type	• 32% increase in exploring off trail • Jogging, cycling, and dog walking etc. on marked trails decreased by 52%	Significant decrease in the percentage of visitors partaking in jogging etc., on marked trails along with an increase in exploring off trail
Impact Severity Level	• No change in high impact level • Low impact level increased by 26% • Moderate impact level decreased by 26%	Increase in the percentage of low-level impacts noted, this could be due to a higher number of impacts being recorded in 2022
Impact Type	• 31% increase in compaction of substrate • 24% increase in heavy desire lines • 21% increase in mild desire lines • 10% increase in trampling	Much higher number of impacts recorded in 2022 when compared to 2021, leading to an increase in noted impacts

1.7 Ecological Monitoring Results

1.7.1 Ecological Constraints

The species and habitats within 2km of Loop Head are known to be sensitive to aquaculture, pollution, hydrological changes, overgrazing and land use management.

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

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Site Type	Qualifying Feature
[000045]	Loop Head pNHA	0.01	pNHA	
[002165]	Lower River Shannon SAC	0.01	SAC	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation [3260], Atlantic salt meadows *(Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)* [1330], Freshwater pearl mussel *(Margaritifera margaritifera)* [1029], Large shallow inlets and bays [1160], Estuaries [1130], Sea lamprey *(Petromyzon marinus)* [1095], Coastal lagoons [1150], Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time [1110], Atlantic salmon *(Salmo salar)* [1106], Bottlenose dolphin *(Tursiops*

Site Code	Site Name	Distance (km)	Site Type	Qualifying Feature
				truncatus) [1349], Otter *(Lutra lutra)* [1355], Reefs [1170], Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)* [91E0], Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140], Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310], Mediterranean salt meadows *(Juncetalia maritimi)* [1410], River lamprey *(Lampetra fluviatilis)* [1099], Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220], Brook lamprey *(Lampetra planeri)* [1096], Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils *(Molinion caeruleae)* [6410], Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]
[004119]	Loop Head SPA	0.13	SPA	Kittiwake *(Rissa tridactyla)* [A188], Guillemot *(Uria aalge)* [A199]

1.7.2 Habitat Descriptions

The majority of the habitat at Loop is taken up by dry calcareous and neutral grassland (Fossitt Code GS1), which provide ample habitat for the Special Conservation Interest species for which the SPA, Loop Head, is designated to forage. As Loop Head is a coastal area it also contains coastal habitats such as dry siliceous heath (Fossitt Code HH1), which border the dry and calcareous grassland in the area, siliceous scree and loose rock (Fossitt Code ER3) and sea stacks and islets (Fossitt Code CS2), which make up the direct coastal habitat of the area.

There is a disperse and uncontrolled trail network across the site – there is a set of desire lines where visitors track over the site which are forming a network of parallel trails.

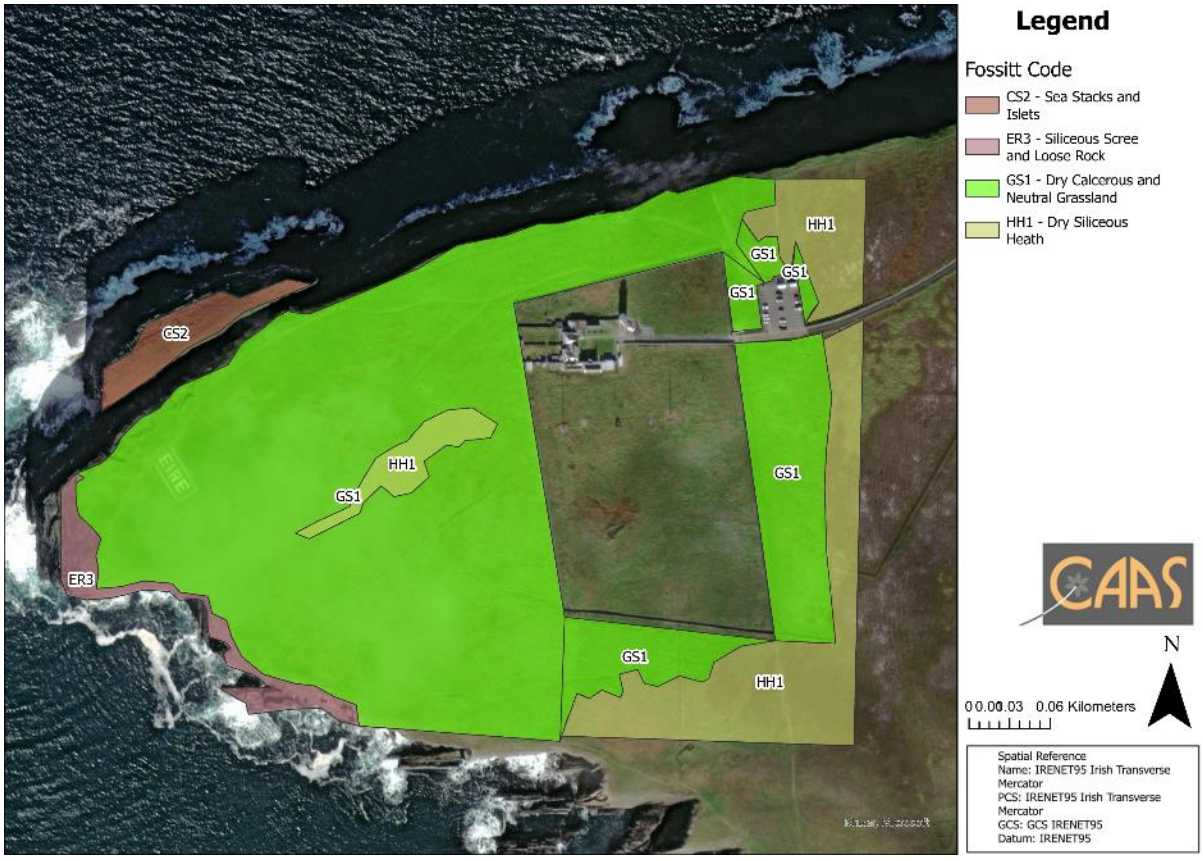


Figure 1.23 Habitats present at Loop Head

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

Due to the coastal location of Loop Head, the NBDC data shows the overwhelmingly majority of species that were recorded were marine mammals, with an extraordinary large number of grey seals being observed and a large number of bottle-nosed dolphins also being observed. With regard to terrestrial mammals, the NBDC data shows far less species being recorded compared to marine mammals with badgers and hares being the most commonly recorded species.

Table 1.6 List of mammals that have been recorded at NBDC Hectads[9] Q64 &Q74

Group	Common name	Scientific name	Number recorded
Marine mammal	Bottle-nosed Dolphin	*Tursiops truncatus*	110
Marine mammal	Common Dolphin	*Delphinus delphis*	15
Marine mammal	Common Porpoise	*Phocoena phocoena*	14
Marine mammal	Grey Seal	*Halichoerus grypus*	549
Marine mammal	Humpback Whale	*Megaptera novaeangliae*	1
Marine mammal	Minke Whale	*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*	16
Marine mammal	Walrus	*Odobenus rosmarus*	1
Terrestrial mammal	Eurasian Badger	*Meles meles*	19
Terrestrial mammal	European Otter	*Lutra lutra*	1
Terrestrial mammal	Feral Goat	*Capra hircus*	1
Terrestrial mammal	Irish Hare	*Lepus timidus subsp. hibernicus*	5
Terrestrial mammal	Red Fox	*Vulpes vulpes*	1
Terrestrial mammal	Soprano Pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*	1

1.7.5 NBDC Records of Wintering Birds

Table 1.7 List of wintering birds that have been recorded at NBDC Hectads[10] Q64 & Q74

Group	Common name	Scientific name	Number recorded
Bird	Alcidae	*Alcidae*	5
Bird	American Golden Plover	*Pluvialis dominica*	8
Bird	American Herring Gull	*Larus smithsonianus*	1
Bird	Arctic Skua	*Stercorarius parasiticus*	3
Bird	Arctic Tern	*Sterna paradisaea*	3
Bird	Atlantic Puffin	*Fratercula arctica*	2
Bird	Balearic Shearwater	*Puffinus mauretanicus*	3
Bird	Bar-tailed Godwit	*Limosa lapponica*	1
Bird	Black-headed Gull	*Larus ridibundus*	12
Bird	Black-legged Kittiwake	*Rissa tridactyla*	122
Bird	Black-tailed Godwit	*Limosa limosa*	2

[9] 10km^2 grid
[10] 10km^2 grid

Group	Common name	Scientific name	Number recorded
Bird	Black Guillemot	*Cepphus grylle*	2
Bird	Blue-winged Teal	*Anas discors*	1
Bird	Branta hutchinsii	*Branta hutchinsii*	1
Bird	Common Greenshank	*Tringa nebularia*	3
Bird	Common Guillemot	*Uria aalge*	130
Bird	Common Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus*	4
Bird	Common Redshank	*Tringa totanus*	8
Bird	Common Sandpiper	*Actitis hypoleucos*	5
Bird	Common Scoter	*Melanitta nigra*	4
Bird	Common Shelduck	*Tadorna tadorna*	1
Bird	Common Snipe	*Gallinago gallinago*	15
Bird	Cory's Shearwater	*Calonectris diomedea*	3
Bird	Dunlin	*Calidris alpina*	4
Bird	Eurasian Curlew	*Numenius arquata*	20
Bird	Eurasian Dotterel	*Charadrius morinellus*	5
Bird	Eurasian Oystercatcher	*Haematopus ostralegus*	14
Bird	Eurasian Teal	*Anas crecca*	5
Bird	Eurasian Wigeon	*Anas penelope*	2
Bird	Eurasian Woodcock	*Scolopax rusticola*	3
Bird	European Golden Plover	*Pluvialis apricaria*	8
Bird	European Shag	*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*	26
Bird	European Storm-petrel	*Hydrobates pelagicus*	13
Bird	Fea's Petrel	*Pterodroma feae*	1
Bird	Glaucous Gull	*Larus hyperboreus*	6
Bird	Great Black-backed Gull	*Larus marinus*	36
Bird	Great Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	10
Bird	Great Northern Diver	*Gavia immer*	5
Bird	Great Shearwater	*Puffinus gravis*	2
Bird	Great Skua	*Stercorarius skua*	2
Bird	Greater White-fronted Goose	*Anser albifrons*	1
Bird	Green Sandpiper	*Tringa ochropus*	1
Bird	Grey Heron	*Ardea cinerea*	12
Bird	Grey Plover	*Pluvialis squatarola*	4
Bird	Herring Gull	*Larus argentatus*	31
Bird	Iceland Gull	*Larus glaucoides*	5
Bird	Jack Snipe	*Lymnocryptes minimus*	4
Bird	Kumlien's Iceland Gull	*Larus glaucoides subsp. kumlieni*	1
Bird	Larus	*Larus*	3
Bird	Lesser Black-backed Gull	*Larus fuscus*	21
Bird	Lesser Yellowlegs	*Tringa flavipes*	2
Bird	Little Auk	*Alle alle*	1
Bird	Little Grebe	*Tachybaptus ruficollis*	1
Bird	Little Gull	*Larus minutus*	2
Bird	Long-tailed Duck	*Clangula hyemalis*	1
Bird	Long-tailed Skua	*Stercorarius longicaudus*	1
Bird	Macaronesian Shearwater	*Puffinus baroli*	1
Bird	Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	11
Bird	Manx Shearwater	*Puffinus puffinus*	72
Bird	Mediterranean Gull	*Larus melanocephalus*	5
Bird	Mew Gull	*Larus canus*	11
Bird	Northern Fulmar	*Fulmarus glacialis*	108
Bird	Northern Gannet	*Morus bassanus*	86
Bird	Northern Lapwing	*Vanellus vanellus*	10
Bird	Pied-billed Grebe	*Podilymbus podiceps*	1
Bird	Pink-footed Goose	*Anser brachyrhynchus*	1
Bird	Pomarine Skua	*Stercorarius pomarinus*	2
Bird	Razorbill	*Alca torda*	45
Bird	Red-breasted Merganser	*Mergus serrator*	1
Bird	Red-throated Diver	*Gavia stellata*	2
Bird	Red Knot	*Calidris canutus*	3
Bird	Ringed Plover	*Charadrius hiaticula*	15
Bird	Ruddy Turnstone	*Arenaria interpres*	6
Bird	Sabine's Gull	*Larus sabini*	3
Bird	Sandwich Tern	*Sterna sandvicensis*	3
Bird	Sooty Shearwater	*Puffinus griseus*	5

Group	Common name	Scientific name	Number recorded
Bird	Spotted Crake	*Porzana porzana*	3
Bird	Spotted Redshank	*Tringa erythropus*	1
Bird	Spotted Sandpiper	*Actitis macularius*	1
Bird	Twite	*Carduelis flavirostris*	2
Bird	Upland Sandpiper	*Bartramia longicauda*	1
Bird	Water Rail	*Rallus aquaticus*	3
Bird	Whimbrel	*Numenius phaeopus*	2
Bird	Wilson's Phalarope	*Phalaropus tricolor*	1
Bird	Wilson's Storm-petrel	*Oceanites oceanicus*	1

1.8 Recommendations

- As was recommended in 2021, vehicular access to the heathlands beyond the carpark should be managed. The announcement of new parking facilities should help avoid vehicular impacts.
- As was also recommended in 2021, trail network management should be explored to alleviate pressures occurring. Plans have since been announced to create a loop trail on site.
- Habitat management strategies could be developed for the site to increase the floral diversity of the grass and heathland habitats on site.
- Signage should be introduced to provide information on resident bird populations.

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[11]. 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.

[11] 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.