

National Tourism and Environmental Monitoring Programme

Fenit Strand 2025



Fáilte
Ireland

Turasóireacht Náisiúnta
An tÚdara Eorbartha
National Tourism
Development Authority

National Tourism and Environmental Monitoring Programme

Report for Fenit Strand 2025

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FENIT STRAND – INTERESTING FINDS

Interesting Finds

Fenit Strand occurs 465m south of the Tralee Bay Complex SPA at the closest point. Oystercatcher and Curlew, which are both Qualifying Interests of the site were recorded during the ecological survey.



Features of the Site

- Carpark at the start of the walk.
- A water sports facility is under construction.
- Toilet facilities, seating, shower, bins and a lifeguard station at the carpark.
- Informative signage relating to the area, water safety and biodiversity in the carpark.
- Wild Atlantic Way Discovery Point.
- Dog waste bags along the pathway.
- Changing facilities and viewpoint at west side of the site.
- Life buoys at various locations along the pathway.
- Sauna in one of the fields adjacent to the pathway.

Habitats

The following habitats were recorded on site:

- BL1 – Stone walls and other stonework
- BL3 – Buildings and artificial surfaces
- CB1 – Shingle and gravel banks
- CC1 – Sea walls, piers and jetties
- CD3 – Fixed dunes
- CS1 – Rocky sea cliffs
- LR1 – Exposed rocky shores
- LR2 – Moderately exposed rocky shores
- LS1 – Shingle and gravel shores
- LS5 – Mixed sediment shores
- MW2 – Sea inlets and bays

Key Recommendations

- The provision of railings at the steps close to the car park and at the changing facilities should be considered to make access safer.
- Provision of additional bins at dog waste bag points along the path.
- The maintenance of the paths and benches on site should be considered.
- Maintenance of the drain of the shower facility at the beach and sand blowout on the ramp onto the beach should be considered.
- Provision of signage relating to the ecological value and biodiversity of the area.
- Provision of signage informing dog walkers to keep dogs on lead.
- Fáilte Ireland to support and promote eco-friendly recreational activities and ensure that visitors are educated about responsible behaviour while visiting the area and to minimise any negative impacts of visitors on fragile dune habitat.
- Provision of fencing at the fixed dune to allow habitat restoration and prevent sand blowout onto the path.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Roughan & O'Donovan (ROD) was appointed by Fáilte Ireland to conduct Visitor and Environmental Surveys as part of the National Environmental Surveying & Monitoring Programme. Fáilte Ireland regularly engages with environmental research that is used to make informed management decisions and produce robust guidelines to facilitate the protection of the environment. From its inception in 2014, the Wild Atlantic Way (WAW) Operational Monitoring Programme has been conducting research into the impacts of tourism on the receiving environment.

Building on the success of the WAW environmental monitoring programme which ran from 2015-2019, Fáilte Ireland expanded the programme to a national level. From 2021 to 2022 the programme monitored 19 individual sites located in all of Fáilte Ireland's regional areas: The Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, Ireland's Ancient East, and Dublin. This 2025 National Monitoring report builds on environmental surveying and monitoring undertaken on behalf of Fáilte Ireland as far back as 2015 and to date (excluding the 2025 data), the surveys have monitored a total of 70 sites and recorded the activities and effects of over 31,000 visitors at a range of popular sites, including inland, urban, coastal and WAW discovery points.

The environmental surveys and monitoring in 2023 followed the methodologies used in previous years. Following the completion of the 2023 surveys, a review of the methodology was undertaken. In developing the survey methodology used in 2024 and 2025, ROD considered the methodology for gathering the data, the presentation of the data, and the usefulness of the data gathered. The review also considered the time required to gather the data.

Eight sites were surveyed in 2025. Figure 1.1 below shows the locations of these sites. This report is for Fenit, Co. Kerry.



Figure 1.1 Environmental Monitoring Programme 2025 locations. Basemap provided by Google.

1.2 Aim of the Report

The purpose of the monitoring programme is as follows:

- To gain insight from an environmental perspective at amenity and recreation sites across Ireland;
- To obtain data on path and trail conditions etc. for each site;
- To obtain data relating to habitats, flora, and fauna for each site;
- To identify observable trends or variations among the sites;
- To make recommendations where appropriate for site management for the benefit of the site, the visitor, and the natural environment.

1.3 Site Description of Fenit

Fenit is located in the west of Co. Kerry on the northern part of Tralee Bay. It is 11km West of Tralee and is accessible by the R558. The area being surveyed for this report (“the site”) consists of the greenway carpark, the road and the strand, as presented in Figure 1.2 below. There is a car park, a number of shops, restaurants and cafés, toilet facilities, Fenit Strand and informative signage available on site.

Fenit Strand is a sheltered sandy Blue Flag Beach facing southwards within Tralee Bay. The beach is very popular for swimming, sailing, kayaking and fishing. The Kerry County Development Plan (CDP) notes the strategic importance of Fenit as a fishing and commercial base and how the sustainable development of its facilities offers significant economic potential, and the R558 is named in the CDP for its views and prospects.

The site is located within the Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour Special Area of Conservation (SAC) [Site Code: 000332], and the Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour Proposed National Heritage Area (pNHA) [Site Code: 000332]. The site borders the Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane SAC [Site Code: 002070] and the Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane pNHA [Site Code: 002070], and is 600m South of the Tralee Bay Complex Special Protected Areas (SPA) [Site Code: 004188].



Figure 1.2 Site boundary outlined in red. Basemap provided by Bing

1.4 Critical Infrastructure

Tables 1.1 - 1.3 below provide information on the infrastructure at Fenit. Uisce Éireann's website was used to access information on the Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment Capacity Registers for County Kerry (Uisce Éireann 2025a, b).

Table 1.1 Fenit Wastewater Infrastructure

Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)	Uisce Éireann Indication of Capacity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toilet facilities are available at the site. The nearest settlements with a WWTP are located in Fenit (WWTP Reg #D0284), Tralee (WWTP Reg #D0040), Ardferf (WWTP Reg #D0282). 	<p>There is spare capacity available at Tralee WWTP and Ardferf WWTP.</p> <p>There is no capacity available at Fenit WWTP.</p>

Table 1.2 Summary of Drinking Water Infrastructure at Fenit

Drinking Water	Water Resource Name (WRZ)	Uisce Éireann Indication of Capacity
Nearest serviced settlement to the site is Fenit	Central Regional - Lough Guitane	Potential capacity available (level of service improvement required).

Table 1.3 Summary of Transport Infrastructure at Fenit

Nearest Settlement	Current Transport Infrastructure	Comment
Fenit	Fenit is accessed by the R558 road. There is one car park located in Fenit.	The TFI Local Link No. 278 Bus route serves Fenit to Tralee

2. METHODOLOGY

The following surveys were undertaken:

- Habitat survey
- Pathway condition survey
- Survey of the features, signage and hazards

The survey at Fenit was undertaken on the 29th of July 2025. The weather conditions were dry and overcast, with moderate visibility, light wind and occasional showers. The average temperature was 17 ° C. The sub-sections below present the methodology used.

2.1 Habitat Conditions Assessment Methodology

The habitats within the site were classified and mapped in accordance with *A Guide to Habitats in Ireland* (Fossitt, 2000) and *Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Surveying and Mapping* (Smith et al. 2011). Notes were taken on species composition and habitat condition. Fossitt habitats corresponding to Annex I habitats were noted using the *Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats* (EC, 2013). A desktop study was also undertaken to identify designated sites and rare and protected species in the vicinity of each site. Incidental sightings of birds, mammals, reptiles, etc. were also recorded during the site surveys.

The condition of the habitat in each polygon or line will be noted, including any damage and the likely cause of the damage. The areas along pathways are outlined by the pathway condition assessment in Section 2.2 below. The following criteria were used to assess habitat condition:

- Extent of habitat degradation;
- Impact of habitat degradation (localised or widespread);
- Potential for the habitat to recover; and
- Whether or not intervention is required.

2.2 Pathway Condition Assessment Methodology

The main pathways were defined during the site visit and a desk study which included a review of the Strava heat maps (www.strava.com/heatmap), and a review of the previous site monitoring reports, if available. Typically, the main paths are formalised waymarked trails or heavily trafficked pathways that are not formalised. These paths usually link the site entry points and car parks to a destination or feature of interest. The pathways were categorised into sections by type and composition. The different types of pathway are described in Table 2.1 below. Each path section is described as 'satisfactory' or 'unsatisfactory' based on the condition of the path and whether or not it could accommodate the current levels of use. Indicators that a path was not suitable for the current levels of use included the presence of wet areas, erosion, trip hazards, damaged pavement, braiding, path widening and habitat loss along the path. Paths that generally facilitated unobstructed movement between locations were deemed as 'satisfactory'. It should be noted that the methodology outlined here is independent of and not linked to the trail registration and management process run by Sport Ireland Outdoors.

Table 2.1 Pathway Types

Pathway Type	Description
Paved Car Park	An area used for parking, wider than the road, that is paved, usually with tarmacadam.
Gravel Car Park	An area used for parking, wider than the road, that is gravel or crushed stone.
Paved Road	A road that is paved with tarmacadam or similar hard material.
Gravel Road	A road consisting of gravel or crushed stone, with no grass in the middle.
Gravel Track	A single vehicle pathway used by small numbers of vehicles. Tracks are normally paved with gravel and can have grass in the middle
Grassy Track	A single vehicle pathway used by small numbers of vehicles. These tracks are not paved and are used primarily by tractors, quads or small numbers of private vehicles.
Paved Path	A path is primarily for foot traffic. Paved paths are found in more developed areas, to cater for higher levels of traffic.
Gravel Path	A path is primarily for foot traffic and can be a single track or a track wide enough for several people to walk abreast. Gravel paths are found in more developed areas, to cater for higher levels of traffic.
Grassy Path	A path is primarily for foot traffic and can be a single track or a track wide enough for several people to walk abreast. Grassy paths are found in less developed areas, often beyond feature of interest, and are used less frequently.
Bare Ground Path	These paths occur where the vegetation had been eroded by foot traffic and is bare ground, or damages vegetation. These paths are often widespread on sites where formal waymarked trails are not provided.

2.3 Features, Signage and Hazards

Signage, features of interest, and hazards were recorded, photographed and mapped. Features includes built heritage, sculptures as well as the temporary toilets and bins. Hazards including unstable walls, broken fences or unprotected cliff tops

3. RESULTS

3.1 Habitat Condition Assessment

Habitats were surveyed during the optimum habitat survey season i.e., April to September (Smith et al., 2011). Habitats were classified according to *A Guide to Habitats in Ireland* (Fossitt, 2000). Table 3.1 lists the habitats identified in Fenit along with their corresponding Annex I habitats. A habitat map is presented in Figure 3.2. It should be noted that having a corresponding Annex I habitat does not indicate the Annex I habitat is automatically present.

Table 3.1 Fossitt (2000) habitats and links to Annex I habitats.

Fossitt 2000 Habitat	Corresponding Annex I habitats (Natura 2000 code) ¹
Stone walls and other stonework (BL1)	None
Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)	None
Shingle and gravel banks (CB1)	Perennial vegetation of stony banks (1220)
Sea walls, piers and jetties (CC1)	None
Fixed dunes (CD3)	*Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") (2130) *Decalcified fixed dunes with <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> (2140) *Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) (2150) Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) (2170)
Rocky sea cliffs (CS1)	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts (1230)
Exposed rocky shores (LR1)	Reefs (1170)
Moderately exposed rocky shores (LR2)	Reefs (1170)
Shingle and gravel shores (LS1)	Annual vegetation of drift lines (1210)
Mixed sediment shores (LS5)	None
Sea inlets and bays (MW2)	Large shallow inlets and bays (1160)

¹ *Indicates priority habitat

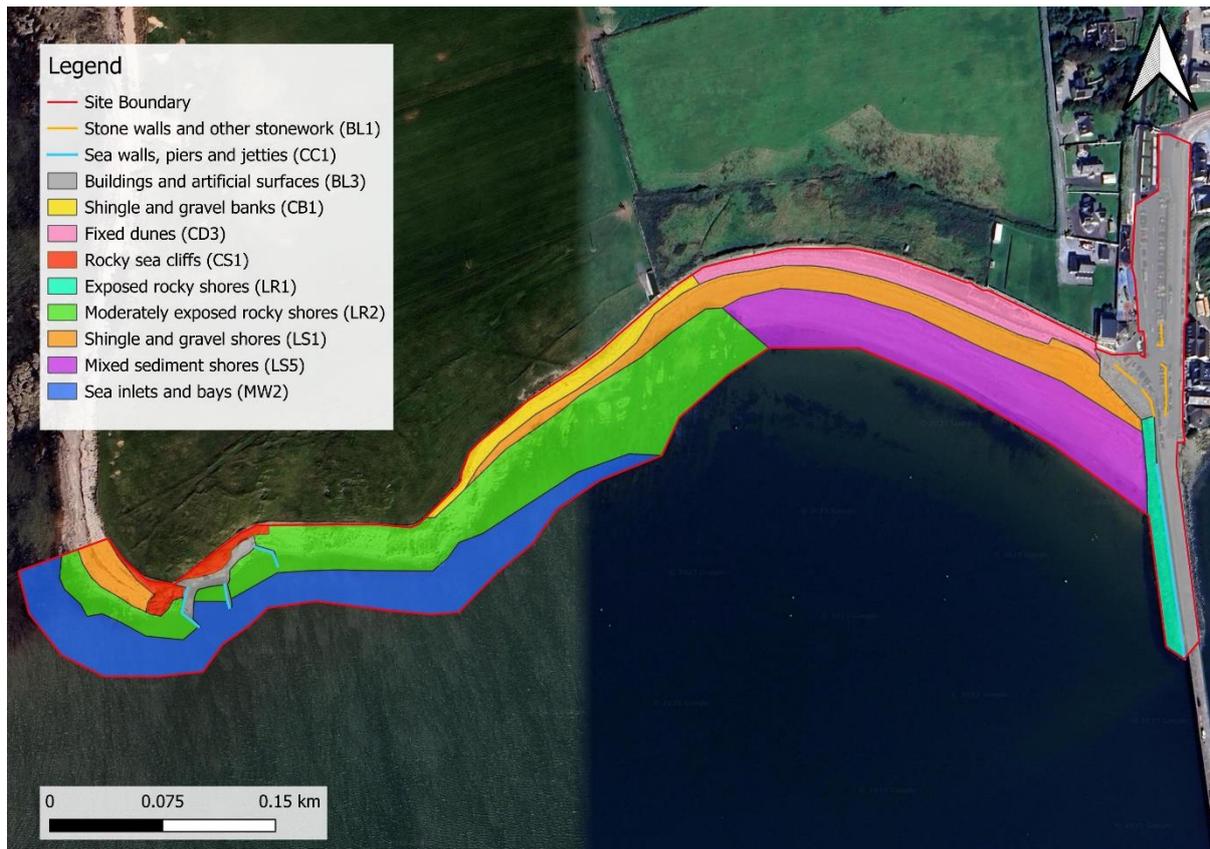


Figure 3.2 Habitat map of Fenit Strand. Basemap provided by Google.

Stone walls and other stonework (BL1)

This habitat comprises a boundary wall at the carpark and main road. This habitat is considered to be of low biodiversity value. As such, there were no recorded impacts to this habitat during the survey.

Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)

This habitat is present at the carpark, road and surrounding areas at the east of the site. This includes two cafes, the road to the strand and the road to the marina. This habitat is also present at the changing facilities and public toilets at the west side of the site. This habitat is considered to be of low biodiversity value. As such, there were no recorded impacts to this habitat during the survey.

Shingle and gravel banks (CB1)

This habitat is present at one location in the site. Vegetation cover largely consists of Sea Sandwort (*Honckenya peploides*), Sea Beet (*Beta vulgaris* ssp. *maritima*), Rock Samphire (*Crithmum maritimum*), Sea Rocket (*Cakile maritima*), Fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*), Bittersweet (*Solanum dulcamara*) and Perennial Sowthistle (*Sonchus arvensis*).



Plate 3.1 Shingle and gravel banks recorded at the site.

Sea walls, piers and jetties (CC1)

This habitat is present at the changing facilities and public toilets which are located at the west of the site, where there is a sea wall, and two jetties. This habitat is also present at the road to the marina. This habitat is considered to be of low biodiversity value. As such, there were no recorded impacts to this habitat during the survey.

Fixed dunes (CD3)

This habitat is present at the east of the site, where the path from the car park begins. Species recorded in this habitat include Ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*). Rabbit burrows and droppings were recorded in this habitat. A mammal path is present in this area, leading from the path to agricultural land to the north of the site. The area of dunes closest to the car park has been degraded by disturbance and has no vegetation on it.



Plate 3.2 Fixed dune habitat recorded at the east of the site.

Rocky sea cliffs (CS1)

This habitat is restricted to one area at the west of the site, behind the changing facilities. Thrift (*Armeria maritima*) and Sea Plantain (*Plantago maritima*) are the dominant species present in this habitat. This habitat is overgrazed by rabbits, with a lack of grassy species present and exposed rock comprising at least half of the area. One area of this habitat located at the west of the site is degraded by foot traffic and overgrazing by rabbits.

Exposed rocky shores (LR1)

This habitat is limited to the pier wall on the road to the marina. Lichens and Fucoids (*Fucus* spp.) are present in this habitat, with no terrestrial vegetation present. Barnacles are also present in this habitat.

Moderately exposed rocky shores (LR2)

This habitat comprises a large area of the site. Barnacles and limpets are present in this habitat, along with Bladderwrack (*Fucus vesiculosus*) and other Fucoids (*Fucus* spp.). Limpets and Barnacles are present in this habitat.



Plate 3.3 Area of moderately exposed rocky shores on the west side of the site.

Shingle and gravel shores (LS1)

This habitat is present along the shore from the west to east of the site and comprises of small to medium sediment sizes. There is some cover of terrestrial plant species, including Sea Beet (*Beta vulgaris* ssp. *maritima*), Rock Samphire (*Crithmum maritimum*), Sea Rocket (*Cakile maritima*), Sea Mayweed (*Tripleurospermum maritimum*) and Fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*).



Plate 3.4 Area of shingle and gravel shores on the west side of the site.

Mixed sediment shores (LS5)

This habitat is present at the east of the site, along the strand. Varying grades of sediment are present from larger stones and pebbles to sand and mud closer to the shore. Fucoids (*Fucus* spp.) are present in this habitat.

Sea inlets and bays (MW2)

This habitat is present as the coastal waterbody surrounding the southern boundary of the site. The Outer Tralee Bay encompasses the site and reaches as far as Kerry Head across to the Magharee Islands.

3.2 Pathway Condition Assessment

There is a tarmacadam carpark adjacent to Mike's Beach Shop and Café at Fenit Strand from which the pathway begins. Construction of a water sports facility was ongoing in the northern part of the carpark at the time of surveying, and so, the pathway condition could not be assessed here. From the carpark, the path grades into paved pathway, which is a hazard and is in an unsatisfactory condition due to substantial sand blowout. Approximately 250m from the start of the paved pathway, the condition becomes satisfactory as there is no sand blowout. The pathway remains in a satisfactory condition as far as the changing facilities and public toilets, where the condition grades into an unsatisfactory paved path. The ground is uneven in some places with signs of wear. A grassy path and bare ground path are present behind the changing facilities. The grassy path is in satisfactory condition with only minor areas of erosion and grazing. The bare ground path is in an unsatisfactory condition due to braiding, vegetation trampling and erosion. The pathway grades into satisfactory bare ground path due to only small stones being present along the path. This condition grades into unsatisfactory bare ground path within a small area. The pathway grades back into a satisfactory bare ground path as far as the boundary of the site.

Figure 3.3 and Figure 3.4 present Strava heat maps for the site. Strava aggregates data from users on its app who opt-in to share their activities and locations. The pathway condition assessment map is presented in Figure 3.5 below. Photographs of pathways on the site are presented in Plates 3.5 and 3.6.



Figure 3.3 Heat map of visitor movements classed under “Foot Sports” at Fenit Strand (Strava, 2025)

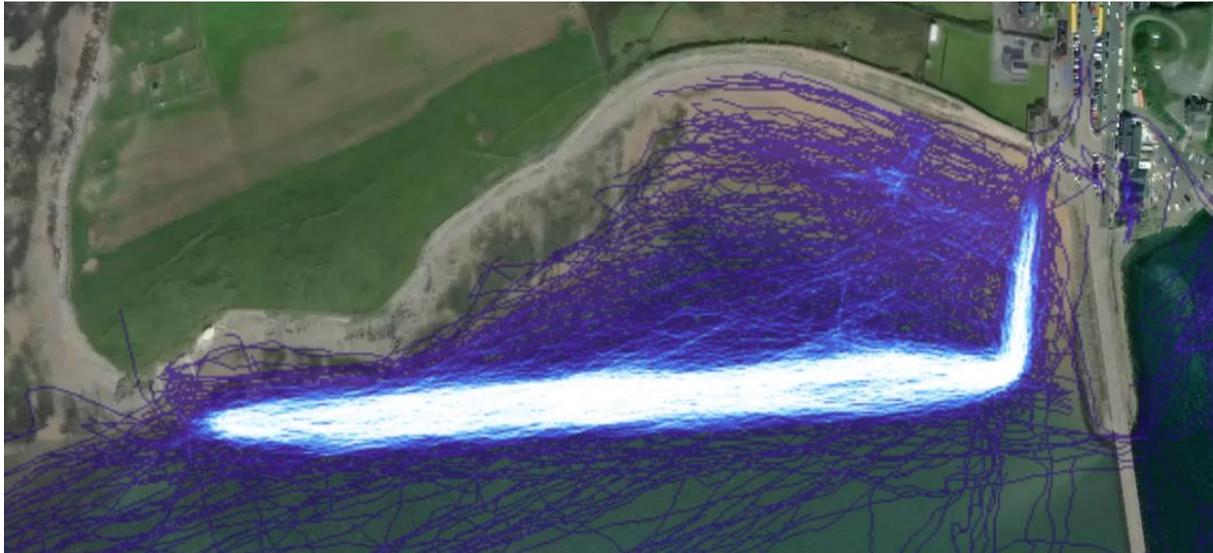


Figure 3.4 Heat map of visitor movements classed under “Water Sports” at Fenit Strand (Strava, 2025)



Figure 3.5 Pathway types and conditions present on the site. Basemap provided by Bing.



Plate 3.5 Sand blowout, unsatisfactory paved path and unsatisfactory bare ground recorded on site.



Plate 3.6 Satisfactory pathway conditions recorded on site.

3.3 Features Signage and Hazards

3.3.1 Features and signage

Car parking, two cafés and toilet facilities are available at Fenit Strand at the start of the walk. There is a lifeguard hut at the car park, overlooking the beach. Informative signage on the Blue Flag beach, local biodiversity and the facilities is available. There are general waste and recycling bins present in the car park. Shower facilities are present behind the toilets, with a ramp and steps leading down to the beach. A water sports facility was being constructed at the time of surveying.

Along the route, there are life buoys at multiple locations as well as dog-waste bag points. Picnic tables and benches occur at various points along the route. There is a sauna located along the route, in one of the adjacent fields. There are changing facilities, public toilets, shelters and a viewpoint at the east end of the site which also have slipways onto the beach. All signage and features recorded on site during the survey are mapped below in Figure 3.6 and Figure 3.7. Photographs of a sample of the features and signage are shown in Plant 3.7.



Figure 3.6 Features present at the eastern side of side. Basemap provided by Bing.



Figure 3.7 Features present at the western side of site. Basemap provided by Bing.

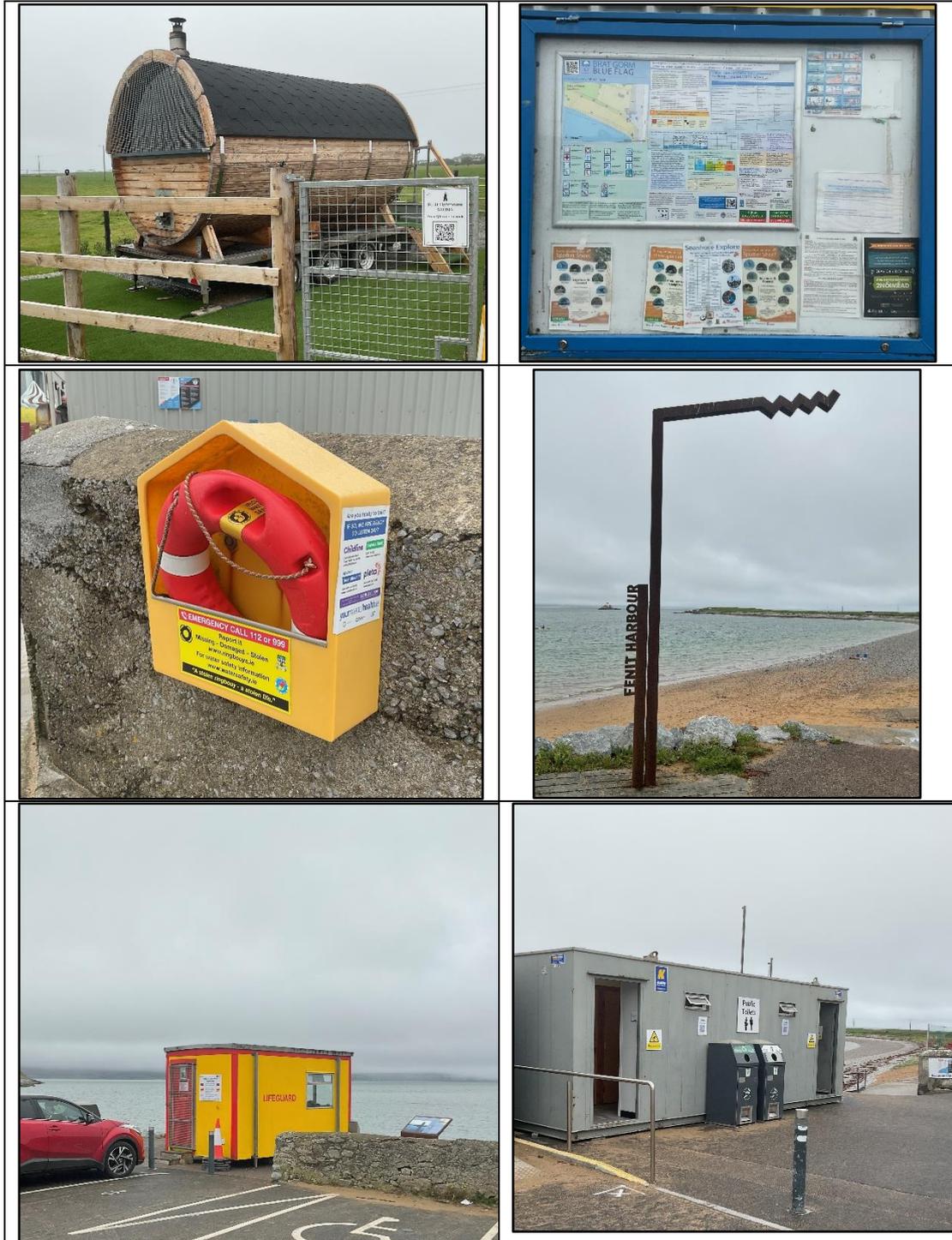


Plate 3.7 Some of the features recorded on site. Sauna (top left), signage (top right), life buoy (middle left), Wild Atlantic Way Discovery Point (middle right), lifeguard hut (bottom left) and public toilets and bins (bottom right).

3.3.2 Hazards

The steps from the carpark down to the beach are a hazard due to their steep nature, lack of marking and sand blowout. Sand blowout is also present on the ramp from the car park to the beach. Some areas of the pathway are in poor condition. There is broken kerbing at the beginning of the path along with significant sand blowout. The wooden benches along the path are generally fit for purpose, but one has a metal rebar exposed, and maintenance of this should be considered. Further along the path, there are large broken concrete slabs, scour and debris. One bench present on a scoured platform is missing a leg. At the changing facilities, some of the cable wire fencing is broken and repair should be considered. There is no evidence of human damage in this area, only environmental weathering. Some of the steps at the changing facilities are steep and degraded and so, handrails would be beneficial to prevent falls. All of the hazards recorded on site during the survey are mapped below in Figure 3.8. Photographs of these hazards are shown in Plate 3.8.



Figure 3.8 Hazards present on site. Basemap provided by Bing.



Plate 3.8 Some hazards recorded on site.

3.4 Ecological Constraints

3.4.1 Protected Sites

A desktop study was undertaken to identify designated sites and rare and protected species in the vicinity of the site. There are two European Designated Sites (SACs and SPAs) and two Nationally Designated Sites within the site boundary.

Information on these sites was obtained from the NPWS website and their respective Natura 2000 Standard Data Forms. These sites are described in Table 3.2 below.

Table 3.2 Designated sites within 2 km of the Fenit site

Site Name [Site Code]	Qualifying Interests	Distance (km) from Site	Pressures and Threats (those related to recreation are in bold)
European Designated Sites			
Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SAC [000332]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] • Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] • Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] • Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] • Humid dune slacks [2190] • European dry heaths [4030] 	Within site boundary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camping and caravans (H) • Golf course (H) • Walking, horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles (H) • Grazing (M) • Removal of beach materials (M)
Tralee Bay Complex SPA [004188]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] • Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] • Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] • Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] • Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] • Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053] • Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] • Scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>) [A062] • Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] • Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] • Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] • Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] 	600m North of the site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grazing (M) • Fertilization (M) • Walking, Horse-riding and non-motorised vehicles (H) • Nautical sports (L) • Urbanised areas, human habitation (H) • Mining and quarrying – removal of beach materials (M)

Site Name [Site Code]	Qualifying Interests	Distance (km) from Site	Pressures and Threats (those related to recreation are in bold)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] • Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] • Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] • Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] • Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] • Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] 		
Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane SAC [002070]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries [1130] • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Coastal lagoons [1150] • Large shallow inlets and bays [1160] • Reefs [1170] • Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] • Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] • Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] • Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] • Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] • Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] • Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) [2170] • Humid dune slacks [2190] • <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or 	Borders site boundary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of hedges and corpses or scrub (M) • Sylviculture, forestry (M) • Leisure fishing (L) • Human intrusion and disturbances (H) • Dispersed Human Habitation (M) • Nautical Sports (L) • Golf Course (L & M) • Grazing (M) • Hunting (L) • Industrial or Commercial Areas (L) • Sand and gravel extraction (L) • Fertilisation (L & M) • Interspecific floral relations (M) • Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture (M) • Disposal of household/recreational facility waste

Site Name [Site Code]	Qualifying Interests	Distance (km) from Site	Pressures and Threats (those related to recreation are in bold)
	<p>clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) [6410]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395] 		
Nationally Designated Sites			
Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour pNHA [000332]	No site description available. Refer to Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SAC.	Within site boundary	No site description available. Refer to Akeragh, Banna and Barrow Harbour SAC.
Tralee Bay And Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane pNHA [002070]	No site description available. Refer to Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane SAC and Tralee Bay Complex SPA.	Borders site boundary	No site description available. Refer to Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane SAC and Tralee Bay Complex SPA.

3.4.2 Incidental Species Recorded

Fenit supports a range of habitats and species. Table 3.3. below presents the bird species recorded during the ecological surveys at Fenit, along with their Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCCI) status (2020-2026).

Table 3.3 Incidental Species

Scientific name	Common name
Red status	
<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Oystercatcher
<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Curlew
Amber	
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Swallow
<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Lesser Black-backed Gull
<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Northern Wheatear
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Cormorant
<i>Sterna sandivicensis</i>	Sandwich Tern
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Starling
Green	
<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	Rock Pipit
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey Heron
<i>Corvus cornix</i>	Hooded Crow
<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Rook
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret
<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>	Pied Wagtail

3.4.3 Records of Rare, Protected and Invasive Species

Records of rare, protected, and invasive species from the past ten years within 2km² of the site were obtained the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) online database (Grid Reference: Q71H). These records are presented in Table 3.4 below.

Table 3.4 Rare, protected and invasive species recorded in the past decade from Hectad Q71H from NBDC database

Scientific name	Common Name	Date of last Record	Status*
Terrestrial Mammals			
<i>Lutra lutra</i>	Otter	16/04/2015	Annex II, IV HD; WA
<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	Hedgehog	05/06/2021	WA
Marine Mammals			
<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	Common Dolphin	25/08/2020	Annex IV HD; WA
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Bottle-nosed Dolphin	11/06/2023	Annex II, IV HD; WA
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Common Porpoise	05/02/2017	Annex II, IV HD; WA; OSPAR Convention
<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	Grey Seal	18/01/2020	Annex II, V HD; WA
Birds			
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl	29/10/2021	WA; Red List
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn Swallow	17/09/2022	WA; Amber List
<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Bar-tailed Godwit	01/03/2024	Annex I BD; WA; Amber List

Scientific name	Common Name	Date of last Record	Status*
<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Black-headed Gull	01/01/2023	WA; Red List
<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Brent Goose	01/03/2024	WA; Amber List
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Greenshank	01/03/2024	WA; Amber List
<i>Uria aalge</i>	Guillemot	29/10/2021	WA; Amber List
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Kestrel	09/09/2022	WA; Amber List
<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Linnet	29/03/2024	WA; Amber List
<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Redshank	01/03/2024	WA; Red List
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Starling	29/03/2024	WA; Amber List
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Tern	01/03/2024	Annex I BD; WA; Amber List
<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Wood Pigeon	14/06/2022	Annex II, III BD; WA
<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Dunlin	05/10/2022	Annex I BD; WA; Amber List
<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Curlew	01/03/2024	Annex II BD; WA; Red List
<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Oystercatcher	01/03/2024	WA; Amber List
<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Golden Plover	16/12/2017	Annex I, II, III BD; WA; Red List
<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	Shag	24/08/2022	WA; Amber List
<i>Larus marinus</i>	Great Black-backed Gull	05/10/2022	WA; Amber List
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Great Cormorant	05/10/2022	WA; Amber List
<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Great Crested Grebe	25/01/2017	WA; Amber List
<i>Gavia immer</i>	Great Northern Diver	29/03/2024	Annex I BD; WA
<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Grey Plover	05/01/2019	WA; Amber List
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Herring Gull	09/09/2022	WA; Red List
<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	House Martin	02/07/2024	WA; Amber List
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow	02/07/2024	WA; Amber List
<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Lesser Black-backed Gull	22/04/2022	WA; Amber List
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret	01/03/2024	Annex I BD; WA
<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	Little Tern	02/07/2021	Annex I BD; WA; Amber List
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Merlin	30/08/2021	Annex I BD; WA; Amber List
<i>Larus canus</i>	Mew Gull	23/04/2022	WA; Amber List
<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Gannet	30/08/2021	WA; Amber List
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Lapwing	19/01/2019	Annex II BD; WA; Red List
<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Northern Wheatear	29/04/2018	WA; Amber List
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon	19/01/2019	Annex I BD; WA
<i>Alca torda</i>	Razorbill	15/04/2022	WA; Amber List
<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Red Knot	05/01/2019	WA; Red List
<i>Pyrhcorax pyrrhcorax</i>	Red-billed Chough	26/02/2024	Annex I BD; WA; Amber List
<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Red-breasted Merganser	16/12/2017	Annex II BD; WA
<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Red-throated Diver	08/04/2022	Annex I BD; WA; Amber List
<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Ringed Plover	05/10/2022	WA; Amber List
<i>Columba livia</i>	Rock Pigeon	20/08/2022	Annex II BD; WA
<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	Sandwich Tern	09/09/2022	Annex I BD; WA; Amber List
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Sky Lark	27/05/2022	WA; Amber List

Scientific name	Common Name	Date of last Record	Status*
Cartilaginous fish			
<i>Raja montagui</i>	Spotted Ray	14/05/2017	OSPAR Convention
<i>Raja clavata</i>	Thornback Ray	14/05/2017	OSPAR Convention
Mollusc			
<i>Nucella lapillus</i>	Dog Whelk	30/06/2020	OSPAR Convention
Reptiles & Amphibians			
<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Loggerhead Turtle	20/04/2017	Annex II, IV HD; WA
Invasive Species			
<i>Sargassum muticum</i>	Wireweed	26/02/2024	High Impact Invasive Species; S.I. 477/2011
<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>	Spanish Bluebell	15/05/2022	Invasive Species; S.I. 477/2011
<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	European Rabbit	29/06/2018	Medium Impact Invasive Species

* Abbreviations: Annex II/IV/V (non-avian species) = Habitats Directive (HD); Annex I, II, III = Birds Directive (BD); Red/Amber List = Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland 2020-2026 (BOCCI) (Gilbert et al., 2021); Wildlife Act, 1976 (WA).

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the information discussed and displayed above, the following recommendations are made:

- The small areas of fixed dune along the path from the car park has been damaged by people walking through it. There is a significant build up of sand on the path, possibly as a result of the loose sand on the damaged dunes. Fencing of the fixed dune habitat that has been degraded in this area would allow for restoration of this habitat and regrowth of dune vegetation which would stabilise the habitat.
- The steps onto the beach from the car park were recorded to be very steep, as were those at the changing facilities. The provision of railings should be considered here to make these areas more accessible, particularly for less-able bodied users.
- While dog waste bags are available at various points along the path, dog waste was recorded in several areas along the path. The provision of bins alongside the dog waste bag points would be beneficial to keep the walkway clean for users.
- While there is signage at the carpark informing users of the no dog policy on Blue Flag Beaches, the path is still available for dog walkers to use. During the survey, a dog was recorded off lead at the west side of the site, where there were several wader species foraging and roosting. The presence of the dog caused disturbance to these birds, and so, additional signage should be considered to inform users of the ecological value and biodiversity of the area and to keep dogs on leads.
- Some of the benches provided along the route require maintenance, including one bench with three legs and another with a piece of metal exposed sticking out of the seat. These benches should be maintained to limit the risk to users.
- There is an area of the fencing at the changing facilities which was recorded as damaged and a potential hazard. The repair of this wire fencing should be considered to limit the risk to users of the path.
- Provision of signage relating to the ecological value and biodiversity of the area could be undertaken as part of the PFG2 Water sports facility development.

5. REFERENCES

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