

Wildlife of Tramore

Tramore Bay, Dunes and Backstrand are of significant wildlife interest due to the variety of coastal habitats present including the sand dunes which extend to 26m high in places. The area around the dunes and Backstrand is protected both as a Special Area of Conservation for habitats and as a Special Protection Area for Birdlife. Several rare plants have been recorded from the Tramore dunes and salt meadows such as Bee Orchid, Wild Asparagus and Golden Samphire. Tramore Dunes is the only site in the country from here the Red Data Book plant Sea Knotgrass is known. Other rare species recorded from the area include Lesser Centaury and Cottonweed, Sharp-leaved Fluellen, Sea-Kale and Spring Vetch.

The Backstrand area is of great importance for waterfowl and up to 1000 Light-bellied Brent Geese can use this area in winter. The mud and sand flats provide important feeding grounds for large numbers of wading birds and wildfowl. Other birds you can see feeding here include Oystercatcher, Wigeon, Bar-tailed Godwit, Golden Plover, Little Egret and occasionally Red-throated Diver

Marine animal life found on the intertidal mud flats and sand flats include Lugworm, Furrow Shell, Ragworm, and Cockle with large patches of Mussel and Periwinkles also present. A feature of this habitat is the presence of Eelgrass much favoured by Brent Geese.

Further out in the bay you may be lucky enough to catch sighting of a porpoise, whale or dolphin as many cetacean species are known from around the Waterford coastline.

1. Doneraile – X571993.

The Doneraile Walk was laid out by lord Doneraile as a private promenade for his family and friends in the early 19th Century. Features of interest along the route include an ancient cannon gun and the Sea-Horse memorial commemorating the 36 people who drowned in Tramore Bay in 1816. The Doneraile walk leads down to Glenacuan and onto the cliff Road towards the Guillamene and Newtown Cove.

The car park at Newtown Cove has superb views over Tramore Bay across to Brownstown Head. Steps take you down from the car park into the small cove. Rock Samphire and Sea Beet grow on the cliffs. A path takes you up the hill by a stream; Brooklime, Great Horsetail, Purple-loosestrife and Water Figwort grow here. The path soon passes through a small wooded area. Turkey Oak and Field Maple are two non-native trees established here. The path takes you up to the road; to make it into a short circular walk you can take the road back to the car park.

2. Tramore Dunes (An Dumhach), S590011.

Tramore Burrow lies to the east of the town of Tramore. To access it you walk either along the sandy beach, along the sea wall or over the saltmarsh behind the sea wall. In late July the saltmarsh is a blaze of blue from the flowers of Lax-flowered Sea-lavender. Strawberry Clover, Long-bracted Sedge and Sea-purslane can be found along the area behind the sea wall and the top of the saltmarsh. All the Glassworts recorded for the county can be seen on the saltmarsh. As you enter the dunes Wild Asparagus grows on the sea side, Dune Fescue is widespread at this end of the dunes only. Rumex acetosa subspecies hibernicus is widespread as is Heath Dog-violet. Spring vetch can only be found at the far end on the flat areas in short vegetation. Above the high tide mark Sea Rocket and Prickly Saltwort are abundant most years. Burnet Rose, Dewberry, Downy Oat-grass, Marram and Sand Couch are all common on the dunes.

This walk takes you along the shingle ridge to the crossover at the neck of the dune complex and back along the strand-line. If intending to walk the complete loop around the Tramore dunes do check the tides in advance to ensure high tides do not obstruct your walk along the back strand area.

Across the estuary at Saleen a car park over-looks the Back Strand and the north end of Tramore Burrow. Early in the morning before anyone is around, is a good time to see Otters along the shoreline.



The habitats of Tramore Dunes are precious. Please take care when enjoying this area. The main threat to the stability of the dune habitats is from erosion and already some large blow-outs and areas of bare sand are present. Avoid the fenced off areas and take your litter home with you.

Please keep this area as you wish to find it when you visit again.

Amenities	Flora & Fauna	Walks
<p>i Ionad Turasóireachta Tourist Information</p> <p>C Cógaslann Pharmacy</p> <p>P Páirceáil Parking</p> <p>A Dáileoir Airgid ATM</p> <p>L Láthair Phicnicí Picnic Area</p> <p>O Oifig an Phoist Post Office</p>	<p>O Oyster Catcher XXXX XXXXX</p> <p>L Little Egret XXXX XXXXX</p> <p>L Light Bellied Brent Goose XXXX XXXXX</p> <p>G Golden Samphire XXXX XXXXX</p> <p>S Sea Pink XXXX XXXXX</p> <p>B Bee Orchid XXXX XXXXX</p> <p>C Common Dolphin XXXX XXXX</p> <p>O Otter XXXX XXXXX</p>	<p>Name: Doneraile Walk Tramore Dunes</p> <p>Length: 5km 4km</p> <p>Est. time to complete: 1hr. 15mins 1hr.</p> <p>Grade / Type: Easy / Heritage Easy / Beach</p> <p>Trail colour: Sli Yellow & Red Arrows Green Arrows</p>

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