

Please refer to the Habitat Guides for more information and definitions of the terms used within the key.

Indicator species help to separate grasslands from one another and other habitats.

Coastal Key

Heather *Calluna/Erica* sp. present throughout

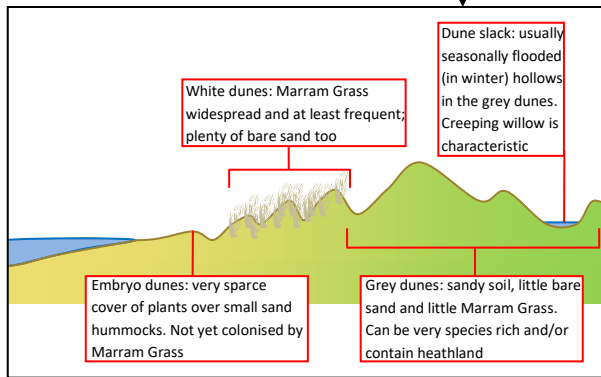
Flat **and** at/close to sea level

Bumpy topology **and** soil/sediment sandy

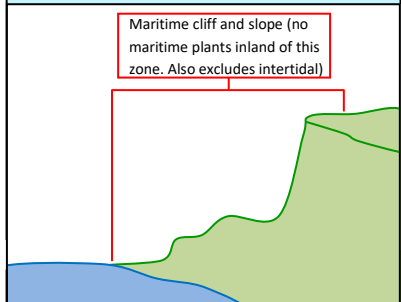
Land sloping (even gently) from the sea **and** including maritime plant species

See **Moorland Key**

Intertidal **and** vegetated



MCS: Maritime cliff and slope



SM: Saltmarsh

Intertidal sediment vegetated by salt loving and salt tolerant plants such as: *Armeria maritima*, *Aster tripolium*, *Atriplex prostrata*, *Cochlearia officinalis*, *Elymus repens*, *Glaux maritima*, *Juncus gerardii*, *Juncus maritimus*, *Limonium humile*, *Plantago maritima*, *Puccinellia maritima*, *Salicornia agg*, *Scirpus maritimus*, *Suaeda maritima* and *Triglochin maritima*.



CFPG: Coastal & floodplain grazing marsh

Semi-improved, species poor, flat low-lying land close to the sea. Often occurs on former saltmarsh which has been drained to improve pasturing (for floodplain examples see Grassland Key). This habitat is important to breeding and wintering waders, and winter wildfowl.

Marram at least frequent and bare sand present

WD: White dune

Found inland of embryo dunes where Marram Grass is able to establish and promote sand accretion. Marram and Lyme Grass dominate the vegetation and there is plenty of bare sand.



GDS: Grey dune or dune slack

Found inland of white dunes where Marram Grass and bare sand have declined. Supports dune grassland, heath (treat as lowland heath) or scrub communities. Depressions with seasonal flooding can support dune slack vegetation (creeping willow is characteristic). Grades into other habitats inland, consult Habitat Guides where there is confusion.



Typically includes non-intertidal land seaward of a cliff, along with some land inland of the cliff (until it is no longer clearly influenced by salt spray/deposition). The following plant species indicate salt influence (maritime species): *Armeria maritima*, *Daucus carota*, *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* (in grassland only), *Plantago coronopus*, *Plantago maritima*, *Scilla verna*, *Sedum anglicum*, *Silene vulgaris maritima* and *Spergularis rupicola*. Can occur in mosaics with Lowland heathland (LH).

