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Conservation Objectives Series

Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC 000077

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Introduction

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

A site-specific conservation objective aims to define favourable conservation condition for a particular habitat or species at that site.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Notes/Guidelines:

1. The targets given in these conservation objectives are based on best available information at the time of writing. As more information becomes available, targets for attributes may change. These will be updated periodically, as necessary.
2. An appropriate assessment based on these conservation objectives will remain valid even if the targets are subsequently updated, providing they were the most recent objectives available when the assessment was carried out. It is essential that the date and version are included when objectives are cited.
3. Assessments cannot consider an attribute in isolation from the others listed for that habitat or species, or for other habitats and species listed for that site. A plan or project with an apparently small impact on one attribute may have a significant impact on another.
4. Please note that the maps included in this document do not necessarily show the entire extent of the habitats and species for which the site is listed. This should be borne in mind when appropriate assessments are being carried out.
5. When using these objectives, it is essential that the relevant backing/supporting documents are consulted, particularly where instructed in the targets or notes for a particular attribute.

Qualifying Interests

**** indicates a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive***

000077	Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC
1130	Estuaries
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
1310	*Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand
1330	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)

Please note that this SAC overlaps with Ballymacoda Bay SPA (004023). See map 2. The conservation objectives for this site should be used in conjunction with those for the overlapping SPA as appropriate.

Supporting documents, relevant reports & publications

Supporting documents, NPWS reports and publications are available for download from: www.npws.ie/Publications

NPWS Documents

Year :	2009
Title :	Saltmarsh monitoring project 2007-2008
Author :	McCorry, M.; Ryle, T.
Series :	Unpublished report to NPWS
Year :	2014
Title :	Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC (site code: 077) Conservation objectives supporting document- coastal habitats V1
Author :	NPWS
Series :	Conservation objectives supporting document
Year :	2015
Title :	Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC (site code: 077) Conservation objectives supporting document- marine habitats V2
Author :	NPWS
Series :	Conservation objectives supporting document

Other References

Year :	2012
Title :	Intertidal benthic survey of Ballymacoda Bay (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC and Ballymacoda Bay SPA
Author :	MERC
Series :	Unpublished report to the Marine Institute and NPWS
Year :	2012
Title :	Subtidal benthic survey of Ballymacoda Bay (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC and Ballymacoda Bay SPA
Author :	MERC
Series :	Unpublished report to the Marine Institute and NPWS

Spatial data sources

Year :	Revision 2010
Title :	Saltmarsh Monitoring Project 2007-2008. Version 1
GIS Operations :	All saltmarsh habitats selected; clipped to SAC boundary; overlapping regions with coastal habitats data investigated and resolved with expert opinion used. Saltmarsh habitats dataset unioned with SAC boundary
Used For :	1130 (map 3)
Year :	2008
Title :	OSi 1:5000 IG vector dataset
GIS Operations :	Unioned saltmarsh habitats and SAC boundary dataset edited using appropriate water and boundary feature classes to identify the extent of the QI. Expert judgement used in process and to resolve any issues arising
Used For :	1130 (map 3)
Year :	Interpolated 2012
Title :	2011 intertidal and subtidal surveys
GIS Operations :	Polygon feature classes from marine community types base data sub-divided based on interpolation of marine survey data. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising
Used For :	1140, marine community types (maps 4 and 5)
Year :	Revision 2010
Title :	Saltmarsh Monitoring Project 2007-2008. Version 1
GIS Operations :	QIs selected; clipped to SAC boundary; overlapping regions with Coastal CO data investigated and resolved with expert opinion used
Used For :	1310, 1330 (map 6)

1130 Estuaries

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Estuaries in Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes. See map 3	Habitat area was estimated as 160ha using OSi data and expert judgement
Community distribution	Hectares	Conserve the following community types in a natural condition: Sandy mud with *Hediste diversicolor* and *Tubificoides benedii* community; Sand with polychaetes and bivalves community complex. See map 5	Based on intertidal and subtidal surveys undertaken in 2011 (MERC, 2012). See marine habitats supporting document for further information

1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide in Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes. See map 4	Habitat area was estimated using OSi data as 302ha
Community distribution	Hectares	Conserve the following community types in a natural condition: Sandy mud with *Hediste diversicolor* and *Tubificoides benedii* community; Sand with polychaetes and bivalves community complex. See map 5	Based on an intertidal survey undertaken in 2011 (MERC, 2012). See marine supporting document for further information

1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand

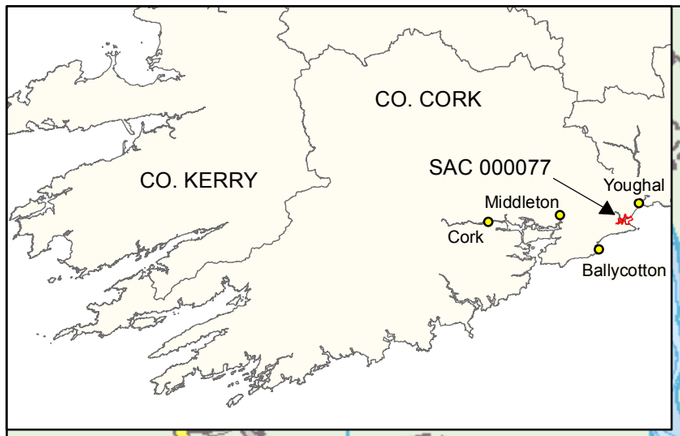
To restore the favourable conservation condition of *Salicornia* and other annuals colonizing mud and sand in Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession. For sub-sites mapped: Ballymacoda- 1.57ha. See map 6	Based on data from Saltmarsh Monitoring Project (SMP) (McCorry and Ryle, 2009). Habitat was recorded and mapped at one large sub-site giving a total estimated area of 1.57ha. NB further unsurveyed areas maybe present within the SAC. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes. See map 6 for known distribution	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). *Salicornia* is an annual species, so its distribution can vary significantly from year to year. There are concentrations of *Salicornia* habitat at Pilmore and along the western shoreline at Clonpriest East and The Duck. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: sediment supply	Presence/ absence of physical barriers	Maintain natural circulation of sediments and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	Sediment supply is particularly important for pioneer saltmarsh community, as the distribution of this habitat depends on accretion rates. Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009), this site has been significantly modified in the past. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: creeks and pans	Occurrence	Maintain/restore creek and pan structure, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). Creeks deliver sediment throughout saltmarsh system. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: flooding regime	Hectares flooded; frequency	Maintain natural tidal regime	This pioneer saltmarsh community requires regular tidal inundation. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). Atlantic salt meadows (ASM) is the dominant saltmarsh type where it occurs in mosaic with other saltmarsh habitats including *Salicornia* flats and Mediterranean salt meadows (MSM). There are zonations and transitions to sand dune habitats at Pilmore and Ringpoint. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: vegetation height	Centimetres	Maintain structural variation within sward	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for details
Vegetation structure: vegetation cover	Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain more than 90% of area outside creeks vegetated	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for details
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain the presence of species-poor communities listed in SMP (McCorry and Ryle, 2009)	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: negative indicator species - *Spartina anglica*	Hectares	No significant expansion of common cordgrass (*Spartina anglica*), with an annual spread of less than 1% where it is known to occur	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). *Spartina* forms extensive swards (about 15ha) in the estuary, including some mosaic areas with ASM. Most of these swards have colonised on formerly unvegetated mudflats. The spread of *Spartina* will be at the expense of intertidal mudlfats. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details

1330 Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) in Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession. For sub-site mapped: Ballymacoda- 28.3ha. See map 6	Based on data from Saltmarsh monitoring Project (SMP) (McCorry and Ryle, 2009). One sub-site that supports Atlantic salt meadows was mapped giving a total estimated area of 28.36ha. NB further unsurveyed areas maybe present within the SAC. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes. See map 6 for known distribution	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). ASM is the dominant saltmarsh habitat found at this site and its extent is notable in a regional context. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: sediment supply	Presence/ absence of physical barriers	Maintain natural circulation of sediments and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	Maintaining the sediment supply is vital for the continued development and natural functioning of a saltmarsh. Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009), this site has been significantly modified in the past. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: creeks and pans	Occurrence	Maintain/restore creek and pan structure, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). Pilmore saltmarsh has a poorly developed topography. Drains have modified the natural creek morphology but some creeks are still present at Ringpoint. The established saltmarsh at Clonpriest east has a well-developed topography. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: flooding regime	Hectares flooded; frequency	Maintain natural tidal regime	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). ASM is the dominant saltmarsh type where it occurs in mosaic with other saltmarsh habitats including *Salicornia* flats and Mediterranean salt meadows (MSM). There are zonations and transitions to sand dune habitats at Pilmore, and Ringpoint. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: vegetation height	Centimetres	Maintain structural variation within sward	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: vegetation cover	Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain more than 90% area outside creeks vegetated	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). Much of the satmarsh is not grazed by livestock. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain range of sub-communities with typical species listed in SMP (McCorry and Ryle, 2009)	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). The site is notable for the presence of Borrer's saltmarsh grass (*Puccinellia fasciculata*). This species is listed in the Flora (Protection) Order 1999 and is also listed in the Red Data book. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: negative indicator species - *Spartina anglica*	Hectares	No significant expansion of common cordgrass (*Spartina anglica*), with an annual spread of less than 1% where it is known to occur	Based on data from McCorry and Ryle (2009). *Spartina* forms extensive swards (about 15ha) in the estuary, including some mosaic areas with ASM. Most of these swards have colonised on formerly unvegetated mudflats. The spread of *Spartina* will be at the expense of intertidal mudlfats. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details



Ballymadog
Ballymadog Cr. Rds.
Creighmore
Clonard East
R633
The Duck
Pillmore
Clonpriest West
Church
Ring Point
Clonpriest East
Crompaun Br.
Aghavine Cross
Aghavine
Barrel
Black Rock
Gortavadda
Ballykinealy
Ballymacoda
Baile Mhac Óda
PO
Ring

Legend

Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC 000077

MAP 1:
BALLYMACODA
(CLONPRIEST AND PILLMORE) SAC
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES
SAC DESIGNATION

Map to be read in conjunction with the NPWS Conservation Objectives Document.

SITE CODE:
SAC 000077; version 3. CO. CORK

0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1 km

N

Map Version 1
Date: Jan 2014

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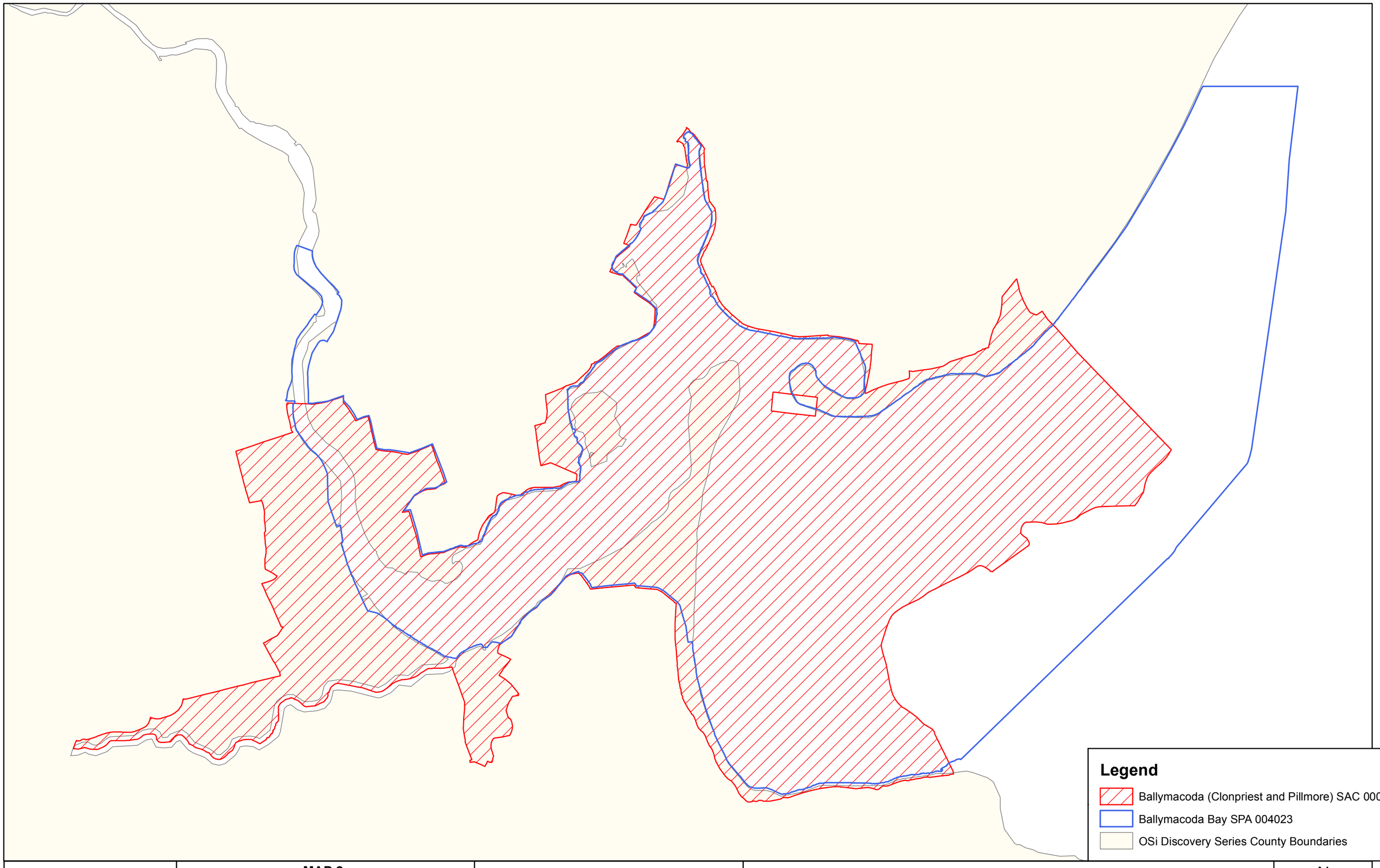

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MAP 2:
BALLYMACODA (CLONPRIEST AND PILLMORE) SAC CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES ADJOINING / OVERLAPPING DESIGNATIONS

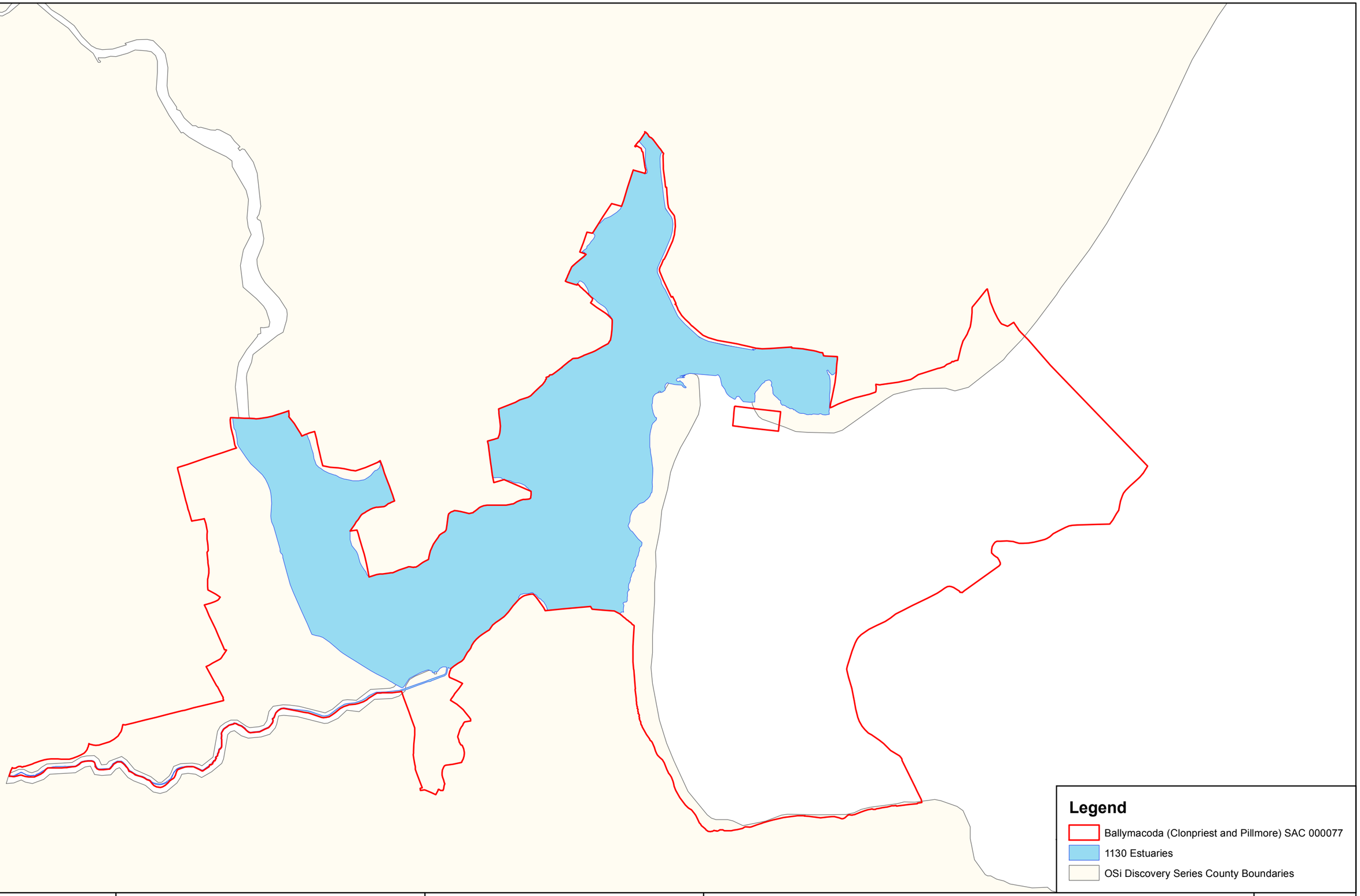
Map to be read in conjunction with the NPWS Conservation Objectives Document.

SITE CODE:
SAC 000077; version 3. CO. CORK

0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1 km

N

Map Version 1
Date: Jan 2014



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MAP 3:
BALLYMACODA (CLONPRIEST AND PILLMORE) SAC CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES ESTUARIES

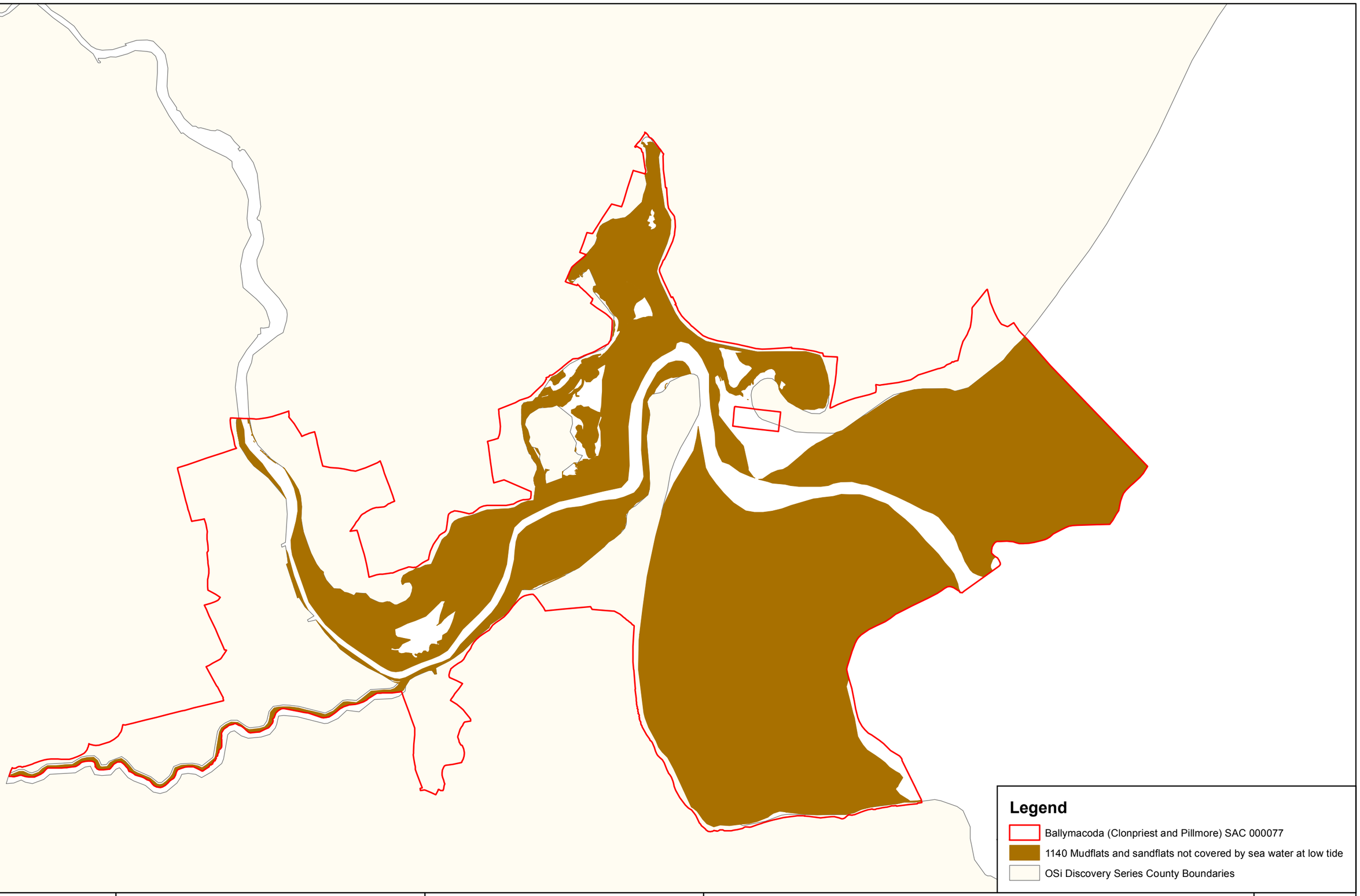
Map to be read in conjunction with the NPWS Conservation Objectives Document.

SITE CODE:
SAC 000077; version 3. CO. CORK

0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 km

N

Map Version 2
Date: Feb 2015



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MAP 4:
BALLYMACODA
(CLONPRIEST AND PILLMORE) SAC
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES
TIDAL MUDFLATS AND SANDFLATS
Map to be read in conjunction with the NPWS Conservation Objectives Document.

SITE CODE:
SAC 000077; version 3. CO. CORK

0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 km

N

Map Version 1
Date: Jan 2014

Legend

Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC 000077

OSi Discovery Series County Boundaries

Marine Community Types

Sand with polychaetes and bivalves community complex

Sandy mud with *Hediste diversicolor* and *Tubificoides benedii* community

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MAP 5:
BALLYMACODA
(CLONPRIEST AND PILLMORE) SAC
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES
MARINE COMMUNITY TYPES

Map to be read in conjunction with the NPWS Conservation Objectives Document.

SITE CODE:
SAC 000077; version 3. CO. CORK

0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 km

N

Map Version 1
Date: Jan 2014

Legend

Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC 000077

OSi Discovery Series County Boundaries

Saltmarsh Habitats

Qualifying Interests

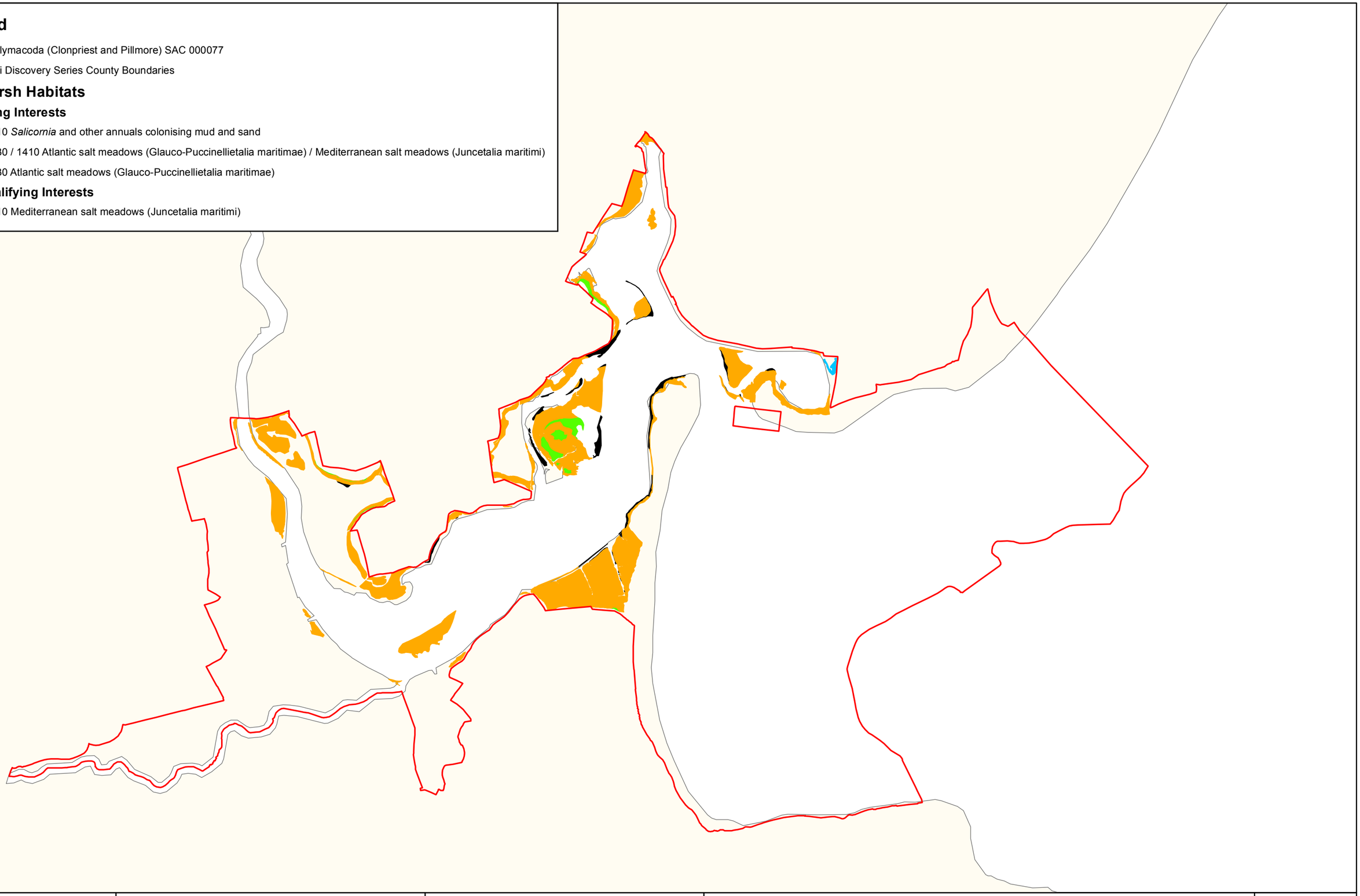
1310 *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand

1330 / 1410 Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) / Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi)

1330 Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)

Non Qualifying Interests

1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi)



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MAP 6:
BALLYMACODA (CLONPRIEST AND PILLMORE) SAC
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES
SALTMARSH HABITATS

Map to be read in conjunction with the NPWS Conservation Objectives Document.

SITE CODE:
SAC 000077; version 3. CO. CORK

0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1 km

N

Map Version 1
Date: Jan 2014