National Parks and Wildlife Service

Conservation Objectives Series

Barrigone SAC 000432



An Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht,

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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

000432	Barrigone SAC
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1065	Marsh	Fritillary	Euphydryas	aurinia
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- 5130 $R' \{ a ^{\prime} \in A$ formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands
- 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)
- 8240 Limestone pavementsE

Supporting documents, relevant reports & publications

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

NPWS Docur	nents
Year :	1971
Title :	A Report of Areas of Scientific Interest in County Limerick
Author :	Young, R.
Series :	Unpublished report
Year :	2005
Title :	Conservation Plan for 2005-2010. Barrigone cSAC Site Code 000432 Co. Limerick
Author :	NPWS
Series :	Conservation Plan
Year :	2007
Title :	Grasslands monitoring project 2006
Author :	Dwyer, R.; Crowley, W.; Wilson, F.
Series :	Unpublished report to NPWS
Year :	2009
Title :	Ireland Red List No. 2: Non-marine molluscs
Author :	Byrne, A.; Moorkens, E.A.; Anderson, R.; Killeen, I.J.; Regan, E.C.
Series :	Ireland Red List series, NPWS
Year :	2010
Title :	Ireland Red List No. 4: Butterflies
Author :	Regan, E.C.; Nelson, B.; Aldwell, B.; Bertrand, C.; Bond, K.; Harding, J.; Nash, D.; Nixon, D.; Wilson, C.J.
Series :	Ireland Red List series, NPWS
Year :	2012
Title :	The conservation status of juniper formations in Ireland
Author :	Cooper, F.; Stone, R.E.; McEvoy, P.; Wilkins, T.; Reid, N.
Series :	Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 63
Year :	2012
Title :	Ireland Red List No. 8: Bryophytes
Author :	Lockhart, N.; Hodgetts, N.; Holyoak, D.
Series :	Ireland Red List series, NPWS
Year :	2013
Title :	Irish semi-natural grasslands survey 2007-2012
Author :	O'Neill, F.H.; Martin, J.R.; Devaney, F.M.; Perrin, P.M.
Series :	Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 78
Year :	2013
Title :	National survey of limestone pavement and associated habitats in Ireland
Author :	Wilson, S.; Fernandez, F.
Series :	Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 73
Year :	2013
Title :	Survey of Marsh Fritillary Colonies – South and East Ireland 2012
Author :	Wilson, F.; Bond, K.; Crushell, P.; Foss, P.J.; Osthoff, C.
Series :	Unpublished report to NPWS

Year :	2016
Title :	Ireland Red List No. 10: Vascular Plants
Author :	Wyse Jackson, M.; FitzPatrick, Ú.; Cole, E.; Jebb, M.; McFerran, D.; Sheehy Skeffington, M.; Wright, M.
Series :	Ireland Red List Series, NPWS
Year :	2018
Title :	The Irish Juniper Monitoring Survey 2017
Author :	O'Neill, F.H.; Martin, J.R.
Series :	Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 101
Year :	2018
Title :	The Irish Juniper Monitoring Survey 2017 - Appendices
Author :	O'Neill, F.H.; Martin, J.R
Series :	Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 101
Year :	2018
Title :	The monitoring and assessment of three EU Habitats Directive Annex I grassland habitats
Author :	Martin, J.R.; O'Neill, F.H.; Daly, O.H.
Series :	Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 102

Other References

Year :	1993
Title :	A review of the distribution, ecology and status of the Marsh Fritillary <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> Rottemburg, 1775 (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae) in Ireland
Author :	Lavery, T.A.
Series :	Irish Naturalists' Journal, 24(5): 192-199

Spatial data sources

Year :	2012
Title :	The conservation status of juniper formations in Ireland
GIS Operations :	Juniper survey location centroid clipped to SAC boundary
Used For :	5130 (map 2)
Year :	2018
Title :	Grasslands Monitoring Survey 2015-2017
GIS Operations :	Dataset clipped to SAC boundary. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising
Used For :	6210 (map 3)

Conservation Objectives for : Barrigone SAC [000432]

5130 Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands

To restore the favourable conservation condition of *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands in Barrigone 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	<i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands is particularly well-developed in the north of Barrigone SAC and occurs in association with the Annex I habitat Limestone pavements (habitat code 8240*) and calcareous grassland. Cooper et al. (2012) surveyed and mapped the habitat at one sub-site (Barrigone, site code LK01) associated with Barrigone SAC (see map 2). It is important to note that further unsurveyed areas may be present within the SAC
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, subject to natural processes. Point location of surveyed formation shown on map 2	Distribution based on Cooper et al. (2012). Map 2 shows the point location of the surveyed juniper (<i>Juniperus communis</i>) formation in the Barrigone sub-site. Note that further unsurveyed areas may be present within the SAC
Juniper formation size	Number and proximity of juniper plants	At least 50 juniper plants present with each plant separated by no more than 20m	Attribute and target based on O'Neill and Martin (2018). A juniper formation is defined by O'Neill and Martin (2018) as any cluster of \geq 50 juniper plants where no plant is more than 20m from another. In practice, this means that juniper plants should achieve a minimum density of 25 plants per hectare to qualify as a formation
Vegetation structure: female fruiting plants	Percentage in a representative number of 5m x 5m monitoring stops or in an <i>ad hoc</i> count of 50 plants	Fruiting females comprise at least 10% of juniper plants rooted in plot in at least 50% of stops or in an <i>ad hoc</i> count of 50 plants	Attribute and target based on Cooper et al. (2012) and O'Neill and Martin (2018)
Vegetation structure: seedling recruitment	Presence in a representative number of 5m x 5m monitoring stops	At least one seedling recorded in at least one monitoring stop	Attribute and target based on O'Neill and Martin (2018). Juniper seedlings are defined as plants less than 15cm high that are still flexible and single- stemmed, or with only two branches at most. No seedlings were recorded by Cooper et al. (2012) in the Barrigone sub-site (LK01)
Vegetation structure: live juniper	Percentage in a representative number of 5m x 5m monitoring stops or across the site as a whole	At least 90% of juniper plants rooted in plot alive in at least 75% of stops or across the site as a whole	Attribute and target based on Cooper et al. (2012) and O'Neill and Martin (2018)
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage in a representative number of 5m x 5m monitoring stops	Total cover of negative indicator species to be less than 10% in at least 50% of stops	Attribute and target based on O'Neill and Martin (2018) where the list of negative indicator species is also presented
Physical structure: germination niches	Percentage in a representative number of 5m x 5m monitoring stops	At least 5% bare soil and/or at least 5% bare rock in at least 50% of stops	Attribute and target based on O'Neill and Martin (2018). Bare soil is important as a germination micro-site and bare rock can also contribute, particularly at the soil-rock interface and in limestone pavement grikes
Formation structure: browning/die-back of plants	Percentage of juniper cover in a representative number of 5m x 5m monitoring stops	Browning or dead juniper branches (excluding fully dead plants) comprise no more than 20% of total juniper cover in plot in at least 75% of stops	Attribute and target based on O'Neill and Martin (2018)
Formation structure: evidence of browsing and bark stripping	Occurrence across a representative number of 5m x 5m monitoring stops	Recent browsing of juniper plants and bark stripping and trampling due to browsers evident in no more than 50% of stops	Attribute and target based on O'Neill and Martin (2018). This attribute concerns bark stripping by animals. Bark stripping or damage from abrasion by rock is not included here. It should be noted, however, that distinguishing between the two may be difficult

15 Feb 2019

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Indicators of loca distinctiveness	Occurrence and population size	No decline in distribution or population sizes of rare, threatened or scarce species associated with the habitat	This includes species on the Flora (Protection) Order, 2015 and/or Red Lists (Byrne et al., 2009; Regan et al., 2010; Lockhart et al., 2012; Wyse Jackson et al., 2016, etc.)
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Conservation Objectives for : Barrigone SAC [000432]

6210

Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)

To restore the favourable conservation condition of Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) in Barrigone 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; at least 5.85ha for the sub-site (Barrigone - site code 2701) mapped	As part of the Irish Semi-natural Grassland Survey (ISGS; O'Neill et al., 2013), Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) was surveyed and mapped within the sub-site Barrigone (site code 2701). The sub-site was monitored in 2017 as part of the Grasslands Monitoring Survey (GMS; Martin et al., 2018). The area of the habitat in the sub-site was mapped as 5.85ha. Map 2 shows the surveyed grassland area classified as 6210 (5.85ha) by Martin et al. (2018). The habitat in the SAC had also been surveyed by the Grassland Monitoring Project (GMP) in 2006 (Dwyer et al., 2007)
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, subject to natural processes. See map 3 which shows the sub-site 2701	Distribution based on Martin et al. (2018). It is important to note that further areas of the habitat may be present within the SAC
Vegetation composition: positive indicator species	Number at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops; within 20m surrounding area of monitoring stops	At least 7 positive indicator species present in monitoring stop or, if 5–6 present in stop, additional species within 20m of stop; this includes at least two 'high quality' positive indicator species present in stop or within 20m of stop	Attribute and target based on O'Neill et al. (2013) and Martin et al. (2018), where the lists of positive indicator species, including high quality positive indicator species, are also presented. These documents should be consulted for further details. High quality indicators recorded in the habitat include salad burnet (<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>), kidney vetch (<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>), cowslip (<i>Primula veris</i>) and quaking-grass (<i>Briza media</i>) (Martin et al., 2018), with orchids recorded including fragrant orchid (<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>), early-purple orchid (<i>Orchis mascula</i>) and the Near Threatened orchids frog orchid (<i>Neotinea maculata</i>) (NPWS, 2005; O'Neill et al., 2013; Wyse Jackson et al., 2016; Martin et al., 2018). The Vulnerable and Flora (Protection) Order, 2015 listed species hairy violet (<i>Viola hirta</i>) also occurs (Young, 1971; O'Neill et al., 2013)
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Negative indicator species collectively not more than 20% cover, with cover by an individual species not more than 10%	Attribute and target based on O'Neill et al. (2013), where the list of negative indicator species is also presented
Vegetation composition: non- native species	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of non-native species not more than 1%	Attribute and target based on O'Neill et al. (2013)

Vegetation composition: woody species and bracken	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of woody species (except certain listed species) and bracken (<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>) not more than 5%	Woody species that can occur above 5% cover are juniper (<i>Juniperus communis</i>), burnet rose (<i>Rosa spinosissima</i>), mountain avens (<i>Dryas octopetala</i>) and hoary rock-rose (<i>Helianthemum oelandicum</i>). However, cover of these species above 25% may indicate transition to another Annex I habitat such as Alpine and Boreal heaths (4060) or <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations (5130). Attribute and target based on O'Neill et al. (2013). Encroachment by scrub and bracken was reported as a negative impact on the habitat in the SAC by the ISGS (O'Neill et al., 2013); however, when the sub-site was monitored in 2017 there was no evidence to suggest that scrub and bracken in the sub-site (Martin et al., 2018). Scrub and bracken encoachment had also been noted in parts of the habitat by Dwyer et al. (2007)
Vegetation structure: broadleaf herb:grass ratio	Percentage at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Broadleaf herb component of vegetation between 40% and 90%	Attribute and target based on O'Neill et al. (2013). Broadleaf herb component of vegetation between 30% and 90% may be allowed to pass on expert judgement (Martin et al., 2018)
Vegetation structure: sward height	Percentage at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	At least 30% of sward between 5cm and 40cm tall	Attribute and target based on O'Neill et al. (2013)
Vegetation structure: litter	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Litter cover not more than 25%	Attribute and target based on O'Neill et al. (2013)
Physical structure: bare soil	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Not more than 10% bare soil	Attribute and target based on O'Neill et al. (2013)
Physical structure: grazing or disturbance	Area in local vicinity of a representative number of monitoring stops	Area of the habitat showing signs of serious grazing or disturbance less than 20m ²	Attribute and target based on O'Neill et al. (2013)

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8240 Limestone pavements

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Limestone pavements* in Barrigone 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	The current total area of Limestone pavements* in Barrigone SAC is unknown. While there is no limestone pavement with the typical clint and grike formation in the SAC, there are limestone outcrops present (Wilson and Fernandez, 2013; NPWS internal files). The limestone outcrops are more extensive towards the north of the SAC and occur in association with <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands (habitat code 5130) and Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) (6210) (NPWS, 2005). Conservation objectives for all these habitats should be used in conjunction with each other as appropriate
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline	See the notes for Habitat area above. This habitat is split into exposed pavement and wooded pavement
Vegetation composition: positive indicator species	Number at a representative number of monitoring stops	At least seven positive indicator species present	Positive indicator species for exposed and wooded pavement are listed in Wilson and Fernandez (2013). Positive indicator species of exposed pavement recorded in the SAC include burnet rose (<i>Rosa spinosissima</i>), juniper (<i>Juniperus communis</i>) and sea plantain (<i>Plantago maritima</i>) (NPWS, 2005; NPWS internal files)
Vegetation composition: bryophyte layer	Percentage at a representative number of monitoring stops	Bryophyte cover at least 50% on wooded pavement	Attribute and target based on Wilson and Fernandez (2013)
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage at a representative number of monitoring stops	Collective cover of negative indicator species on exposed pavement not more than 1%	Negative indicator species are listed in Wilson and Fernandez (2013). Negative indicator species for wooded pavement overlap with non-native species (below)
Vegetation composition: non- native species	Percentage at a representative number of monitoring stops	Cover of non-native species not more than 1% on exposed pavement; on wooded pavement not more than 10% with no regeneration	Attribute and target based on Wilson and Fernandez (2013)
Vegetation composition: scrub	Percentage at a representative number of monitoring stops	Scrub cover no more than 25% of exposed pavement	Attribute and target based on Wilson and Fernandez (2013)
Vegetation composition: bracken cover	Percentage at a representative number of monitoring stops	Bracken (<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>) cover no more than 10% on exposed pavement	Attribute and target based on Wilson and Fernandez (2013)
Vegetation structure: woodland canopy	Percentage at a representative number of monitoring stops	Canopy cover on wooded pavement at least 30%	Attribute and target based on Wilson and Fernandez (2013)
Vegetation structure: dead wood	Occurrence in a representative number of monitoring stops	Sufficient quantity of dead wood on wooded pavement to provide habitat for saproxylic organisms	Dead wood is a valuable resource and an integral part of a healthy, functioning woodland ecosystem
Physical structure: disturbance	Occurrence in a representative number of monitoring stops	No evidence of grazing pressure on wooded pavement	Attribute and target based on Wilson and Fernandez (2013)

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Indicators of local distinctiveness	Occurrence	Indicators of local distinctiveness are maintained	This includes species on the Flora (Protection) Order, 2015 and/or Red Lists (Byrne et al., 2009; Regan et al., 2010; Lockhart et al., 2012; Wyse Jackson et al., 2016, etc.) and other rare or localised species, as well as archaeological and geological features, which often support distinctive species. The FPO listed and Near Threatened hairy violet (<i>Viola hirta</i>) (Wyse Jackson et al., 2016) has been recorded in this habitat in the SAC (NPWS, 2005). The SAC is also important for invertebrates and a number of rare and threatened species have been recorded

1065 Marsh Fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Marsh Fritillary in Barrigone SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Distribution: occupied 1km grid squares	Number	Confirmed records	There have been no recent verified records of marsh fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>) located within Barrigone SAC. The association of the species with the SAC derives from a paper by Lavery (1993) which refers to a site called Foynes/Barrigone as being one of three major populations in Ireland. A survey in 2012 did not find the species in the SAC (Wilson et al., 2013). However, maintenance of areas of suitable habitat such as those in Barrigone SAC are important for marsh fritillary due to the metapopulation dynamics of the species. Further survey work is required to confirm the status of the species in the SAC
Proof or breeding: larval webs	Number at a representative number of sub-sites	Proof of breeding, confirmed by detection of webs	There are no recent confirmed records from this SAC so a target figure cannot be set for the number of webs. Webs would indicate that conditions are suitable for successful reproduction
Potential habitat: area	Hectares	Area of potential habitat stable or increasing, subject to natural processes	Suitable potential habitat for marsh fritillary (<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>) is defined as areas of vegetation where devil's-bit scabious (<i>Succisa</i> <i>pratensis</i>) is present, with mean height less than 50cm and with less than 10% cover of scrub more than 1m tall. In 2012, just over 9ha of habitat was assessed as suitable for the species (Wilson et al., 2013). This is taken as a baseline figure but will be reassessed as further information emerges



Legend Barrigone SAC 000432 OSi Discovery Series Cou ★ 5130 Juniperus communis	nty Boundary formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands		
An Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht	MAP 2: BARRIGONE SAC CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES JUNIPER FORMATIONS Map to be read in conjunction with the NPWS Conservation Objectives Documen	SITE CODE: SAC 000432; version 3. CO. LIMERICK 0 80 160 240 320 400 Meters t. 1 1 1 1	The mapped boundaries are of an indicative and general nature only. Boundarie Ordnance Survey of Ireland Licence No EN 0059216. © Ordnance Surv Níl sna teorainneacha ar na léarscáileanna ach nod garshuiomhach ginearálta. Féadfar ath comharthaithe. Suirbhéarachta Ordonáis na hÉireann Ceadúnas Uimh EN 0059216. © Sui

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Eegend Barryone SAC 000432 OSi Discovery Series County Boundary		
6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substra	ites (Festuco Brometalia)	
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MAP 3: BARRIGONE SAC Orightreachta agus Gaeltachta Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Map to be read in conjunction with the NPWS Conservation Objectives Document	SITE CODE: SAC 000432; version 3. CO. LIMERICK 0 70 140 210 280 350 Meters nt. I </th <th>The mapped boundaries are of an indicative and general nature only. Boun Ordnance Survey of Ireland Licence No EN 0059216. © Ordnance Níl sna teorainneacha ar na léarscáileanna ach nod garshuiomhach ginearálta. Féadf comharthaithe. Suirbhéarachta Ordonáis na hÉireann Ceadúnas Uimh EN 0059216.</th>	The mapped boundaries are of an indicative and general nature only. Boun Ordnance Survey of Ireland Licence No EN 0059216. © Ordnance Níl sna teorainneacha ar na léarscáileanna ach nod garshuiomhach ginearálta. Féadf comharthaithe. Suirbhéarachta Ordonáis na hÉireann Ceadúnas Uimh EN 0059216.

Map Version 1 Date: Oct 2018

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