

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Conservation Objectives Series

Rosturra Wood SAC 001313



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,
90 King Street North, Dublin 7, D07 N7CV, Ireland.**

**Web: www.npws.ie
E-mail: nature.conservation@chg.gov.ie**

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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*

001313 Rosturra Wood SAC

91A0 Old sessile oak woods with *Q. petraea* and *Q. robur* in the British Isles

Please note that this SAC overlaps with Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA (004168). See map 2. The conservation objectives for this site should be used in conjunction with those for the overlapping site 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 :	2008
Title :	National survey of native woodlands 2003-2008
Author :	Perrin, P.M.; Martin, J.; Barron, S.; O'Neill, F.H.; McNutt, K.E.; Delaney, A.
Series :	Unpublished report to NPWS
Year :	2010
Title :	A provisional inventory of ancient and long-established woodland in Ireland
Author :	Perrin, P.M.; Daly, O.H.
Series :	Irish Wildlife Manual No. 46
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 Lists series, NPWS
Year :	2017
Title :	Management Guidelines for Ireland's Native Woodlands
Author :	Cross, J.R.; Collins, K.D.
Series :	National Parks and Wildlife Service and Forest Service

Other References

Year :	2000
Title :	A guide to habitats in Ireland
Author :	Fossitt, J.A.
Series :	The Heritage Council, Kilkenny
Year :	2002
Title :	Reversing the habitat fragmentation of British woodlands
Author :	Peterken, G.
Series :	WWF-UK, London
Year :	2009
Title :	Resurvey of long-term ecological monitoring transects at the People's Millennium Forests
Author :	Perrin, P.; Barron, S.; O'Neill, F.
Series :	Report for the Heritage Council, Kilkenny

Spatial data sources

Year :	Revision 2010
Title :	National Survey of Native Woodlands 2003-2008. Version 1
GIS Operations :	Woodland type selected; clipped to SAC boundary. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising
Used For :	Woodland type (map 3)

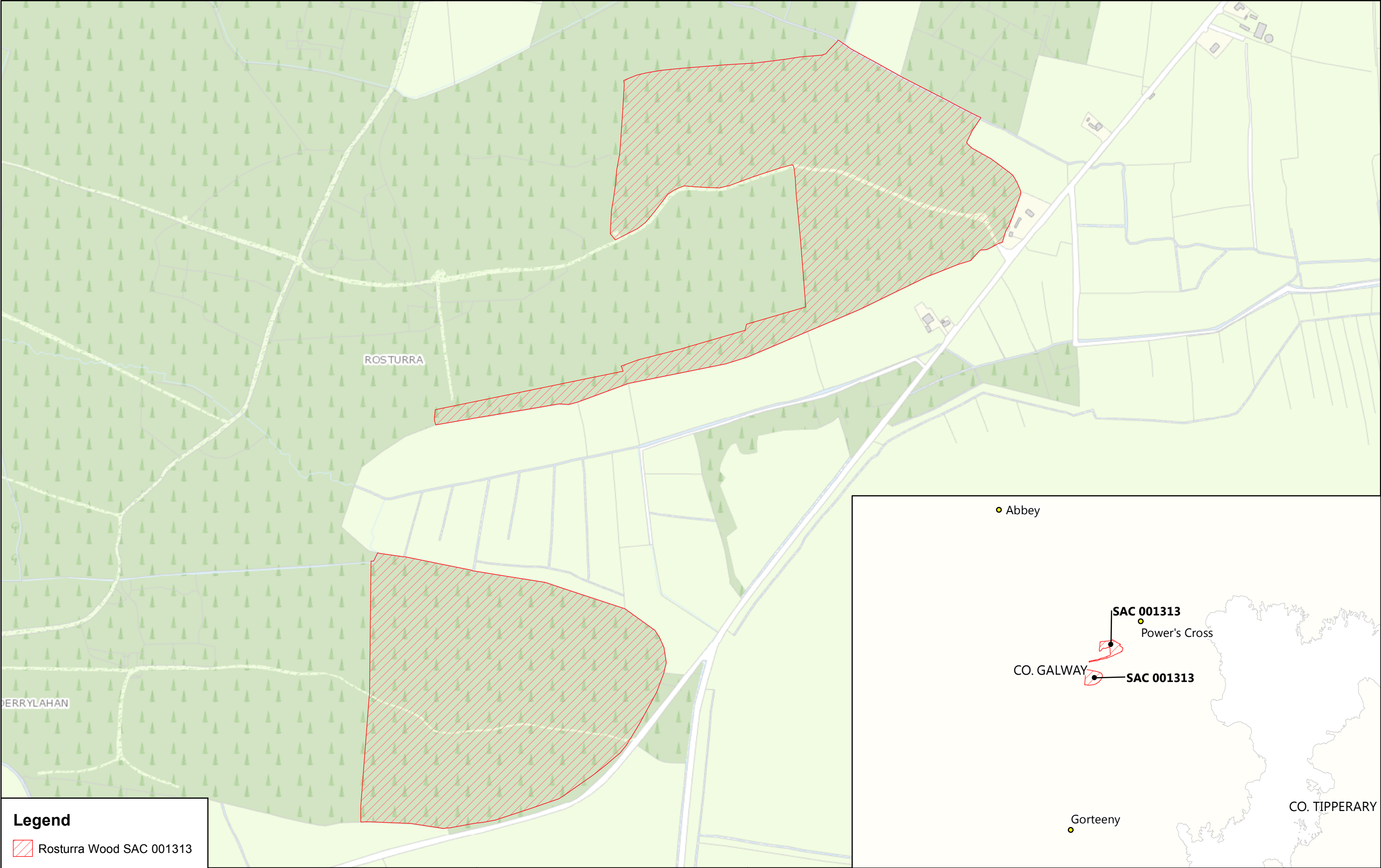
Conservation Objectives for : Rosturra Wood SAC [001313]

91A0 Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles


To restore the favourable conservation condition of Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles in Rosturra Wood SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

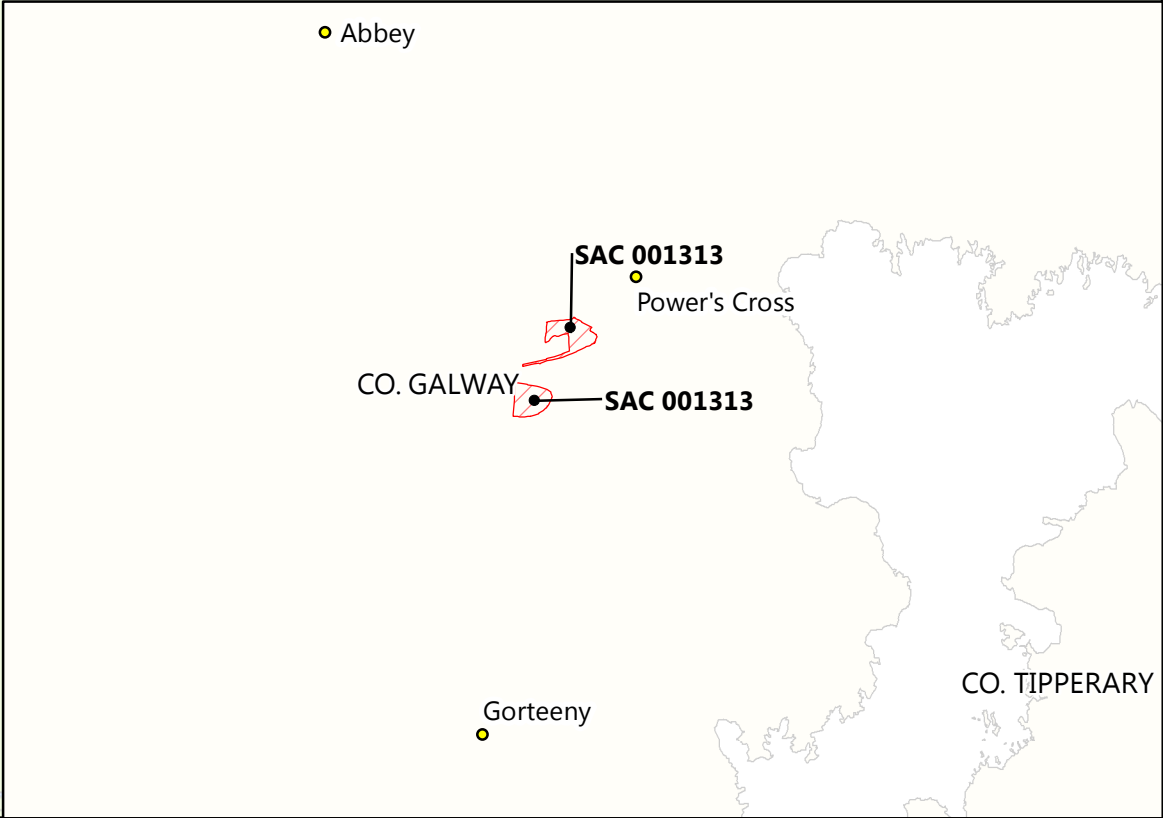
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes	The total area of old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles in Rosturra Wood SAC is currently unknown. Oak woodland occurs as marginal stands around areas of clearfelled conifers and colonising scrub in the SAC. Until large-scale commercial forestry operations began in the 1930s and 1940s, Rosturra Wood was part of one of the most extensive oak woods in Ireland, along with the woodlands of Derrycrag (SAC 000261) and Pollnaknockaun (SAC 000319). The SAC consists of two separate parts. The northern part is managed by Coillte as part of the People's Millennium Forest project. The southern part is designated as Rosturra Wood Nature Reserve. During the National Survey of Native Woodlands (NSNW), the sub-site Rosturra Wood (NSNW code 1609), in the southern part of the SAC, was surveyed and 4ha of oak-birch-holly (WN1)/oak-ash-hazel woodland (WN2) (Fossitt, 2000) was mapped (Perrin et al., 2008). NB further unsurveyed areas are present within the SAC
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, subject to natural processes	The distribution of the mapped woodland (see map 3) is based on Perrin et al. (2008). It is important to note that further unsurveyed areas are present in the SAC
Woodland size	Hectares	Area stable or increasing. Where topographically possible, "large" woods at least 25ha in size and "small" woods at least 3ha in size	The target areas for individual woodlands aim to reduce habitat fragmentation and benefit those species requiring 'deep' woodland conditions (Peterken, 2002). In some cases, topographical constraints may restrict expansion
Woodland structure: cover and height	Percentage and metres	Diverse structure with a relatively closed canopy containing mature trees; subcanopy layer with semi-mature trees and shrubs; and well-developed herb layer	Described in Perrin et al. (2008) and NPWS internal files
Woodland structure: community diversity and extent	Hectares	Maintain diversity and extent of community types	Described in Perrin et al. (2008) and NPWS internal files
Woodland structure: natural regeneration	Seedling:sapling:pole ratio	Seedlings, saplings and pole age-classes occur in adequate proportions to ensure survival of woodland canopy	Sessile oak (<i>Quercus petraea</i>) generally regenerates poorly. In suitable sites, ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>) can regenerate in large numbers although few seedlings reach pole size. Planting of oak in clearfelled areas in the northern section of the SAC has been undertaken as part of the People's Millennium Forest project (Cross and Collins, 2017). Regeneration in small areas of the oak woodland in the Nature Reserve (NR) is being negatively impacted by fallow deer (<i>Dama dama</i>) grazing. While natural regeneration of native species is taking place in clearfelled areas in the NR, it is being impeded by deer grazing and invasion by non-native species (Perrin et al., 2008; NPWS internal files)


Woodland structure: dead wood	m ³ per hectare; number per hectare	At least 30m ³ /ha of fallen timber greater than 10cm diameter; 30 snags/ha; both categories should include stems greater than 40cm diameter	Dead wood is a valuable resource and an integral part of a healthy, functioning woodland ecosystem
Woodland structure: veteran trees	Number per hectare	No decline	Mature and veteran trees are important habitats for bryophytes, lichens, saproxylic organisms and some bird species. Their retention is important to ensure continuity of habitats/niches and propagule sources
Woodland structure: indicators of local distinctiveness	Occurrence	No decline	Includes ancient or long-established woodlands (Perrin and Daly, 2010), archaeological and geological features as well as red data and other rare or localised species. The Vulnerable narrow-leaved helleborine (<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>) (Wyse Jackson et al., 2016) has been recorded in damper areas of the oak woodland in the SAC (NPWS internal files). This species is listed on the Flora (Protection) Order, 2015
Vegetation composition: native tree cover	Percentage	No decline. Native tree cover not less than 95%	Species reported in Perrin et al. (2008) and NPWS internal files
Vegetation composition: typical species	Occurrence	A variety of typical native species present, depending on woodland type, including sessile oak (<i>Quercus petraea</i>) and birch (<i>Betula pubescens</i>)	Species reported in Perrin et al. (2008) and NPWS internal files
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Occurrence	Negative indicator species, particularly non-native invasive species, absent or under control	The following are the most common non-native invasive species in this woodland type: beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>), sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>) and rhododendron (<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>). Sitka spruce (<i>Picea sitchensis</i>) is reported as regenerating abundantly, particularly in the north of the Rosturra Wood sub-site (NSNW site code 1609) beneath a remnant stand of oak (<i>Quercus petraea</i>) (Perrin et al., 2008), but also in parts of the northern section of the SAC (Perrin et al., 2009). Beech has also been reported from the oak woodland in the SAC (Perrin et al., 2008; NPWS internal files)



Legend

 Rosturra Wood SAC 001313





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MAP 1:
ROSTURRA WOOD SAC
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES
SAC DESIGNATION

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

SITE CODE:
SAC 001313; version 3.01. CO. GALWAY

0 60 120 180 240 300 Meters

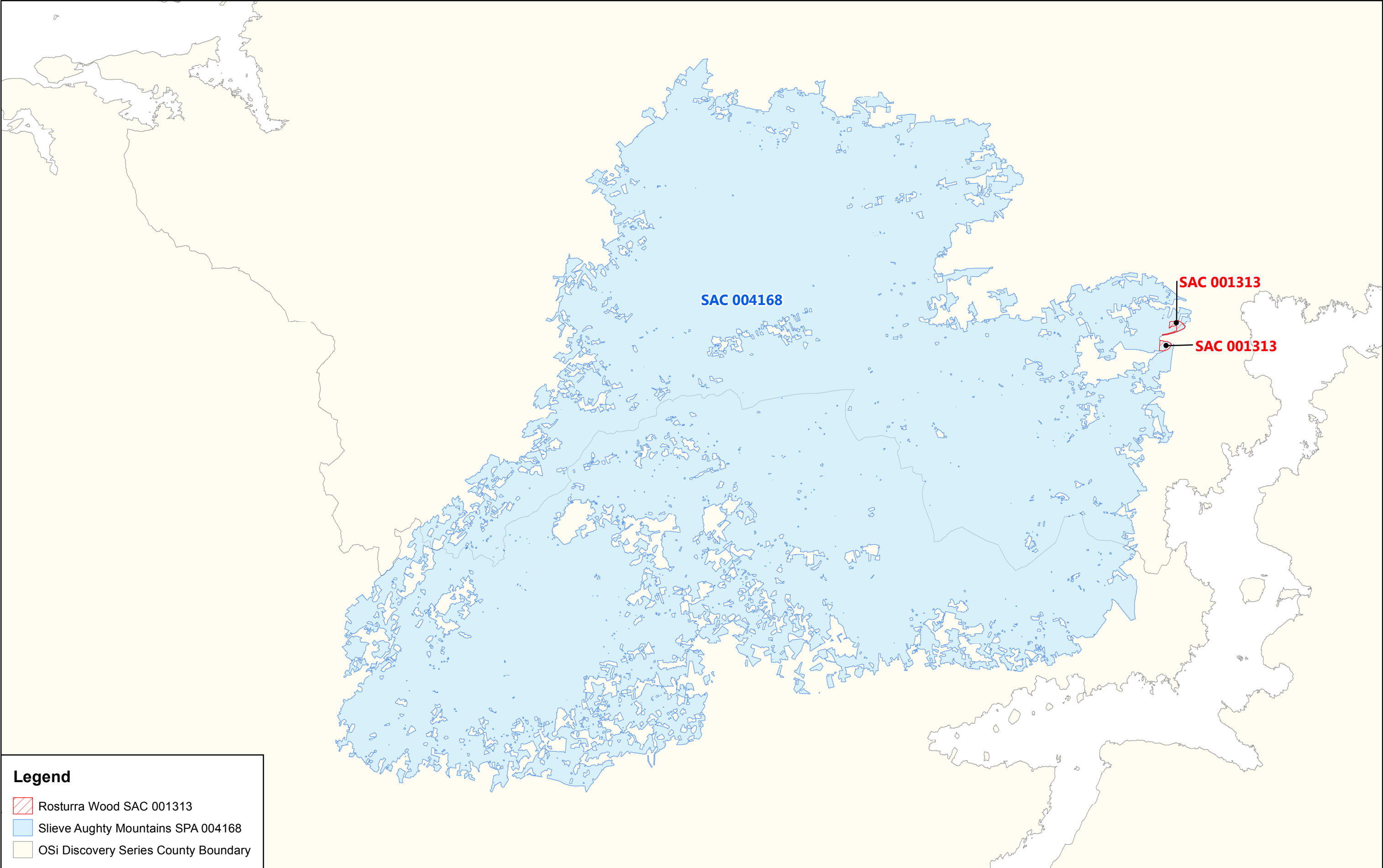


The mapped boundaries are of an indicative and general nature only. Boundaries of designated areas are subject to revision.
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



Map Version 1
Date: Aug 2017




Legend

 Rosturra Wood SAC 001313

 Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA 004168

 OSi Discovery Series County Boundary



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MAP 2:
ROSTURRA WOOD SAC
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES
OVERLAPPING DESIGNATION

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

SITE CODE:
SAC 001313; version 3.01. SPA 004168; version 3.
CO. GALWAY / CO. CLARE

02468

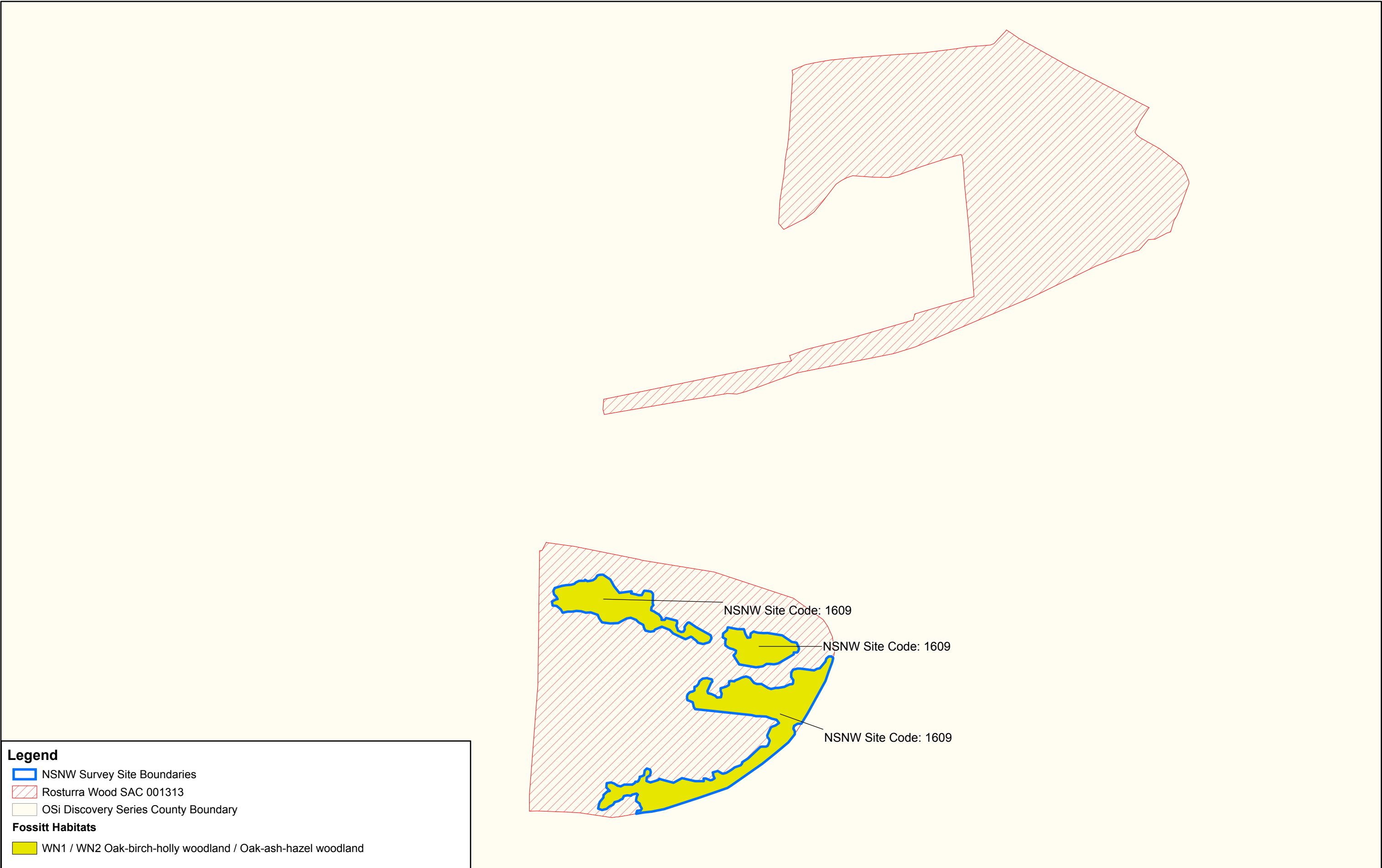
Kilometers

The mapped boundaries are of an indicative and general nature only. Boundaries of designated areas are subject to revision.
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Map Version 1
Date: Aug 2017



Legend

- NSNW Survey Site Boundaries
- Rosturra Wood SAC 001313
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundary

Fossitt Habitats

- WN1 / WN2 Oak-birch-holly woodland / Oak-ash-hazel woodland