



Site Name: Cleanderry Wood SAC

Site Code: 001043

Cleanderry Wood is situated along the south side of the Kenmare River inlet, 10 km north of Castletownbere in Co. Cork. The site occurs on a steep slope directly above the coastline and contains a small oak (*Quercus* sp.) woodland. The wood lies in a sheltered hollow facing north-west and is crossed by several cascading streams. There has been clearance in the past, but the trees are re-invading the abandoned old fields. The site also includes Derryvegal Lough Upper and its outlet stream.

The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

[91A0] Old Oak Woodlands [1421] Killarney Fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>)
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In Cleanderry Wood Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) are the dominant trees, with much Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and birch (*Betula* sp.). In general the ground vegetation is very well developed because there is little grazing pressure. Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), Ivy (*Hedera helix*) and Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) are frequent, with Velvet Bent (*Agrostis canina*), Common Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*), Hard-fern (*Blechnum spicant*) and Hay-scented Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris aemula*). This latter species is considered threatened within Europe. The western position of the wood is shown by the abundance of Kidney Saxifrage (*Saxifraga hirsuta*), Irish Spurge (*Euphorbia hyberna*) and Wilson's Filmy-fern (*Hymenophyllum wilsonii*).

Most of the remainder of the site is a mosaic of heath, wet acidic grassland and rock outcrops. The heath varies from wet heath to dry heath. The wet heath has characteristic species such as Cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) and some bog mosses (*Sphagnum* spp.). Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Western Gorse (*Ulex gallii*) and Deergrass (*Scirpus cespitosus*) are amongst the species found in the drier areas.

The site supports a population of the rare Killarney Fern (*Trichomanes speciosum*), a species which is listed both on the E.U. Habitats Directive and on the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999.

Although small, this woodland is important as it represents a stand of old oak woodland, a habitat type listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. Furthermore, it is unusual in that it contains no introduced species. There is a

luxuriant growth of moisture-loving species, including a number of rare vascular plants and ferns. Few other woods in the south-west occur so close to the sea.