



**Site Name: Myross Wood SAC**

**Site Code: 001070**

Myross Wood is located just to the south of Leap Village, approximately 8 km east of Skibbereen, Co. Cork, and situated on a hillside sloping down to the upper reaches of Glandore Harbour.

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):

[1421] Killarney Fern ( <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> )
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The main habitat at Myross Wood is mixed woodland, which contains fragments of semi-natural woodland on cliffs and rocky ground. The main native tree species present are oak (*Quercus* spp.), Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*). The wood has been much modified over the years and has been planted with exotic species such as Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Silver Fir (*Abies alba*).

Despite modification of the woodland, the ground flora remains reasonably diverse with species such as Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood-sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*) and Smooth-stalked Sedge (*Carex laevigata*) occurring. The wood, and the shady banks of the stream that flows through it, support a rich diversity of ferns (e.g. *Dryopteris aemula*, *D. pseudomas*, *D. dilatata*, *Athyrium filix-femina* and *Polystichum setiferum*), mosses (e.g. *Eurynchium praelongum*, *Isopterygium elegans*, *Thamnobryum alopecurum*, *Mnium hornum* and *Thuidium tamariscum*) and liverworts (e.g. *Conocephalum conicum*, *Plagiochila porelloides* and *Pellia epiphylla*).

Of particular note is the presence of a population of Killarney Fern (*Trichomanes speciosum*), a rare and legally protected fern that is listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive, in the Irish Red Data book and on the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999.