



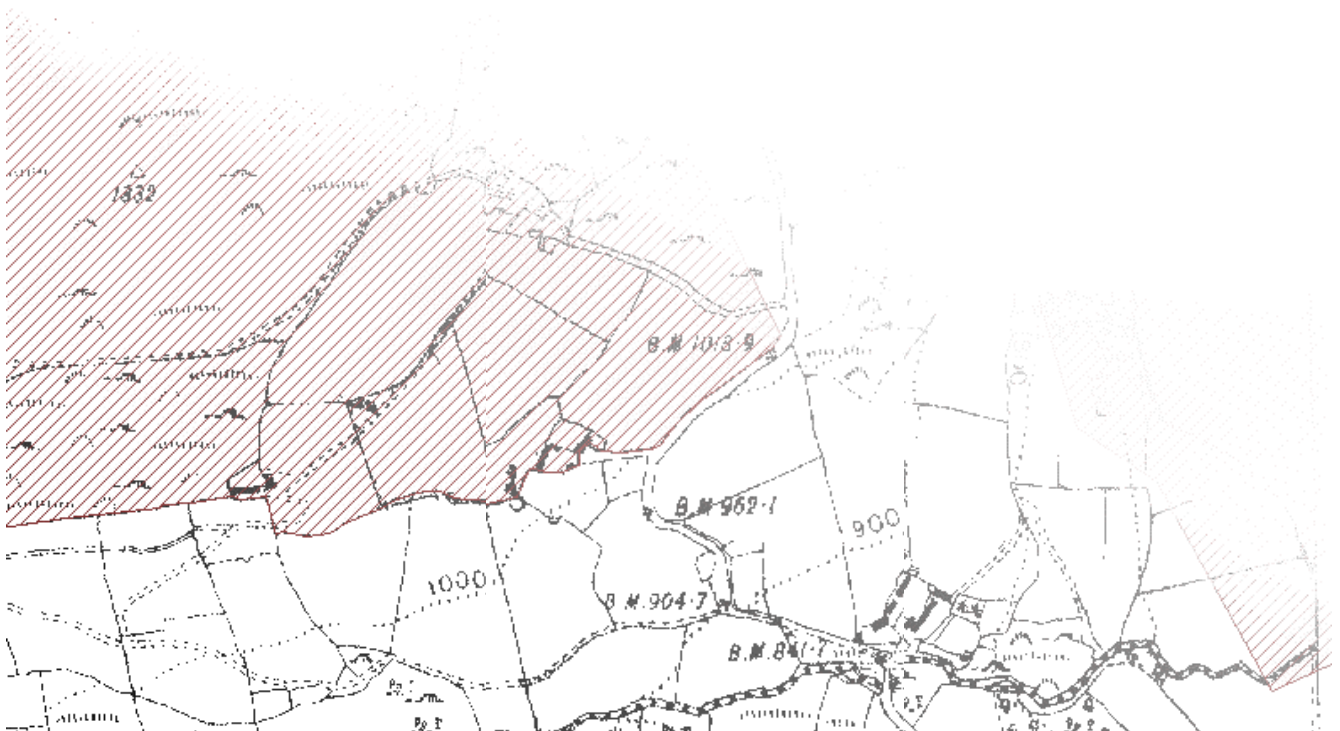
National Parks and Wildlife Service Conservation Plan for 2006-2011



Ballyarr Wood cSAC

Site Code 0116

Co. Donegal



SUMMARY

Introduction

Ballyarr Wood cSAC has been designated as a candidate Special Area of Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive because it is one of the best and largest examples of a semi-natural deciduous woodland in the north-west of the country and forms an important part of Irelands network of woodland reserves. Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* is a habitat listed in Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.

Description of Ballyarr Wood cSAC

Ballyarr Wood is predominantly old oak woodland. A number of other habitats including wet woodland, scrub, wet heath and wet grassland also occur. The oak woodland has a well developed structure, with an high canopy of well grown oaks, a good understorey of holly and hazel and rich ground flora. Natural regeneration is occurring. In addition, the range of other habitats, particularly the open areas of heath and wet grassland, enhance the diversity, value and character of the woodland into which they are incorporated.

The site is state owned and is designated as a Statutory Nature Reserve.

Main conservation objectives

- To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles (71% area of the site)
- To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the site
- To provide facilities on site for the visiting public so as to improve its recreational use and potential educational value
- To establish effective liaison and co-operation with neighbouring landowners, legal users and relevant authorities

Main management issues

- Coppicing
- Dead and fallen timber
- Education/information
- Exotic trees
- Fencing
- Grazing
- Recreational Use
- Regeneration
- Research

Main strategies to achieve objectives

- Continue grazing research
- Manage exotic species
- Remove dumped material
- Maintain fencing
- Develop coppicing plan
- Leave dead and fallen timber
- Contain scrub colonization
- Conduct ecological surveys
- Acquire additional marginal land
- Erect display board
- Improve access
- Consider engaging services of a caretaker
- Liaise with interested parties
- Monitor

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Map 1 Site Location and Boundary Map (Ver. 1.00)

Map 2 Indicative Habitat Map

READER'S GUIDE

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) has produced this plan to provide ecological information about the site and to outline the main objectives for the conservation of the special features of the site. The purpose of this draft is to provide stakeholders the opportunity to input into the development of the plan.

The **Introduction** section outlines the **policy background** to the site's designation and the relevant legislation.

The **Site Description** section contains **general information** on the site's boundaries and ownership and on the statutory bodies with responsibility for its conservation. It also contains sections on the **physical aspects** of the site such as the geology and hydrology as well as the **biological features**, in particular, the habitats and species found there. **Land use** and cultural features are also described.

The **Conservation Value** section assesses the main ecological attributes of the site.

The **Management Framework** section outlines the management necessary for the conservation of the site. It starts with a set of specific **conservation objectives**. These are followed by the main **management issues** that may impact on the conservation of the site and the **strategies** that are proposed to achieve the conservation objectives. In the final section, the site is divided into management **zones** to indicate where each strategy applies.

The appendices include a **glossary** where scientific and technical terms are explained, **reference material** consulted in the preparation of the plan and a list of **notifiable actions** relevant to each habitat within the site.

By preparing, implementing and reviewing this plan on a five-year basis, DEHLG aims to achieve the objectives of the EU Habitats Directive in relation to this site.

INTRODUCTION

Legal Background of Conservation Plans

The legal basis for selection and designation of **Special Areas of Conservation** (SACs) is the **EU Habitats Directive**, which was adopted in 1992. Focusing on the conservation of natural and semi-natural habitats and species of flora and fauna, the Habitats Directive seeks to establish “Natura 2000”, a network of protected areas throughout the European Community. The Habitats Directive includes a list of habitats that require SAC designation and specific conservation measures. This list is known as Annex I and the habitats are referred to as Annex I habitats. On this list, habitats that require special attention because they are in danger of disappearance, are termed ‘priority habitats’. A second list, Annex II in the Habitats Directive comprises species that must be afforded special protection.

In Ireland, the habitats and species that must be afforded protection under the Habitats Directive include:

- 16 Annex I priority habitats that require particular attention – including raised bogs, active blanket bogs, turloughs and machair,
- 45 other Annex I habitats – such as certain types of heaths, lakes and woodlands,
- 25 Annex II species – including Otter, Freshwater Pearl Mussel and Killarney Fern.

It is the responsibility of each member state to designate SACs to protect the Annex I habitats and Annex II species. These sites, together with the **Special Protection Areas** (SPAs) designated under the **EU Birds Directive** (1979), form the European “Natura 2000” network.

The Birds Directive contains annexes, which are lists of birds that require particular conservation measures (Annex I), and also species that may be hunted, and species that may be sold. There are 28 Annex I species regularly occurring in Ireland including Whooper Swan, Greenland White-fronted Goose, Peregrine Falcon, Corncrake and Terns. Member states are also required to protect sites that are important for migratory species such as ducks, geese and waders.

The Habitats Directive was transposed into Irish law through the **European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997**. The **Wildlife Act 1976** is the main statute governing the protection of wildlife in Ireland and was amended in 2000 to take account of European law, particularly the Habitats and Birds Directives. The **Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000** also makes legal provision for the designation and protection of a national network of **Natural Heritage Areas** (NHAs). Over 1,100 proposed NHAs were published in 1995 and almost 400 of these are also selected as candidate SACs.

The European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 include the following points:

The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government must transmit a candidate list of sites to the European Commission for consideration.

Following adoption of this list by the Commission, the Minister will formally designate the sites as SACs.

Sites are legally protected once they are publicly advertised.

Landowners and other users with a legal entitlement should be notified of designation, and the Minister must make all reasonable efforts to do so. Notification also includes a list of activities that may alter, damage, destroy or interfere with the integrity of the site. A person who illegally damages a site may be prosecuted or required to repair damage.

Landowners and other users with a legal entitlement may appeal the designation of lands on scientific grounds, within three months of the designation notification..

Landowners and other users with a legal entitlement will be compensated for actual loss of income arising from restrictions imposed as a result of designation.

DEHLG is the government department with responsibility for the designation and protection of wildlife habitats, species and areas of conservation interest. As part of their responsibility in relation to biodiversity and wildlife under the Wildlife Acts (1976 and 2000), the Minister's brief extends far beyond the habitats and species listed in the annexes of the Habitats and Birds Directives. For this reason, cSAC conservation plans may deal with species that are not mentioned in these annexes.

Reasons for Designation of Ballyarr Wood cSAC

HABITATS LISTED IN ANNEX I OF THE EU HABITATS DIRECTIVE	CONSERVATION VALUE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles (EU Habitat Code 91A0) 	This is one of the best and largest examples of semi-natural deciduous woodland in the north-west of the country and forms an important part of Ireland's network of woodland reserves.

Implications of Site Designation for Landowners and other Site Users

In most areas designated as cSACs, current practices will not have to change significantly.

In cases where users with a legal entitlement are required to change practices or restrict activities to protect the wildlife interest of the site, compensation will be payable based on actual loss of income. See Appendix VII for more details.

If a user with a legal entitlement wishes to carry out certain activities, not covered by licence or consent from another statutory body, within the designated area, they must consult with, and get consent from, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. These activities are listed as "Notifiable Actions" for each habitat (see Appendix VI).

SITE DESCRIPTION

Location Including Site Boundaries

This site is located approximately mid way between the towns of Rathmelton and Kilmacrenan in County Donegal, on the southern side of the regional road (R249) connecting them, and approximately 8 kms north of the town of Letterkenny. It is situated on the eastern flank of a low ridge of hills (See Map 1).

Grid Ref.:	C18 20
Latitude:	N 55°1'30"
Longitude:	W 7°33'0"
Area:	30.2 hectares
Altitude Range:	40 m to 90 m above sea level
Townlands:	Ballyarr and Ballyarr Glebe

Site Boundaries

Townland boundaries represent the site boundaries along the western side of the site and along parts of the northern and eastern sides. Physical features represent most of the remaining boundaries, particularly along the south-eastern side where an old hedgerow divides the site from the adjacent fields of rough grassland and colonizing scrub. A track runs along the inside of this boundary for part of its length. At the north-western corner the woodland edge is the boundary, although scrub is encroaching onto the grassland beyond. The site is protected by a sheep and stock-proof fence running around the entire site on the internal side of the boundary.

Site Infrastructure

With the exception of a short length of access track at the central eastern side of the site, and the walking track running south-westwards from it, the site is devoid of any infrastructural development.

Legal Status

Ownership

This site has been in the ownership of the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government since 1982.

Designations of the Site

candidate Special Area of Conservation	Sitecode 000116	Published on <i>1st July 1999</i> .
proposed Natural Heritage Area	Sitecode 000116	Published on <i>1st March 1997</i>
Nature Reserve	It was established as a Nature Reserve under Statutory Instrument No. 345 of 1986.	

Past Status and Designation of the Site

Ballyarr Wood was formerly listed as an Area of Scientific Interest (ASI) of regional importance by An Foras Forbartha in its National Heritage Inventory, Areas of Scientific Interest in Ireland (1981).

Rights Pertaining to the Site

Rights of way	Access to the site is via a right of way.
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Government Departments and Agencies

Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG)	DEHLG is the government department with responsibility for the protection and conservation of Ireland's natural heritage.
National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS)	<p>NPWS is the section of the DEHLG responsible for maintaining the nature conservation value of the site. Periodic inspection of the site is carried out by the local Conservation Ranger.</p> <p>Regional staff also participate in research and survey projects by collecting data on the site, provide advice to planning authorities on the impacts of development applications and provide an education and advisory service to the public. See Appendix IX for further details of NPWS regional staff.</p>
Donegal County Council	Donegal County Council is the planning authority for the site. As such it is obliged to ensure appropriate assessment of the implications of developments requiring planning permission that may have an impact, either individually or in combination with other developments on the designated area.

Local Authority Policy in relation to the Site

Under Section 2.6.4 (see Appendix IV) of the County Donegal Development Plan 2000 proposed NHAs and sites designated under the Habitats Directive are identified by reference to a Landscape Conservation Map where they are distinguished. Ballyarr Wood is identified and categorized on this map as a SAC.

County Donegal Development Plan (Section 2.6.4) designates the hinterland of Ballyarr Wood as Landscape Category 2 (three categories exist, category 3 being of highest quality). Category 2 landscapes are described as highly scenic areas whose natural character has been modified by man's activities. Council policies regarding landscape conservation are set out in Appendix IV.

It is the stated objective (2.6.3) of Donegal County Council in the County Donegal Development Plan 2000 *'to have regard to proposed Natural Heritage Areas (as published to date) in relation to the Council's own activities and in assessment of planning applications'*. It recognises that within the NHA category there are two other categories, namely SPAs and SACs.

Under Policy No. 6 - Natural Heritage Areas, Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation (Section 2.6.4) *'The Council will inform Dúchas* of any planning applications or proposed service works likely to impact on sites'*. It continues that *'until an amendment to the Wildlife Act 1976 is passed, the Council cannot make more general policy guidelines in relation to developments within NHAs'*.

It recognises that in respect of SPAs and SACs *'the obligations of the Council in regard to Planning applications are set out in the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997'*.

'The proposed NHAs reflect the rich and diverse heritage resource which survives in the County. The Council views them in a positive rather than negative light. Like other heritage resources they can contribute, in themselves, to the wealth of experience and opportunity which the County offers to residents and visitors.'

The Council will work with relevant authorities, voluntary and community groups, to optimise the contribution of these or other heritage resources to the sustainable development of the County'.

(* Dúchas is now the National Parks and Wildlife Service)

Physical Features

Climate

This site, by virtue of its location at the north-western end of the country and at the western extremity of Europe, enjoys a temperate oceanic climate influenced by its proximity to the Atlantic Ocean. It generally experiences mild humid conditions without great fluctuations in temperature. Precipitation is relatively high with a mean monthly rainfall of 1,061 mm, a mean temperature of 9.3 degrees Celsius and a mean monthly wind speed of 16.3 knots. These statistics are based on meteorological data for the nearest Synoptic Station based at Malin Head which is located approximately 55 kms north-east of Ballyarr Wood (full details are listed in Appendix III).

Geology & Geomorphology

The bedrock is composed of quartzite formed in a ridge aligned in north east-south west direction. It is of the Kilmacrenan Succession within the Neoproterozoic, Dalradian Supergroup. It is exposed where occasional outcrops occur.

The bedrock is overlain by glacial drift. The glacial soils arise from the Pleistocene era when ice flows were channelled by the bedrock topography. The eroded rock material incorporated into the ice was deposited as the ice melted.

Soils & Soil Processes

The combination of the quartzite bedrock and glacial drift material results in a variety of soil types from deep brown-earth grading to shallow, podzolic soils.

Hydrology & Water Quality

A small stream touches the site at its north-western corner. This flows northwards into the Leannan River which ultimately discharges into Lough Swilly. The site incorporates wet pockets where drainage is poor. These occur, particularly at the north-eastern and south-eastern ends, and are now characterized by wet heath, wet woodland and wet grassland.

Biological Features

Habitats and Vegetation

Note: Throughout the conservation plan, habitats are named and described under two different systems: the Annex I habitat is listed in the EU Habitats Interpretation Manual Version 15/2(1999), while all other habitats are as listed according to the classification system of ‘A Guide to Habitats in Ireland’ (Fossitt, 2000).

The following table lists the habitats within the site. The Annex I habitat of the Habitats Directive for which the site was selected is listed, with the relevant Guide to Habitats category also shown. The Indicative Habitat map for the site is presented in Map 2. The percentage area presented for each habitat type is based on the approximate geographic area of each habitat, as shown in Map 2.

Habitats Found within Ballyarr Wood cSAC

ANNEX I HABITAT TYPE	HABITAT CATEGORY	% AREA
Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles (91AO)	Oak-birch-holly woodland (WN1)	71
	Wet willow-alder-ash woodland (WN6)	17
	Wet heath (HH3)	11
	Scrub (WS1)	Included in oak woodland
	Dense bracken (HD1)	Included in heath
	Wet grassland (GS4)	Included in wet woodland
	Buildings and artificial surfaces (BL3)	1

Annex I Habitat:

Old sessile oak woodlands with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles (91AO) (71% of total site area)

Old oak woodland is the predominant habitat type covering the major part of this site. With its constituent species it provides an almost complete cover and a closed canopy where it occurs. The woodland occurs on a relatively fertile soil permitting the growth of such species as Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Wood Sanicle (*Sanicula europea*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scriptus*). Sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*) is the dominant species with quality varying depending on location. A gradation can be observed from the shallow podzols on rocky knolls, dominated by scrubby oak, Downy birch (*Betula pubescens*) and holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) with a ground cover largely of Great Woodrush (*Luzula sylvatica*), Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*) and ferns, to the brown-earth type soils which support large oak, a shrub layer of hazel and an herb-rich ground flora. Much of the area is intermediate between these two extremes, with the poorest areas at the north-west corner and the richest on the eastern margin. Occasional Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) occur with a small clump of mature beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) located at the southern end.

The understorey is very well developed, varying between domination by holly and hazel as described above, reflecting the varying underlying conditions. Other scrub species include Whitethorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) is plentiful but is particularly concentrated at certain locations. In addition pockets dominated by holly and/or hazel occur where the canopy of oak is broken. Pockets of old hazel coppice also occur. Carpets of bluebells are characteristic in the better soils. Other ground flora species include Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*), Opposite-leaved Golden saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*), Early-purple orchid (*Orchis mascula*), Common Twayblade (*Listera ovata*), Speedwell (*Veronica* sp.) and Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*). Ferns include Hard Fern (*Blechnum spicant*), Hart's Tongue Fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium*), Hay-scented Buckler Fern (*Dryopteris aemula*), Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*), Common Polypody (*Polypodium vulgare*) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

A narrow band of more diverse, mixed, broadleaved woodland extends along the north-eastern edge of the site. It comprises a variety of species including Sessile Oak, Downy Birch, Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*), rowan, alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and beech. Understorey species include holly, hazel, Whitethorn, Blackthorn, Common Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and the climbing honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*). Occasional young Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) also grow here. The western side of this block is composed predominantly of birch which is extending its range onto the heath. The herb layer is typical of this woodland type with Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Bluebell, Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*) and Common Dog Violet (*Viola riviniana*) all present. In addition Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), Broad-leaved Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*) and Pignut (*Conopodium majus*) grow here. Navelwort (*Umbelicus rupestris*) is much in evidence and grows profusely on banks and rocks.

Other Habitats:

Wet willow-alder-ash Woodland (WN6)

At the north-eastern end of the site an area of mixed broadleaved woodland, predominantly wet in character occurs. However, it contains considerable diversity and is a mosaic of habitats with species composition reflecting variations in underlying conditions including soil type and hydrological character. The predominant tree species are goat willow and birch, with some alder and occasional ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and beech. Holly and hazel form an understorey. Rowan is also present with clumps of Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*). Ivy (*Hedera helix*) is common in places. Ground flora exhibits considerable diversity also reflecting soil moisture content. In the wetter areas Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*), Cuckoo Flower (*Cardamine pratensis*), Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), Marsh Cinquefoil (*Potentilla palustris*), Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*), Woodruff (*Galium odoratum*) and occasional Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*) are present. Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*) occurs also. Mosses are also plentiful including *Polytrichum commune* and *Thuidium tamariscinum*. *Sphagnum* grows in the wetter areas closer to the heath. In drier pockets and along banks Wood Sorrel, Bluebell, Lesser Celandine, Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Woodrush and Greater Stitchwort are present.

A band of wet woodland extends along the south-eastern margin of the site. It displays considerably less diversity than the previously described wood, being composed predominantly of willow. Occasional birch and alder are present. It contains small open pockets of wet grassland, representing former fields now being invaded and colonized by scrub. Herb vegetation is dominated by Meadowsweet, Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), Silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*), Meadow Buttercup and some Soft Rush. Wetter pockets, especially in valley bottoms, also carry wet woodland.

Wet Heath (HH3)

An area of wet heath occurs at the north-eastern end of the site in mosaic with small pockets of other habitats. It is a flat rocky area overlain by thin peat. Rock outcrop is much in evidence. Vegetation is typical of such habitat and predominantly comprises Ling (*Calluna vulgaris*), Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*), Bilberry, *Sphagnum capillifolium* and bog lichens (*Cladonia* spp.). A considerable diversity of other species is present, including Harestail Cotton-grass (*Eriophorum vaginatum*), Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*), Bell Heather (*Erica cinerea*), Common Milkwort (*Polygala vulgaris*), Lousewort (*Pedicularis sylvatica*), Tormantil (*Potentilla erecta*) and sedges (*Carex* spp.). It becomes drier towards the north-eastern end with characteristics of acid grassland. Grasses, including Bent (*Agrostis* sp.), are more predominant together with knapweed (*Centaurea* sp.), Devil's Bit Scabius (*Succisa pratensis*) and Early Purple Orchid. Small dense bracken-dominated pockets occur here also, with carpets of Bluebells flowering before the bracken unfurls.

The heath is being invaded by scrub species including gorse, birch, rowan and willow, with the adjacent woodland gradually encroaching upon it from all sides.

Buildings and Artificial Surfaces (BL3)

The access gravelled track and the track extending from it and running south-westwards through the site are the only artificial surfaces within the site.

Flora:

The habitat descriptions above include a listing of the principal plant species to be found in them. A more comprehensive list of plant species recorded on the site is included in Appendix V. Further information on the flora of the site can be found in a recent undated report produced by Drouineau and Bachelet (undated).

Fauna:

Invertebrates

A list of moths recorded during a survey in 1995 is included in Appendix V.

Birds

There is little available recorded information on avian species occupying the site.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) listed in Annex I of the EU Bird Directive and in the Irish Red Data Book, where it is classified as rare, forage over the site.

Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) breed on site.

Mammals

There is little recorded information available on mammals utilizing the site.

There is ample evidence throughout the site of the presence of Badgers (*Meles meles*) which reside here. Irish Hare (*Lepus timidus hibernicus*) also occurs. Both are listed in the Irish Red Data Book where they are classified as internationally important.

There is ample evidence of the presence of Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) on the site.

Land Use

Land use on the site

Nature Conservation	The site is devoted to nature conservation, and existing management methods are designed with this objective in mind.
Research	A research project is in progress to evaluate and monitor the impact of grazing by ponies on the habitats within the site. This is one element of a regional grazing scheme aimed at evaluating the use of grazing animals as tools in nature conservation. Six ponies were introduced in November 2001 as a means of improving the potential for regeneration and to maintain the bog/heath and grassland areas. Baseline vegetation surveys were conducted and a series of monitoring plots was established, one each in four different habitats, from which the animals were excluded. A 20 meter control transect and 100 square meter quadrant, was established for each of these exclusion areas. Regular monitoring of the vegetation to assess the impact of grazing is part of the ongoing research project.
Recreation	The site is accessible to the public and a track runs south-westwards through it from the entrance.
Dumping	A limited amount of dumping occurs on the site.

Land use adjacent to the site

Agriculture	Agriculture is the principal activity conducted on the land in the hinterland of the site. It takes the form predominantly of grass production and pasture on land with a pattern of small fields and hedgerows. Rough grazing occurs on some areas of wet grassland and scrub in the more immediate vicinity of the site, and land of similar character extends further afield, particularly on the western side of the site.
Woodland	The margin of broadleaved woodland is expanding at various locations around the site. These extensions of Ballyarr Wood, beyond the existing boundaries of the cSAC, are on privately owned land and are unmanaged.
Archaeology	Two Recorded Monuments are located in land adjacent to the site at the north-western corner. These are listed as numbers 15 and 16 in the Sites and Monuments Record where they are described respectively as a Souterrain and a Cist.

Past human use

There is evidence of former human occupation on the site in the form of the remains of a residence on its eastern side. In addition, old field systems indicate earlier agricultural activity, particularly at the north-eastern end and along the south-eastern margin. These are rapidly reverting to woodland, the latter area particularly so, with a closed canopy now covering a considerable portion of it.

Recorded Monuments and Other Features

Further evidence of earlier human activity on the site is present in the form of a single Recorded Monument inside the eastern boundary. This is listed in the Sites and Monuments Record where it is described as a Cashel. Cashels or stone forts were erected as protected enclosures around farmsteads mainly during the Early Christian period. The details of this monument are reproduced in the grid beneath as they appear in the said Record, and the location of the monument is shown on Map 2.

MONUMENT NO.	DESCRIPTION	NAT. GRID	TOWNLAND
20	Cashel	21428 42412	Ballyarr

CONSERVATION VALUE OF BALLYARR WOOD CSAC

This is one of the best and largest examples of native semi-natural woodland in county Donegal and north-west Ireland. It is one of a few remaining oak woods in county Donegal and forms an important part of Ireland's network of woodland reserves. The presence of good quality oak is of significance as a genetic resource, the trees being adapted to the extreme oceanic climate of the north-west. The wood has a well developed structure, with an high canopy of well grown oaks, a good understorey of holly and hazel and rich ground flora. Natural regeneration is occurring. In addition, the range of other habitats, particularly the open areas of heath and wet grassland, enhance the diversity, value and character of the woodland into which they are incorporated. The core woodland area of the site is developing naturally and has seen little alteration by human intervention or activity except grazing and former coppicing. While relatively small in scale it is a viable, stable, sustainable woodland forming part of a larger area of woodland and scrub, which appears to be extending its boundaries outwards. It is aesthetically pleasing, particularly in early summer, when the carpets of bluebells provide a typical and impressive display.

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Conservation Objectives

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain at favourable conservation status areas designated as candidate Special Areas of Conservation. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

According to the EU Habitats Directive, favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and
- the ecological factors that 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 as defined below.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced or 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.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Objective 1: | To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Old Sessile Oak Woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles (71% of the site). |
| Objective 2: | To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the site. |
| Objective 3: | To provide facilities on site for the visiting public so as to improve its recreational use and potential educational value. |
| Objective 4: | To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities. |

Management Issues

The following are the main management issues for the site:

- **Coppicing**
- **Dead and fallen timber**
- **Education/Information**
- **Exotic trees**
- **Fencing**
- **Grazing**
- **Recreational use**
- **Regeneration**
- **Research**

Coppicing

Coppicing which took place in the past no longer occurs. In the longer term, with the objective of improving ecological diversity, and providing niches for individual species, particularly avi-fauna, relevant strategies will be developed, adopted and implemented.

Dead and fallen timber

Dead and fallen timber will as appropriate, subject to safety considerations, be cut or left in situ to enhance the biodiversity value of the site.

Education/Information

At present, the Nature Reserve is under-utilised as an educational resource. Given the quality of this site and its proximity to the growing urban population of Letterkenny its considerable potential as an educational resource will be maximised.

Exotic Trees

There are a number of non-native tree species (mainly sycamore and beech) present in the woodland. However, due to their limited number, this is not a pressing issue. The development of strategies to address the matter will be advanced during the life of the plan.

Fencing

A sheep and stock-proof fence encloses and protects the entire site. In the interest of its long term management, and to prevent any potential damage to the habitats from trespass by animals, a regular programme of maintenance is essential and will be provided for.

Grazing

Controlled grazing to maintain the quality and extent of open areas within the site is an issue. It is closely related to the research project described beneath, the outcome and results of which will assist in determining future policy in this regard.

Recreational use

A track running south-westwards through the site from the entrance facilitates public access for recreational use in the form of walking. In the interests of the visiting public a programme of maintenance and improvement of this route is an important aspect of the management and planning for the site in the light of its acknowledged recreational value and potential.

Regeneration

Natural regeneration is occurring on the site and colonization of the open areas of wet grassland and heath by scrub is ongoing. The result is that these areas are being enclosed, and in the case of the former almost eliminated. Active intervention is necessary to arrest the process and retain the diversity provided by these habitats. The grazing research programme may be of benefit in this regard.

Research

A research project, being part of a wider regional scheme, aimed at enhancing biodiversity and conditions for natural regeneration of trees, based on grazing by a small number of introduced ponies is ongoing. This will continue and the impacts on the site will be monitored by reference to controlled exclosures. The results will influence future conservation strategies.

There is a distinct lack of recorded information on all forms of fauna, except moths, supported by or occupying the various habitats which constitute this site. It is important in the context of the formulation of a management plan and the development of specific conservation strategies that such knowledge be available. This would enable provision to be made for the specific requirements of any species of note which may be present. The diverse character of the woodland, combined with the open areas represented by other habitats within the site, and complimented by the adjacent ecosystems, may result in a rich diversity of avi-fauna which might benefit from conservation strategies focussed on them. Surveys are required to fill the gaps in knowledge.

General Strategies

Specific strategies that relate to the above objectives are outlined below. However, there are a number of strategies that relate to the site as a whole. These are as follows:

Implement plan

DEHLG will seek to ensure that the aims of this conservation plan are achieved through:

- liaison with neighbouring landowners, relevant authorities and interested parties.
- enforcement of Regulations under the Habitats/Birds Directives and the Wildlife Acts.
- enforcement of other relevant legislation.

Establish a monitoring regime

The monitoring regime for the site will comprise:

Scientific monitoring Monitoring of the conservation status of the site will be done by, or on behalf of, the staff of the Monitoring Section of the NPWS or staff working to NPWS in accordance with the procedures laid down by that section.

Protocols for monitoring Ballyarr Wood cSAC will be developed, in consultation with other agencies where appropriate, to determine if the site is being maintained at favourable conservation status.

Site surveillance Regular inspection of the site by the NPWS staff, with special attention to the grazing programme will identify any major changes, damaging operations, or threats should they arise.

Enforce notifiable actions

Certain activities may be restricted in SACs. Notifiable Actions for particular habitats and species are listed in Appendix VI of this plan. Consent from the Minister may be required before these actions may be carried out within the designated area. For example removal of foliage, moss or other materials is a Notifiable Action for woodlands.

Specific Strategies

Objective 1.

To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status; Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles (71 % of the site).

Strategies:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1.1 Continue research project | NPWS will continue the regional grazing research project in an effort to enhance biodiversity and the conditions for natural regeneration of trees. NPWS will monitor the results. |
| 1.2 Manage exotic species | A programme for the long term removal of exotic trees will be developed. Implementation will commence during the term of this plan, with a concentration on the removal of seedlings and saplings. |
| 1.3 Remove dumped material | NPWS will remove the abandoned/dumped materials from the site and dispose of them in an appropriate manner. |
| 1.4 Maintain fencing | NPWS will ensure that the boundary fence is regularly maintained to ensure that animal trespass does not occur and that the integrity of the site is protected. |
| 1.5 Develop coppicing plan | During the 5 year lifetime of this plan NPWS will develop strategies for the re-commencement of coppicing. |
| 1.6 Leave dead and fallen timbers | Dead and fallen timber will as appropriate, subject to safety considerations, be cut or left in situ to enhance the biodiversity value of the site. |

Objective 2.

To maintain the extent, species-richness and biodiversity of the site.

Strategies:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2.1 Contain scrub colonization | Colonization of the heath and small pockets of wet grassland by scrub is an ongoing phenomenon. More active intervention, in the form of removal of young saplings, in association with the grazing programme, will be instituted by NPWS to maintain these open areas and prevent further encroachment onto and loss of them. |
| 2.2 Carry out surveys | NPWS will, subject to resources, conduct or commission surveys to establish the populations and status of mammals, birds and invertebrates occupying the site. |
| 2.3 Acquire additional marginal land | NPWS will strive to acquire suitable adjacent land, should it become available, to facilitate enlargement of the site, enhancement of the habitats and improvement of infrastructure. |

Strategies 1.1 to 1.5 also apply.

Objective 3.

To provide facilities on site for the visiting public so as to improve its recreational use and potential educational value.

Strategies:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 3.1 Erect display board | NPWS will erect a simple display board outlining the status of the site and its ecological value. |
| 3.2 Improve access | NPWS will develop a car park to serve the site, provide an entrance stile, establish a circular path through the wood and erect finger-post signage, including directional and safety signs so as to improve facilities for and encourage greater usage by school groups and the visiting public. |
| 3.3 Consider caretaker | NPWS will explore the possibility of engaging the services of a caretaker to afford ongoing protection to the site and the facilities thereon. |

Objective 4.

To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.

Strategies:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 4.1 Liaise with interested parties | NPWS will strive to initiate and maintain effective liaison with site users, relevant authorities, schools, local organizations and interested parties on achieving the objectives for conservation of the site. |
|---|--|

Zoning

Note: Zoning is the division of a nature conservation site and neighbouring areas into a number of sub-units. Four types of zones are identified (not necessarily all occurring within a site): A, B and C are zone types within the site. D is a zone type outside the site where activities may have an impact on the site. The relevant strategies are listed for each site.

Zone B: Active Management

Areas of high conservation value where high management input is needed to maintain, rehabilitate, restore to a more desirable state. All of the site is allocated to this management zone therefore no separate Management Zone map is required.

B1: Woodland, heath, scrub, bracken and grassland.

All of the site is included in this active management zone.

All the Management Strategies and General Strategies apply.

Summary of Specific Strategies

Note: It is implicit with all the strategies presented that their implementation is dependent on availability of adequate resources in terms of staff, expertise and financial resources. Also, that cooperation with landowners and other key stakeholders is key to achieving the stated objectives.

	Strategy	Action required	Who to implement	When/Duration/Frequency	Estimated Total Cost	Additional Resources needed
Gen	Implement Plan	Liaise with stakeholders and relevant authorities	NPWS	Ongoing		
		Enforce regulations and legislation	NPWS	Ongoing		
Gen	Establish Monitoring Regime	Scientific Monitoring	NPWS	Ongoing		
1.1	Continue research project	Continue pony grazing research project and monitor	NPWS	Ongoing		
1.2	Manage exotic species	Establish programme to remove exotic trees and commence implementation	NPWS	Phased		
1.3	Remove dumped material	Remove dumped/abandoned materials	NPWS	One off		
1.4	Maintain fencing	Maintain boundary fence	NPWS	Ongoing		
1.5	Develop coppicing plan	Develop strategy for re-commencement of coppicing	NPWS	Ongoing		
1.6	Leave dead and fallen timbers	Dead and fallen timber will be cut and left in situ	NPWS	Ongoing		
2.1	Contain scrub colonization	Intervene to prevent further colonization of open areas	NPWS	Ongoing		
2.2	Carry out surveys	Conduct/commission surveys of fauna species	NPWS	Ongoing		
2.3	Acquire additional marginal land	Strive to acquire suitable adjacent land	NPWS	As soon as feasible		
3.1	Erect display board	Erect notice/display outlining status and value of the site	NPWS	One off		
3.2	Improve access	Develop car park, provide stile, establish circular path and erect fingerpost signage.	NPWS	As soon as feasible		
3.3	Consider caretaker	Explore possibility of engaging the services of a caretaker	NPWS	Once off		
4.1	Liaise with interested parties	Initiate and maintain effective liaison with relevant individuals and bodies.	NPWS	Ongoing		

APPENDIX I:

GLOSSARY

ALTITUDE - Vertical height above sea level.

ANNEX I - of the EU Birds Directive, lists birds that are strictly protected so that they cannot be killed, captured, disturbed or traded.

ANNEX I - of the EU Habitats Directive, lists habitats including priority habitats for which SACs have to be designated.

ANNEX II - of the EU Habitats Directive is a list of species for which SACs have to be designated.

ASIs - Areas of Scientific Interest. Areas that were identified in the 1970s as being of conservation interest. The NHA designation developed from ASIs.

BIODIVERSITY – A general term used to describe all aspects of biological diversity, including: the number of species present in a given environment; the genetic diversity present within a species; the number of different ecosystems present within a given environment.

BIRDS DIRECTIVE (Council Directive 79/ 409/ 2nd April 1979) - Under this Directive Ireland is required to conserve the habitats of two categories of wild birds: 1) Listed rare and vulnerable species and 2) Regularly occurring migratory species. The Directive also obliges Ireland to conserve wetlands, especially those of international importance and regulates the hunting and trading of wildbirds. It was transposed into Irish legislation by the EU (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997.

CANOPY LAYER - The tallest tree layer in a wood.

COMMUNITY - a well-defined assemblage of plants and/or animals, clearly distinguishable from other such assemblages.

CONSERVATION STATUS - The sum of the influences acting on a habitat and its typical species that may affect its long term distribution, structure and functions. Also refers to the long-term survival of its typical species within the European territory of the Member States.

COPPICING - The process of cutting trees or bushes close to the ground to allow new shoots to grow from the stump, on a rotational basis.

DEHLG - Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

DEVELOPMENT PLANS - Local Authorities (Co. Councils & Corporations) are obliged under statute to produce a document which sets out the planned development of their areas for a given number of years. In the future Local Authorities will be asked to incorporate designated NHAs, SACs and SPAs classifications into their development plans.

DIVERSITY - see biodiversity.

ECOLOGY - The study of the interactions between organisms, and their physical, chemical and biological environment.

ELEVATION - The height of something above a given place, usually above sea level.

ENCROACHMENT - The invasion of a species (usually plants) into areas previously uncolonised. This term is often used when an undesirable species advances at the expense of a desirable species or habitat.

ENVIRONMENT – The biological and physical conditions in which an organism lives.

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency

EXOTIC SPECIES - Are those species which are considered to be non native.

FAUNA - Animal life.

FAVOURABLE CONSERVATION STATUS - The conservation status of a natural habitat will be taken as “favourable” when: its natural range and areas 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.

FLORA - plant life.

GEOMORPHOLOGY – The study of the form and structure of the landscape, which is shaped by the underlying geology.

HABITAT - Refers to the environment defined by specific abiotic and biotic factors, in which a species lives at any stage of its biological cycle. In general terms it is a species home. In the Habitats Directive this term is used more loosely to mean plant communities and areas to be given protection.

HABITATS DIRECTIVE - (Council Directive 92/43/EEC). The Directive on the conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna. This Directive seeks to legally protect wildlife and its habitats. . It was transposed into Irish legislation by the EU (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997.

HERBACEOUS - Seed plants with non-woody green stems.

HERBICIDE - A chemical or biological preparation which kills plants.

HYDROLOGY - The movement of water through a catchment area including freshwater and seawater inputs, water level changes and drainage mechanisms which are all influenced by the underlying geology.

INSECTICIDE - A chemical preparation which kills insects.

INVERTEBRATES - Animals without backbones.

LATITUDE – The angular distance measured in degrees north or south of the equator.

LICHENS – An organism that consists of a fungus growing in close association (symbiosis) with an alga.

MANAGEMENT - a) Controlling processes within a site (this can be actively carrying out work or can be doing nothing), preferably in accordance with a conservation plan. - b) The practical implementation of the management plan. - c) Undertaking any task or project identified in the management plan, including the identification of new opportunities.

MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS - The Wildlife Act, 1976, enables DEHLG to enter into voluntary management agreements with private landowners. Under these agreements landowners will manage their lands to ensure that desirable wildlife habitats and species are protected. Payment for such responsible management may be agreed. However, the number and type of such

agreements will vary depending on the resources available to the National Parks and Wildlife at the time.

MONITORING – A repeat or repeats of a survey using the same methodology. Designed to look for or measure specific changes and the rate or extent of change. Used to check the “health” quantity or quality of a habitat or species.

MOSAIC - Used to describe habitats that occur together and cannot easily be mapped separately.

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (NPWS) – the section of the Environment Infrastructure and Services division of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government with responsibility for nature conservation and implementation of Government conservation policy as enunciated by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

NATURA 2000 - A network of sites across the European Community, selected for the purpose of conserving natural habitats and species of plants and animals which are rare, endangered or vulnerable in the European Community. SACs and SPAs form the Natura 2000 network.

NATURAL HABITAT - Can be aquatic or terrestrial areas distinguished by geographic, abiotic and biotic features, whether entirely natural or semi-natural.

NATURE RESERVES (NRs) - Under National legislation, the Wildlife Act of 1976, a number of sites have been designated as Nature Reserves. These areas are mainly owned by the NPWS and are managed for the purposes of conservation.

NGOs - Non- Governmental Organisations.

NHAs - Proposed Natural Heritage Areas. These are areas that are important for wildlife conservation. Some of these sites are small, such as roosting areas for rare bats; others can be large such as a blanket bog or a sand dune system.

NOTIFIABLE ACTIONS - Actions specified under the cSAC regulations and are listed in the appendices of a conservation plan. These are actions which could cause damage to the site, and for which prior approval is required before they can be carried out.

NPWS - National Parks and Wildlife Service

ORGANISM - Any living thing.

OS – Ordnance Survey

PATROL MONITORING - Regular monitoring of a site usually carried out by the Conservation Ranger to check for damaging activities and to carry out other activities such as to assess the vegetation, to assess the effectiveness of the management regime on the condition of the site, etc.

PRECIPITATION - Water moving from the atmosphere to the ground in the form of rain, fog, mist, snow or hail.

PRIORITY HABITAT - A subset of the habitats listed in Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. These are habitats which are in danger of disappearance and whose natural range mainly falls within the territory of the European Union. These habitats are of the highest conservation status and require measures to ensure that their favourable conservation status is maintained.

PROGRAMME - When several closely related tasks are grouped together to achieve an objective.

RARE - An ecological term applied to distribution of species when assessed on a national grid reference system. The assessment is made on the basis of the number of occupied 10 km National Grid squares. A species is described as rare if has been recorded in to 3-10, 10 km squares.

RARITY - Refers to how common or scarce a site/habitat/species is.

RED DATA BOOK – A register of threatened species that includes definitions of degrees of threat.

RED DATA BOOK 1 (vascular plants) This Red Data Book deals with rare and threatened flowering plants and ferns of Ireland with an account of their present distributions and conservation status.

RED DATA BOOK 2 (mammals, birds, amphibians and fish) - identifies those species threatened in Ireland or those species whose populations are considered to be of international importance, though not necessarily threatened in Ireland. It details the current state of Irish vertebrates and provides a concise summary of the various legislation for each species.

REPS - Rural Environmental Protection Scheme. This is an Agri-Environmental programme which seeks to draw up agreements with farmers, according to the type of farming, landscape and features on the land. The overall objectives of REPS are to achieve: the use of farming practices which reduce the polluting effects of agriculture by minimising nutrient loss- an environmentally favourable extensification of crop farming, and sheep farming and cattle farming; - ways of using agricultural land which are compatible with protection and improvement of the environment, the countryside, the landscape, natural resources the soil and genetic diversity; - long-term set-aside of agricultural land for reasons connected with the environment; - land management for public access;- education and training for farmers in types of farming compatible with the requirements of environmental protection and upkeep of the countryside.

SACs - Special Areas of Conservation have been selected from the prime examples of wildlife conservation areas in Ireland. Their legal basis from which selection is derived is The Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC of the 21st May 1992). SAC's have also been known as cSAC's which stands for "candidate Special Areas of Conservation", and pcSAC's which stands for "proposed candidate Special Areas of Conservation."

SCIENTIFIC MONITORING - this is carried out by the monitoring section of the NPWS, whose function here is to ensure that the favourable conservation status of the site is maintained and where possible improved.

SPAs - Special Protection Areas for Birds are areas which have been designated to ensure the conservation of certain categories of birds. Ireland is required to conserve the habitats of two categories of wild birds under the European Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/ 409/ 2nd April 1979). The NPWS is responsible for ensuring that such areas are protected from significant damage.

SPECIES - the lowest unit of classification normally used for plants and animals.

STRATEGY - A course of action or a broad approach towards achieving an objective . It is the general thrust of management towards achieving an objective. It is a description of how the objective is to be achieved.

SUCCESSION - The non-seasonal, directional continuous pattern of colonisation and extinction on a site by populations.

SURVEY - a) Study/visit to produce an inventory of what is present / record a situation.- b) Establishing a baseline (study).

SUSTAINABLE - The highest rate at which a renewable resource can be used without reducing its supply (without causing damage to the resource).

TERRESTRIAL - A term used to refer to living on land. The opposite of aquatic.

TOPOGRAPHY - the study or detailed description of the surface features of a region.

UNDERSTOREY - The plant layer below the tree canopy in a woodland.

VERTEBRATES - Animals with backbones.

ZONING - The division of a nature conservation site (& neighbouring lands) into a number of sub-units. Within each zone the management prescriptions will be reasonably uniform and will differ in type or intensity from the other zones in the plan.

APPENDIX II: REFERENCE MATERIAL

Map References:

- O.S. 1/2 inch (1:126,720) map: No. 1
- O.S. Discovery (1:50,000) map: No. 6
- O.S. 6 inch (1: 10,560) map: Sheet 045

Databases :

- NHA database, NPWS, The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2.
- Natura 2000 database, NPWS, The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2.

Photographic Coverage:

- Aerial photo No. 2200, Flight Line 7. Date: 11/05/00. NPWS, The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2.
- Photos 2000

Relevant Legislation:

- S.I. No. 39 of 1976: Wildlife Act 1976
- S.I. No. 38 of 2000: Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000
- S.I. No. 94/1997: European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997.
- Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts 1963-2002.

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APPENDIX III: CLIMATE

MALIN HEAD													
monthly and annual mean and extreme values													
1961-1990													
TEMPERATURE (<i>degrees Celsius</i>)	<i>jan</i>	<i>feb</i>	<i>mar</i>	<i>apr</i>	<i>may</i>	<i>jun</i>	<i>jul</i>	<i>aug</i>	<i>sep</i>	<i>oct</i>	<i>nov</i>	<i>dec</i>	<i>year</i>
<i>mean daily max.</i>	7.6	7.5	8.7	10.3	12.7	15	16.2	16.6	15.3	13	9.8	8.4	11.8
<i>mean daily min.</i>	3.2	2.9	3.7	5	7.1	9.6	11.4	11.4	10.1	8.3	5.2	4.2	6.8
<i>mean</i>	5.4	5.2	6.2	7.6	9.9	12.3	13.8	14	12.7	10.7	7.5	6.3	9.3
<i>absolute max.</i>	13.9	13.8	19	19.5	24.7	25	27	25.3	23.2	19.6	16	15.1	27
<i>absolute min.</i>	-6.2	-6.2	-4.4	-1.8	-0.5	2.6	5.6	5.2	2	1	-2.5	-5.5	-6.2
<i>mean no. of days with air frost</i>	3.4	3.3	1.6	0.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.4	1.8	11
<i>mean no. of days with ground frost</i>	9.6	9.8	7.4	4.3	1	0	0	0	0.1	0.3	3.7	6.7	42.9
RELATIVE HUMIDITY (%)													
<i>mean at 0900UTC</i>	83	82	81	79	79	81	84	84	83	83	82	83	82
<i>mean at 1500UTC</i>	80	77	76	76	76	78	80	79	78	78	79	81	78
SUNSHINE (hours)													
<i>mean daily duration</i>	1.2	2.2	3.1	5.1	6.2	5.7	4.3	4.3	3.5	2.4	1.5	0.9	3.4
<i>greatest daily duration</i>	7.5	9.2	11.1	14.1	15.5	16.2	16.1	14.8	11.9	9.4	7.6	6.7	16.2
<i>mean no. of days with no sun</i>	11	7	6	3	2	2	3	3	4	6	8	12	67
RAINFALL (mm)													
<i>mean monthly total</i>	114.4	76.3	85.9	58.4	59.2	64.4	72.4	91.3	102.1	118	114.9	103.2	1060.6
<i>greatest daily total</i>	36.9	24.1	26.3	36.1	29.8	32.5	26.2	41.5	53.5	63.2	56.1	33.5	63.2
<i>mean no. of days with $\geq 0.2\text{mm}$</i>	22	17	21	17	17	18	19	20	21	22	22	23	237
<i>mean no. of days with $\geq 1.0\text{mm}$</i>	19	13	16	12	12	13	13	15	16	18	18	18	182
<i>mean no. of days with $\geq 5.0\text{mm}$</i>	9	6	7	4	4	4	5	6	7	8	8	7	76
WIND (knots)													
<i>mean monthly speed</i>	19	18.4	17.9	15.1	14.2	13.2	13.2	13.2	15.7	17.5	18.3	19	16.3
<i>max. gust</i>	91	86	90	69	71	74	74	67	98	76	76	88	98
<i>max. mean 10-minute speed</i>	64	57	67	47	49	52	55	45	66	57	56	59	67
<i>mean no. of days with gales</i>	11.2	8.6	8	3.4	2.3	1.3	0.8	1.5	3.8	6.7	8.7	9.7	66
WEATHER (mean no. of days with...)													
<i>snow or sleet</i>	6.6	6	4.6	2.4	0.2	0	0	0	0	0.1	1.9	3.9	25.8
<i>snow lying at 0900UTC</i>	0.9	1	0.5	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.8	3.3
<i>hail</i>	8.6	5.8	7.9	4.7	1.9	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.6	3.1	7.9	7.3	48.4
<i>thunder</i>	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	5.9
<i>fog</i>	0.4	0.5	0.7	1.9	1	2	2.2	1.3	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.4	11.8

Source: Met Éireann

APPENDIX IV: PLANNING POLICIES

County Donegal Development Plan 2000

Policy relating to Landscape Conservation

Section 2.6.4 Policy No 1. Landscape Conservation

The core principles underlying the Council's policies for landscape conservation are to give the highest degree of protection to the areas of highest scenic quality and to adopt a positive attitude to development proposals in areas of relatively lower scenic landscape quality.

In Landscape Category 2 areas it is the Council's policy 'to conserve the scenic landscapes of these areas by more specific control of types of development and categories of users. Priority will be given to the indigenous rural population building permanent houses and holiday homes will in general not be permitted'.

Under Section 2.6.5 the County Plan states that *'new development within the Landscapes 1, 2 and 3 will be guided by the general principles and policies set out above and by the more specific policies set out below'* for Category 2 Areas:-

'New housing development for both permanent and holiday homes will be permitted in accordance with the strategic development control policies set out in Section 2.5.5 Guiding Development:- Housing.

Agricultural development will be permitted subject to location, siting, and design and subject to mitigating environmental consideration in appropriate circumstances

The development of natural resources like wind and water power, fishery and aquaculture industries will be subject to integration and environmental considerations

The construction of electricity poles, masts and pylons will be subject to the application of the "least visual harmful route" principle and will have regard to any other relevant environmental consideration

The development of resource-related tourist projects other than standalone accommodation will be permitted. (The "holiday home village" policy set out in Housing Policy No1 is excluded from this)

The development of agri-tourist projects, excluding the development of caravan parks, will be permitted

The development of caravan parks will be encouraged in those areas set out in Appendix No I SPG No. 5.

The developers of hotels and guest houses will be encouraged to locate within the existing towns and villages where the optimum use can be made of the infrastructure and where the service sector of these centres can benefit’.

It further states that ‘new development will not be permitted between roads and the sea, lakes and rivers where it would:-

Restrict the views or prospects from the road

Intrude significantly on the view or prospect

Materially alter the view or prospect’

APPENDIX V: DETAILED INFORMATION ON FLORA AND FAUNA

Flora

Trees and shrubs
Bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>)
Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>)
Ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>)
Ling (<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>)
Bell Heather (<i>Erica cinerea</i>)
Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>)
Holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>)
Whitethorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>)
Blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>)
Gorse (<i>Ulex europaeus</i>).
Rowan (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>)
Goat Willow (<i>Salix caprea</i>)
Downy Birch (<i>Betula pubescens</i>)
Alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>)
Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>)
Sessile Oak (<i>Quercus petraea</i>)
Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>)
Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)
Horse Chestnut (<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>)
Scots Pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>)
Herbaceous Species
Bilberry (<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>)
Bog Asphodel (<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>)
Common Milkwort (<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>)
Lousewort (<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>)
Knapweed (<i>Centaurea</i> sp.)
Devil's Bit Scabious (<i>Succisa pratensis</i>)
Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage (<i>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium</i>)
Early Purple Orchid (<i>Orchis mascula</i>)
Common Twayblade (<i>Listera ovata</i>)
Speedwell (<i>Veronica</i> sp.)
Greater Stitchwort (<i>Stellaria holostea</i>)
Creeping Jenny (<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>)

Herb Robert (<i>Geranium robertianum</i>)
Red Campion (<i>Silene dioica</i>)
Broad-leaved Dock (<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>)
Common Sorrel (<i>Rumex acetosa</i>)
Pignut (<i>Conopodium majus</i>)
Woodruff (<i>Galium odoratum</i>)
Meadowsweet (<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>)
Cuckoo Flower (<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>)
Angelica (<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>)
Bugle (<i>Ajuga reptans</i>)
Water Mint (<i>Mentha aquatica</i>)
Marsh Cinquefoil (<i>Potentilla palustris</i>)
Silverweed (<i>Potentilla anserina</i>)
Tormentil (<i>Potentilla erecta</i>)
Marsh Marigold (<i>Caltha palustris</i>)
Yellow Iris (<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>)
Meadow Buttercup (<i>Ranunculus acris</i>)
Lesser Celandine (<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>)
Bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scriptus</i>)
Primrose (<i>Primula vulgaris</i>)
Wood Anemone (<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>)
Wood Sorrel (<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>)
Common Dog Violet (<i>Viola riviniana</i>)
Foxglove (<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>)
Navelwort (<i>Umbelicus rupestris</i>)
Wood Sanicle (<i>Sanicula europaea</i>)
Grasses, Sedges and Rushes
Purple Moor-grass (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>)
Bent (<i>Agrostis</i> sp.)
Yorkshire Fog (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>)
Harestail Cotton-grass (<i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>)
Great Woodrush (<i>Luzula sylvatica</i>)
Soft Rush (<i>Juncus effusus</i>)
Ferns
Hard Fern (<i>Blechnum spicant</i>)
Hay-scented Buckler Fern (<i>Dryopteris aemula</i>)
Broad Buckler-fern (<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>)
Common Polypody (<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>)
Bracken (<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>).
Hart's tongue Fern (<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>)
Mosses and Lichens
<i>Polytrichum commune</i>
<i>Thuidium tamariscinum</i>
<i>Sphagnum cappifolium</i>
Bog Lichens (<i>Cladonia</i> spp.)

Source: NPWS files and reports.

Fauna

Moths; Ballyarr Wood C1820

Ralph Sheppard 03/08/96

Common Name	Scientific Name	No	Date
Brimstone Moth	<i>Opisthoptis luteolata</i>	1	27/05/95
Broken-barred Carpet	<i>Electrophaes corylata</i>	1	27/05/95
Clouded Border	<i>Lomaspilis marginata</i>	1	27/05/95

Clouded Silver	<i>Lomographa bimaculat</i>	1	27/05/95
Clouded-border Brindle	<i>Apamea crenata</i>	1	27/05/95
Common Lutestring	<i>Ochropacha duplaris</i>	3	27/05/95
Common Lutestring	<i>Ochropacha duplaris</i>	23	30/06/95
Common Marbled Carpet	<i>Chloroclysta truncata</i>	1	27/05/95
Common Pug	<i>Eupithecia vulgata</i>	1	27/05/95
Common Rustic	<i>Mesapamea agg.</i>	1	01/08/95
Common Wave	<i>Cabera exanthemata</i>	2	30/06/95
Common White Wave	<i>Cabera pusaria</i>	1	27/05/95
Common White Wave	<i>Cabera pusaria</i>	1	29/06/95
Coxcomb Prominent	<i>Ptilodon capucina</i>	14	30/06/95
Coxcomb Prominent	<i>Ptilodon capucina</i>	1	01/08/95
Dark Arches	<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>	3	01/08/95
Dark Marbled Carpet	<i>Chloroclysta citrata</i>	1	01/08/95
Dotted Clay	<i>Xestia baja</i>	3	01/08/95
Double Dart	<i>Graphiphora augur</i>	1	01/08/95
Early Thorn	<i>Selenia dentaria</i>	1	27/05/95
Early Thorn	<i>Selenia dentaria</i>	2	01/08/95
Flame Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe designata</i>	1	27/05/95
Flame Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe designata</i>	1	30/06/95
Gold Swift	<i>Hepialus hecta</i>	3	01/08/95
Green Carpet	<i>Colostygia pectinataria</i>	1	30/06/95
Grey Arches	<i>Polia nebulosa</i>	1	01/08/95
Hebrew Character	<i>Orthosia gothica</i>	3	27/05/95
Ingrailed Clay	<i>Diarsia mendica</i>	1	30/06/95
July Highflyer	<i>Hydriomena furcata</i>	69	01/08/95
Knot Grass	<i>Acronicta rumicis</i>	1	27/05/95
Large Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	1	30/06/95
Large Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	5	01/08/95
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua janthina</i>	1	01/08/95
Light Emerald	<i>Campaea margaritata</i>	6	30/06/95
Lilac Beauty	<i>Apeira syringaria</i>	3	30/06/95
Map-winged Swift	<i>Hepialus fusconebulosa</i>	16	30/06/95
May Highflyer	<i>Hydriomena impluviata</i>	1	27/05/95
Mottled Beauty	<i>Alcis repandata</i>	22	30/06/95
Northern Spinach	<i>Eulithis populata</i>	5	30/06/95
Nut-tree Tussock	<i>Colocasia coryli</i>	9	27/05/95
Pale-shouldered Brocade	<i>Lacanobia thalassina</i>	1	27/05/95
Peach Blossom	<i>Thyatira batis</i>	2	27/05/95
Pebble Prominent	<i>Eligmondonta ziczac</i>	1	30/06/95
Poplar Hawk Moth	<i>Laotloe populi</i>	12	30/06/95
Purple Clay	<i>Diarsia brunnea</i>	4	01/08/95
Ruddy Highflyer	<i>Hydriomena ruberata</i>	1	27/05/95
Satin Lutestring	<i>Tetheela fluctuosa</i>	1	30/06/95
Scalloped Hazel	<i>Odontopera bidentata</i>	2	27/05/95
Scalloped Oak	<i>Crocallis elingularia</i>	2	01/08/95
Scorched Wing	<i>Plagodis pulveraria</i>	1	27/05/95
Silver-ground Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe montanata</i>	6	30/06/95
Small Fan-foot	<i>Merminia nemoralis</i>	1	30/06/95
Small Fan-footed Wave	<i>Idaea biselata</i>	5	01/08/95
Small Phoenix	<i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>	2	27/05/95
Small Square-spot	<i>Diarsia rubi</i>	1	30/06/95
Smoky Wainscot	<i>Mythimna impura</i>	1	30/06/95
The Magpie	<i>Abraxas grossulariata</i>	1	01/08/95
True Lover's Knot	<i>Lycophotia porphyrea</i>	1	30/06/95
Water carpet	<i>Lampropteryx suffumat</i>	3	27/05/95

APPENDIX VI: NOTIFIABLE ACTIONS

The notifiable actions relating to the habitats that occur within the site are listed below:

- Notifiable Action 2.3 Wet Lowland Grasslands
- Notifiable Action 3.2 Heath (Including Juniper Scrub)
- Notifiable Action 5.1 Woodlands
- Notifiable Action 5.2 Scrub

HABITAT TYPE 2.3

WET LOWLAND GRASSLANDS

Under STATUTORY INSTRUMENT 94 of 1997, made under the EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ACT 1972 and in accordance with the obligations inherent in the COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 (the Habitats Directive) on the conservation of the natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora, all persons must obtain the written consent, (in circumstances prescribed at section A and B below) of the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government before performing any of the operations on, or affecting, the following habitats where they occur on lands / waters within the candidate Special Area of Conservation.

Please note that where a landowner has a current approved plan under the Rural Environmental Protection Scheme or any scheme which the Minister considers to be equivalent s/he need only notify the Minister of activities not covered in the plan.

<u>SECTION A</u>	<u>SECTION B</u>
<p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section A overleaf</i> are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government and should not be undertaken before consent.</p>	<p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section B overleaf</i> may, and in most cases do, require a license or consent from another statutory authority (e.g. the local planning authority, the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, or the Minister for Agriculture and Food).</p> <p>If so, these notifiable actions do not apply.</p> <p>However, if such activities are not regulated by another statutory authority, the said activities are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government.</p>

HABITAT TYPE 2.3

WET LOWLAND GRASSLANDS

<u>Section A</u>	<u>Section B</u>
<p>THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS REQUIRED TO BE NOTIFIED IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES AND SUCH ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT PROCEED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT</p> <p>grazing of livestock above a sustainable density (as defined in approved farm plans)/grazing by livestock treated within the previous week with a pesticide which leaves persistent residues in the dung</p> <p>changing of traditional use from hay meadow (to either grazing or silage making), or from grazing to silage cutting</p> <p>adding lime/adding fertiliser of any sort to areas not previously fertilised/ applying fertiliser which would increase the level of nitrogen in the soil/applying fertiliser which would increase the level of phosphorous in the soil/ applying phosphorous to soils which already have in excess of the REPS index 2 levels mowing grass before the 30th June (<i>Note; if you have been notified that your lands hold breeding corncrakes, or certain rare meadows, special provisions will apply</i>)</p> <p>burning of vegetation</p> <p>reclamation, infilling, ploughing or land drainage/ reseedling, planting of trees or any other species use of any pesticide or herbicide</p> <p>dumping, burning or storing any materials</p> <p>alteration of the banks, bed or low of watercourses</p> <p>operation of commercial recreation facilities (e.g. pony trekking)/introduction (or re-introduction) into the wild of plants or animals of species not currently found in the area</p> <p>any other activity of which notice may be given by the Minister from time to time</p>	<p>(NO REQUIREMENT TO NOTIFY IF ALREADY LICENSED BY ANOTHER MINISTER/BODY)</p> <p>developing leisure facilities including golf courses, sports pitches, caravan or camping facilities.</p> <p>removal of soil, mud, gravel, sand or minerals</p> <p>developing roads or car parks</p> <p>construction of fences, buildings or embankments</p> <p>afforestation</p>

In a very limited number of cases it may be necessary for the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government to restrict existing activities. In these cases compensation will be payable for actual losses arising out of any such restriction. In the event of restrictions being imposed by the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government, an appropriate appeals procedure will be put in place.

HABITAT TYPE 3.2

HEATH (INCLUDING JUNIPER SCRUB)

Under STATUTORY INSTRUMENT 94 of 1997, made under the EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ACT 1972 and in accordance with the obligations inherent in the COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 (the Habitats Directive) on the conservation of the natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora, all persons must obtain the written consent, (in circumstances prescribed at section A and B below) of the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government before performing any of the operations on, or affecting, the following habitats where they occur on lands / waters within the candidate Special Area of Conservation.

Please note that where a landowner has a current approved plan under the Rural Environmental Protection Scheme or any scheme which the Minister considers to be equivalent s/he need only notify the Minister of activities not covered in the plan.

<u>SECTION A</u>	<u>SECTION B</u>
<p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section A overleaf</i> are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government and should not be undertaken before consent.</p>	<p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section B overleaf</i> may, and in most cases do, require a license or consent from another statutory authority (e.g. the local planning authority, the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, or the Minister for Agriculture and Food).</p> <p>If so, these notifiable actions do not apply.</p> <p>However, if such activities are not regulated by another statutory authority, the said activities are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government.</p>

HABITAT TYPE 3.2

HEATH (INCLUDING JUNIPER SCRUB)

<u>Section A</u>	<u>Section B</u>
<p>THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS REQUIRED TO BE NOTIFIED IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES AND SUCH ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT PROCEED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT</p> <p>grazing of livestock above a sustainable density or type of stock (as defined in approved farm plans)/grazing by livestock treated within the previous week with a pesticide which leaves persistent residues in the dung</p> <p>supplementary feeding of stock, except as defined in REPS guidelines</p> <p>introduction of stock to formerly ungrazed areas</p> <p>adding lime/ adding fertiliser of any sort</p> <p>Creation of new tracks or paths</p> <p>burning areas of vegetation over 5 ha, or burning any area more often than once every 15 years</p> <p>reclamation, infilling, ploughing or land drainage</p> <p>reseeding, planting of trees or any other species</p> <p>rock removal/cutting turf except from existing banks; no cutting from intact (uncut) areas</p> <p>commercial peat moss or turf extraction</p> <p>use of any pesticide or herbicide, including sheep dip</p> <p>dumping, burning or storing any materials</p> <p>alteration of the banks, bed or flow of watercourses</p> <p>operation of commercial recreation facilities (e.g. pony trekking)</p> <p>introduction (or re-introduction) into the wild of plants or animals of species not currently found in the area/any other activity of which notice may be given by the Minister from time to time</p>	<p>(NO REQUIREMENT TO NOTIFY IF ALREADY LICENSED BY ANOTHER MINISTER/BODY)</p> <p>developing leisure facilities including golf courses, sports pitches, caravan or camping facilities.</p> <p>removal of soil, mud, gravel, sand or minerals</p> <p>developing roads or car parks</p> <p>construction of fences, buildings or embankments</p> <p>afforestation</p> <p>erecting or operating a windfarm</p>

In a very limited number of cases it may be necessary for the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government to restrict existing activities. In these cases compensation will be payable for actual losses arising out of any such restriction. In the event of restrictions being imposed by the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government, an appropriate appeals procedure will be put in place.

HABITAT TYPE 5.1

WOODLANDS

Under STATUTORY INSTRUMENT 94 of 1997, made under the EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ACT 1972 and in accordance with the obligations inherent in the COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 (the Habitats Directive) on the conservation of the natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora, all persons must obtain the written consent, (in circumstances prescribed at section A and B below) of the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government before performing any of the operations on, or affecting, the following habitats where they occur on lands / waters within the candidate Special Area of Conservation.

Please note that where a landowner has a current approved plan under the Rural Environmental Protection Scheme or any scheme which the Minister considers to be equivalent s/he need only notify the Minister of activities not covered in the plan.

<u>SECTION A</u>	<u>SECTION B</u>
<p>Please note that the activities listed in Section A overleaf are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government and should not be undertaken before consent.</p>	<p>Please note that the activities listed in Section B overleaf may, and in most cases do, require a licence or consent from another statutory authority (e.g. the local planning authority, the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, or the Minister for Agriculture and Food).</p> <p>If so, these notifiable actions do not apply.</p> <p>However, if such activities are not regulated by another statutory authority, the said activities are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government.</p>

HABITAT TYPE 5.1

WOODLANDS

<u>Section A</u>	<u>Section B</u>
<p>THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS REQUIRED TO BE NOTIFIED IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES AND SUCH ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT PROCEED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT</p> <p>grazing by livestock</p> <p>adding lime</p> <p>adding fertiliser of any sort</p> <p>reclamation, infilling, ploughing or land drainage</p> <p>reseeding, planting of trees or any other species</p> <p>felling of trees, removal of timber</p> <p>removal of foliage, moss or other materials</p> <p>killing ivy</p> <p>use of any pesticide or herbicide</p> <p>dumping, burning or storing any materials</p> <p>alteration of the banks, bed or flow of watercourses</p> <p>operation of commercial recreation facilities (e.g. bird watching tours)</p> <p>introduction (or re-introduction) into the wild of plants or animals of species not currently found in the area</p> <p>any other activity of which notice may be given by the Minister from time to time</p>	<p>(NO REQUIREMENT TO NOTIFY IF ALREADY LICENSED BY ANOTHER MINISTER/BODY)</p> <p>developing leisure facilities including golf courses, sports pitches, caravan or camping facilities.</p> <p>any activity which may cause pollution of the woodland</p> <p>removal of soil, mud, gravel, sand or minerals</p> <p>developing roads or car parks</p> <p>construction of fences, buildings or embankments</p> <p>felling trees or reafforestation</p>

In a very limited number of cases it may be necessary for the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government to restrict existing activities. In these cases compensation will be payable for actual losses arising out of any such restriction. In the event of restrictions being imposed by the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government, an appropriate appeals procedure will be put in place.

HABITAT TYPE 5.2

SCRUB

Under STATUTORY INSTRUMENT 94 of 1997, made under the EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ACT 1972 and in accordance with the obligations inherent in the COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 (the Habitats Directive) on the conservation of the natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora, all persons must obtain the written consent, (in circumstances prescribed at section A and B below) of the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government before performing any of the operations on, or affecting, the following habitats where they occur on lands / waters within the candidate Special Area of Conservation.

Please note that where a landowner has a current approved plan under the Rural Environmental Protection Scheme or any scheme which the Minister considers to be equivalent s/he need only notify the Minister of activities not covered in the plan.

<p><u>SECTION A</u></p> <p>Please note that the activities listed in Section A overleaf are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government and should not be undertaken before consent.</p>	<p><u>SECTION B</u></p> <p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section B</i> overleaf may, and in most cases do, require a license or consent from another statutory authority (e.g. the local planning authority, the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, or the Minister for Agriculture and Food).</p> <p>If so, these notifiable actions do not apply.</p> <p>However, if such activities are not regulated by another statutory authority, the said activities are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government.</p>
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HABITAT TYPE 5.2

SCRUB

<u>Section A</u>	<u>Section B</u>
<p>THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS REQUIRED TO BE NOTIFIED IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES AND SUCH ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT PROCEED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT</p> <p>grazing of livestock above a sustainable density (as defined in approved farm plans)/grazing by livestock treated within the previous week with a pesticide which leaves persistent residues in the dung</p> <p>supplementary feeding of stock (as defined in approved farm plans)</p> <p>adding lime /adding fertiliser of any sort</p> <p>reclaiming land covered by scrub; if scrub is cut it must be allowed to regrow</p> <p>reclamation, infilling, ploughing or land drainage</p> <p>reseeding, planting of trees or any other species</p> <p>felling of trees, removal of timber</p> <p>removal of foliage, moss or other materials</p> <p>killing ivy</p> <p>use of any pesticide or herbicide /dumping, burning or storing any Materials</p> <p>alteration of the banks, bed or flow of watercourses</p> <p>operation of commercial recreation facilities (e.g. walking tours)</p> <p>introduction (or re-introduction) into the wild of plants or animals of species not currently found in the area</p> <p>any other activity of which notice may be given by the Minister from time to time</p>	<p>(NO REQUIREMENT TO NOTIFY IF ALREADY LICENSED BY ANOTHER MINISTER/BODY)</p> <p>developing leisure facilities including golf courses, sports pitches, caravan or camping facilities.</p> <p>any activity which may cause pollution of the site</p> <p>removal of soil, mud, gravel, sand or minerals</p> <p>developing roads or car parks</p> <p>construction of fences, buildings or embankments</p> <p>felling trees or reafforestation</p>

In a very limited number of cases it may be necessary for the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government to restrict existing activities. In these cases compensation will be payable for actual losses arising out of any such restriction. In the event of restrictions being imposed by the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government, an appropriate appeals procedure will be put in place.

APPENDIX VII: COMPENSATION PROCEDURES

The Government is committed, as part of the social partnership process, to the payment of a fair and proper level of compensation to landowners who have lands proposed as part of an SAC or SPA and to other users who have a legal entitlement in the site.

A landowner or user with a legal entitlement may seek compensation for actual losses incurred due to restrictions imposed as a result of designation. Eligible persons should submit to NPWS details of the losses incurred as a result of the inclusion of lands in an SAC/SPA and outlining the basis for the calculations. Documentary evidence of past earnings and the activities that produced these should be included with the claim. Should the applicant be dissatisfied with a compensation offer, the case may be referred to an independent arbitrator who will review the matter and make a final decision.

Where a landowner or user with a legal entitlement is restricted in carrying out an activity on their land or licensed area, the compensation due will exclude any payments that have been attracted under grant schemes.

For farmers, there are two options available for receiving compensation for possible restrictions to their farming practices. Farmers may also receive payments for carrying out actions that enhance a nature conservation area.

Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS)

Lands within SACs, SPAs, NHAs or commonages are defined as ‘Target Areas’ under this scheme. A REPS plan usually covers an entire farm, but a farmer with land in a target area receives a higher payment for that area. Farmers with small areas of land in a designated area can get REPS payments for that part of their farm. In either case, the farmer is subject to certain conditions regarding farming and land use practices, set out in the REPS plan for the farm. REPS is administered by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

NPWS Farm Plan Scheme

Where a farmer chooses not to participate in REPS, and NPWS seeks to change the farm operation in some way or to restrict a particular activity, NPWS will pay for preparation of a farm plan. This scheme also applies to land within SACs, SPAs, NHAs and commonages.

An NPWS farm plan will normally be confined just to the designated land and will address the conservation requirements, as well as any costs arising. Payment may also be made for work carried out that enhances the nature conservation value of the designated area. The farmer will have a substantial input into the plan.

A list of trained and approved farm planners is available for farmers to choose from. For further information, contact NPWS.

APPENDIX VIII: NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE MANAGEMENT STAFF

Conservation Ranger

Mr Andrew Speer,
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Carrigans,
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District Conservation Officer

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Dromahair,
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Tel: 071 9134950
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Deputy Regional Manager

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Regional Manager

Mr Joe Gatins,
Main Street,
Laghy,
Co. Donegal.
Tel: 074 9721837;
e-mail: joe.gatins@environ.ie

Divisional Manager

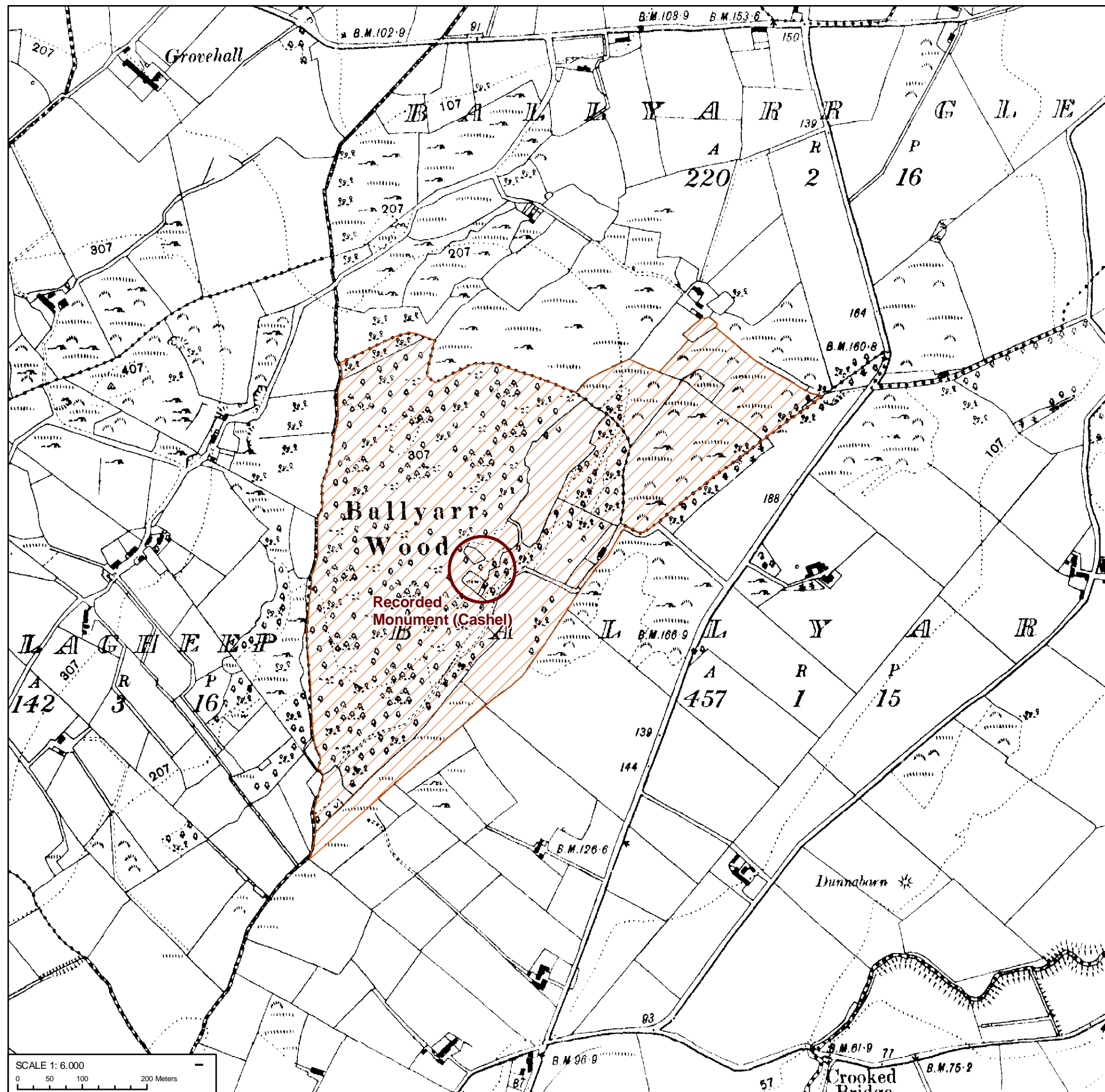
Mr Pat Warner,
National Parks and Wildlife Service
Ballinafad,
Boyle
Co. Sligo.
Tel: 071 9666178
e -mail: pat.warner@environ.ie

Divisional Ecologist

VACANT

National Parks and Wildlife Service

The Department of the Environment, Heritage
and Local Government
7 Ely Place,
Dublin 2
Phone Lo Call 1890 202021, 01 8882000
Fax 01 8883272:
www.npws.ie



CEANTAR SPEISIALTA CAOMHNATHE
CANDIDATE SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION

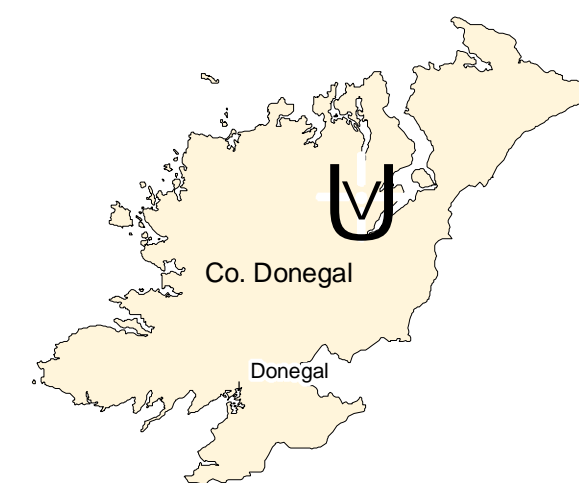
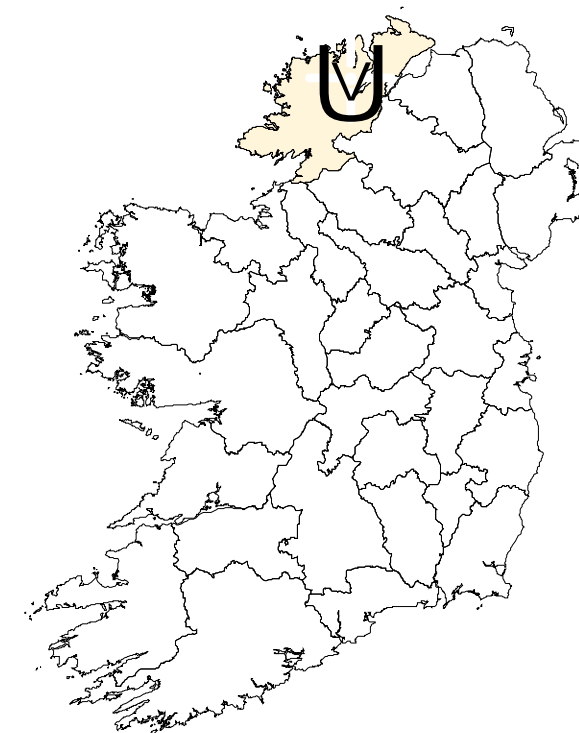
BALLYARR WOOD 000116

Boundary Version 1
Date: July 2006

O.S. six inch sheets: DG-045

The mapped boundaries are of an indicative and general nature only.
Boundaries of designated areas are subject to revision.
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Níl sna teorainneacha ar na léarscáileanna ach nod garshuíomhach ginearálta.
Féadfar athbheithnithe a déanamh ar theorainneacha na gceantar comharthaithe.
Macasamhail d'ábhar na Suirbhéarachta Ordonáis le chead ón Rialtas (Ceadúnas Uimh. 5953)

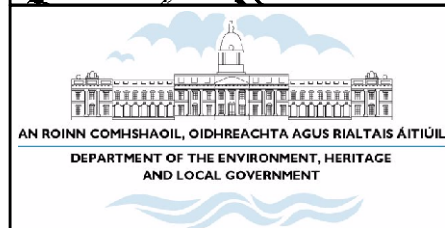
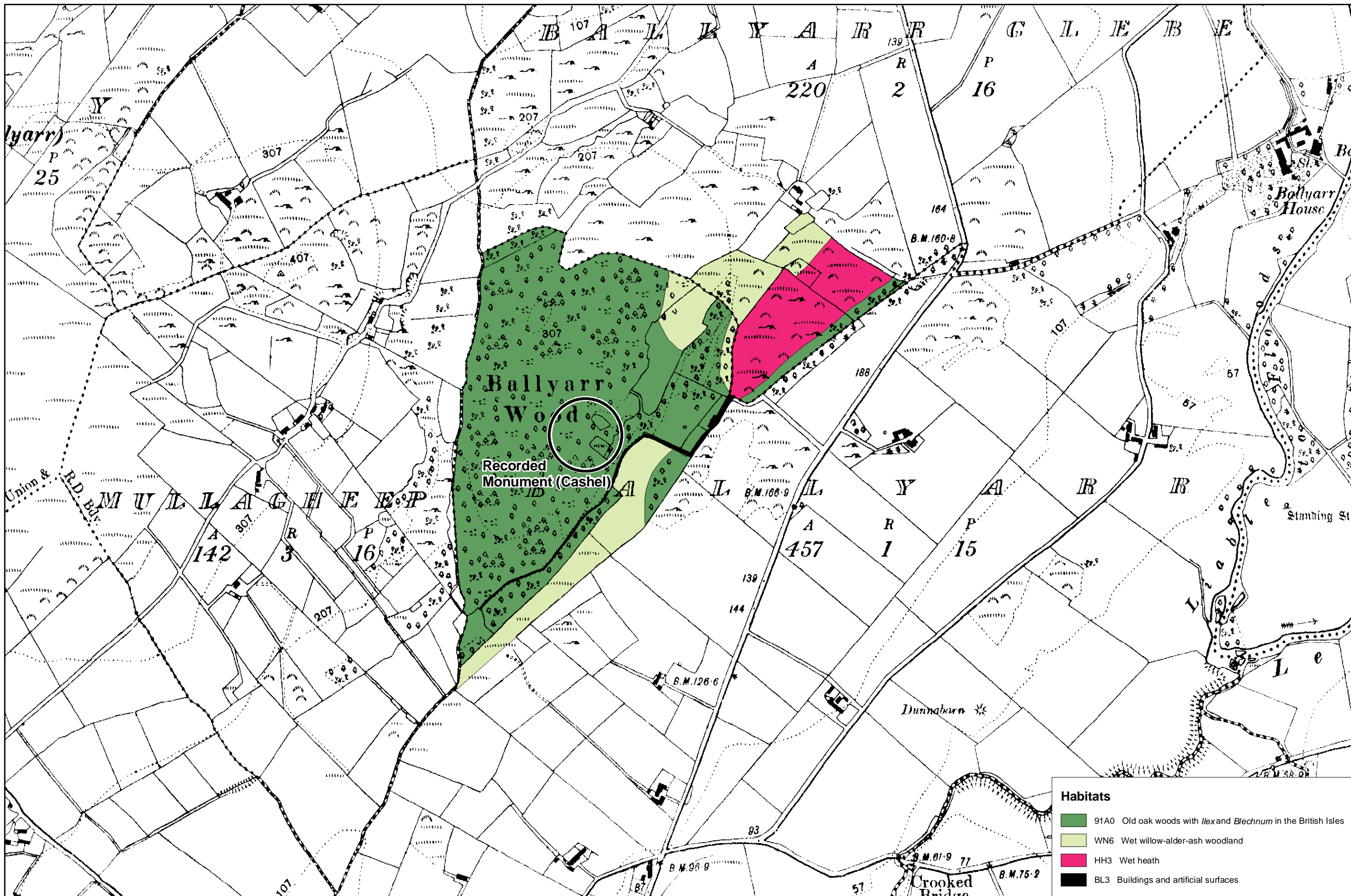


MAP 1
SITE LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES



Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government
An Roinn Comhshaoil, Oidhreachta agus Rialtais Áitiúil

Co-financed through 'Life' EU funding
Chomh-mhacoinithe trí chiste 'LIFE' and AE



CEANTAR SPEISIALTA CAOMHNATHE
CANDIDATE SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION

The mapped boundaries are of an indicative and general nature only. Boundaries of designated areas are subject to revision. Reproduced from Ordnance Survey material by permission of the Government (Permit number 5953).
Níl sna teorainneacha ar na léarscáileanna ach nod garshuíomhach ginearálta. Féadfar athbhreithnithe a déanamh ar theorainneacha na gceantar comharthaithe. Macasamhail d'ábhar na Suirbhéarachta Ordonáis le chead ón Rialtas (Ceadúnas Uimh. 5953)

BALLYARR WOOD
O.S. six inch sheet: DG-045

0 50 100 200 M
1:6,250

**MAP 2:
INDICATIVE HABITAT MAP**

Map to be read in conjunction with conservation plan.

SITE CODE
cSAC 000116
Version 1.00

Date:
July 2006