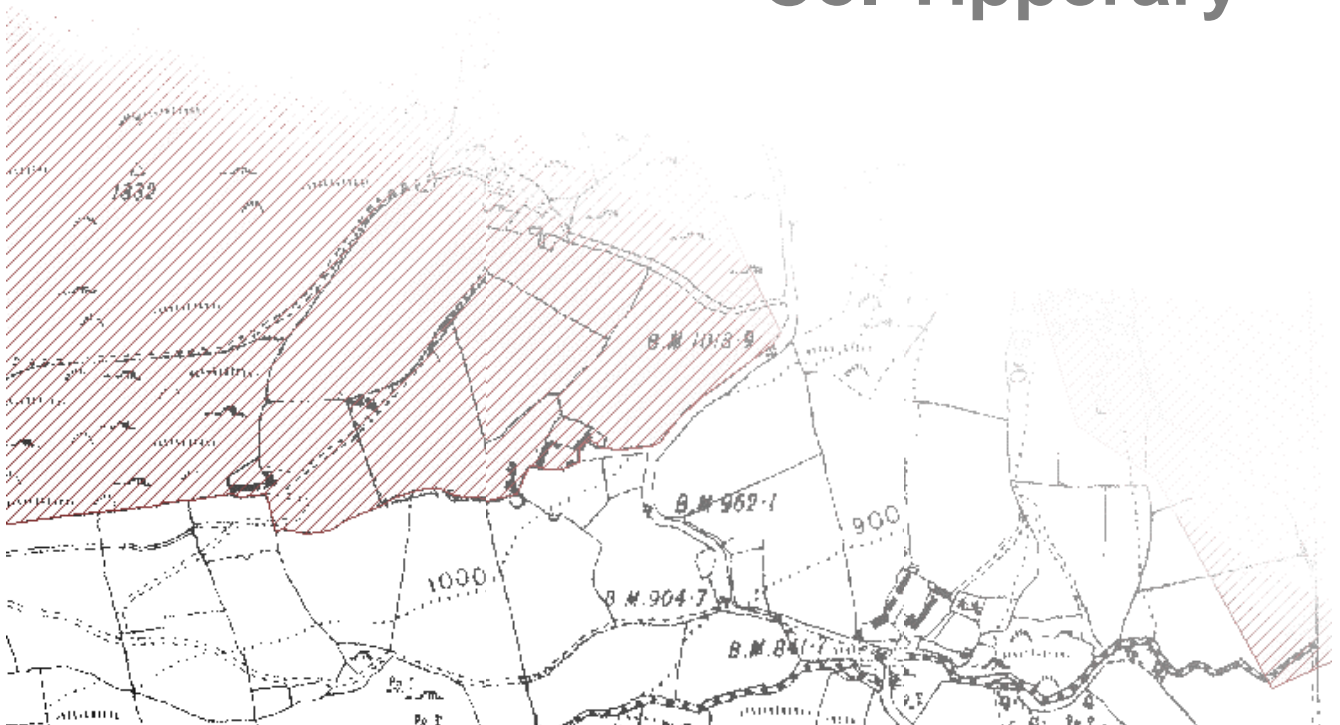




National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Plan for 2005-2010

Silvermine Mountains cSAC

Site Code 939
Co. Tipperary



SUMMARY

Site Description

Silvermine Mountains is a candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) due to presence of species-rich *Nardus* grassland on siliceous substrates in mountain areas, an Annex I priority habitat listed in the EU Habitats Directive, and northern Atlantic wet heath with *Erica tetralix*, a non-priority Annex I habitat. The site area is 18 hectares (ha) and the site is located approximately 1km south-east of Silvermines village, in north-west Tipperary.

The land in the site slopes steeply from 240m in the north-western corner to 390m at the southern boundary. This upland site is divided into two small blocks by a road that runs through the centre of the site.

Typical species associated with species-rich *Nardus* grassland and recorded at the site include Heath Bedstraw, Sheep's Fescue, Bitter Vetch, Milkwort, Lesser Butterfly-orchid, Greater Butterfly-orchid, Tormentil, Lousewort, Mat-grass and Small White Orchid. Mat-grass, although present, is not the dominant grass species. Wet heath is the dominant habitat within the site. Characteristic species of this habitat are present and include Heather, Purple Moor-grass and Bilberry. Localised wet flushes are also present and are dominated by Soft Rush, Sharp-flowered Rush, with Marsh Arrow Grass, Meadow Thistle and Common Butterwort. Scrub has survived in inaccessible areas due to lack of grazing. The species here include Rowan, Hawthorn, Hazel, grading into Birch. This habitat is found mainly in the gullies at the western edge of the site. Dense Bracken is also present.

The occurrence of the Small White Orchid at this site is of particular note as it is a Red Data Book Species and is legally protected under the Flora Protection Order 1999.

Red Grouse occur on the site and the area was a known breeding ground for the species. The Irish Hare, Badger, Common Lizard and Frog are present within the site, with the Irish Hare, Badger and Common Frog noted as Internationally Important species in the Irish Red Data Book. Fallow Deer are also thought to frequent the site.

Land Use

The dominant land use at the site is low density grazing, mainly by cattle, although horses and deer are noted as occasional grazers. The road dissecting the site has recently been upgraded and small-scale drainage is associated with it. The majority of the land surrounding the site is forested.

Main conservation issues

Grazing

Damaging activities, such as dumping

Road upgrades

Main management objectives

To maintain and, if possible, enhance the ecological value of the species-rich *Nardus* grassland

To maintain and, if possible, enhance the ecological value of the other habitats, including the wet heath, upland grassland, flushes, humid grassland and scrub

To maintain and, if possible, enhance the populations of important plants and animals

To achieve consensus on the conservation management of the site with landowners, the local community and other interested parties

Main strategies to achieve objectives

Ensure sustainable grazing levels

Ensure damaging activities do not occur on the site

Monitor the priority and other habitats on the site

Ensure effective liaison occurs between the relevant stakeholders

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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MAPS

Map 1 Boundary and Location Map (Version 1.0)

Map 2 Indicative Habitat Map

Map 3 Management Zone Map

READER'S GUIDE

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

The **Site description** contains **general information** on the site's boundaries, ownership and organisations involved. It also contains sections on the **physical aspects** of the site such as 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 **Ecological Assessment** assesses the main ecological attributes of the site.

The **Objectives, Strategies and Zoning 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 will be used to achieve the objectives as outlined. In cases where more information is required, general strategies are usually applied. Where sufficient data and knowledge is available, specific management prescriptions are outlined for the timescale of the plan. 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, a list of **notifiable actions** relevant to each habitat within the site, and additional information on the site.

INTRODUCTION

Legal Background for 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.

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 Site Designation

The reason for the proposal to designate this site as a SAC is the presence of:

HABITATS LISTED IN ANNEX I OF THE E.U. HABITATS DIRECTIVE	
Priority Habitat No. 6230 - *Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submontane areas in continental Europe)	The site is listed due to the presence of species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grassland, which is in excellent condition and is not threatened at present. Despite the habitat being very small in extent, there is a very diverse flora present, including nationally important populations of Small White Orchid - a diagnostic species of the habitat.
Habitat No. 4010 - Northern Atlantic wet heath with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	The site supports a good example of the annexed wet heath habitat.

* indicates priority habitat as listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive

General Conservation Objectives

Under Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive, DEHLG is required to ensure the favourable conservation status of all Annex I habitats and Annex II species within cSACs. By preparing, implementing and reviewing this plan on a five year basis, DEHLG aims to achieve the objectives of the Habitats Directive in relation to this site. The general objectives DEHLG will apply to achieve this are:

to maintain the Annex I habitat(s) for which the cSAC is selected

to liaise with the landowners, relevant authorities and interested parties

to increase the scientific knowledge of the site through further scientific research and development of monitoring programmes

Specific conservation objectives and strategies are outlined in the section, **Objectives, Strategies and Zoning**.

Implications for landowners and other site users

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

In cases where users 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.

If an owner, occupier or user of a site wishes to carry out certain activities within the designated area (that are not covered by licence or consent from another statutory body), 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 IV). Local Authorities are obliged to ensure appropriate assessment of the implications of any development permission sought that may have an impact on a designated area.

The designation of the site or any conservation actions can be appealed by landowners or right-owners on a scientific basis. Details of the appeals procedure are also given in Appendix V.

SITE DESCRIPTION

Location including site boundaries

The site is located in north-west Tipperary, approximately 1km south-east of the village of Silvermines. The site is divided into two small blocks by a third class road.

Grid Ref.: R 84 69

Latitude: N 52° 46' 32"

Longitude: W 08° 13' 44"

Area: 18 ha

Altitude Range: 240 m to 390 m

(Map references are provided in Appendix II).

Site Boundaries

The majority of the site is bounded by commercial forestry operations, although some agricultural land used for grazing also occurs. The site also bounds the Silvermines public amenity viewing areas.

Site Infrastructure

A third class road divides the site in a north-south direction, and this road joins with another that provides access to the village of Silvermines (see Map 1). As mentioned above, a viewing facility containing a car park and picnic area is located adjacent to the site.

Legal Status

Ownership

The site is in private ownership.

Designations of the Site

**candidate Special
Area of Conservation** Site Code: IE0002124

**proposed Natural
Heritage Area** Site Code: 939

Management Infrastructure

Individuals and Organisations Involved

Landowners	The site is in private ownership.
National Parks & Wildlife (NPW) of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG)	NPW is responsible for maintaining the nature conservation value of the site. The site is patrolled by local Conservation Rangers, with input from other staff as necessary (see Appendix VII for further details of NPW regional staff).
Planning Authorities	North Tipperary County Council is the relevant planning authority.

Local Authority Policy in relation to the Site

North Tipperary County Council are the relevant County Council who have responsibility for this area. The County Development Plan (1990) for Tipperary states that “*The planning Authority recognises the value to the county and to the nation of the many areas and structures of historic, artistic, and archaeological importance that exist in the county. There are, also, many areas and features of scientific, botanic and wildlife interest. Where such sites, structures and features are not National Monuments, the Planning Authority shall protect them as far as practicable*”.

Physical Features

Climate

The closest weather station to the site is the Birr station and 30-Year Average information was obtained from the Met Eireann website for the years 1961-1990 (for full details see Appendix III). In summary, the mean daily air temperature at the station is 9.3°C, ranging from an average low of 1.8°C in January and February to an average high of 19.2°C in July. The average annual rainfall is 804.2 mm, and the average daily duration of sunshine is 3.33 hours. Winds are predominantly from the south and west, with an average wind speed of 7 knots. There is an annual average of 15.9 days with snow or sleet recorded for the Birr station, with 6.6 days where snow was still lying on the ground by 9 am.

Geology & Geomorphology

This area is underlain by sedimentary rocks of the Lower Palaeozoic Age, with Silurian greywackes and mudstones, interbedded with siltstones probably underlying the site.

Soils & Soil Processes

Typically the range of soils occupied by the *species-rich *Nardus* grasslands (*Nardetea*) is narrow. They are characteristically associated with podzols, peaty podzols, peaty podzolised gleys and brown podzols (O’Sullivan, 1992).

Biological Features

Habitats and Vegetation

Note: Throughout the conservation plan, habitats are named and described under two different systems: the Annex I habitat(s) are as listed in the EU Habitats Interpretation Manual, while all other habitats are as listed according to the NPW NHA classification system.

The following table lists the habitats within the site. The Annex I habitat(s) of the Habitats Directive for which the site was selected is listed, with the relevant NHA category also shown. Annex I priority habitats are marked with an asterisk (*). The Gross Habitat map for the site is presented in Map 2. The percentage presented for each habitat type is based on the approximate geographic area of each habitat, as shown in Map 2.

Habitats Found within Silvermine Mountains cSAC

ANNEX I HABITAT TYPE	CORRESPONDING NHA CATEGORY	% AREA
*Species rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas	Upland grassland on mineral soil	16%
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	Heath	60%
-	Upland grassland on mineral soil	8%
-	Fens and flushes (mapped with upland grassland)	Part of the 8% of upland grassland
-	Scrub	15%
-	Dense bracken (not mapped)	<1%
-	Buildings & roads (not mapped)	<1%



Silvermine Mountains cSAC

Annex I Habitats:

Species-rich

Nardus grassland

(16% of total site area or 2.9ha)

The species-rich *Nardus* grassland is found in two separate locations within the site. Characteristic species of this habitat found at the site include Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*), Sheep's Fescue (*Festuca ovina*), Bitter Vetch (*Lathyrus montanus*), Milkwort (*Polygala serpyllifolia*), Lesser Butterfly-orchid (*Plantanthera bifolia*), Greater Butterfly-orchid (*P. chlorantha*), Tormential (*Potentilla erecta*), Lousewort (*Pedicularis sylvatica*), Mat-grass (*Nardus stricta*) and Small White Orchid (*Pseudorchis albida*). Mat-grass, although present, is not the dominant grass species. Other associated species recorded include Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Heath Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza maculata*), Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*), Mouse-ear (*Pilosella* spp.), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), and Common Dog-violet (*Viola riviniana*). Also present are the mosses *Pseudoscleropodium purum*, *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus* and *Thuidium tamariscinum*.

Northern Atlantic wet heath with *Erica tetralix* (60% of total site area or 10.8ha)

Wet heath dominates the site. Characteristic species of this habitat present include Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) and Bilberry, which occur mainly on peaty soils. Other species present include Tormential (*Potentilla erecta*), Cotton-grass (*Eriophorum* sp.), Sharp-flowered Rush (*Juncus acutiflorus*), Soft Rush (*J. effusus*) and Great Wood-rush (*Luzula sylvatica*). Where localised flushing occurs, species such as Marsh Arrow Grass (*Triglochin palustris*), Meadow Thistle (*Cirsium dissectum*), and Common Butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*) are present.

Other Habitats

Upland grassland on mineral soils

Upland grassland dominates the lower fields within the site. The vegetation comprises Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Mat-grass, Wavy Hair-grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*), Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*). This habitat grades into scrub and heath, and in some places has been invaded by Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

Fens and flushes

Small flushes occur throughout the site. They are characterised by abundant Soft Rush and Sharp-flowered Rush, with Marsh Arrow Grass, Meadow Thistle, and Common Butterwort. This habitat is usually found in mosaic with other habitats. Additional species here include Purple Moor-grass, Tormential, Devil's-bit Scabious and Great Wood-rush.

Scrub

Scrub has developed on inaccessible areas. The species here include Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Willow (*Salix cinerea*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) grading into Birch (*Betula pubescens*). This habitat is found mainly in the gullies at the western edge of the site. Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) occurs associated with the scrub. Patches of *Salix* spp. sometimes with Rowan and Hawthorn have developed locally elsewhere on the site. Roadside embankments support Rowan, Hawthorn, Willow and Bramble, with a herb layer including Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), Willowherb (*Epilobium* sp.), Wild Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*) and Devil's-bit Scabious, and ferns such as Hard Fern (*Blechnum spicant*) and *Dryopteris affinis*.

Dense Bracken

Patches of dense Bracken merge with areas of scrub to the west of the road. Bracken cover is more localised elsewhere.

Notable Flora:

The site is host to nationally important numbers of Small White Orchid. This species, which is listed in the Irish Red Data Book as Rare, is protected under the Flora Protection Order (1999). It is locally frequent in one area of the site and is also found in a second area.

Fauna:**Amphibians and Reptiles**

Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*), listed as Internationally Important in the Irish Red Data Book, breeds on the site. Common Lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*) also occurs.

Birds

The site was a known breeding ground for Red Grouse (*Lagopus lagopus*).

Mammals

Irish Hare (*Lepus timidus hibernicus*) and Badger (*Meles meles*), both listed in the Irish Red Data Book as Internationally Important, are found in the site. Fallow Deer (*Dama dama*) and Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) are also known to use the site.

Cultural Features

Land use and impacts on the site**Grazing**

Cattle grazing is practised in the majority of the site. In some areas of wet heath, particularly where supplementary winter-feeding is carried out, localised poaching has occurred. There is no winter-feeding of cattle on the priority habitat.

Land use adjacent to the site**Viewing Area**

The Silvermine Mountains viewing area (which has been excluded from the site), attracts many visitors to the area. However, people do not appear to venture beyond the car park/picnic area into nearby fields.

Afforestation

Much of the lands surrounding the site are under commercial forestry plantations.

Grazing

Sheep and cattle grazing are practised on part of the lands adjoining the cSAC.

Roads/Pathways

A third class road divides the site.

Human Settlement

The area around the cSAC is not settled. The village of Silvermines is 1km from the site and is the nearest location of settlement.

Past human use

The current vegetation of the site suggests that the land has been grazed for a considerable period of time. There are no records pertaining to the past management history of the site.

Recorded Monuments and Other Features

There are no recorded national monuments known from the site.

ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Note: The following is an assessment of the ecological features of the site. It is largely based on information given in the explanatory notes which accompany the Natura 2000 form (compiled in 1996 and updated in 1999). Additional information, obtained since these notes were written may also have been used to make the assessment.

The species-rich *Nardus* grassland present on the site is very small in extent, but there is a very diverse flora present, including nationally important populations of Small White Orchid - a diagnostic species of the habitat. This is a Red Data Book species and is legally protected under the Flora Protection Order, 1999. The habitat of slightly damp, lightly grazed, heathy grassland is in excellent condition.

The habitat does not appear to be threatened at present. If grazing is maintained at a sustainable level (i.e. neither overgrazed nor undergrazed) and the grassland is not improved, the prospects of this habitat remaining in good ecological condition are good.

OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES AND ZONING

Conservation Objectives

The nature conservation objectives for this site are:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Objective 1: | To maintain and, where possible, enhance the ecological value of the species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grassland (16% of the site). |
| Objective 2: | To maintain and, where possible, enhance the ecological value of the other habitats, including wet heath (60%), grassland (8%) and scrub (15%). |
| Objective 3: | To maintain the populations of important plant species, particularly the Small White Orchid. |
| Objective 4: | To pursue the purchasing of the site to ensure the ecological value of the site as a whole is maintained. |
| Objective 5: | To achieve consensus on the conservation management of the site with landowners, the local community and other interested parties. |

Management Issues

Note: The main issues that may impact on the conservation of the site are outlined below. The constraints that these may pose and the management potential for the site are discussed.

- **Grazing**
- **Dumping**
- **Upgrading of the Road**
- **Viewing Area**
- **Ownership**
- **Resources**

Grazing

Portions of the species-rich *Nardus* grassland are considered to be undergrazed, as indicated by the encroachment of scrub and the leggy Heather. In other parts of the site, localised damaged to the vegetation has occurred through cattle grazing. These areas are typically where ringfeeders have

been placed for the winter feeding of cattle. The vegetation in these localised areas is severely depleted.

The site is generally in good condition. In order to maintain the ecological value of the species-rich *Nardus* grassland, grazing intensity needs to be kept below the level which causes excessive damage to the vegetation yet conversely high enough to prevent the encroachment of scrub. Localised damage caused by winter feeding of cattle by the use of ringfeeders can be halted, preferably through removal of feeders from the site. Removal should ensure that the grazing pressure on the site becomes more uniform, addressing the problems of undergrazing in some parts and localised overgrazing/poaching in others.

Dumping

Household rubbish and old silage bales litter the upper reaches of the site. Dumped household rubbish and old silage bales are also unsightly, but are not causing significant damage to the site and can be removed.

Upgrading of the Road

The local Council has upgraded the road that passes through the site and installed minor drainage works, resulting in some disturbance to the species-rich road side embankments. The damage caused by the upgrading of the road is minimal and does not pose a threat to the site as a whole.

Viewing Area

The location of the viewing area on the edge of the site poses a potential threat to a population of Small White Orchid as there is easy access to the locations of these plants. The litter from the viewing area also poses a threat to the site. The viewing area, and the problems associated with it, is not considered to pose a significant threat to the site as a whole. People do not tend to access the site from the viewing area, and although the rubbish on the site is unsightly, it does not cause significant ecological damage.

Ownership

DEHLG do not own any part of the site. Due to the limited size and relative importance of this site, it could be purchased to ensure its ecological value is maintained.

Resources

The level of resources available (in terms of staff and finances) will influence the extent to which liaison with landowners and other interested parties occurs, as well as the amount of monitoring and research carried out. Initiating effective liaison is paramount to the effective conservation management of the site.

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 the landowners, relevant authorities and interested parties

implementation of REPS or DEHLG farm plans, which will use this document as a guideline for prescribing management on a farm by farm basis, and also will ensure that the agreed prescriptions for the relevant habitats are adhered to (see Appendix VI)

enforcement of Regulations under the Habitats/Birds Directives and the Wildlife Act

Establish a monitoring regime

The monitoring regime for the site will comprise:

Scientific monitoring Monitoring of the favourable conservation status of the species-rich *Nardus* grassland will be done by, or on behalf of, the staff of the Monitoring Section of the NPW or staff working to NPW in accordance with the procedures laid down by that section. The work, if any, to be done on this site in that respect will be prescribed by that section.

Site surveillance Patrolling of the site by the Conservation Ranger, with special attention to the species-rich *Nardus* grassland and wet heath 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 are listed in Appendix IV of this plan. Permission from the Minister is required before these actions may be carried out within the designated area. For example, grazing of livestock above a sustainable density and the adding of fertiliser to previous unfertilised areas are notifiable actions for areas of upland grassland.

Specific Strategies

Objective 1.

To maintain and, where possible, enhance the ecological value of the species-rich *Nardus* grassland (16% of the site).

Strategies:

1.1. Grazing Management

Species-rich *Nardus* grassland requires low levels of seasonal grazing to maintain the habitat. Ideally the grazing should be carried out by cattle and confined to the April to November period. For the majority of the species-rich *Nardus* grassland the current grazing regime appears to be at a sustainable level. However, in some areas undergrazing may be a problem as scrub encroachment appears to be ongoing.

The Conservation Ranger will survey the stocking rates and monitor the impact of the current grazing regime during the period of this plan, in accordance with the general monitoring strategies. All areas should be subject to grazing, at least once every five years.

1.2. Control of Damaging Activities

The implementation of the notifiable actions will restrict potentially damaging operations (see Appendix IV).

Objective 2.

To maintain and, where possible, enhance the ecological value of the other habitats, including wet heath (60%), grassland (8%) and scrub (15%).

Strategies:

2.1. Maintain ecological value of other habitats

The strategies referred to for species-rich *Nardus* grassland are applicable to these areas. In most instances there is no boundary between the species-rich *Nardus* grassland and these habitats, so for management purposes these habitats will be treated as one unit. Strategies 1.1-1.2. apply as well as the general monitoring strategies. For the majority of the site the current grazing regime appears to be at a sustainable level. However, in some areas undergrazing may be a problem as scrub encroachment appears to be ongoing. Localised damage to the vegetation has also occurred where ringfeeders have been located for the winter feeding of cattle. The areas of localised damage to the vegetation are confined to the upland grassland and wet heath.

2.2. Improved damaged areas of upland grassland and wet heath

The winter feeding of cattle within the site should be phased out during the period of this plan. The use of ringfeeders should be limited to areas outside the site, wherever possible.

2.3. Maintain ecological value of scrub

The scrub area referred to here is located in a steep gully. This habitat requires no intervention for its conservation.

Objective 3.

To maintain the populations of important plant species, particularly the Small White Orchid.

Strategies:

- 3.1. Maintain habitats where orchids are found** The strategies listed above that are designed to protect the site from damaging activities will also protect the habitat of the Small White Orchid. Scientific monitoring of this species will be carried out as laid down in the general strategies. Strategies 1.1-1.2, 2.1-2.3 and the general monitoring strategies apply.

Objective 4.

To pursue the purchasing of the site to ensure the ecological value of the site as a whole is maintained.

Strategies:

- 4.1. Land Purchase** DEHLG do not own any part of the site. Due to its limited size and relative importance, the possibility of purchasing the site should be investigated.

Objective 5.

To achieve consensus on the conservation management of the site with landowners, the local community and other interested parties.

Strategies:

- 5.1. Liaise with interested parties** NPW will strive to maintain effective liaison with landowners (particularly through the Liaison Committee), relevant authorities and interested parties on achieving the objectives for conservation of the site.
- 5.2. Monitor development applications** NPW will continue to monitor applications, including current applications, for planning permission and licenses for lands within and adjacent to the site. Appropriate bodies will be notified if developments are thought to conflict with conservation objectives.
- 5.3. Liaise with REPS planners** REPS planners are required to consult with NPW staff when they are developing plans for land within the site.

Zoning

Note: Zoning is the division of a nature conservation site and neighbouring lands into a number of sub-units. There are four types of zones identified (not necessarily all occurring within a site): A, B and C within the site and D outside the site but impacting on it. The relevant strategies are listed for each site.

Zone A: A Natural Zone

Areas of high conservation value, which require no or little intervention (see Map 3).

1A: NON-INTERVENTION AREAS

1A1: Scrub in Gully

Strategy 2.3 applies.

2A: MAINTENANCE AREAS WITH LIMITED INTERVENTION

2A1: Species-rich *Nardus* grassland, wet heath, grasslands and scrub

Strategies 1.1-1.2, 2.1 and 2.2 apply.

2A2: Upland grassland and wet heath.

Strategy 2.2 applies.

Zone C: Intensive use Zone

Areas of low conservation value, managed for objectives other than nature conservation, but which are an important part of a nature conservation site (e.g. infrastructure). See Map 3.

C1: ROADS

Further changes should not be made to the road without prior consultation with NPW.

Zone D: Impact Zone

Areas outside the site, which may have an impact on the site (see Map 3).

D1: CAR PARK AND PICNIC AREA

Liaison with County Council required to ensure that area has minimum impacts on the site.

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
1.1	Grazing Management	Survey stocking rates and monitor impacts. All areas subject to grazing at least once every five years.	NPW			
1.2	Control of Damaging Activities	Ensure that potentially damaging activities are restricted and that consultation occurs prior to potentially damaging activities occurring.	NPW/ Landowners			
2.1	Maintain ecological value of other habitats	See strategies 1.1-1.2.	-			
2.2	Improved damaged areas of upland grassland and wet heath	Winter feeding of cattle to be phased out during plan period, and use of ringfeeders limited to areas outside of the site.	NPW/ Landowners			
2.3	Maintain ecological value of scrub	No intervention.	-			
3.1	Maintain habitats where orchids are found	See strategies 1.1–1.2 and 2.1-2.3.	-			
4.1	Land Purchase	Consider the possibility of purchasing the site.	NPW			
5.1	Liaise with interested parties	Maintain effective liaison with relevant parties.	NPW			
5.2	Monitor development applications	Monitor development applications for lands within and adjacent to the site. Inform appropriate bodies if developments are thought to conflict with conservation objectives.	NPW			
5.3	Liaise with REPS planners	REPS planners are required to consult with NPW staff if developing plans for land within the site.	REPS planners			

APPENDIX I:

GLOSSARY

ABIOTIC FACTORS – Non-living factors such as geology and climate.

AFFORESTATION - The planting of trees (usually conifers) over an area of previously unplanted ground.

ALTITUDE - Vertical height above sea level.

AMPHIBIANS – A vertebrate group whose members spend part of their life cycle in water and part on land e.g. Frog.

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

ANNEX II - of the EU Birds Directive lists birds which may be hunted.

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

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.

BLANKET BOG - An NPW habitat classification which refers to bogs which carpet the landscape, following the underlying topography. They can cover extensive areas along the west coast and on uplands throughout the country.

COMMERCIAL FOREST - An NPW habitat classification which applies to plantations of coniferous trees, primarily Sitka Spruce, Lodgepole Pine, Douglas Fir, Japanese Larch and Norway Spruce. More than 90% of the canopy is formed by coniferous trees, although there may be broad-leaved trees, especially Birch present along the plantation edges.

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.

CONSTRAINT OR MODIFIER - An activity or action which might prevent the site manager from attaining an ideal objective.

DEHLG - Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

DENSE BRACKEN – An NPW habitat classification which refers to areas with 75% cover of Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), a single branched fern with a characteristic small and bright green foliage dying to rich reds and russets in the Autumn.

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.

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.

EUROPEAN BIRDS DIRECTIVE (79/ 409/ 2nd April 1979) - See Birds Directive.

EVALUATION - A considered or measured assessment of available information leading to a ranking or valuing.

FACILITATOR - A person who, in consultation with others, assists NPW staff in the production of a conservation or management plan.

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.

FENS AND FLUSHES - An NPW habitat classification. Fens are peatlands fed by calcium rich water, either from groundwater or from inflowing surface water. Flushes are wet areas maintained by the seepage of water down slopes of various gradient, and are usually local features. Both are characterised by an abundance of small Sedge forming species-rich mosaics with other species. Orchid species are particularly noticeable in fens and Butterworts are more typical of flushes.

FLORA - plant life.

FLORA PROTECTION ORDER - under the 1976 Wildlife Act, particular plants can be protected under a Flora Protection Order. Under such an order it becomes an offence to cut, uproot or damage these plants unless under licence from the Minister. The same order prohibits damage to the habitats of these species.

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.

HEATH – An NPW habitat classification comprises of vegetation on relatively dry acidic mineral or peat soil usually dominated by Ericaceous shrubs, which include *Calluna vulgaris* (Heather), all Heathers (*Erica* spp.), *Vaccinium myrtillus* (Bilberry), *Empetrum nigrum* (Crowberry), *Arctostaphylos uva-ursea* (Bearberry), *Daboecia cantabrica* (St Dabioc's Heath), or dwarf, cushion forming *Ulex* spp. These shrubs must form a minimum cover of 25% to fall into the heath category. This habitat is frequently found in mosaic with other upland habitats.

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.

IMPROVED GRASSLAND – An NPW habitat classification describing species poor grassland, distinctive by its even appearance and bright colour, usually heavily fertilised and re-seeded with fast growing grasses.

LAKES AND PONDS - An NPW habitat classification describing enclosed bodies of fresh water, or semi-enclosed bays of larger bodies of fresh water. Only the open water body itself is included, so areas of standing with tall emergent vegetation are not included here but should be assigned to reedbeds and other swamps.

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

LIAISON - Communication and contact between two groups.

LIAISON COMMITTEE - This is a special group set up to discuss the contents of a conservation management plan and the implementation of the plan. The committee will include representation of landowners, right-holders and other interest groups. It shall be the function of the committee to advise NPW managers on the interaction between site conservation management and local interests. The Liaison Committee will nominate a member to the official Appeals Board which will consider appeals against site designation and other issues. The Liaison Committee will be independent from the NPW.

LOCAL – A term used in ecology which is 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. Local applies to 26-75, 10 km squares in this context.

LOCHANS - An aquatic feature which comprises a thin peaty substrate overlying quartzite bedrock, with the only visible vegetation being filamentous green algae. These are commonly used by frogs for spawning.

LOWLAND WET GRASSLAND - An NPW habitat classification which refers to grasslands which normally below the 100m contour, with a vegetation characteristic of waterlogged soil. This category also includes rushy fields.

MACHAIR - An NPW habitat classification, as well a priority habitat listed in Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. Machairs are coastal grassy plains with damp, shelly/sandy soil. They occur from Galway Bay to Malin Head, and are maintained by livestock grazing. They are nearly level but close enough to the water table that small undulations lead to a mosaic of wet and dry areas. Due to the absence of plant species that bind the soils of sand dunes, the soil surface is quite unstable and may be disturbed in winter gales.

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.

MANAGEMENT POTENTIAL - This describes the effect of the constraints and modifiers on the ideal objectives and details the possible outcome of management of the site.

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.

MUDSTONE - Fine-grained sedimentary rock, formed from mud.

MULTIPLE PRIVATE OWNERSHIP- Lands that are divided into areas which are privately owned. There must be more than one private landowner under this heading. (lands in commonage are not described under this heading).

National Parks and Wildlife (NPW) – 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.

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.

NOTABLE SPECIES - Plants or animals which are worthy of mentioning either because they are particularly typical of a habitat, or because they are rare/ scarce/ atypical.

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.

NPW - National Parks and Wildlife

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.

PER-ANNUUM - Each year.

POACHING - Damage caused to the vegetation by excessive numbers of large grazers.

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.

PRIORITY (setting) - put to determine which objectives, strategies, programmes or tasks will be carried out first, if resources (financial, technological and manpower) are limited, and do not allow all to be carried out.

PRIVATE OWNERSHIP - Land which is owned by one private landowner.

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

RAISED BOG - An NPW habitat classification characterised by an elevated dome of peat, the surface of which is isolated from the surrounding ground water table and receiving water solely

from precipitation. The peat surface is wet, often with pools and hummock hollow systems and is usually dominated by *Sphagnum* mosses and bushy Heather, with Deer-grass, Bog Cottons and other associated species. Raised bogs can be distinguished from blanket bogs by their paucity of grasses which typify blanket bog.

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.

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.

REPTILES - Cold-blooded vertebrates, most of which are terrestrial, having dry horny skin with scales or plates. Most reptiles lay eggs that have a leathery skin, although some are ovoviviparous.

RESIDUES - Substances remaining after the initial cause has been removed.

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 NPW, whose function here is to ensure that the favourable conservation status of the site is maintained and where possible improved.

SCREE - An NPW habitat classification which refers to unconsolidated rocky or stony material on a hillside.

SCRUB – An NPW habitat classification which comprises areas with more than 50% cover of shrubs or small trees. There may be scattered standard trees, but in general the canopy height is 5 m or less. This category does not apply to stands of young trees which will eventually grow to a height of more than 5 m.

SEDIMENTARY - Formed by the deposition of sediment, i.e. rock particles or chemical precipitate, or pertaining to the process of sedimentation.

SEMI-IMPROVED GRASSLAND - An NPW habitat classification which refers to grasslands which have been lightly fertilised but not re-seeded. These grasslands may still support a rich assemblage of grasses and herbs.

SEMI-NATURAL DRY GRASSLANDS (AND SCRUBLAND FACIES ON CALCAREOUS SUBSTRATES - IMPORTANT ORCHID SITES) - A priority habitat listed under the EU Habitats

Directive dry to semi-dry calcareous grasslands of the *Festuco-Brometea*. This habitat in Ireland often supports rich Orchid flora.

SITE CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT - A critical examination of the management performance and/or management plan or part of the plan, to measure the quality of the management plan and its implementation, carried out by the management organisation (internal audit) or by an independent “authority” not directly associated with the site (“external audit”), usually at the invitation of the management organisation.

SITE POTENTIAL - The possibilities of the site in ecological, social, cultural and/ or economic terms. This is where management aims, when setting their ideal objectives.

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 NPW is responsible for ensuring that such areas are protected from significant damage.

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

SPECIES RICH *NARDUS* GRASSLANDS, (on siliceous substrates in mountain areas.)- A priority habitat listed in Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. Closed dry or mesophile, perennial grasslands occupying siliceous soils. Vegetation is highly varied, but the variation is characterised by continuity. *Nardus stricta* (Mat Grass) is not the dominant vegetation but is characteristic of this habitat type.

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.

SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING - The practice of providing livestock with additional food, usually carried out in winter. This term is most often used when hay, silage or other foods are brought into a site to supply Cattle or Sheep with food during times when growing conditions are poor.

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).

TURLOUGHS - An NPW habitat classification and a priority habitat listed in Annex I of the Habitat Directive describing temporary lakes in limestone areas which fill and empty through underground passages. Usually filling during the Winter and drying out in the Summer, but often with more rapid fluctuations in response to local rainfall. They are mainly found in counties Clare, Galway and Roscommon. The vegetation of their basins is a mixture of aquatic, terrestrial and especially amphibious plants, usually forming a distinct and characteristic concentric zonation pattern.

UPLAND GRASSLAND ON MINERAL SOIL - An NPW habitat classification describing usually species rich grasslands on mineral soils, normally at altitudes exceeding 100m. Often the vegetation is dominated by calcicolous (lime loving) grasses. Ericaceous scrubs such as Ling, Heather, are scarce or absent, although Gorse, Blackthorn or Hawthorn can occur.

VASCULAR - Consisting of, or containing vessels adapted for the carriage or circulation of fluid, in plants refers to xylem and phloem.

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: REFERENCES

Map References:

O.S. 1/2 inch (1:126,720) map:	18
O.S. Discovery (1:50,000) map:	59
O.S. 6 inch (1: 10,560) map:	TI 26

Data Bases :

NHA database, NPW, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2.

Natura 2000 database, NPW, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2.

Relevant Legislation:

S.I. No. 94/1997: European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997.

Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations, 2000.

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APPENDIX III: PHYSICAL PROCESSES AFFECTING THE SITE

Climate

BIRR													
monthly and annual mean and extreme values													
1961-1990													
TEMPERATURE (degrees Celsius)	jan	feb	mar	apr	may	jun	jul	aug	sep	oct	nov	dec	year
mean daily max.	7.5	7.9	9.8	12.2	14.9	17.7	19.2	18.8	16.6	13.6	9.7	8.2	13
mean daily min.	1.8	1.8	2.5	3.5	5.9	8.7	10.7	10.3	8.5	6.7	3.1	2.5	5.5
mean	4.6	4.8	6.1	7.9	10.4	13.2	14.9	14.6	12.6	10.1	6.4	5.4	9.3
absolute max.	13.8	15	19.7	23.7	25.7	31.2	30.8	29.3	24.5	22.3	17.5	15.3	31.2
absolute min.	-14.6	-10.5	-10.5	-4.6	-2.2	-0.3	3.1	1.2	-1	-3.4	-7.2	-9.4	-14.6
mean no. of days with air frost	9	7.7	7	4.2	1	0.1	0	0	0.3	1.5	7.1	7.8	45.7
mean no. of days with ground frost	17	15.1	13.6	11.8	6.1	1.2	0.1	0.2	2	4.9	13	15	99.9
RELATIVE HUMIDITY (%)													
mean at 0900UTC	90	89	87	82	77	78	80	84	86	89	90	90	85
mean at 1500UTC	83	76	71	65	64	66	67	68	71	76	80	84	73
SUNSHINE (hours)													
mean daily duration	1.6	2.31	3.18	4.64	5.32	4.8	4.24	4.16	3.58	2.67	2.03	1.41	3.33
greatest daily duration	7.2	9.2	11.7	13.6	15.2	15.6	15.2	13.8	11.3	9.7	8.1	6.7	15.6
mean no. of days with no sun	11	7	5	3	2	2	3	2	4	6	9	12	66
RAINFALL (mm)													
mean monthly total	75.9	54	61.3	52.5	61.7	55.2	59.1	77.6	70.6	83.5	74.1	78.6	804.2
greatest daily total	28.6	35.3	25.9	30.9	26.3	27.5	39.5	42.2	25.6	40.3	25.9	47.1	47.1
mean no. of days with $\geq 0.2\text{mm}$	19	15	18	15	17	16	15	17	17	18	18	19	204
mean no. of days with $\geq 1.0\text{mm}$	14	11	13	11	13	11	10	13	12	14	13	14	148
mean no. of days with $\geq 5.0\text{mm}$	6	4	4	4	5	3	4	5	5	6	5	6	57
WIND (knots)													
mean monthly speed	8	8.1	8.1	7	6.7	6.1	5.8	6	6.6	7.2	7.1	7.9	7
max. gust	85	77	62	58	55	49	49	58	81	65	60	69	85
max. mean 10-minute speed	51	40	36	34	31	28	27	35	39	40	34	43	51
mean no. of days with gales	0.4	0.4	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0.2	1.2
WEATHER (mean no. of days with...)													
snow or sleet	4.9	3.8	2.7	1.1	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0.6	2.6	15.9
snow lying at 0900UTC	3.1	1.9	0.8	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.6	6.6
hail	0.6	0.9	2.6	1.8	1.1	0.3	0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.3	8.7
thunder	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.6	1.1	1	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1	5.2
fog	3.2	1.8	1.7	2.4	1.2	1.4	1.9	3.2	3.3	3.6	2.8	3.4	29.9

APPENDIX IV: NOTIFIABLE ACTIONS

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

Notifiable Action 2.1 – Upland Grassland, Scree and Inland Cliff

Notifiable Action 2.3 – Wet Lowland Grasslands

Notifiable Action 3.2 – Heath (including Juniper scrub)

Notifiable Action 5.2 – Scrub

Notifiable Action 7.1 – Artificial Habitats

HABITAT TYPE 2.1

UPLAND GRASSLAND, SCREE, AND INLAND CLIFF

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 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 2.1

UPLAND GRASSLAND, SCREE, AND INLAND CLIFF

<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/adding lime</p> <p>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</p> <p>using fertiliser on slopes over 25 degrees</p> <p>creation of new tracks or paths</p> <p>burning of vegetation</p> <p>reclamation, infilling, ploughing or land drainage</p> <p>reseeding, planting of trees or any other species</p> <p>rock removal/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. 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> <p>commercial turf cutting</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 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.

SECTION A

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.

SECTION B

Please note that the activities listed in *Section B 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).

If so, these notifiable actions do not apply.

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.

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/ reseeded, 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.

SECTION A

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.

SECTION B

Please note that the activities listed in *Section B 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).

If so, these notifiable actions do not apply.

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.

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 5.2

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.

SECTION A

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.

SECTION B

Please note that the activities listed in *Section B* 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).

If so, these notifiable actions do not apply.

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.

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.

HABITAT TYPE 7.1

DITCHES, HEDGES, CEREALS AND INTENSIVE GRASSLANDS, WALLS, BUILDINGS, WASTE GROUND, BARE SOIL, PARKLAND GRASSLAND, BRACKEN, CAVES, OR QUARRIES

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 7.1

DITCHES, HEDGES, CEREALS AND INTENSIVE GRASSLANDS, WALLS, BUILDINGS, WASTE GROUND, BARE SOIL, PARKLAND GRASSLAND, BRACKEN, CAVES, OR QUARRIES

<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>disturbance of bats</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 sports pitches, caravan or camping facilities.</p> <p>developing roads or car parks</p> <p>construction of fences, buildings and 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.

APPENDIX V: COMPENSATION AND APPEALS PROCEDURES

Compensation

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.

Appeals Procedure

Objection or appeal can be made against the inclusion of a piece of land in a cSAC or SPA. A person can only make objections if they have a legal interest in the site (i.e. an owner or legal user). They must be made on scientific grounds, e.g. a landowner would show that the relevant habitats/species/geological features were not present in such a condition as to warrant designation. Appeals can also be made for the inclusion of lands. Appeals should be accompanied by a map of the area of concern and be as informative as possible. There are two stages to the appeals process:

Internal Appeals are initially dealt with by regional staff. If necessary, they may refer the case to other NPWS staff. If there is no agreement following the internal appeal, the case becomes an external appeal.

The option of an **External Appeal** is available only where an internal appeal is unsuccessful. If so, the appellant may have the case referred to an Appeals Advisory Board, which is independent of NPWS. A grant to defray the cost of an expert scientific report is available to the appellant. The Board is comprised of equal representation of landowners/users and conservationists, with an independent chairperson. The Board makes a recommendation on each appeal to the Minister who then decides on the outcome of the appeal.

APPENDIX VI: SUMMARY OF FARMING CONDITIONS UNDER REPS

Conditions for the conservation of blanket bogs, heaths and upland grasslands to be applied under REPS

General Provisions

The conditions for specific habitat types are supplementary to the agri-environmental plan requirements of the general REPS programmes. The conditions for the target areas under Supplementary Measure A apply. Planners may seek a derogation from the Regional Inspector to vary these conditions in individual cases. All REPS plans in respect of NHAs must be approved and signed by the Planning Agency's environmentalist/ecologist.

Detailed Conditions

The conditions applicable to Supplementary Measure A apply; the guidelines set out below are complementary to these conditions.

Stocking Density

In all cases an environmentally sustainable plan must be prepared and adhered to for the total area of the farm. Sustainable optimum stocking rates must be set down by the REPS planner following careful assessment of the environmental conservation needs of the lands.

Where the stocking levels set down by the planner require a reduction in stock, this must be achieved within one year of the commencement of the plan.

There can be no increase in stocking levels, no introduction of stock to new areas and no changes in stock type during the period of the REPS plan without the prior approval of DAF.

The maximum number of sheep that may be kept on the farm as a whole must be set down in the REPS plan. The conditions set out for Supplementary Measure A areas must be followed. The following parameters apply:

- Where there is no damage, the current stocking levels are acceptable.
- If the level of damage is moderate, a stocking reduction must be prescribed by the planner at a level related to the damage and sufficient for the vegetation to recover
- If the level of damage is severe, a stocking reduction of between 70 % and 100 % of ewe numbers on the damaged area must be prescribed for a specified period.
- At the review of the REPS plan, the conservation status of the areas will be reviewed. A change in the stocking levels (increase or decrease) may be appropriate depending on progress.

Stocking levels apply to Scottish Blackface sheep or similar medium sized sheep breeds. Stocking levels for cattle or other stock should be at livestock unit applicable rates taking account of DAF conversion rates for the various stock types. The stocking levels recommended in this document are maximum sustainable rates for year round grazing. If shorter periods of grazing are used, the number of animals may be increased, though not necessarily pro rata.

Supplementary Feeding

Supplementary feeding is permitted only on areas where it is currently practised. Locations of feeding points must be specified. To reduce heavy grazing, trampling, poaching and erosion problems, 'feeding points' should be moved every three weeks and sited on ground with least habitat and wildlife value, preferably on grassland well away from stands of heather. Feeding on steep slopes and on peaty soils should be avoided where possible. The total amount of feed used must not be increased.

Use of Fertilisers and Herbicides

Neither organic nor inorganic fertilisers or lime can be applied on bogs, heaths or upland grasslands where they have not been used before. Fertilisers must not be used as a means of regenerating eroded areas. In the case of upland grasslands, fertilisers can only be applied on the basis of the results of a soil test. Where fertilisers are being applied, the initial soil sampling should be relatively intensive, with at least one sample per 2-4 ha. Target soil phosphate levels must not exceed the Index 2 level set out in the REPS specification.

Spraying or broadcast application of herbicides must be avoided. Spot application and wipe-on treatments to eradicate docks, thistles, ragwort and similar noxious weeds may be used. Rhododendron may be removed by cutting and herbicide treatment. Bracken control may be by rolling, cutting and/or by controlled cattle trampling in early summer. In exceptional circumstances, control of bracken by herbicides may be permitted.

Water Pollution

The greatest care should be taken to observe the statutory requirements on water pollution. The hydrology of bogland areas is characterised by extremely nutrient poor surface waters which contain flora and fauna adapted to these conditions. These species would be adversely affected by nutrient enrichment. New sheep dip sites must be listed and located away from streams and flushes to reduce the possibility of water pollution and damage to flora and fauna.

Restricted and Prohibited Practices

- The following practices must not be carried out on blanket bogs, heaths or upland grasslands
- The areas must not be drained, ploughed, cultivated or reseeded.
- There must be no infilling or rock removal.
- Turf cutting on unexploited bogs is not permitted. Turf cutting for domestic use is permitted on existing banks.
- Planting of trees or other crops is not permitted.
- No new tracks or paths can be created.
- Burning is only allowed as a planned management practice.
- Gorse may be controlled by cutting, spot spraying or exceptionally by burning outside of the bird nesting season (March 1st to August 31st).

Complementary Action

(a) Measures to prevent damage by non REPS participants

DAF should take measures to ensure that the environmental benefits achieved in degraded areas under REPS are not negated or diminished by non-participants in the Scheme

(b) Evaluating and Monitoring

Monitoring and evaluating the effects of REPS on blanket bogs, heaths and upland and unimproved grassland is essential in determining the environmental impact of REPS on these habitats so that appropriate modifications can be identified and effected where necessary. The effect of the grazing regime on vegetation and wildlife should be monitored to assess recovery as well as any damage being caused by animals. To this end, DAF and NPWS of DEHLG, in consultation with Teagasc and private planners, will monitor the environmental impact of REPS on these habitats on an ongoing basis. Progress in this regard will be reported to the Consultative Committee on REPS.

(c) Farmer Education /Advice

A REPS promotional campaign will be undertaken as soon as is practicable to inform farmers of the conservation needs of these areas and of the provisions of REPS. This campaign will be undertaken by DAF. Farming and environmental organisations will also be invited to assist in this promotional campaign.

(d) Seminars for Planners

Seminars for REPS planners shall be held to advise on the interpretation of these conditions at ground level.

(e) Demonstration Farms

A number of REPS participant demonstration farms will be set up in selected areas. Research work could also be carried out at these farms to assess the ability/rate of recovery of an area under different stocking conditions.

(f) Quota Rights

Any REPS participant farmer is guaranteed that their quota rights are protected and in the event of a possibility of increasing numbers arising, such farmers would be allowed to do so, subject to the environmental condition of the participant farm.

(g) Scheme Extension

The application of REPS in the target areas will apply for periods of five years renewable for 15 years.

(h) Local Co-ordination

DAF will encourage co-ordination, at local level, of efforts to rejuvenate damaged areas.

APPENDIX VII: NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT STAFF

Conservation Ranger

Mr. Denis Ryan,
Toor,
Newport,
Co. Tipperary.
Phone (061) 378 376.
dryan@duchas.ie

District Conservation Officer

Mr. Stefan Jones
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Regional Manager

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Government Buildings,
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Deputy Regional Manager

Mr. Tom Ryan
Tircullen
Tallow
Co. Waterford
Phone (058) 56260
tyran@duchas.ie

Divisional Manager

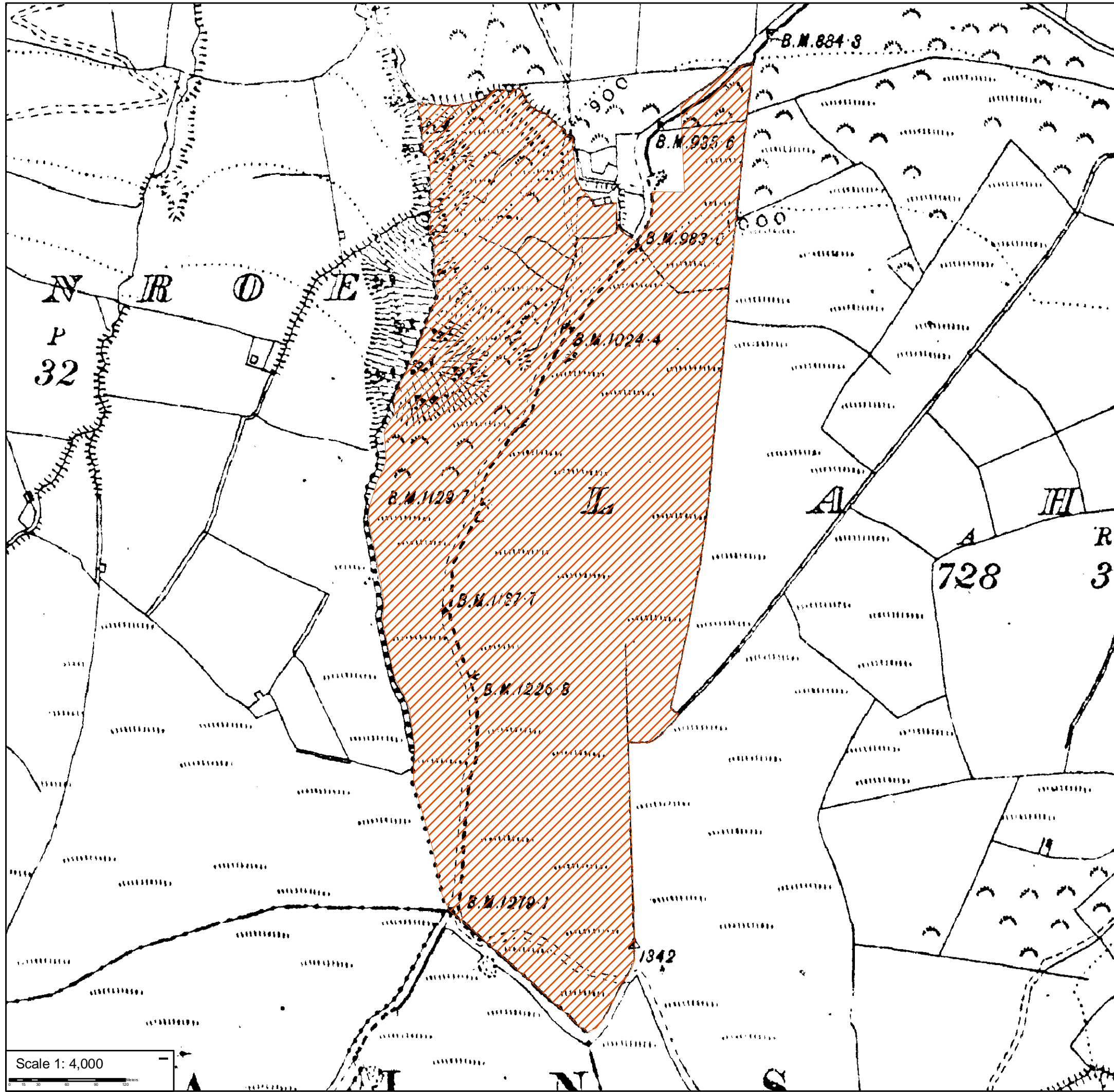
Mr. Paddy O Sullivan
National Parks and Wildlife Service
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posullivan@duchas.ie

Divisional Ecologist

Dr. Jervis Good
NPWS
Government Buildings
Sullivan's Quay
Cork
Phone (021) 4961920
jgood@duchas.ie

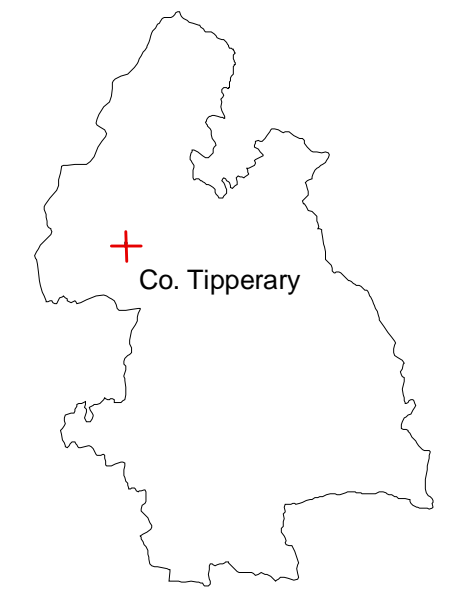
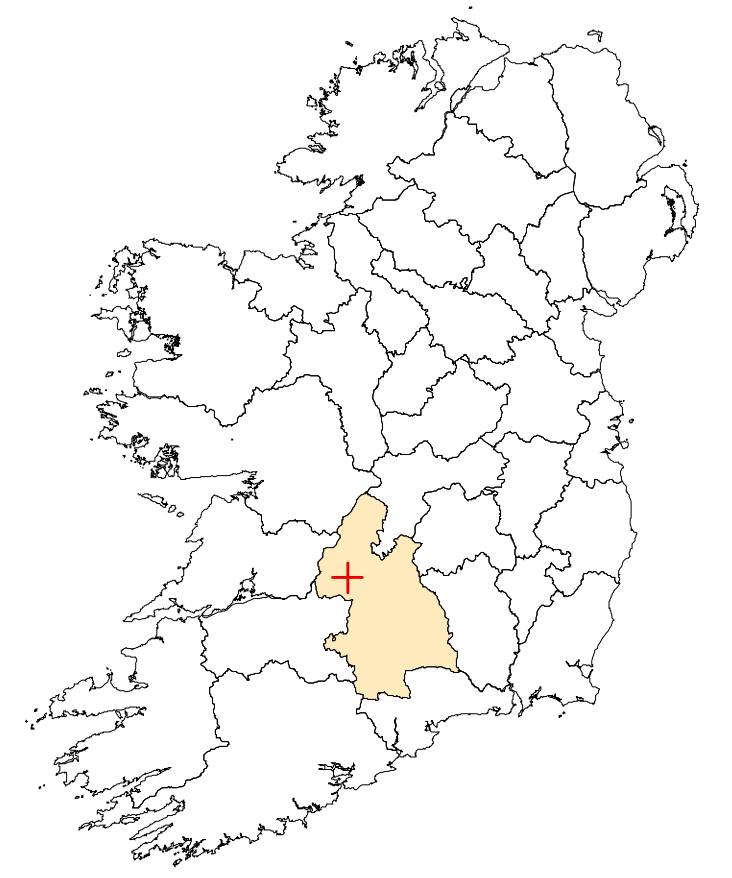
National Parks and Wildlife

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

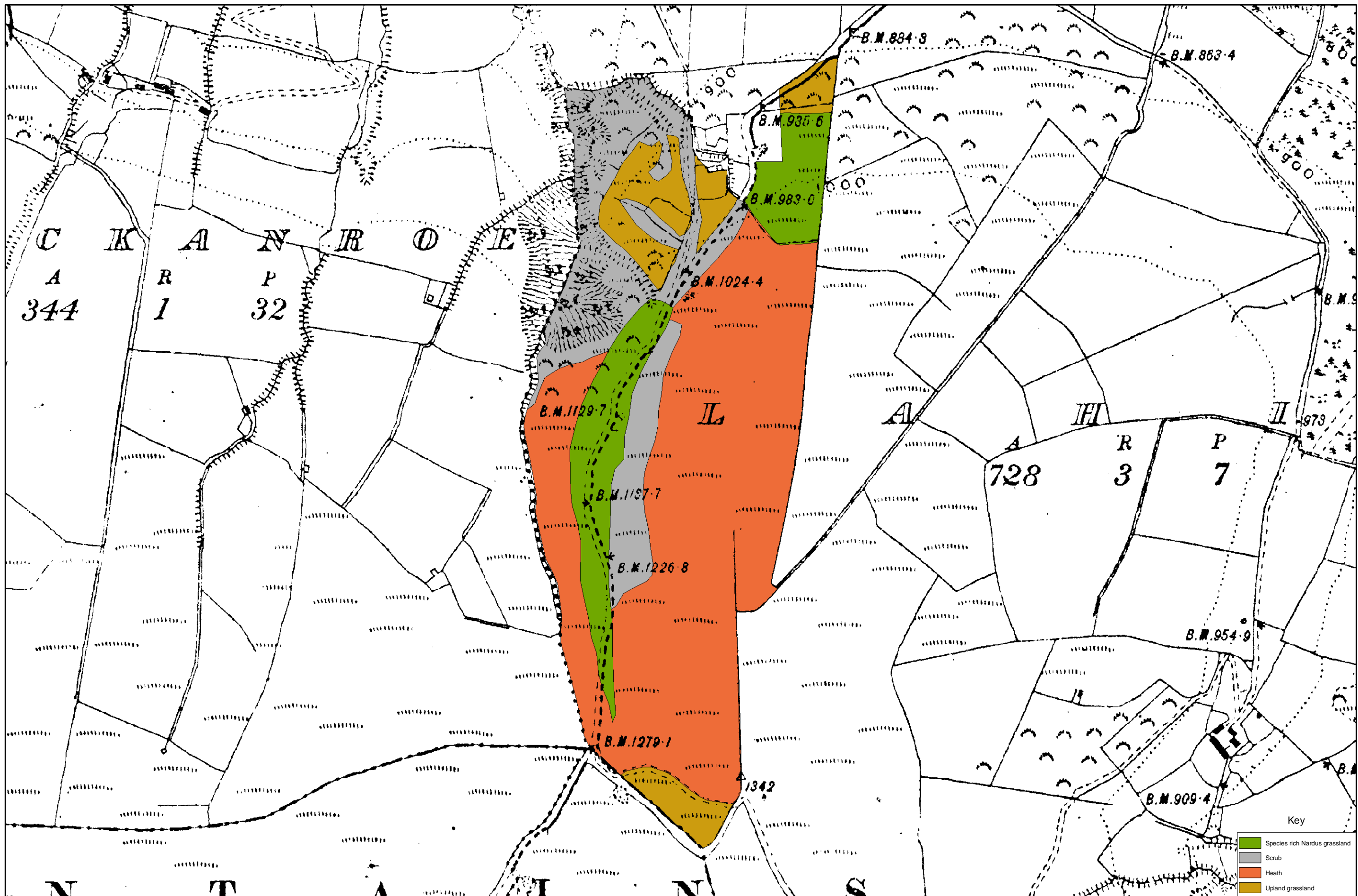


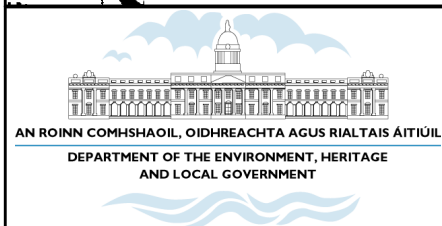
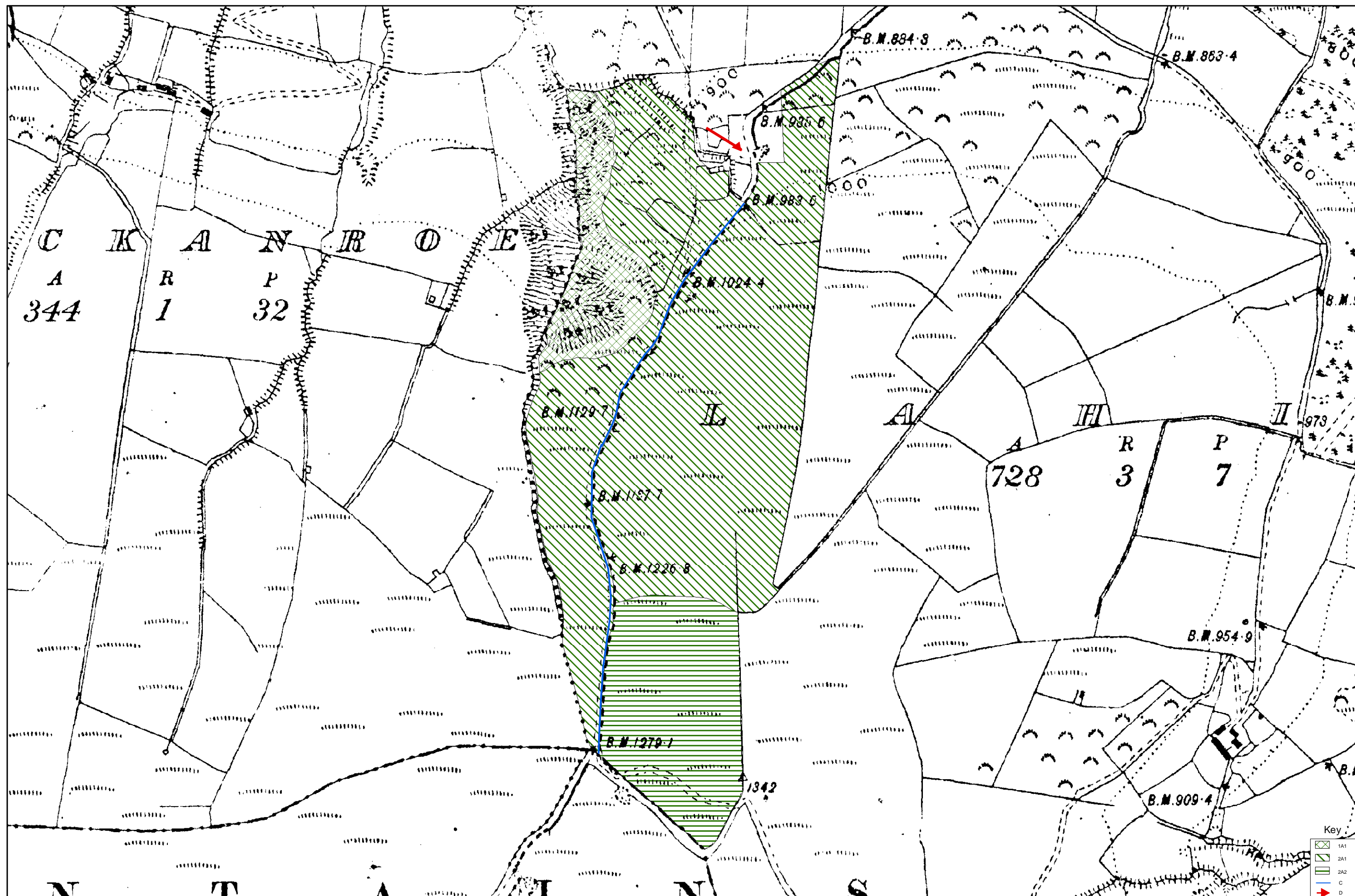
CEANTAR SPEISIALTA CAOMHNATHE
CANDIDATE SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION
SILVERMINE MOUNTAINS SAC 000939
Version 1.00

Féadtar athruithe a chur ar an gceantair / Sites subject to revision
(Ní thaispeántar suímh gur de speis géolaíoch amháin iad) / (Sites solely of geological interest not shown)
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Map 1
LOCATION MAP: SILVERMINE MOUNTAINS SAC 000939

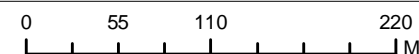




CEANTAR SPEISIALTA CAOMHNATHE
CANDIDATE SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION

Féadtar athruithe a chur ar na gceantair / Sites subject to revision
(Ní thaispeántar suímh gur de spéis géolaíoch amháin iad) / (Sites solely of geological interest not shown)
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Macasamhail d'ábhar na Suirbhéireachta Ordonáis le cead ón Rialtas (Ceadúnas Uimh 5953)

SILVERMINE MOUNTAINS
TI 6" SHEET 026



Scale 1: 4,500

Map 3
MANAGEMENT ZONING MAP
Map to be read in conjunction with conservation plan.

— SITE CODE
000939
Version 1.00