

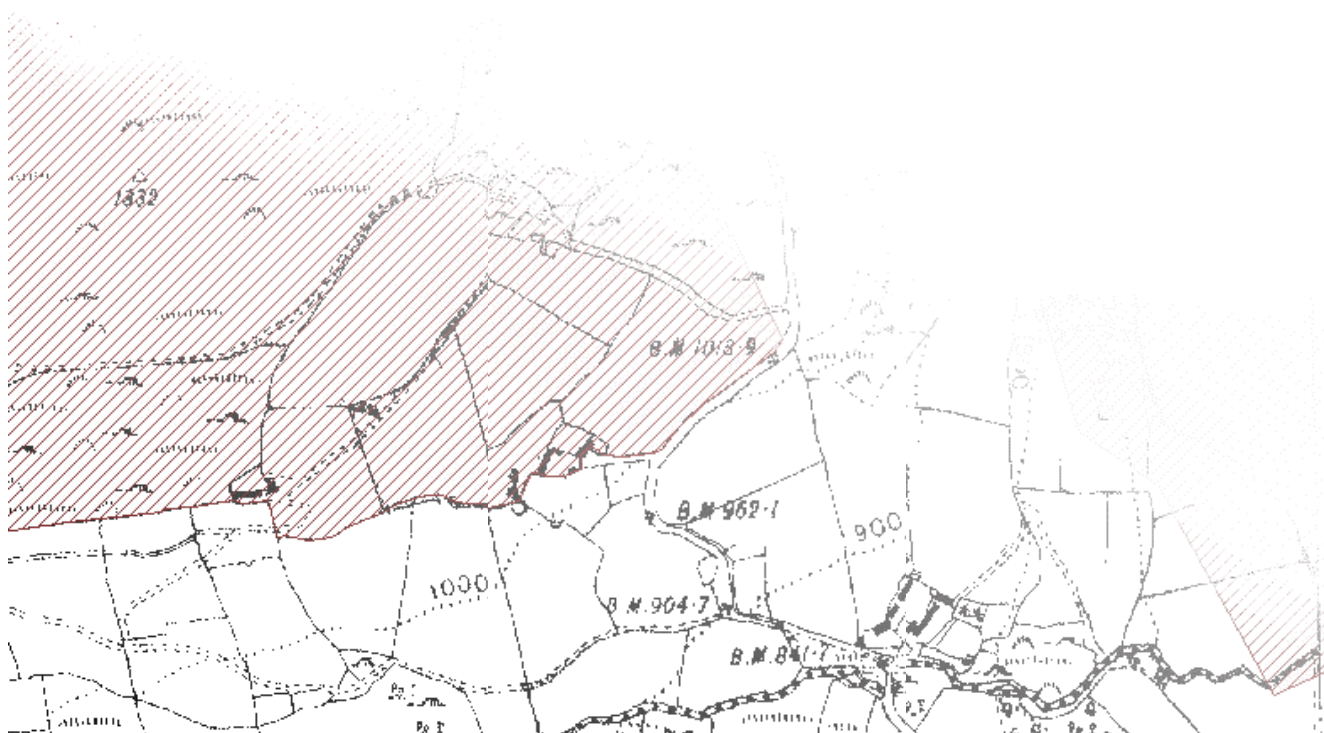


National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Plan for 2005-2010



Glendree Bog cSAC

Site Code 1912
Co. Clare



SUMMARY

Site Description

Glendree bog is a candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) due to the presence of active blanket bog, a priority habitat in Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. Greenland White-fronted Goose, which is listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive utilises the site.

The site is approximately 340 ha in area, and is located about 5 km west/north-west of the village of Feakle in Co. Clare. The underlying bedrock is Old Red Sandstone. The site is situated in the Slieve Aughty Mountains and comprises a series of undulating peat-covered plateaux. Peat depth ranges in depth from 1.5 m to bare rock. The majority of the site comprises upland blanket bog. Areas of old cut-over blanket bog, scrub, rock outcrops in mosaic with heath, small valleys supporting flush vegetation and lakes, make up the remainder of the site.

The blanket bog supports Purple Moor-grass, which is found in association with other species such as Deergrass, Common Cottongrass, Carnation Sedge, and Tormentil.

There are areas of abandoned cutover with species such as Heather in the dryer areas and various Bog Mosses in wetter parts where regeneration is occurring.

The valleys contain flushes where species such as Sharp-flowered Rush, Compact Rush, Black Bog Rush and other Sedges such as Dioecious Sedge occur.

Areas of heath tend to be found in the vicinity of the rock outcrops where Heather is the dominant species with Bilberry and occasionally Bracken also occurring.

There are three lakes within the site the largest of which is Lough Ea. This large lake supports Quillwort, which is a regionally rare plant.

Some areas of scrub are scattered throughout the site, where trees such as Rowan and Eared Willow grow.

Land Use

- The site is used for peat extraction, the majority of which is carried out with machinery.
- Cattle graze the site in summer.
- There is a hill-walking route running through part of the area.
- The majority of the site is bordered by commercial forestry.

Main conservation issues

- Peat extraction
- Dumping
- Burning
- Grazing
- Recreational activities
- Commercial forestry adjacent to site

Main management objectives

- To maintain and where possible enhance the ecological value of the priority habitat, *Active Blanket Bog (including flushes) (73% of the site).
- To maintain and where possible enhance other habitats: Cut-over bog (approximately 9% old cut-over and 3% active cut-over), Flushes (2%), Heath (4%), Lakes (6%), Scrub (1%), Streams and Springs (<1%), Reedbed (<1%) and Exposed Rock (<1%).
- To maintain the populations of notable bird species and other important plant and animal species, in particular the species listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive, Greenland White-fronted Goose.
- To initiate and maintain effective liaison with landowners, Clare County Council and other interested parties on the management of the site.

Main strategies to achieve objectives

- Control of peat extraction
- Establishment of sustainable grazing regimes
- Prevention of damaging activities through the use of notifiable actions
- Consultation with landowners and other interested parties

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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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:

HABITAT LISTED IN ANNEX I OF THE E.U. HABITATS DIRECTIVE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Active blanket bog 	<p>This is an Annex I priority habitat. Glendree Bog represents a good diversity of blanket bog communities. The site is also a roosting and possible feeding site for the Annex I bird species, Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>)</p>

* Indicates priority habitat on Annex I of the Habitats Directive



Glendree Bog (courtesy David Lyons).

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 maintain the Annex II species 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 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

This site is situated roughly 5 km west/north-west of the village of Feakle, Co. Clare.

Grid Ref.: R 51 88
Latitude: 52 56 46 N
Longitude: 08 43 56 W
Area: 340 ha
Altitude Range: 229 m to 305 m
Townlands: Glendree, Maghera,
Commons, Uggoon
Upper

(Map references are provided in Appendix II).

Site Infrastructure

The site is accessed by a track way that runs off the link road (L194). This track forks and veers to the left providing access to Lough Ea, and to the right becomes part of the public footpath known as the East Clare Way. Several rough tracks also lead off this track, gaining access to areas of cut-over bog. An additional track connects an abandoned quarry with adjacent farmland in the south-eastern corner of the site.

Legal Status

Ownership

The majority of this site is commonage. The remainder of the site is in multiple private ownership.

Designations of the Site

candidate Special Area of Conservation	Site Code: 1912
proposed Natural Heritage Area	Site Code: 1912

Management Infrastructure

Individuals and Organisations Involved

Landowners	The majority of this site is commonage. The remainder of the site is in multiple private ownership
National Parks & Wildlife (NPW) of the Dept. of Environment Heritage & Local Government	NPW is responsible for maintaining the nature conservation value of the site. The is patrolled by local Conservation Rangers, with input from other staff as necessary (see Appendix VII for further details of NPW regional staff).

Physical Features

Climate

The following table shows mean values for the given variables for the period 1990-1998 recorded at Shannon Airport Meteorological Station (Grid reference: R379603; Altitude: 6 m)

Year	Temperature (°C)	Total rainfall (mm)	Total sunshine (hrs)	Mean wind speed (knots)
1990	11	1023.9	1342.3	8.9
1991	10.5	879.6	1233.5	9.5
1992	10.5	915.8	1155.9	9.6
1993	10.2	958.0	1073.1	9.4
1994	10.6	1194.9	1115.2	9.7
1995	11.3	1031.7	1407.6	9.0
1996	10.4	886.0	1313.6	8.8
1997	11.5	1026.9	1200.8	8.9
1998	11.2	1144.5	1235.0	9.3
Average	10.8	1006.8	1230.8	9.2

Geology & Geomorphology

The site is underlain by Devonian Old Red Sandstone and Metasediments, which are visible as rocky outcrops. The site is situated at the south-western corner of the Slieve Aughty Mountains. The ground rises above the site in the west, rises again to Maghera Mountain in the north, and gradually slopes down towards the lowlands of East Clare and Lough Derg, which lie to the South and East of the Slieve Aughtys.

Hydrology

The site is comprised of a series of gently undulating plateaux with wetter valleys and several lakes, the largest of which is Loch Ea in the west of the site. There are several streams draining the site; one which flows out of Loch Ea along the northern boundary, and the Glendree River that flows from Loch Nacally in the centre of the site.

Soils and Soil Processes

The soil within this site is a peat soil known as the Aughty series. The depth varies from 1.5m to bare rock. This soil is typical of the peats found in the upland blanket bogs in the Slieve Aughty Mountains.

Biological Features

Habitats and Vegetation

Note: Throughout the conservation plan, habitats are named and described under two different systems: the Annex I habitat is 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 Glendree Bog cSAC

ANNEX I HABITAT TYPE	CORRESPONDING NHA CATEGORY	% AREA
*Active blanket bog	Blanket bog	73%
	Cut-over bog	12%
	Fens and flushes	2%
	Heath	4%
	Lakes and ponds	6%
	Rives and streams	<1%
	Freshwater marsh	<1%
	Reedbeds and other swamps	Combined with freshwater marsh
	Scrub	1%
	Exposed rock	<1%
	Buildings and roads	<1%
	Quarries/sand pits	<1%

Annex I Habitat:

***Active blanket bog** (73% of total site area) Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) dominates most of the bog area. Other species present include Deer-grass (*Trichophorum caespitosum*), Common Cotton-grass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*), Carnation Sedge (*Carex panicea*), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), with Bell Heather (*Erica cinerea*) and Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) in the drier areas, and various Sphagnum mosses such as *Sphagnum capillifolium* and *S. papillosum* in the wetter parts. In some areas Purple Moor-grass is absent and species such as Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*) dominate. Bog Rosemary (*Andromeda polifolia*) is of note as it is usually associated with raised bogs, rather than blanket bogs. This species is present on the upland bogs in the Slieve Aughtys.

Other Habitats

Cut-over blanket bog	Scattered throughout the site are areas of cut-over of varying ages. The bank faces of the recently cut areas are still bare, whereas in other parts Purple Moor-grass, Deergrass and Heather are re-colonising them. In some of the wetter cutover areas, quaking carpets of Sphagnum mosses are growing. This is especially evident in the area of abandoned cut-over at the south-western boundary of the site. Some young Eared Willow (<i>Salix aurita</i>) are colonising the banks of old cut-over on the southern side of the main track.
Fens and flushes	Flushes in the bog are generally found in the valleys sloping down from the plateaux and contain species such as Sharp-flowered Rush (<i>Juncus acutifloris</i>), Compact Rush, (<i>J. conglomeratus</i>), Black Bog Rush (<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>), and other Sedges such as Dioecious Sedge (<i>Carex dioica</i>), Star Sedge (<i>C. echinata</i>) and Slender Sedge (<i>C. lasiocarpa</i>). Other species present include Bogbean (<i>Menyanthes trifolium</i>), Devil's-bit Scabious (<i>Succisa pratensis</i>), Heath Bedstraw (<i>Galium saxatile</i>) Common Valerian (<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>) and Meadow Buttercup (<i>Ranunculus acris</i>). In one of the flushes in the north of the site some Common Reed (<i>Phragmites australis</i>) is present.
Heath	There are small patches of heath scattered throughout the site. These are found in association with the drier soils above the rocky outcrops and topping the small cliff-like areas. Heather is dominant, with other species present including Bilberry (<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>) and occasionally Bracken (<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>).
Lakes and ponds	There are three lakes within the site, the largest of which is Lough Ea at the western boundary. The shoreline of the lake is predominantly rocky. Species present here include Bottle Sedge (<i>Carex rostrata</i>), Lesser Marshwort (<i>Apium inundatum</i>), Quillwort (<i>Isoetes lacustris</i>), Water Lobelia (<i>Lobelia dortmanna</i>) and Shoreweed (<i>Littorella uniflora</i>). The lake in the centre of the site has a rocky and marshy shoreline. Common Reed, Bogbean, Marsh Cinquefoil (<i>Potentilla palustris</i>) and Shoreweed are also present. Lough Nacally is the smallest of the three lakes and it supports Water Horsetail (<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>), White Water-lily (<i>Nymphaea alba</i>) and Yellow Water-lily (<i>Nuphar lutea</i>).
Rivers and streams	The main streams are Loughrea and Glenaree. Loughrea flows north-east out of Lough Ea and forms the northern boundary of the site. Glenaree flows out of Lough Nacally in a southerly direction to form part of the south-western boundary. The Loughrea has been badly damaged in places due to the clearing of its banks to form a firebreak for the adjoining forestry. Some of the species still found adjacent to this stream are Bogbean and Branched Bur-reed (<i>Sparganium erectum</i>) with some pondweeds also present. A small spring flows south across the main track close to Loch Ea and into the blanket bog. Another drain/spring runs through an area of old cut-over adjacent to the track in the centre of the site.
Freshwater marsh/Reedbeds and other swamps	There is a small area of reedbed, which runs into Lough Nacally to the south. It supports Common Reed and many Sedges species such as Black Bog-rush, Star Sedge, Carnation Sedge and Bottle Sedge as well as several Rush species and Creeping Bent (<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>). The Glenaree stream flows out of Lough Nacally through this area.

Scrub	There are small patches of scrub scattered throughout the site. These are often associated with the rocky outcrops that provide some shelter for trees such as Rowan (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>), Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>) and Eared Willow. Also found here are Great Wood-rush (<i>Luzula sylvatica</i>), Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>), and occasionally Bracken and Ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>).
Exposed rock	The Old Red Sandstone outcrops as small hummocks and occasionally as small cliffs at various places on the edges of the plateaux within the site. Heather is the dominant species, with Ivy on some of the low cliff faces.
Buildings and roads	There is one main semi-paved track running in a slight serpentine through the site, and some smaller tracks lead off this usually towards abandoned areas of cut-over. The footpath through the site is only discernible by posts, which have been set in concrete and placed in the ground at intervals along the route.
Quarries/Sandpits	A small abandoned sandstone quarry is situated in the north-eastern corner of the site.

Notable Flora

Quillwort (*Isoetes lacustris*) has been recorded from Lough Ea. This species is noteworthy as it is a regionally rare plant.

Fauna

Amphibians and Reptiles

The Frog (*Rana temporaria*), listed as being Internationally Important in the Irish Red Data Book, is found within the site. The Common Lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*) is also present.

Birds

Species listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive

A flock of between 14 and 24 Greenland White-fronted Geese (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*) used the plateau south of Lough Ea for roosting in the period 1989/90 to 1993/94. None have been recorded on site in recent years, though Glendree may still be used by geese on passage.

A Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) was recorded over the site in 2000. They have been recorded as breeding in the nearby Maghera Mountains in the past and a survey in 2000 revealed these mountains to be a possible, though unconfirmed breeding site (Oliver 2000). They use the general area as part of their feeding range.

Other Species

Other species that have been recorded include:

Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) (approx. 40 recorded)

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

Red Grouse (*Lagopus lagopus*)

Raven (*Corvus corax*)

Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*) (confirmed breeding)

Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*) (confirmed breeding)
 Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) (confirmed breeding)
 Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) (confirmed breeding)
 Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*) (confirmed breeding)
 Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) (confirmed breeding)

Mammals

Badger (*Meles meles*) and Irish Hare (*Lepus timidus hibernicus*), both listed in the Irish Red Data Book as Internationally Important, are found in the site. Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) also occur in the site.

Cultural Features

Land use and impacts on the site

Peat extraction	Turf is still being cut on this bog, especially in areas close to the central track. However, no peat was cut in 2000. Many banks have already been worked out or abandoned. Until recently, some cutting was done by hand. The majority is machine cut. (See Appendix III for a more detailed description of peat extraction activities).
Grazing	The entire area of the bog is accessible to grazing cattle. Some electric fences have been erected, but these end abruptly and do not appear to fence off enclosed areas. Cattle tend to avoid the wetter areas of the bog and for the majority of the site, no damage is evident. However, vegetation has been poached in small areas throughout the site where cattle seem to congregate. This is more frequent in the east and south of the site.
Burning	Burning of the bog vegetation has occurred regularly on this site. There is some evidence of controlled strip burning in the area between the central lake and the eastern boundary. A large and uncontrolled burn of the area east and north-east of Lough Ea has taken place in the past. No burning has taken place in the last two years.
Dumping	Sporadically along the edges of the central track, especially in the abandoned cut-over, dumping of domestic and commercial rubbish has taken place. Along many of the peripheral tracks dumping has also occurred, with old machinery and cars commonly dumped.
Other activities	The presence of part of the East Clare Way running through the site encourages hikers and hill-walkers to the site. There is evidence of horse riding on the main track but not on the bog itself. Shotgun cartridges suggests that some shooting occurs, and tracks from dirt bikes or quads have been recorded running across the bog on the plateau south-east of Lough Ea. Lough Ea is also fished by a small number of people. The lake supports a population of trout.

Land use adjacent to the site

Forestry	The site is bordered by mature commercial conifer plantations to the north and west. Clear felling has commenced in some of these plantations. Younger plantations are present along parts of the southern boundary.
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Grazing	The rest of the land adjacent to the south and east boundaries is mainly rough grazing.
Supplementary feeding	There is evidence of supplementary feeding occurring on rough grassland directly adjacent to the site at the southern boundary.
Peat extraction	A small area adjacent to the abandoned cut-over along the mid-eastern boundary is being cut by machine.

Past human use

There are no records pertaining to the past land use history of the site. However, the areas of abandoned cutover indicate that peat extraction has been carried out here for many years.

Recorded Monuments and Other Features

There are no archaeological sites listed in the Monuments Record for this 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 1995). Additional information, obtained since these notes were written may also have been used to make the assessment.

Active blanket bog

This site is one of only three remaining active blanket bog sites in the Slieve Aughty Mountains. This is an example of highland blanket bog, intermediate between lowland and mountain blanket bog, with floristic elements of both, consisting of a series of small plateaux and valleys, with sandstone outcrops on the rim. Even though the site is relatively small in area, there is a good diversity of blanket bog communities.

Glendree bog is isolated from other blanket bogs in the Slieve Aughtys by surrounding forestry plantations. However, as the site is located on a plateau, it may not be adversely affected by the surrounding plantations and is likely to survive hydrologically if left undisturbed.

Peat cutting has occurred in the site, mainly beside the track. Former peat cuttings are reverting to bog and heath. Grazing is generally light. Some erosion is occurring at the edges of plateaux slopes.

Greenland White-fronted Goose

The average number of Geese using the site from 1989/90 to 1993/94 has been given as between 14 and 24 individuals.

The Lough Ea site is probably a traditional roost for part of the Lower Lough Derg flock, based in and around Scarrif Bay. This roost is relatively undisturbed, although surrounding forestry plantations have probably reduced potential feeding areas.

The fragmentation of traditional roosting and feeding sites in the Slieve Aughty Mountains, by extensive forestry plantations, has reduced the conservation interest of the area. However, the Lough Ea site is still of some value for roosting birds.

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 priority habitat, Active Blanket Bog (including flushes) (73% of the site). |
| Objective 2: | To maintain and where possible enhance other habitats: Cut-over bog (approximately 9% old cut-over and 3% active cut-over), Flushes (2%), Heath (4%), Lakes (6%), Scrub (1%), Streams and Springs (<1%), Reedbed (<1%) and Exposed Rock (<1%). |
| Objective 3: | To maintain the populations of notable bird species and other important plant and animal species, in particular the species listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive, Greenland White-fronted Goose. |
| Objective 4: | To initiate and maintain effective liaison with landowners, Clare County Council and other interested parties on the management of the site. |

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.

- **Peat extraction**
- **Firebreaks**
- **Dumping**
- **Burning**
- **Grazing**
- **Recreational activities**
- **Commercial forestry**

Peat extraction

The main threat to the priority habitat active blanket bog is the extraction of peat, which has a negative impact on the hydrology and natural functioning of the habitat. All of the active peat

cutting on the site is carried out using a sausage machine. This machine can damage surrounding bog as well as the area being cut. In some cases it can also damage vegetation along access routes. The areas of the bog most sensitive to drainage such as flushes are situated away from the active peat-cutting areas where natural drainage is most seriously affected. The regeneration of abandoned cut-over areas is a positive indication that some cut-over areas are capable of increasing the diversity of the habitat. Some areas of active peat cutting within the site will be subject to restrictions (i.e. no cutting using sausage machines).

Firebreaks

The surface of the bog has been churned up in places by machinery crossing the centre of the site to reach the boundaries to create firebreaks. A firebreak is within the site along part of the northern and north-west boundaries close to Lough Ea and has modified the course of the stream here in some places, which may interfere with the drainage system of Lough Ea and the areas of the bog adjacent to this stream.

Dumping

Dumping is not only an eyesore but can pose a threat to habitats within the site, particularly through the risk of water pollution from substances leaching from the rubbish. It also poses a physical risk to the wildlife in the site. The dumping of garden waste etc. may lead to the introduction of invasive, non-native species to the site.

Burning

There has been uncontrolled burning of large areas of the site. This has caused damage to the vegetation. Burning at the wrong time of year can also disturb nesting and feeding birds and other wildlife using the site.

Grazing

Cattle that graze the site are being supplementary fed just outside the southern boundary. This has encouraged the stock to linger in this part of their grazing range and has led to some poaching and damage to the vegetation in this area of the site. Overgrazing and poaching is only apparent on very small areas and has the potential to decrease through the establishment of appropriate grazing regimes. While fences are evident, the site has not been divided into separate grazing paddocks. There is no evidence of any trampling or erosion along the walking route across the bog and natural erosion appears to be minimal, and limited to slippage of the peat on some of the slopes.

Recreational activities

Recreational activities on the bog (such as biking) cause damage to the vegetation and also cause disturbance to wildlife, particularly the geese and other birds using the site. Shooting can also lead to wildlife disturbance at certain times of the year. Erosion is evident on some of the slopes, and activities which disturb the vegetation such as biking and the use of heavy machinery, can increase erosion.

Commercial forestry

The presence of commercial forestry almost surrounding the bog, is probably the main external threat to the conservation of the site. There is evidence of disturbance to natural drainage. For example, a large pool has formed in the forestry firebreak in the vicinity of a small flush near the south-western boundary. In addition, a small drain, which forms part of the southern boundary running towards the main track, has been in-filled by tracking from heavy machinery.

The extensive forestry coverage has isolated the site from other blanket bog sites. This may impact on the site in a number of ways, including:

- Restriction of the movement of less mobile species, which then limits the exchange of genetic material (genetic isolation).
- Provision of suitable habitats for predator species such as Fox and Hooded Crow (*Corvus corone*). Large numbers of these predators may have a significant negative impact on the survival and breeding success of ground nesting birds such as Red Grouse.

The site is susceptible to damage from forestry management operations including fertilisation and harvesting. Clear felling may lead to soil erosion and siltation of the lakes and streams within the site. At the moment, nutrient enrichment or siltation as a result of the surrounding forestry does not seem to have occurred. However, further forestry management operations may adversely affect such habitats and will therefore need to be monitored.

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
- 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 priority habitat and Annexed species 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 priority habitat and Annexed species 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, rock removal/cutting turf except from existing banks; no cutting from intact (uncut) areas.

Specific Strategies

Objective 1.

To maintain and where possible enhance the ecological value of the priority habitat, Active Blanket Bog (including flushes) (73% of the site).

Strategies:

1.1. Prevention of damage to the *active blanket bog by controlling the extraction of peat

A turbary zoning map and notes are included in this plan (see Appendix III and Map 4). This details active peat cutting and a zoning system has been applied, depending upon the sensitivity of the area. General principles that apply are as follows:

- No new areas of the bog are to be opened for turf cutting.
- “Sausage machines” should not be used to cut turf within the site.
- Face-bank cutting may continue on selected areas of existing banks.
- NPW will encourage the phasing out of turf cutting during the period of this plan. All turf cutting should cease in 2009.
- On particularly sensitive areas of bog, a complete halt to cutting may be required. In such cases, NPW will pay a €1269.74 (£1,000) once off cessation payment to people who can prove a turbary right on site.

1.2. Establishment of sustainable grazing regimes

Stock levels will be based on a grazing impact assessment survey, which will be completed for the site. This assessment will use the methodology of the Commonage Framework Planning Project. The stock levels will be set below the level which causes eutrophication, overgrazing, or erosion, but still high enough to control the encroachment of coarse vegetation and scrub. These will then be incorporated into REPS plans and /or DEHLG farm plans produced by DEHLG for each farm. Where the stock levels set by the REPS planner require a reduction, this must be achieved within an agreed timescale from the beginning of the REPS/Farm planning period. The same level will apply to a REPS plan as for a DEHLG plan.

The categories shown on the assessment are the following:

- **U:** Undamaged. No stock reduction will be proposed
- **M/U:** Moderate to undamaged. 20-40% of stock reduction will be proposed (30% norm)
- **MM:** Moderate damage. 40-60% of stock reduction will be proposed (50% norm).
- **M/S:** Moderately to severely damaged. 60-70% of stock reduction will be proposed (65% norm)
- **S:** Severe damage. 70-100% of stock reduction will be proposed
- **S*:** Severe damage with over 10% eroded peat. 100% of stock reduction will be proposed

In addition, supplementary feeding should not be introduced into areas where it has not formerly been practised. It should not continue in areas where it is causing damage.

- Fencing-off areas of the bog should not be carried out without prior consultation with NPW.
- 1.3. Control of damage through the use of notifiable actions**
- Potentially damaging activities such as burning, drainage, fertilisation, liming or afforestation, are notifiable actions under the cSAC regulations.
- New tracks or roadways should not be constructed or existing ones improved or extended without consultation with NPW. Motorised transport and machinery (including all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), Motorbikes and Mountain Bikes) should be confined to existing tracks.

Objective 2.

To maintain and where possible enhance the ecological value of the other habitats: **Cut-over bog (approximately 9% old cut-over and 3% active cut-over), Flushes (2%), Heath (4%) Lakes (6%), Scrub (1%), Streams and Springs (<1%), Reedbed (<1%) and Exposed Rock (<1%).**

Strategies:

- 2.1. Control of peat extraction, grazing and other potentially damaging activities**
- These habitats are found in mosaic with active blanket bog. There is no physical boundary between these habitats, so for management purposes, they will be treated as one management unit. Therefore strategies 1.1-1.3 also apply here. In addition the following strategies will also apply:
- Scrub should not be burnt or cleared.
 - The quarry on the site should not be re-opened.
- 2.2. Management of aquatic habitats**
- There should be no modifications to streams or watercourses, or introduction of fish stocks without prior consultation with NPW.

Objective 3.

To maintain the populations of notable bird species and other important plant and animal species, in particular the species listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive, **Greenland White-fronted Goose.**

Strategies:

- 3.1. Habitat maintenance**
- The strategies listed above that are designed to protect the habitats within the site will also safeguard the feeding, roosting and breeding grounds of notable bird species. Regular winter population counts for Greenland White-fronted Goose will be undertaken by the local Conservation Ranger.
- By implementing the strategies for habitat conservation within the site, populations of other notable species such as Badger and Hare will also be maintained.

Objective 4.

To initiate/continue effective liaison between NPW and relevant authorities and interested parties (landowners, the public, and Clare County Council) on the management of the site.

Strategies:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>4.1. Liaise with interested parties</p> | NPW will strive to initiate and maintain effective liaison with landowners (particularly through the Liaison Committee), relevant authorities and interested parties on achieving the objectives for conservation of the site. |
| <p>4.2. Monitor development applications</p> | 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. |
| <p>4.3. Liaise with REPS planners</p> | 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.

1A: NON-INTERVENTION AREAS

1A1: Lakes, Reedbeds and Streams
(Strategy 2.2 applies)

2A: MAINTENANCE AREAS WITH LIMITED INTERVENTION

2A1: *Active Blanket bog, Cut-over Bog, Flushes, Heath, Scrub and Rocky outcrops

Prevention of peat extraction, maintenance of sustainable grazing regimes and prevention of other damaging activities are the relevant strategies.

(Strategies 1.1 to 1.3 and 2.1 apply)

Zone B: Active Management

Areas of high conservation value where high management input is needed to maintain, rehabilitate, restore to a more desirable state.

B1: Active turf cutting that is adversely affecting Blanket bog

Peat extraction of any type should not occur in this zone.

(Strategy 1.1 applies, see also Appendix III for turbary zoning)

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).

C1: Cut-over bog

Turf cutting not allowed with sausage machines. Face bank machinery can be used, but no new banks should be opened up.

(Strategy 2.1 applies, see also Appendix III for turbary zoning)

C2: Road/Track

Modifications to the track running through the site should not occur without prior consultation with NPW.

Zone D: Impact Zone

Areas outside the site, which are impacting on the site either as protective areas or as sources threats.

D1: Forestry Plantations

Forestry management activities adjacent to the site could have negative impacts on the site. Liaison with Coillte is necessary to ensure that these do not occur.

APPENDIX I:

GLOSSARY

ACIDIC - When applied to soils, refers to soils which are of a low pH i.e. below 7. The term is often used in relation to the plant communities that an acid soil may support e.g. acidic grassland.

ACIDIFICATION - The detrimental effect of acid rain on soils and freshwater.

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

ALGAE - Simple plants that are not differentiated into roots, stems and leaves and have no true vascular system. They can be microscopic, or very large and are capable of photosynthesis. They can be found in most habitats but the majority occurs in freshwater or marine environments.

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 Birds Directive, lists birds that are strictly protected so that they cannot be killed, captured, disturbed or traded.

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

ANNEX II - of the EU 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.

ANNEX III - of the EU Habitats Directive gives the criteria for selecting sites to be designated as SACs.

ANNEX IV - of the EU Habitats Directive lists animal and plant species of Community interest in need of strict protection.

ANNEX V - of the EU Habitats Directive lists animal and plant species of Community interest whose taking in the wild and exploitation may be subject to management measures.

ANNUALS - Plants which complete their lifecycle in one year, germinating in Autumn or spring, flowering fruiting and dying by the following Autumn.

AQUIFER –A body of permeable rock that is capable of storing significant volumes of water, that is underlain by impermeable material and through which groundwater moves.

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.

BRYOPHYTES - A group of simple non-vascular spore-bearing green plants comprising the mosses, liverworts and hornworts.

CATCHMENT - An area of land draining to a defined point. The term river catchment refers to the area of land that drains into a particular river system

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.

COMMONAGE – An area of land which are undivided but are owned by more than one person / or the rights to use the land are owned by more than one person.

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

CORINE - An information and mapping system, developed within the context of the Commission of the European Communities biotope project, which is used as a tool for the description of sites of importance for nature conservation in Europe. It catalogues recognisable communities of flora and fauna. The primary objective of this catalogue is to identify all major communities whose presence contributes to the conservation significance of a site. Included in this list of communities are interesting but rare natural or near-natural communities as well as the more widespread semi-natural ones.

CUTOVER BOG – An NPW habitat classification that describes areas of bog which have been previously cut, although not down to the marl layer or bedrock. Cut-over areas are normally a mosaic of cut areas, face banks, pools, drainage ditches, uncut areas of peat, scrub, grassland etc.

DESICCATION - Drying out.

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.

DRAINAGE DITCHES - An NPW habitat classification which refers to water channel systems with moving or stagnant water bodies, artificial in origin. Most ditches are cleared cyclically, although this category also includes ditches that are overgrown with wetland plants.

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

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

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency

EROSION - The processes whereby the materials of the Earth's crust are dissolved, or worn away and simultaneously moved from one place to another by natural agencies which include weathering, solution, corrosion and transportation.

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

EUTROPHICATION - The nutrient enrichment of aquatic ecosystems usually by phosphates and nitrates. It may occur naturally but can also be the result of human activity (fertiliser run-off/ sewage discharge/ seepage from silage etc.).

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

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.

FRESHWATER MARSHES – An NPW habitat classification are intermediate between swamps and wet grassland, and often occupy a zone between these habitats. They may have some prominent tall swamp species, but are not overwhelmingly dominated by them. They are distinguished from fens and flushes by a lower calcium status and are usually richer in nutrients. This habitat is characterised by a species-rich mixture of Sedges, small Grasses Reeds and other Reed like Grasses, wetland Herbs, as well as other Herbs and Grasses more typical of dryer ground.

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

GLACIOFLUVIAL - Deposits laid down by glacial meltwater.

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.

HAND CUTTING OF PEAT. - Refers to traditional cutting of peat using a sleane or spade.

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.

INVERTEBRATES - Animals without backbones.

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.

LEVELLING - A process carried out to establish the gradient of sloping ground.

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.

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

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.

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.

MECHANICAL PEAT EXTRACTION - Refers to the use of machinery to cut peat. This includes extrusion cutting such as by sausage machine (e.g. Difco) or any other type of mechanical cutter (e.g. Hopper).

MINEROTROPHIC MIRE - A peatland system that is fed by ground water.

MIXED WOODLAND - An NPW habitat classification that describes woodland that is structurally similar to dry (& wet) broad-leaved semi-natural woodland, i.e. the canopy in most places must achieve a height of 5 m. In mixed woodland however, the cover of exotic species within a block exceeds 10%.

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.

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.

NGOs - Non- Governmental Organisations.

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

NO SHOOTING AREAS - These areas are also referred to as Wildfowl Sanctuaries and are areas that have been excluded from the "Open Season Order" so that game birds can rest and feed undisturbed. Shooting of game birds is not allowed in these areas.

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 is the section of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, which has responsibility for nature conservation and implements Government conservation policy as enunciated by the Minister for the Environment and Local Government.

OLIGO – Prefix denoting few or little

OLIGOTROPHIC - Applied to waters that are relatively low in nutrients, as in lakes which are low in dissolved minerals and which can only support limited plant growth.

OMBROTROPHIC - A system (often used when describing raised bogs) which relies solely on precipitation for inputs to the system.

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.

PEAT CUTTING BY HAND. - See hand cutting of peat.

PEAT CUTTING BY MACHINE - See mechanical peat extraction.

PERENNIAL - Referring to plants that live for two years at least.

PERENNIAL VEGETATION OF STONY BANKS – A habitat listed in Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. This habitat refers to perennial vegetation of the upper beaches of great shingle banks, formed by perennial species.

PERIPHERY - Distant from the centre, on the fringe/edge.

pH - A quantitative expression for the acidity or alkalinity of a solution or soil. The scale ranges from 0-14: pH 7 is neutral, less than 7 is acidic and greater than 7 is alkaline.

PLATEAU - A wide, mainly level area of elevated land.

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

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

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

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.

RECHARGE - The downward movement of water from the soil to the water table.

RECLAIMED LAND - this is applied to lands which have been modified from there natural state by intervention in the form of: a) drainage, b) bulldozed, c)clearance of scrub, d) infilling of wetland, e) ploughed and reseeded.

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

REEDBEDS AND OTHER SWAMPS - An NPW habitat classification. This habitat comprises tall, species poor, usually emergent vegetation, often found in a narrow fringe at the edge of open water or occupying more extensive areas in shallow basins which may become dry in Summer. The vegetation is species poor and overwhelmingly dominated by a single species, typically Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*).

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.

RIVERS AND STREAMS - An NPW habitat classification describing linear channels of moving water. These are natural features that distinguish them from ditches and drainage channels.

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."

SCARCE - This is an ecological term, 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. Scarce applies to 11-25, 10 km squares in this context.

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.

SCRAGH - a floating mat of vegetation.

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.

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.

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

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

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).

SWARD - Refers to the vegetation cover of low growing plants communities, such as grasslands.

TAXON – Any grouping within the classification of organisms (plural = taxa)

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

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

TURBARY – Refers to the right to harvest turf.

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.

UPLAND GRASSLAND ON PEATY SOIL - An NPW habitat classification describing species poor grassland which develops over, dark, acidic, peaty soils, normally at altitudes which exceed 100m. Common acidic upland grassland types in Ireland include those dominated by *Nardus stricta* (Mat grass), the narrow leaved *Agrostis* spp. (Bent grasses) and *Molinia caerulea* (Purple Moor Grass).

VERTEBRATES - Animals with backbones.

VERY RARE - an ecological term 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. Very Rare applies to 1-2, 10 km squares in this context.

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: 14
- O.S. Discovery (1:50,000) map: 58
- O.S. 6 inch (1: 10,560) map: CL 19

Databases :

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.

Photographic Coverage:

Ordnance Survey Office, Phoenix Park, Dublin, BKS 12: 195. Date: 1994

Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government HQ, Ely Place, Aerial photo No. 6438, Flight Line 45. Date: 1995.

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: TURBARY ZONING PLAN

Summary

This upland site is situated in the Slieve Aughty Mountains. It is approximately 300ha. and encompasses a variety of habitats; blanket bog, dry heath, wet heath, streams and flushes. Blanket bog is the most extensive habitat. The primary landuse throughout the site is grazing by domestic stock (horses, sheep and cattle). Large areas of the bog have been cut for turf. Turf cutting currently occurs in a number of different areas within the site. Little hand cutting of turf cutting is carried out at present. Machine cutting is active on the site. In some cases old cutover areas are being re-worked, while in other areas cutting takes place at the back of old banks. Some cutting has also occurred in previously uncut areas. Many old peat banks exist on site, most of them directly adjacent to the track

Explanations of turbary zoning categories

Prescriptions that apply to more than one zone:

- (i) Where practicable, cut turf should be removed from the bog surface
- (ii) All extraneous materials, such as plastics and other rubbish, should be removed from the site.

Zone A: Natural or Low Intensity Use Zone

Areas of high ecological quality where there should be little/no human intervention.

Zone A1

Old hand-cut banks that have become totally re-vegetated and/or flooded. Cutting should not re-start

Zone B: Enhancement Zone

Areas where efforts will be made by the NPW to improve the ecological value of the habitats.

Zone B1

Active bank cutting that is adversely affecting surrounding blanket bog. Cutting should be stopped.

Zone B2

Sausage Machine cutting. Cutting should be stopped/not restart

Zone B3

Sausage Machine and bank cutting that is damaging surrounding bog. Both types of cutting should stop.

Zone C: Intensive Use Zone

Areas where the land-use is incompatible with ecological improvements or is not damaging habitats of high ecological quality. These activities can continue within the timescale of this plan.

Zone C1

Banks that are currently inactive (but not re-vegetated). Face bank cutting can continue/restart, but no new banks should be opened up.

Zone C2

Active hand cutting that is currently not adversely affecting surrounding bog. This can continue, but no new banks should be opened up.

Zone C3

Active machine bank cutting that is not adversely affecting surrounding bog. This can continue, but no new banks should be opened up.

Zone C4

Sausage Machine and/or bank cutting that may adversely affect surrounding bog in the future. Sausage Machine cutting should stop immediately and any bank cutting should be phased out, preferably during the period of the plan.

Zone C5

Sausage Machine and/or bank cutting occurring together. Sausage Machine cutting should stop, but bank cutting can continue or restart, but no new banks should be opened up.

Descriptive notes and zoning prescriptions to accompany map

Note: All turf cutting appears to be carried out by machine, no evidence of recent hand cutting was observed. A margin of error exists between the GPS readings and the readings taken from the 1:50,000 map.

N1

Long strip of Sausage Machine cutting. Approx. 6ft wide and 18ft long.

Sausage machine cutting occurred recently as evidenced by the fact that the cut area has little vegetation remaining. One thin skim of turf was taken. Some un-collected bagged turf present and some lines of turf lying on the bog. The vegetation in the surrounding area consists of Purple Moor-grass, and Ling with Bog Asphodel and Cross-leaved heath occurring occasionally. There are no bog pools present.

This section was plotted as;

N52°56'.825

IR 500 89

W008°44'.374

ITM 88 196

Zone B2

N2

Area of Sausage Machine cutting. Approx. 25ft. Square.

Cutting occurred within an older area of cutover. One skim of turf taken. No bags or litter present. The vegetation in the surrounding area consists of Purple Moor-grass, and Ling with Bog Asphodel and Cross-leaved heath occurring occasionally. There are no Bog pools present.

This section was plotted as;

N52°56'.703

IR 502 206

W008 44 .414

ITM 89 284

Zone B2

N3

Area of Sausage Machine cutting. Approx. 20ft. square.

Sausage machine cutting occurred recently as evidenced by the fact that the cut area has little vegetation remaining. One thin skim of turf taken.

The area was plotted as; N52'56 .785 W008'44 .155

Zone B2

N4

Litter: Dumped cars, pallets and mattress. Plotted as N52'56 .730 W008'44 .073

N5

Very old revegetated area of cut-over. Turf has not been taken in at least 10 years and the banks and hollows have completely revegetated. Cutting should not restart.

Plotted as N52'56 .402 W008'44 .557

Zone A1

N6

Old turf banks directly adjacent to the track. On the east of the track on the way to the lake. No recent cutting. The banks have revegetated with Purple Moor-grass in the hollows and Ling on the hummocks.

Plotted as; N52'56 .789 W008'44 398

Zone A1

N7

Old turf banks directly adjacent to the track. On the west of the track on the way to the lake. No recent cutting. The banks have revegetated with Purple Moor-grass in the hollows and Ling on the hummocks. Plotted as; N52'56 .807 W008'44 304

Zone C1

N8

Area of Sausage Machine cutting. Approx. 20ft. long and 12ft wide

Sausage machine cutting occurred recently as evidenced by the fact that the cut area has little vegetation remaining. No bags or litter present. One thin skim of turf taken.

Active machine bank cutting that is not adversely affecting surrounding bog. This can continue, but no new banks should be opened up.

The area was plotted as; N52'56 .894 W008'44 267

Zone C4

N9

An extension of turf cutting at N8. One thin skim of turf recently cut. This area has been fenced off.

Active machine bank cutting that is not adversely affecting surrounding bog. This can continue, but no new banks should be opened up.

This section was plotted as; N52'56 .871 W008'44 .021

Zone C4

N10

Piled turf on 7 pallets, no bags present.

This section was plotted as; N52'56 .871 W008'44 .018

N11

Sausage machine cutting occurred recently as evidenced by the fact that the cut area has little vegetation remaining. Pallets, some bagged turf, some uncollected turf present. This area is located just south of the East Clare Way.

This section was plotted as; N52'56 686 N008'44 .001

Zone B2

N12

Exploratory Sausage Machine cutting on an area of old cutover. The Sausage Machine cutting occurred at least three years ago. The area has no uncollected turf on the ground or in bags and is successfully revegetating. Cutting should not restart.

This was plotted as; N52'56 292 W008'44 614

Zone B2

N13

Old turf banks located adjacent to Lough Nacally. Some recent cutting. The banks have revegetated with Purple Moor-grass in the hollows and Ling on the hummocks. Cutting should not restart.

This area was plotted as; N52'56 W008'44

Zone B2

N14

Old turf banks, no recent cutting. The banks have revegetated with Purple Moor-grass in the hollows and Ling on the hummocks. Cutting should not restart.

This area was plotted as; N52'56 W008'44

Zone A1

APPENDIX IV: NOTIFIABLE ACTIONS

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

3.1, 4.1, 4.2, 3.2, 6.2, 6.1, 6.3, 5.2, 7.1

HABITAT TYPE 3.1

BLANKET BOG

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 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 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 and Local Government.

HABITAT TYPE 3.1

BLANKET BOG

<u>Section A</u>	<u>Section B</u>
<p>THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT 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)</p> <p>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/ introduction of stock to formerly ungrazed areas</p> <p>adding lime/adding fertiliser of any sort</p> <p>creation of new tracks or paths/burning of vegetation/ 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/ 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</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>erecting or operating a windfarm</p>

In a very limited number of cases it may be necessary for the Minister for The Environment 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 and Local Government, an appropriate appeals procedure will be put in place.

HABITAT TYPE 4.1

RAISED BOG, CUTAWAY BOG AND BOG WOODLAND

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 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 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 and Local Government.

HABITAT TYPE 4.1

RAISED BOG, CUTAWAY BOG AND BOG WOODLAND

<u>Section A</u>	<u>Section B</u>
<p>THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT 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/grazing by livestock treated within the previous week with a pesticide which leaves persistent residues in the dung</p> <p>adding lime/adding fertiliser of any sort</p> <p>creation of new tracks or paths</p> <p>burning areas of vegetation reclamation, infilling, or ploughing /reseeding, planting of trees or any other species/cutting trees or removing timber</p> <p>drainage works on the bog or within the local water catchment area</p> <p>cutting turf or peat moss 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. botanical 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>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 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 and Local Government, an appropriate appeals procedure will be put in place.

HABITAT TYPE 4.2

FENS, TRANSITION MIRES, PETRIFYING SPRINGS

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 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* below are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment 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 and Local Government.

HABITAT TYPE 4.2

FENS, TRANSITION MIRES, PETRIFYING SPRINGS

<u>Section A</u>	<u>Section B</u>
<p>THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT 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)</p> <p>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 within 50m of the fen or a water course running into it</p> <p>adding fertiliser of any sort within 50m or a water course running into it</p> <p>extracting water for irrigation or other purposes</p> <p>mowing grass before the 30th June (Note; if you have been notified that your lands hold breeding corncrakes, or certain rare meadows, special provisions will apply)</p> <p>supplementary feeding of stock</p> <p>operation of boat angling or shore angling business</p> <p>restocking with fish.</p> <p>reclamation, infilling, ploughing or land drainage within 50m of the fen</p> <p>reseeding, planting of trees or any other species within 50m of the fen</p> <p>use of any pesticide or herbicide within 50m of fen</p> <p>dumping, burning or storing any materials within 50m of the fen</p> <p>alteration of the banks, bed or flow of watercourses within the fen or running into or out of it</p> <p>harvesting reed or willow</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 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 might cause pollution of the fen</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 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 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 and Local Government before performing any of the operations on, or affecting, the following habitats where they occur on lands / waters within the candidate Special Area of Conservation.

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

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

SCRUB

<u>Section A</u>	<u>Section B</u>
<p>THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT 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 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 and Local Government, an appropriate appeals procedure will be put in place.

HABITAT TYPE 6.1

RIVERS OR STREAMS

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 and Local Government before performing any of the operations on, or affecting, the following habitats where they occur on lands / waters within the candidate Special Area of Conservation.

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

<p><u>SECTION A</u></p> <p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section A overleaf</i> are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment and Local Government and should not be undertaken before consent.</p>	<p><u>SECTION B</u></p> <p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section B overleaf</i> may, and in most cases do, require a license or consent from another statutory authority (e.g. the local planning authority, the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, or the Minister for Agriculture and Food).</p> <p>If so, these notifiable actions do not apply.</p> <p>However, if such activities are not regulated by another statutory authority, the said activities are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment and Local Government.</p>
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HABITAT TYPE 6.1

RIVERS OR STREAMS

<u>Section A</u>	<u>Section B</u>
<p>THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT 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) within 30m of the river or stream/grazing by livestock treated within the previous week with a pesticide which leaves persistent residues in the dung within 30m of the river or stream</p> <p>supplementary feeding of stock within 30m of the river or stream/adding lime within 30m of the river or stream/adding fertiliser of any sort within 30m of the river or stream</p> <p>extracting water for irrigation or other purposes</p> <p>operation of boat angling or shore angling business/restocking with fish</p> <p>reclamation, infilling, ploughing or land drainage within 30m of the river or stream/ reseeding, planting of trees or any other species within 30m of the river or stream/ removal of trees or any aquatic vegetation within 30m of the river/stream/ use of any pesticide or herbicide in the river or stream or within 30m of the river or stream</p> <p>dumping rubbish or other materials or disposing of any chemicals or wastes in streams/rivers or into water-courses running into them</p> <p>dumping, burning or storing any materials within 30m of the river/stream including the land spreading of used pesticides (e.g. sheep dip)/alteration of the banks, channel, bed or flow of the river or stream</p> <p>harvesting or burning of reed or willow.</p> <p>causing siltation/ operation of commercial recreation facilities (e.g. bird watching tours)</p> <p>introduction (or re-introduction) into the wild of plants or animals of species not currently found in the area</p> <p>any other activity of which notice may be given by the Minister from time to time</p>	<p>(NO REQUIREMENT TO NOTIFY IF ALREADY LICENSED BY ANOTHER MINISTER/BODY)</p> <p>developing leisure facilities including golf courses, sports pitches, caravan or camping facilities.</p> <p>any activity which might cause pollution of the river or stream</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>construction or operation of an aquaculture facility.</p> <p>fishing for eels or salmon</p> <p>bank maintenance and grading</p> <p>creation of weirs and dams</p>

In a very limited number of cases it may be necessary for the Minister for The Environment 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 and Local Government, an appropriate appeals procedure will be put in place.

HABITAT TYPE 6.2

LAKES, PONDS AND CANALS

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 and Local Government before performing any of the operations on, or affecting, the following habitats where they occur on lands / waters within the candidate Special Area of Conservation.

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

<p><u>SECTION A</u></p> <p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section A overleaf</i> are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment and Local Government and should not be undertaken before consent.</p>	<p><u>SECTION B</u></p> <p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section B overleaf</i> may, and in most cases do, require a license or consent from another statutory authority (e.g. the local planning authority, the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, or the Minister for Agriculture and Food).</p> <p>If so, these notifiable actions do not apply.</p> <p>However, if such activities are not regulated by another statutory authority, the said activities are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment and Local Government.</p>
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HABITAT TYPE 6.2

LAKES, PONDS AND CANALS

<u>Section A</u>	<u>Section B</u>
<p>THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT 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) within 50m of the lake, pond or canal</p> <p>grazing by livestock treated within the previous week with a pesticide which leaves persistent residues in the dung</p> <p>supplementary feeding of stock within 50m of the lake, pond or canal</p> <p>adding lime within 50m of the lake, pond or canal /adding fertiliser of any sort within 50m of the lake, pond or canal</p> <p>extracting water for irrigation or other purposes</p> <p>operation of boat angling or shore angling business/ restocking with fish.</p> <p>within 50m of the lake, pond or canal: reclamation, infilling, ploughing or land drainage</p> <p>reseeding, planting of trees or any other species /removal of trees or any aquatic vegetation/use of any pesticide or herbicide in the lake, pond or canal or within 50m of the lake, pond or canal</p> <p>dumping rubbish or other materials or disposing of any chemicals or wastes in streams/rivers or into water-courses running into them.</p> <p>dumping, burning or storing any materials within 50m of the lake pond or canal including the land spreading of used pesticides (e.g. sheep dip).</p> <p>alteration of the banks, channel, bed or flow of the lake, pond or canal or of watercourses running into or out of it</p> <p>harvesting or burning of reed or willow.</p> <p>causing siltation</p> <p>operation of commercial recreation facilities (e.g. bird watching tours)</p> <p>introduction (or re-introduction) into the wild of plants or animals of species not currently found in the area</p> <p>any other activity of which notice may be given by the Minister from time to time</p>	<p>(NO REQUIREMENT TO NOTIFY IF ALREADY LICENSED BY ANOTHER MINISTER/BODY)</p> <p>developing leisure facilities including golf courses, sports pitches, caravan or camping facilities.</p> <p>any activity which might cause pollution of the lake, pond or canal</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>construction or operation of an aquaculture Facility.</p> <p>fishing for eels or salmon</p> <p>bank maintenance and grading</p> <p>creation of weirs and dams</p>

In a very limited number of cases it may be necessary for the Minister for The Environment 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 and Local Government, an appropriate appeals procedure will be put in place.

HABITAT TYPE 6.3

MARSHES AND REEDBEDS

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 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 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 and Local Government.

HABITAT TYPE 6.3

MARSHES AND REEDBEDS

<u>Section A</u>	<u>Section B</u>
<p>THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT 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) within 50m of the marsh or reedbed</p> <p>grazing by livestock treated within the previous week with a pesticide which leaves persistent residues in the dung</p> <p>supplementary feeding of stock within 50m of the marsh or reedbed</p> <p>adding lime within 50m of the marsh or reedbed</p> <p>adding fertiliser of any sort within 50m of the marsh or reedbed</p> <p>extracting water for irrigation or other purposes</p> <p>operation of boat angling or shore angling Business</p> <p>restocking with fish.</p> <p>reclamation, infilling, ploughing or land drainage within 50m of the marsh or reedbed</p> <p>reseeding, planting of trees or any other species within 50m of the marsh or reedbed</p> <p>removal of trees or any aquatic vegetation within 50m of the marsh or reedbed</p> <p>use of any pesticide or herbicide in the marsh or reedbed or within 50m of the marsh or reedbed</p> <p>dumping rubbish or other materials or disposing of any chemicals or wastes in marsh or reedbed or into water-courses Running into them.</p> <p>dumping, burning or storing any materials within 50m of the marsh or reedbed including the land spreading of used pesticides (e.g. sheep dip).</p> <p>alteration of the banks, channel, bed or flow of the marsh or reedbed or of watercourses running into or out of it</p> <p>harvesting or burning of reed or willow.</p> <p>causing siltation</p> <p>operation of commercial recreation facilities (e.g. bird watching tours)</p> <p>introduction (or re-introduction) into the wild of plants or animals of species not currently found in the area</p> <p>any other activity of which notice may be given by the Minister from time to time</p>	<p>(NO REQUIREMENT TO NOTIFY IF ALREADY LICENSED BY ANOTHER MINISTER/BODY)</p> <p>developing leisure facilities including golf courses, sports pitches, caravan or camping facilities.</p> <p>any activity which might cause pollution of the marsh or reedbed</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>construction or operation of an aquaculture facility.</p> <p>fishing for eels</p> <p>bank maintenance and grading</p> <p>creation of weirs and dams</p>

In a very limited number of cases it may be necessary for the Minister for The Environment 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 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 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>
Please note that the activities listed in Section A overleaf are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment and Local Government and should not be undertaken before consent.	<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 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 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 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 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. David Lyons
2 Riverview
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Co. Clare
Tel (065) 6837116
dlyons@duchas.ie

District Conservation Officer

Ms. Ciara O' Mahony
Coole Park
Gort
Co. Galway
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Regional Manager

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DoEHLG
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Co. Galway
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Fax (091) 758430
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Deputy Regional Manager

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Co. Roscommon
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Divisional Manager

Dr. Michael Sweeney

DoEHLG

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Divisional Ecologist

Dr. Julie Fossitt

DoEHLG

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The Plaza Offices

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Co. Galway

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Fax (091) 758430

jfossitt@duchas.ie

National Parks and Wildlife

Dept. of Environment and Local Government

7 Ely Place,

Dublin 2,

Lo Call 1890 202021, (01) 8882000

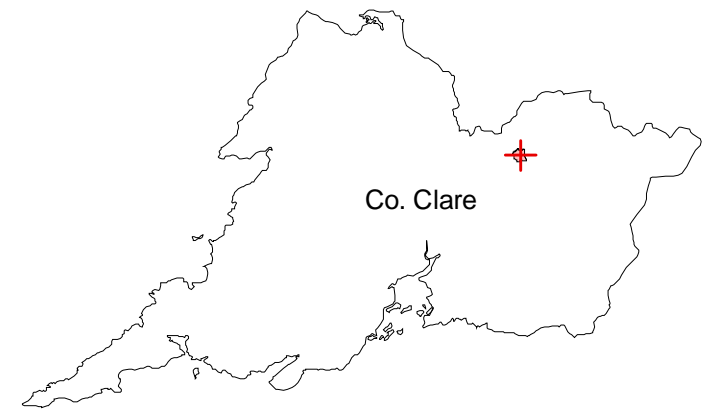
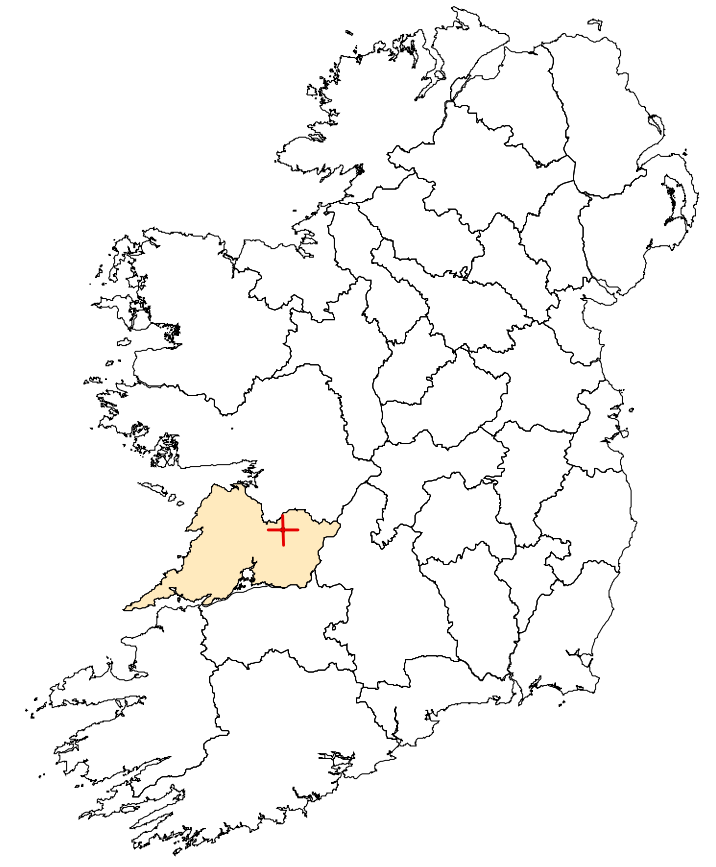
Fax (01) 888 3272

www.npws.ie

CEANTAR SPEISIALTA CAOMHNAITHE
CANDIDATE SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION

GLENDREE BOG SAC 001912
Version 1.00

Féadtar athruithe a chur ar an gceantair / Sites subject to revision
(Ní thaispeántar suimh gur de spéis géolaíoch amháin iad) / (Sites solely of geological interest not shown)
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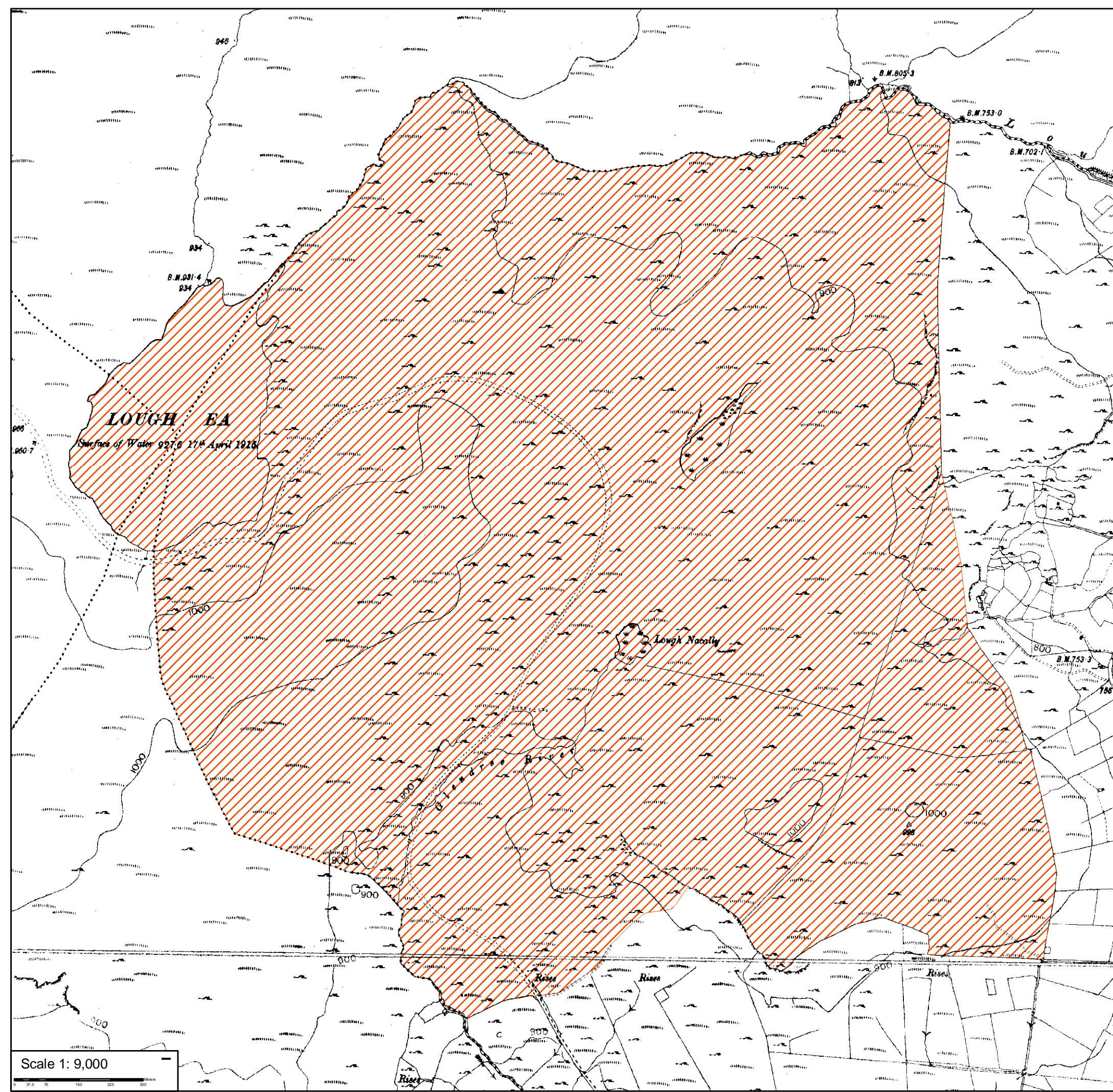


Map 1
LOCATION MAP: GLENDREE BOG 001912

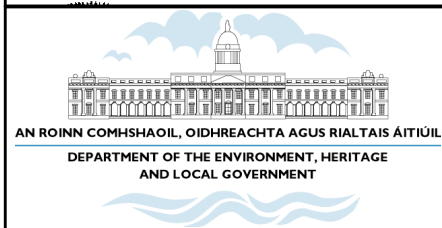
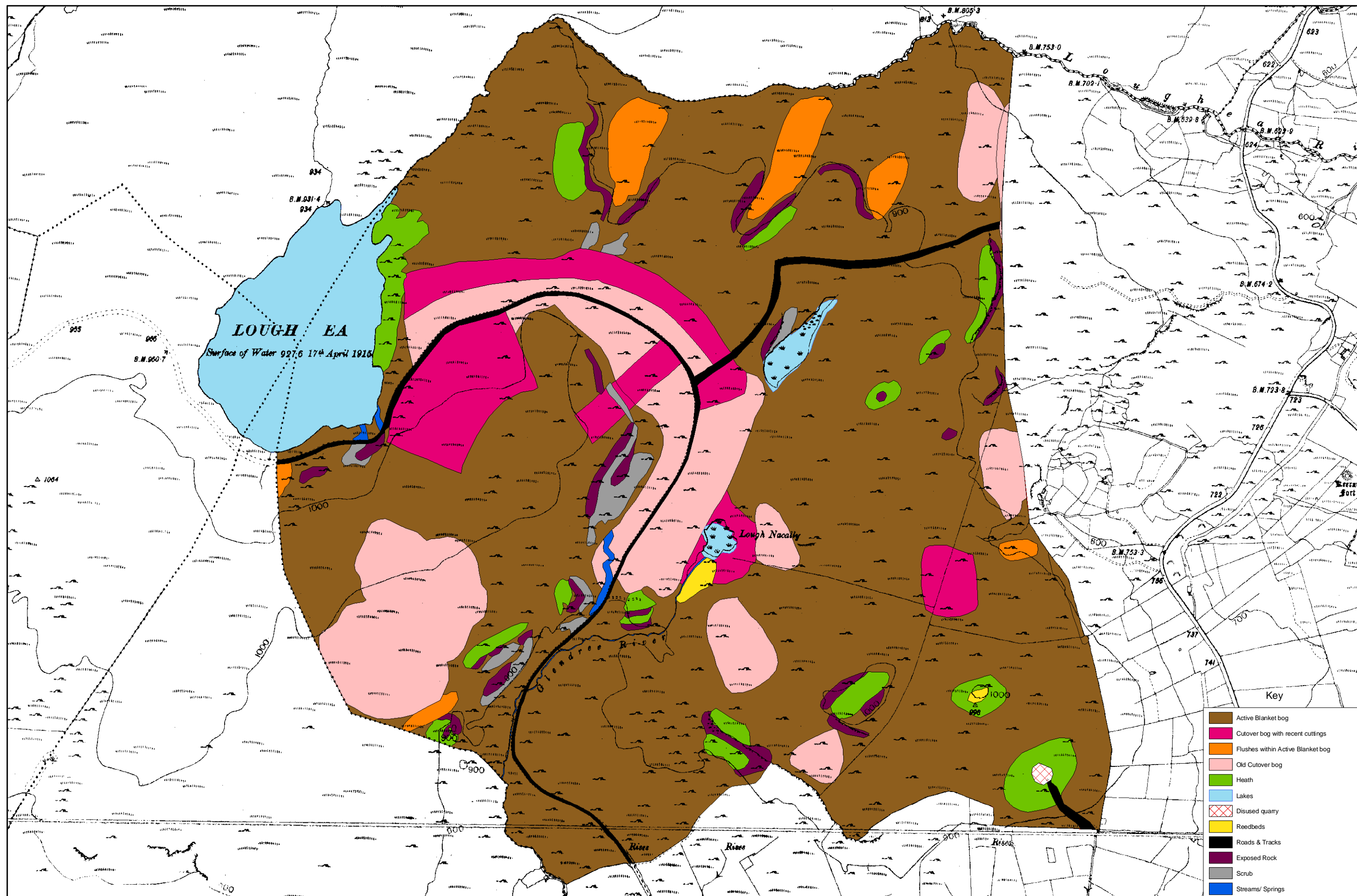
Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government
An Roinn Comhshaoil, Oidhreacht agus Rialtais Áitiúil



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Chomh-mhainithe trí chiste 'LIFE' an AE



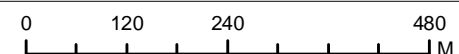
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CEANTAR SPEISIALTA CAOMHNATHE
CANDIDATE SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION

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GLENDREE BOG
CL 6" SHEETS 019, 027



Scale 1: 9,000

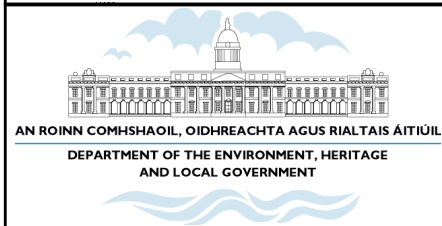
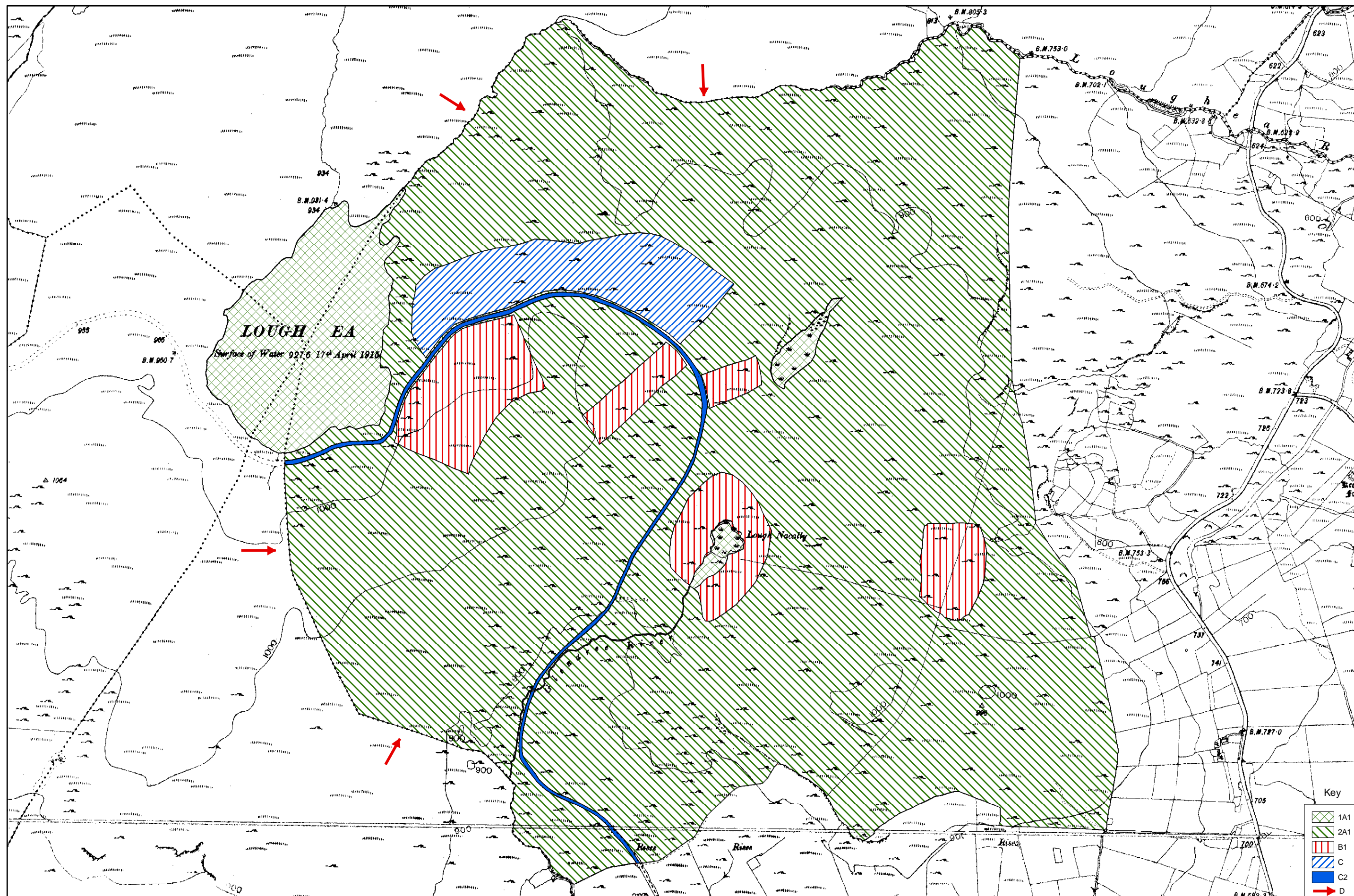
Map 2
GROSS HABITAT MAP

Map to be read in conjunction with conservation plan.

SITE CODE

001912

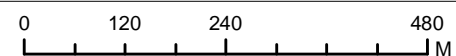
Version 1.00



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(Ni 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)

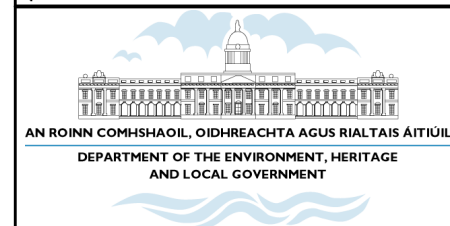
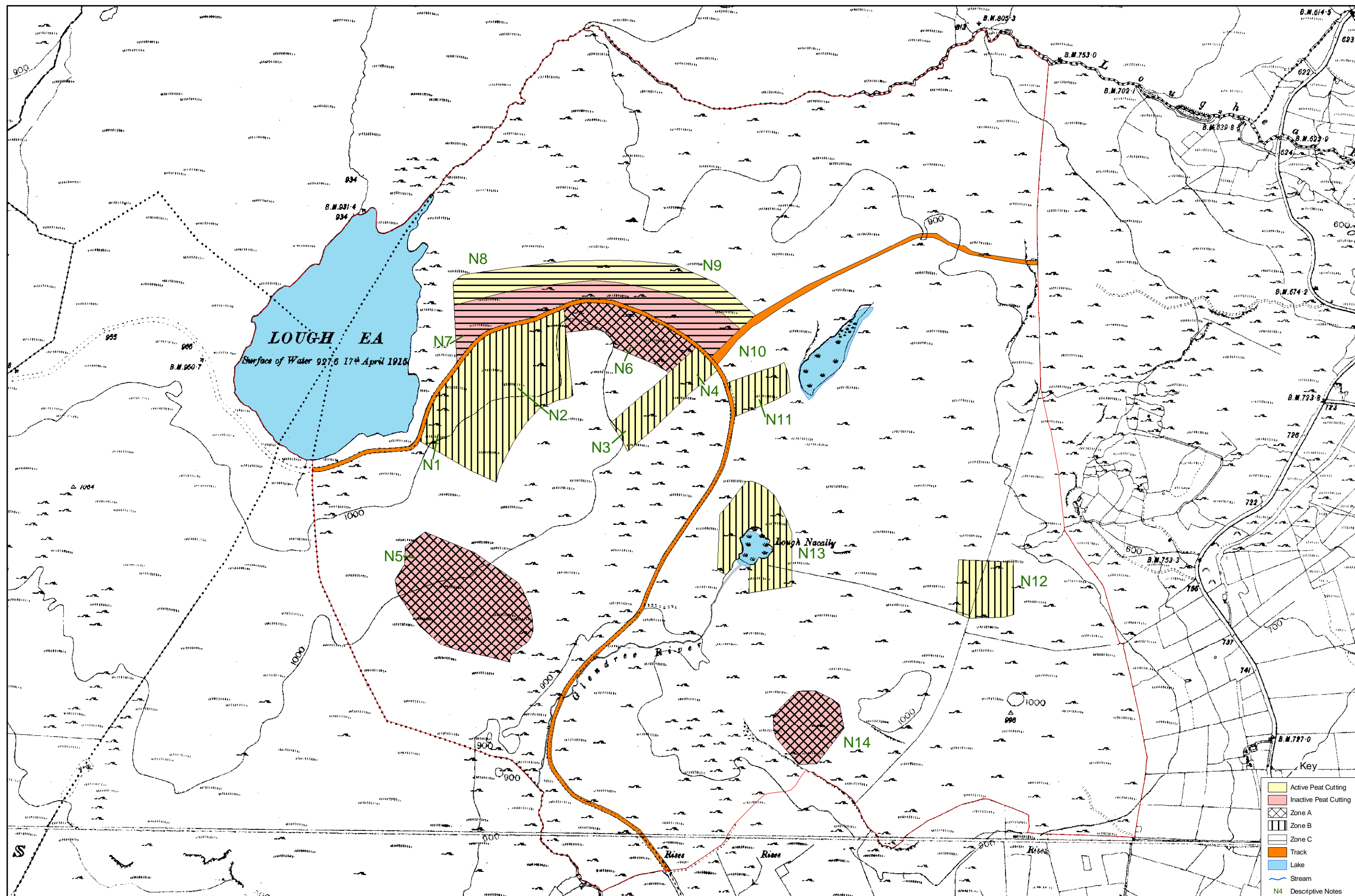
GLENDREE BOG
CL 6" SHEETS 019, 027



Scale 1: 9,000

Map 3
MANAGEMENT ZONING MAP

SITE CODE
001912
Version 1.00



CEANTAR SPEISIALTA CAOMHNATHE
CANDIDATE SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION

Féadtar athruithe a chur ar na gceantair / Sites subject to revision
 (Ni thaispeántar suímh gur de speis géolaíoch amháin iad) / (Sites solely of geological interest not shown)
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GLENDREE BOG
CL 6" SHEETS 019, 027

0 120 240 480
 Scale 1: 9,000

**Map 4
TURBARY ZONING MAP**

SITE CODE
 001912
 Version 1.00