

# An Chomhairle Oidhreachta The Heritage Council

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# Mid East Clare Habitat Mapping Project

## Survey Findings Report

This project is an action under the Clare Heritage Plan 2011-2017



Clare Heritage Forum



















November 2011/Ref:MGE0297



# Survey & Mapping of Habitats In Mid Clare

# **Survey Findings Report**

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#### 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Clare County Council in association with the Heritage Council, commissioned RPS to survey and map habitats within a designated study area of approximately 96km<sup>2</sup> in Mid Clare. The study excluded lands designated for nature conservation.

County Clare is rich in its diversity of wildlife and habitats; however little is known about the habitats outside these lands designated for nature conservation. The main aim of the survey in Mid Clare is to provide an inventory and classification of the habitats present within the study area and to identify areas of biodiversity importance.

Through this process, we hope to create a more consistent sense of the value and importance of local sites of ecological value, by securing a broader awareness and support for their protection.

Information on the habitats found, was gathered through field by field surveys and interpretation of aerial photography. The habitat boundaries were mapped and classified in accordance with the national habitats classification produced by the Heritage Council, A Guide to Habitats in Ireland (Fossitt, 2000).

The field study was conducted between the months of July and August 2011. All information gleaned from the field studies was then digitised and stored in a Geographical Information System (GIS), which provides a statistical and visual representation of the habitat information.

There are 117 habitat types classified in Ireland (Fossitt, 2000), 89 of these habitat types are terrestrial and 28 of these are marine habitat. Of the 89 terrestrial habitat types, 52 different types of habitats occur within the study area. Of the 52 different habitat types, 5 are classified under cultivated and built land and the remaining 47 habitats are described in detail throughout the report.

The habitats found within the study area are evaluated based on their naturalness, value and vulnerability. Habitats that are assessed to be good examples of Annex I and/or Priority habitats are considered to be of International or National importance. Rare semi-natural habitats with high biodiversity are considered to be of County Importance. Habitats that are considered semi-natural habitat or locally important for wildlife are considered to be of Local

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Importance Higher Value, and robust habitats that have been highly modified are considered to be of Local Importance Lower Value.

Good examples of habitats that are considered to be of International, National, High and Moderate ecological value are target noted. These target notes provide detailed information on the habitat including, Survey details, Grid Coordinate, Townland Name, Area in Hectares, Ecological Value, Habitat Code and Habitat Description. The target note also provides a habitat map of the site indicating the extent of the area and a photographic record.

Information from this survey is principally of value in revealing the nature of the biodiversity interest within the Study Area. The results can be used to compare the status of biodiversity with other areas where such surveys have taken place, provide a baseline to inform discussion and policy-making on biodiversity and/or inform future research on other aspects of biodiversity.

#### 2 INTRODUCTION

#### 2.1 BACKGROUND

In June 2011, Clare County Council commissioned the survey and mapping of habitats within a designated study area of approximately 96km<sup>2</sup> in Mid Clare (refer to **Figure 2.1**). This project is to fulfil the actions for habitat mapping under the County Clare Heritage Plan.

The main aim of the survey was to provide an inventory of the habitats present within the study area delineated in **Figure 2.1** below. The study area spans from Broadford in the west, to Scarriff in the east and from Feakle in the north to O'Brien's Bridge in the south. The detailed mapping and inventory of the habitats, landscape features and ecological features within the study area will form the basis for a review of the variety and extent of habitats present, the identification of areas of high ecological and biodiversity value and important links between these areas. Recommendations will be made for best practice in relation to the conservation, protection and enhancement of areas of natural heritage and biodiversity importance.

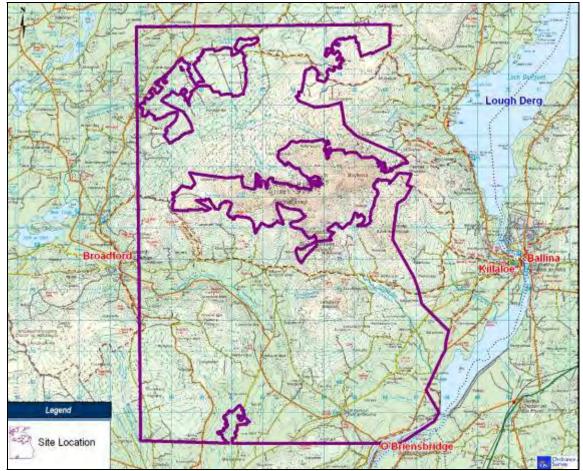


Figure 2.1: Study Area

#### 2.2 BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT TEAM

The Project Team represents a combination of expertise, experience and resources providing a range of professional services that are directly relevant to the described tasks.

Ecological assessment requires a high level of skill and practical ability. Ecologists and environmental staff in RPS Galway are supported further by ecological staff distributed between offices in Ireland and the United Kingdom. RPS staff are drawn from scientists and conservation practitioners with broad ecological experience that includes, site survey and evaluation, phase I habitat survey; botanical survey; bird survey; terrestrial mammal, bat and invertebrate surveys.

The field surveys were carried out by RPS ecologists. Paula Kearney was the project manager and is a Senior Project Ecologist within the environmental section of RPS Consulting Engineers in Galway. Paula has eleven years of professional ecological and environmental experience. Richard Mundy, who is also a Senior Project Ecologist with RPS in Cork, assisted with training and advice in relation to the project. Paula assisted in the field surveys along with Jean Hamilton, Sarah O'Loughlin Irwin, John Curtin and Shane O'Neill. Jean joined RPS in 2006. Since then she has developed her skills in field survey techniques and methodology, and in ecological impact assessment. Sarah O'Loughlin Irwin, John Curtin and Shane O'Neill are independent botanists working on behalf of RPS. They all have extensive experience in terrestrial ecology and botany. Dr. Ruth Staunton is a geologist with over nine years experience and has worked with RPS for over two years. She provided an interpretation of soil, geology and hydrogeology of the study area, using published information available from the GSI.

#### 2.3 SCOPE

The scope of the project as per the brief provided by Clare County Council is as follows;

- 1. to map and provide supplementary information relating to all habitats within the survey area, to level III of the Fossitt (2000) classification system,
- 2. to survey, map and provide supplementary information relating to all habitats listed on Annex I of the European Habitats Directive that occur within the survey area,
- 3. to survey, map and provide supplementary information relating to sites of local biodiversity value, flooding potential and ecological corridors within the survey area, and
- 4. to provide an interpretation layer of local areas of biodiversity value, ecological corridors, buffer zones, and areas of flood risk.

#### 2.4 METHODOLOGY

The habitats within the study area were assessed by means of a desk study of literature pertinent to the area and surrounding area and field surveys. In addition all spatial data was digitised onto a Geographical Information System (GIS) MapInfo Professional version 8.5.

The key elements to be employed in the preparation of the Clare Habitat Mapping Project follow the steps in planning and managing habitat surveys as detailed in the Heritage Council Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping, see **Table 2.1.** 

Tasks Step Determine survey objectives Identify size of survey area Determine data to be collected during field survey Decide proportion of survey area to be covered by field Decide on project management structures Appoint project steering group if required Appoint project team Provide required skills and training Prepare for field survey Finalise survey methodology Consider land access Divide survey area if required Prepare project data management Determine data presentation objectives procedures Determine data circulation protocols

Table 2.1 Outline Steps in Planning and Managing Habitat

#### 2.4.1 DESKTOP STUDY

The desktop study involved a comprehensive review of the existing information. The principal sources of information referred to during the desktop review are outlined below.

- Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017,
- East Clare Development Plan 2011-2017,
- South Clare Development Plan 2009-2015,
- Landscape Character Assessment in Ireland. The Heritage Council (2006),
- National and Local, Heritage and Clare Local Biodiversity Plans,
- A review of the National Parks and Wildlife Service database for conservation sites,

- A review of any existing published and unpublished information from the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Clare County Council and the Heritage Council, and
- Habitat/Land Use Maps available such as CORINE data.

Reference will be made to the methodologies and experience gained from the:

- Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping (Heritage Council, 2011),
- A Guide to Habitats in Ireland.' Fossitt, J.A 2000. The Heritage Council, Co. Kilkenny.
- Hedgerow Survey Handbook,
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan, and
- Habitat Action Plans.

#### 2.4.2 GIS, MAPPING & RECORDING

All available digital mapping and aerial photography was divided up into 3km<sup>2</sup> tiles for ease of processing and field work.

The aerial photography was carefully examined to interpret the type of habitats present within the study area. Using this method some habitats and their spatial extent can be easily identified such as field boundaries, areas of plantation forestry and agricultural grassland. Other habitats are however more difficult to identify such as types of woodland, peatland and swamp. All habitats are classified to Level III of the Fossitt Classification. This classification system is explained in **Section 2.4.4**.

All spatial data was digitised onto a GIS system (MapInfo Professional version 8.5). The advantages of digital mapping are many and include:

- GIS provides a much more effective and efficient means of storing and accessing mapped data,
- Improved data manipulation capabilities,
- Habitat areas can be calculated with much greater accuracy,
- Precise locations of features of interest can be mapped more accurately using GPS (Geographical Positioning System) data, and
- Alterations to site boundaries / habitat areas can be made much more easily.

#### 2.4.3 FIELD ACCESS

Prior to the commencement of field surveys local representatives of the Irish Farmers' Association (IFA) were contacted by telephone. A number of actions resulted from these conversations, including advertising the commencement of the survey on local radio and in parish newsletters. Surveyors had information leaflets to issue to farmers during the site survey.

Where possible, prior to entering land, the landowners were located and asked for permission. Not all fields were entered if a habitat could be assessed from the road such as Improved Agricultural Grassland GA1. Overall, landowners encountered for the duration of the project were cooperative and enthusiastic to impart local knowledge on wildlife, land use and farming practices in the area.

#### 2.4.4 FIELD SURVEY

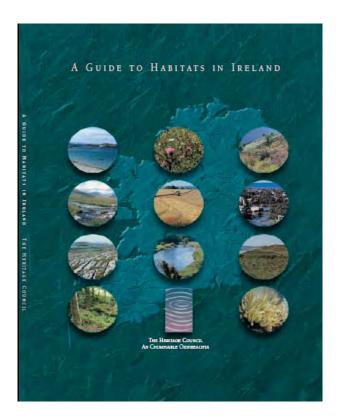
The field survey was based on a combination of field survey and interpretation of aerial photographs, with the use of supporting information, where available.

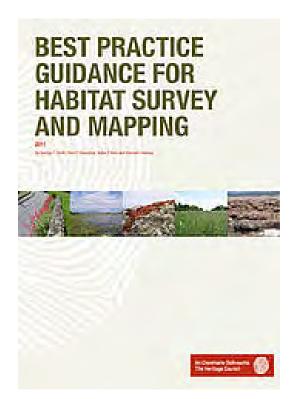
A habitat is an area in which a specific plant or animal naturally lives, grows and reproduces; an area that provides a plant or animal with adequate food, water, shelter and living space. Through the mapping of habitats, information can be gathered about the plants and animals, which are associated with an area.

Habitats can vary in naturalness, depending on the extent to which they have been modified by development. Throughout Ireland, there is probably no habitat that can be considered completely natural and therefore an assessment is made related to degrees of naturalness.

Habitats can be in terrestrial, freshwater or marine environments, or a combination of these. Many techniques and methodologies have been developed to map habitats and classify habitats around the world; however the Heritage Council has produced a methodology and classification system specific to habitats found in Ireland. These include the following:

- Fossitt, J. (2000) A Guide to Habitats in Ireland. The Heritage Council, Kilkenny, and
- Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping (Heritage Council, 2011).





The habitats on site were classified in accordance with the Fossitt Classification system. The classification is a standard scheme for identifying, describing and classifying wildlife habitats in Ireland. The classification is hierarchical and operates at three levels, Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3. These levels outline the correlation between the habitat categories and the plant communities of botanical classifications. Figure 2.2 is an excerpt from *A Guide to Habitats in Ireland* (Fossitt, 2000) and illustrates the three levels with regard to grassland habitats. Level One is G and is the broad habitat type. Level Two, **GA**, **GS** and **GM**, subdivides the classification into improved, semi-natural and marsh grasslands. Level Three separates these habitats further into distinct categories to clearly distinguish between the grassland habitats.

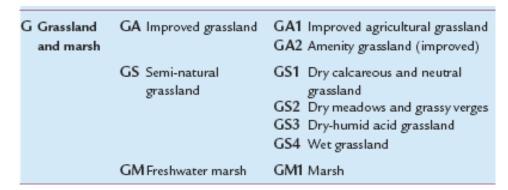


Figure 2.2: Excerpt from A Guide to Habitats in Ireland (Fossitt, 2000), illustrating the 3 Levels

#### 2.4.5 MAP PRODUCTION

All habitats were mapped individually on MapInfo so that the exact location and true extent of the habitats is available to Clare County Council and to aid future research.

Photographs were taken for each habitat types and accompany the habitat descriptions on the digital version of the accompanying Habitat Map. A number of photos are also included in **Section 4.2** which provides a description for each habitat type.

All maps and scientific data sets are collated, logged and referenced in a database that will be held by Clare County Council.

#### 3 STUDY AREA CONTEXT

#### 3.1 STUDY AREA

The study area spans from Broadford in the west, to Scarriff in the east and from Feakle in the north to O'Briens Bridge in the south (see **Figure 2.1**). The study comprised the survey and mapping of habitats within this designated study area.

The main aim of the survey was to provide an inventory of the habitats present within the study area, excluding the sites already designated for nature conservation. The following section describes the existing environmental conditions within the study area, describing elements such as geology, soils, ecology and land use.

#### 3.2 LAND USE

The well-drained shales and till subsoils which cover most of the study area are ideal for agriculture, and much of the area is used for pasture. The central section of peaty subsoils provides a variety of land uses including peat extraction, forestry, pasture and silage. The villages and towns including Feakle, Scarriff and Tuamgraney support residential and commercial business.

Peat extraction is a prominent activity within the Raised Bog at Coolreagh in the central region of the study area.

There are also a number of local amenities within the study area which can be enjoyed by tourists and residents of the towns include the following: Game and coarse fishing, Horse riding, and walking. A large golf course (approximately 62ha) has been built to the south east of the bog in Coolreagh. The "The East Clare Way", which is a regional walking route, weaves through the edge of the study area. This walk is important from a tourism perspective.

#### 3.3 LANDFORM AND GEOLOGY

#### 3.3.1 Landform

The land within the study site is generally low-lying with higher elevations at the foothills of the Slieve Aughty Mountains in the north of the study area. The minimum and maximum elevations

reached within the site are 30m OD and 210m OD respectively. Poorly drained bog and wet marshland areas, or glacially formed depressions occur within the study site. The higher ground generally comprises well drained, gently undulating pastureland, with occurrences of uneven, hummocky till ridges. These ridges are either formed of limestone epikarst or are glacial features such as drumlins (small elongated hills, typically 500-800m long, 200-300m wide and 20-35m high). **Figure 3.1** illustrates the setting of the study area within the landform of County Clare.

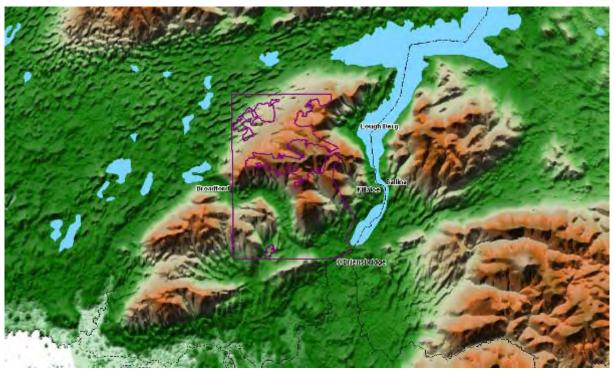


Figure 3.1: Landform of County Clare. The purple line delineates the Study Area.

#### 3.3.2 Geology, Soils and Subsoils

The geology and soils of Mid Clare are the predominant factors influencing the habitats which it supports. The underlying geology generates a variety of soil-forming parent materials, which are an important element in governing the distribution of vegetation.

A general representation of the solid geology for the study area is presented in **Figure 3.2** and was constructed from available GSI (1:100,000) Bedrock Geology maps and reports. The two dominant rock types of the region are Silurian Quartzite and Old Red Sandstone. Belts of Lower Avonian Shales and Sandstone, and Lower Carboniferous Limestone, can be found in the north western section. No karst features were found within the study area, which conforms to the underlying geology.

Based on information gleaned from the Teagasc Subsoils and Soils map, the study area is predominantly underlain by Lower Palaeozoic Sandstone and Shale Till (TLPSsS), Till Derived from Devonian Sandstones and Shales (TDSs) and Blanket peat.

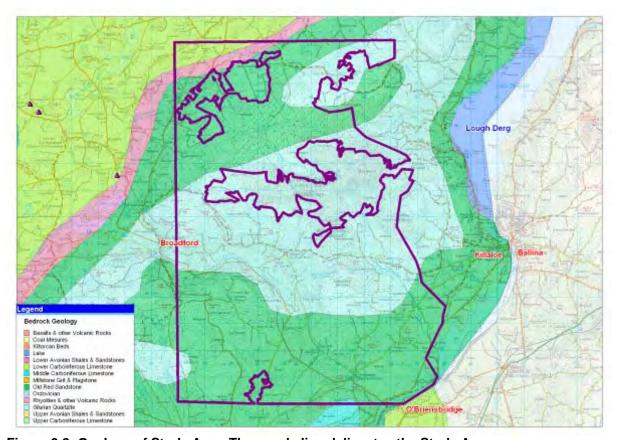


Figure 3.2: Geology of Study Area. The purple line delineates the Study Area

#### 3.4 ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

County Clare has a rich and varied landscape and supports a diversity of wildlife and habitats that are both rare in Ireland and Europe. Areas that represent good examples of nationally and internationally important habitats are designated for nature conservation.

Sites of high conservation importance occur within and adjacent to the study area. These sites have been designated as they support a diversity of species that are protected on a National and International scale. The study excludes sites designated for nature conservation; however a review of these sites provides a valuable insight into the landscape and its capability to support such biodiversity.

A number of sites are currently designated for nature conservation under both European and National legislation. These designated sites include; Natural Heritage Areas (NHA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA). Details of applicable legislation are provided in **Table 3.1** and details of designated sites are detailed in **Table 3.2**, and illustrated in **Figure 3.3**.

Table 3.1: National and European Legislation for Nature Conservation

Table 3.1: National and European Legi		Station for Nature Conservation		
Legislation		Explanatory Note		
EU Legislation	Habitats Directive 92/43/EU (transposed into Irish Law under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 SI/97/094 as amended)	This legislation is structured around the 'Natura 2000' network of protected sites and a strict system of species protection. Ireland has a legal obligation to protect the habitats and species which are listed in the Annexes to the legislation, as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). The main objective of the Directive is to maintain or restore natural habitats, and species of plants and animals, which are of conservation importance as defined in the Directives, at a favourable conservation status. Ireland supports 60 Annex I habitats that require special conservation measures and, of these, 16 are priority types that are considered to be in danger of disappearance (see Table 4.2).		
	Birds Directive 79/409/EE	This Directive identifies 194 species and sub-species of birds afforded protection. Annex 1 lists the bird species for which conservation requires the designation of Special Protection Areas (SPAs); this also applies to important concentrations of migratory birds. SPAs also form part of the Natura 2000 network of sites.		

Legislation		Explanatory Note
NATIONAL LEGISLATION	Wildlife (as amended) Act 1976	This legislation aims to protect sites of scientific interest because of their habitats, plants and animals, or landforms and geological or geomorphological features from damaging developments and / or land uses. At a national level it provides a mechanism through which statutory protection is afforded as Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs). It also strengthens the protective status of SACs and SPAs by ensuring that protection will in all cases apply from the time of notification of proposed SAC and SPA sites. The Act further encompasses the statutory protection for important geological and geomorphological sites, including fossil sites by designation as NHAs.
	The Flora (Protection) Order 1999	This order sets out a list of plant species which are protected by Section 21 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 (as amended). If a plant species appears in this list it is illegal to cut, uproot or damage the listed species in any way, or to offer them for sale. This prohibition extends to the taking or sale of seed. It is also illegal to alter damage or interfere in any way with their habitats. This protection applies wherever the plants are found and is not confined to designated sites.

Table 3.2: Brief Description of Designated Sites Located within or Adjacent to the Study Area

	Brief Description
cSAC 002312	Slieve Bernagh Bog is situated to the west of Lough Derg, in the south-east of Co. Clare. The site comprises the Slieve Bernagh mountain range, with the highest peaks at Moylussa (532 m) and Cragnamurragh (526 m), and the surrounding peatlands that flank its northern slopes. Slieve Bernagh Bog is a candidate SAC selected for blanket bog, wet heath and dry heath, all habitats listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. Several species of birds, typical of open moorland, have been recorded from this site. These include Skylark, Meadow Pipet, Red Grouse, Wheatear and Raven. At least two pairs of Hen Harriers are known to occur within the Slieve Bernagh to Keeper Hill region and birds would use the cSAC for foraging habitat. This species is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive. The Irish Hare, a Red Data Book species, occurs within the site.
cSAC/pNHA 001013	Glenomra Wood SAC is a deciduous wood located approximately 10km north of Limerick City. Downy Birch ( <i>Betula pubescens</i> ) is the dominant tree in the canopy, and reaches a height of more than 20m in places. Other tree species include Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ), Beech ( <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> ) and Sessile Oak ( <i>Quercus petraea</i> ). The understory is dominated by Holly ( <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> ), and also includes Hazel ( <i>Corylus avellana</i> ), regenerating Birch and Bramble ( <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.). Willows ( <i>Salix</i> spp.) occur in the wetter areas. This site is of considerable ecological significance as it is a good example of a semi-natural deciduous woodland – a habitat type listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. Three Red Data Book animals have also been recorded on the site – Pine Marten ( <i>Martes martes</i> ), Badger ( <i>Meles meles</i> ) and Hare ( <i>Lepus timidus hibernicus</i> ).
cSAC 002165	Lower River Shannon SAC is a large site running along the Shannon Valley from Killaloe to Loop Head / Kerry Head, covering a distance of approximately 120km. The site includes the lower freshwater reaches of the River Shannon, the Shannon and Fergus Estuaries, and a marine area between Kerry Head and Loop Head. The site is of very high ecological value as it plays host to a large number of habitats and species listed on Annexes I and II of the EU Habitats Directive. The site has been chosen as an candidate SAC due to the presence of lagoons and alluvial wet woodlands, and also for <i>Molinla</i> meadows, floating river vegetation, tidal mudflats, estuaries, Mediterranean Salt Meadows, Atlantic Salt

# Brief Description Meadows, perennial vegetation of stony banks, sand banks, Salicornia mudflats, reefs, large shallow inlets, sea cliffs and bays – all of which are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. The site was also chosen for the presence of several species listed on Annex II of the same directive – River Lamprey, Sea Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, Bottle-nosed Dolphin, Atlantic Salmon, Otter and Freshwater Pearl Mussel. This site forms the eastern and southern boundary of the study area for the South Clare Habitat Survey.

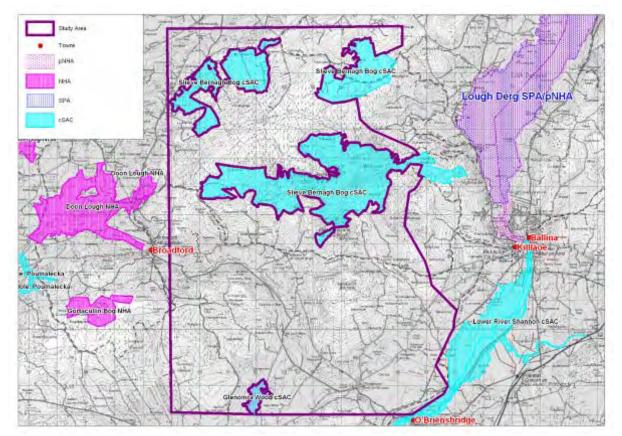


Figure 3.3: Designated Sites within or adjacent to the Study Area.

#### 3.4.1 RARE FLORA WITHIN STUDY AREA

#### 3.4.1.1 Flora Atlas

The principal source of information regarding the distribution of flora in Ireland is the *New Atlas of the British & Irish Flora* (Preston *et al.*, 2002). This atlas shows data for vascular plants in individual 10 x 10 km squares. The study area falls within eight 10 x 10 km squares including N30, N31, N32, M31, M32, O31, O32 and O33. The records for these 10 km squares were consulted and a search was carried out to investigate if any rare or protected plant species had been recorded in the squares, during the 1987-1999 atlas survey carried out by the Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI). The search included the vascular

plants that are listed in Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive, Flora Protection Order (FPO) of 1999, the Wildlife Act 1976, the Irish Red Data Book (IRDB) and the NPWS Site Synopsis for designated sites within the study area. There are no records for rare or protected species within the study area. The NPWS were contacted in relation to records from the County Clare Rare Flora survey carried out under contract to NPWS in 2006. This search revealed that all of the rare vascular plant sites surveyed during this survey are outside of the study area. The species found outside the boundary of the study area are shown in **Table 3.4.** 

**Table 3.4: Flora Atlas Data** 

Common Name	Scientific Name
Musk Thistle	Carduus nutans
Small White Orchid	Pseudorchis albida
Henbane	Hyoscyamus niger
Chives	Allium schoenoprasum
Mudwort	Limosella aquatica
Hairy Violet	Viola hirta
Narrow-Leaved Helleborine	Cephalanthera longifolia

#### 4 HABITATS

#### 4.1 HABITAT EVALUATION

The ecological interest of a site is assessed based on whether it is of *international, national, regional or local importance* as this has a direct bearing on its magnitude and significance. All impacts related to species or habitats protected by statute or Biodiversity Action Plans, priority species or habitats that are considered at national level. Seasonal factors that affect distribution patterns and habitats of species were taken into account when conducting the surveys and the potential of the site to support certain populations.

Consideration was given to the guidelines produced by the National Road Authority 'Guidelines for Assessment of Ecological Impacts of National Road Schemes, NRA Revision 1, 2006'. **Table 4.1** provides a suggested ranking based on the Site Evaluation Scheme as detailed in the NRA Guidelines. The wording in the table has been adjusted slightly and references to fisheries waters have been removed for the purposes of this report.

Table 4.1: Ecological Site Evaluation Scheme

#### **Ratings for Ecological Sites**

#### Α

#### **International Importance:**

- 'European Site' including Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Site of Community Importance (SCI), Special Protection Area (SPA) or proposed Special Area of Conservation.
- Proposed Special Protection Area (pSPA).
- Site that fulfills the criteria for designation as a 'European Site' (see Annex III of the Habitats Directive, as amended).
- Features essential to maintaining the coherence of the Natura 2000 Network.
- Site containing 'best examples' of the habitat types listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive.
- Resident or regularly occurring populations (assessed to be important at the national level) of the following:
  - Species of bird, listed in Annex I and/or referred to in Article 4(2) of the Birds Directive; and/or
  - Species of animal and plants listed in Annex II and/or IV of the Habitats Directive.
- Ramsar Site (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially Waterfowl Habitat 1971).
- World Heritage Site (Convention for the Protection of World Cultural & Natural Heritage, 1972).
- Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO Man & The Biosphere Programme).
- Site hosting significant species populations under the Bonn Convention (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, 1979).
- Site hosting significant populations under the Berne Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, 1979).
- Biogenetic Reserve under the Council of Europe.
- European Diploma Site under the Council of Europe.
- Salmonid water designated pursuant to the European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations, 1988, (S.I. No. 293 of 1988).

#### **Ratings for Ecological Sites**

#### B National Importance:

- Site designated or proposed as a Natural Heritage Area (NHA).
- Statutory Nature Reserve.
- Refuge for Fauna and Flora protected under the Wildlife Acts.
- National Park.
- Undesignated site fulfilling the criteria for designation as a Natural Heritage Area (NHA); Statutory Nature Reserve; Refuge for Fauna and Flora protected under the Wildlife Act; and/or a National Park.
- Resident or regularly occurring populations (assessed to be important at the national level) of
- the following:
  - Species protected under the Wildlife Acts; and/or
  - Species listed on the relevant Red Data list.
- Site containing 'viable areas' of the habitat types listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive.

#### C County Importance:

- Area of Special Amenity.
- Area subject to a Tree Preservation Order.
- Area of High Amenity, or equivalent, designated under the County Development Plan.
- Resident or regularly occurring populations (assessed to be important at the County level) of the following:
  - Species of bird, listed in Annex I and/or referred to in Article 4(2) of the Birds Directive;
  - Species of animal and plants listed in Annex II and/or IV of the Habitats Directive;
  - Species protected under the Wildlife Acts; and/or
  - Species listed on the relevant Red Data list.
- Site containing area or areas of the habitat types listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive that do not fulfil the criteria for valuation as of International or National importance.
- County important populations of species, or viable areas of semi-natural habitats or natural heritage features identified in the National or Local BAP, if this has been prepared.
- Sites containing semi-natural habitat types with high biodiversity in a county context and a high degree of naturalness, or populations of species that are uncommon within the county.
- Sites containing habitats and species that are rare or are undergoing a decline in quality or extent at a national level.

#### D Local Importance (higher value):

- Locally important populations of priority species or habitats or natural heritage features identified in the Local BAP, if this has been prepared;
- Resident or regularly occurring populations (assessed to be important at the Local level) of the following:
  - Species of bird, listed in Annex I and/or referred to in Article 4(2) of the Birds Directive:
  - Species of animal and plants listed in Annex II and/or IV of the Habitats Directive;
  - Species protected under the Wildlife Acts; and/or
  - Species listed on the relevant Red Data list.
- Sites containing semi-natural habitat types with high biodiversity in a local context and a high degree of naturalness, or populations of species that are uncommon in the locality;
- Sites or features containing common or lower value habitats, including naturalised species that are nevertheless essential in maintaining links and ecological corridors between features of higher ecological value.

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Ratings for Ecological Sites				
E	Local Importance (lower value):			
	- Sites containing small areas of semi-natural habitat that are of some local importance for wildlife;			
	- Sites or features containing non-native species that are of some importance in maintaining habitat links.			

The evaluation and selection criterion for the local conservation sites is based on the 'Ratcliffe Criterion' as set out in the Nature Conservation Review 1977. This approach to the designation of local sites has been adopted in the UK and Northern Ireland, and Guidance for the Identification and Selection of Local Sites has been developed by the Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). A synopsis of the Ratcliffe criterion is provided in **Table 4.2.** 

**Table 4.2 Ratcliffe Criteria** 

Criteria	Description
Size	A habitat's importance for nature conservation generally increases with
SIZE	its size.
Diversity	Variety is better than uniformity, species or habitat richness is generally
Diversity	better than a poor species or habitat complement.
	Sites, which have remained relatively unaltered by man, tend to be the
Naturalness	most valuable. Furthermore, sites which are considered most natural
	are generally those which are hardest to recreate.
	A habitat that is fragile is one that is sensitive to changing influences.
Fragility	Habitats, which are liable to such influences, are likely to be of higher
	value than those which are not.
Typicalness	Those habitats which are representative or typical of good examples of
Турісанісээ	their type are considered of higher value than those which are not.
Rarity	A site where rare or protected species or habitats exist is considered of
Ivality	higher value.
Position in an	Sites, and their associated habitats, which are contiguous with other
ecological or	similar sites tend to be more valuable than those sites, which are
geographical unit	situated in isolation.
	Habitats, which, through an adjustment of current influences, have the
Potential Value	potential to be, of a higher nature conservation value than they are
	currently, have additional value
Intrinsic Value	This criterion is based upon the value humans' place on a feature of
mumsic value	ecology as opposed to its actual nature conservation value.

#### 4.1.1 Annex I Habitats

Fossitt Level 3 habitats are also described in terms of their links to Annex I habitats. Habitats of particular conservation importance include those that are listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Ireland supports 60 Annex I habitats that require special conservation measures and, of these, 16 are priority types that are considered to be in danger of

disappearance (see Appendix 1). It is important, therefore, that links to Annex I habitats are considered because of their significance for nature conservation and environmental policy at national and European levels.

The Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats - EUR27 is a scientific reference document published by the European Commission for the interpretation of Priority and Non-Priority Annex I habitat types of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC. This manual incorporates descriptive sheets for Priority and Non-Priority Habitats, which establishes clear, operational scientific definitions of habitats, using pragmatic descriptive elements (e.g. characteristic plants) and taking into consideration regional variations. The *Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland* (NPWS 2008) was also consulted which provides details on the status of listed habitats and species and also provides lists of typical species for these habitats in Irish context. These documents are considered when identifying links to Annex 1 and/or Priority Habitats.

#### 4.1.2 Target Notes

Good examples of habitats that are linked to Annex I habitats and habitats that are considered to be of International, National, High and Moderate ecological value are target noted. These target notes provide detailed information on the habitat including, Survey details, Grid Coordinate, Townland Name, Area in Hectares, Ecological Value, Habitat Code and Habitat Description. The target note also provides a habitat map of the site indicating the extent of the area and a photographic record.

#### 4.2 HABITATS RECORDED WITHIN STUDY AREA

The following section comprises summary descriptions and assessments of the principal Fossitt Level 3 habitats found within the study area. Habitats of high conservation and biodiversity interest are complemented by species lists and target notes which are contained in Appendix A.

#### Acid Oligotrophic Lakes FL2

One example of an Acid Oligotrophic Lake FL2 was found in the townland of Ballydonaghan, in the north western section of the study area. Ballydonaghan Lough is located in a small valley surrounded by blanket bog, some of which is afforested, and areas of Wet grassland GS4. The lake is approximately 0.7ha in size and is fringed with Reed swamp FS1. The lake itself supports submerged vegetation such as Bog Bean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), Pondweed (*Potemogeton* sp.) and White Water Lily (*Nymphaea alba*). At the northern shore of the lake there is a floating mat of vegetation with Marsh-like plant communities which grades into Wet grassland GS4. This lake is not linked to either of the annexed habitats.

Ecological Interest Links to Annex I Habitats		Locations
A/B - International to	ternational to Acid oligotrophic lake is linked to two annexed habitats, I	
National Importance,	'oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy	Lough.
Highly Sensitive	plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) (3110)' and 'oligotrophic to	
	mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the	
	Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea	
	(3130)'.	



Image 4.1: Bog bean within Ballydonaghan Lough

#### Mesotrophic Lakes FL4

Only one example of a Mesotrophic Lake FL4 was found within the study area. McNamara's Lough is located in the south eastern corner of the study area between Bridgetown and O'Briensbridge and is approximately 0.8ha in size. It is surrounded by Wet Willow-Alder-Ash Woodland WN6 and a Mature Treeline WL2. Stoneworts (*Chara* spp.), Alternate Water-Milfoil (*Myriophyllum alternifolium*), and Water-plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*) were observed growing in the lake. The invasive species Canadian Pondweed (*Elodea canadensis*) was also recorded within the lake. The surrounding shoreline is host to a wide variety of wetland species and mature woodland surrounds the entire lake.

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
C - County Importance,	Mesotrophic lakes are not linked to any Annex I	McNamara's Lough
Very Sensitive	Habitats under the EU Habitats Directive.	_



Image 4.2: Woodland surrounding McNamara's Lough, a Mesotrophic Lake

#### Other Artificial Lakes & Ponds FL8

This habitat classification applies to artificial or ornamental bodies of standing water. These water bodies are often stagnant and high in nutrients and are considered to be eutrophic. Flooded quarries are also included in this classification, in addition to water features of amenity areas such as golf courses ad parks.

<b>Ecological Interest</b>	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations within Study Area
E- Local Importance (lower value), Robust	Artificial Lakes & Ponds do not correspond to Annex I Habitats	Ballyquin More

#### Eroding Upland Rivers FW1

A number of eroding upland rivers drain the upland regions of the study area. These rivers and streams runoff the mountainous areas such as Slieve Bernagh in the north and feed into a number of larger rivers including the Carrownagowan River, Coumnagun River and Inchalughoge River, and Ardcloony River, to the south west, which flow either into Lough Derg to the west or smaller lakes outside the study area to the east, north and south. Several smaller rivers and streams which drain uplands to the south of the study area are tributaries of the Glenomra River (the main lowland depositing river in the area).

Eroding upland rivers and streams have relatively fast, turbulent flow with little or no deposition of fine sediment and the beds of the rivers are characterised by exposed bedrock and loose cobbles. Due to the rapid movement of water and unstable eroding channels, which are key features of such rivers, little vegetation is present. However, on the banks on these rivers and streams mosses, liverworts and broadleaved herbs often occur, and there are some examples where these are linked to woodland habitats (with/without riparian influence). The main channels have a range of features such as riffles, pools and runs, which are characteristic of eroding / upland rivers.

<b>Ecological Interest</b>	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
C - County Importance,	Eroding upland rivers do not have links to	Carrownagowan River,
Very Sensitive	any Annex I or Priority Habitats under the EU Habitats Directive.	Coumnagun River, Inchalughoge River, Ardcloony River



Image 4.3: Upland eroding river with exposed rocks.

#### • Depositing Lowland Rivers FW2

The Glenomra River is the largest of the depositing lowland rivers that drain the study area, this is a tributary of the Broadford River which flows west of Broadford into Doon Lough. There are a number of smaller rivers and streams, such as the Black River which flows into the lower Lough Derg. The lowlands of the study area have been drained considerably - a network of drains exists within the floodplain of the Glenomra River. The riparian vegetation on the banks of these rivers varies considerably throughout the study area, varying between peatlands, wetland habitats to improved grassland and woodland. These rivers are fringed by emergent vegetation which generally corresponds to Reed and Large Sedge Swamp FS1, Tall Herb Swamp FS2 and Marsh GM1, with species such as Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*), Common Club Rush (*Schoenoplectus lacustris*), Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and Fools Watercress (*Apium nodiflorum*).

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
C - County Importance,	Depositing lowland rivers do not have links to any	Glenomra River
Very Sensitive	Annex I or Priority Habitats	

#### Drainage Ditches FW4

Drainage ditches occur throughout the study site. The drains flow into larger tributaries of the larger rivers within the study area. The water in drains is slow-moving and stagnant in places. Fools Watercress (*Apium nodiflorum*) and Common duckweed (*Lemna minor*) are frequent species in this habitat with Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*) occurring in the verges. Tall emergent vegetation is evident in drains throughout the study area. This vegetation corresponds with Reed and Large sedge swamp (FS1), and occurs in the deep drains.

<b>Ecological Interest</b>	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
D- Local Importance	Drainage ditches are not linked to any Annex I habitats.	Occur throughout
(higher value),	Drains are important for invertebrate diversity, and also	study site.
Moderately Sensitive	Common Frog (Rana temporaria) and Smooth Newts	•
	(Triturus vulgaris). Drains flow into designated	
	watercourses and are therefore considered sensitive.	

#### Non-Calcareous Springs FP2

A non-calcareous spring FP2 was located in a small Wet Pendunculate Oak-Ash Woodland WN4 copse dominated by Hazel (*Corylus* avellana) with abundant Willows, such as the Eared Willow (*Salix* aurita). The ground is somewhat poached by cattle and horses however it retains substantial vegetation cover in the field layer with abundant bryophytes, grasses and broadleaved herbs. It is thought that the spring(s) are non-calcareous in nature on the basis of the floral species present and also based on the fact that the main wet area is underlain by granite bedrock according to the GSI 1;100,000 bedrock maps.

Ecological Inter	rest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations within Study Area
•		This feature does not correspond Annex I Habitat	Kilmore, target note 4504-a_TN2/3

#### Reed and Large Sedge Swamps FS1

Areas of Reed and large Sedge Swamps occupy drains and the margins of Depositing Lowland Rivers FW2 with a few large areas in the townlands of Woodpark and Ballymoloney in the southern regions of the study area. This habitat often forms intimate mosaics with Tall Herb Swamps FS2, Marsh GM1 and Wet Grassland GS4 and were therefore often too small to map. Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), Great Fen-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) and Common Club-rush (*Schoenoplectus lacustris*) are the dominant species, with commonly occurring species such as Common Reedmace (*Typha latifolia*), Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*), Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and Water Plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*).

<b>Ecological Interest</b>	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
C - County Importance,	Reed and Large Sedge Swamps are not	Occurs in drains, rivers
Very Sensitive	linked to any Annex I habitats.	and fringing lakes
		throughout study site

#### Improved Agricultural Grassland GA1

Improved agricultural Grassland GA1 occurs throughout the site, especially in low-lying areas. This habitat type comprises primarily a grassy sward of typical agricultural grassland cultivars, typically a Perennial Rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*) and White Clover (*Trifolium repens*) mix. Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Fescues (*Festuca* spp.), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and Meadow species (*Poa* spp.) also occurring, particularly in the field margins. Where drainage is poor there may be abundant rushes – common throughout the study area.

Herb species such as Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and Daisy (*Bellis perennis*) occur abundantly. Depending on management practices species such as Thistles (*Cirsium* sp.), Dandelion (*Taraxacum* sp.), Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), Silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*), Chickweed (*Cerastium glomeratum*), Common Mouse-ear (*Cerastium fontanum*) and Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), can be common. The margins and field boundaries of Improved Agricultural Grassland GA1 provide some ecological value. Uncultivated vegetation occurs along hedgerows, stonewalls and fences, which can support a diversity of grassland species and the tall sward provides food, shelter and commuting routes for small animals and insects.

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
E- Local Importance (lower	This habitat type is not linked to EU Annex I	Throughout Study
value), Robust	habitats	Area



Image 4.4: Improved Agricultural Grassland with occasional patches of rushes.

#### Amenity Grassland (improved) GA2

The amenity grassland occurs in gardens, parks, golf courses and football pitches, and comprises a short sward which is maintained through regular mowing. The species composition includes; Rye-grasses (*Lolium* spp.), bents (*Agrostis spp*) and fescues (*Festuca* spp.). Daisy (*Bellis perennis*), Clovers (*Trifolium* spp.) and Dandelion (*Taraxacum* spp.) also occur. This habitat type is found throughout the study area, mainly in residential gardens.

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
E- Local Importance	This habitat type does not have links to EU	Throughout the study
(lower value), Robust	Annex I habitats	site.

#### Dry Calcareous and Neutral Grassland GS1

Dry Calcareous and Neutral Grassland GS1 occurs in localised areas in the central and southern study area, on free draining base rich soils in areas of low intensity agriculture. The habitats of this type tended towards the neutral and none of the habitats recorded contained indicators of calcareous grassland such as Carline Thistle (*Carlina vulgaris*) and Field Scabious (*Knautia arvensis*).

This grassland classification can be very species diverse containing grass species such as bents (*Agrostis* spp.), meadow-grasses (*Poa* spp.), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*),

Timothy (*Phleum pratense*), fescues (*Festuca* spp.), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) occur. Common broadleaved herbs include clovers (*Trifolium* spp.), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*). These low intensity grasslands are under threat of scrub encroachment and some areas were seen where scrub is currently invading.

<b>Ecological Interest</b>	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
C- County	Calcareous grasslands with either high numbers or	Occurs
Importance, Very	diversity of orchids is linked to the priority habitat, 'semi-	throughout study
Sensitive	natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous	area, particularly
	substrates (Festuco-Brometea) (*important orchid sites)	in the centre and
	(6210)'.	in the south.



Image 4.5: Close up of Dry Calcareous/Neutral Grassland with abundant Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*) and Eyebrights (*Euphrasia* spp.)

#### Dry Meadows and Grassy Verges GS2

Few agricultural fields are now managed as traditional hay meadow and this habitat is largely confined to field and road margins. As these grasslands are rarely fertilised, a good diversity of grassland species persists. Species include; False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Cock's Foot (*Dactylus glomerata*), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*) and Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*). There is also a good diversity of herbaceous species, including Spear Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Red and White Clover (*Trifolium pratense* and *T. repens*), Willowherb (*Epilobium* sp.), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*). Also present are

species such as Meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*) and Tufted vetch (*Vicia cracca*) which climb the stems of other plants. Lesser Trefoil (*Trifolium dubium*), Daisy and Shepherd's Purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*) can occur in the disturbed areas. This habitat type is declining in the Irish landscape due to changes in farming practises. As these grasslands are not fertilised or intensively grazed they are species diverse and provide good habitat for many species of invertebrates.

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
C- County	This grassland habitat is linked to the annexed	Scattered throughout
Importance, Very	habitat, 'Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus	the study area,
Sensitive	pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis) (6510)'. One	particularly in the south
	example of this habitat type was found within the	western section in the
	Study Area, at Ardtaggle (see Target note 4505-	townlands of Kilroughil
	c_TN4).	and Kilcredáun.



Image 4.6: Dry Meadow habitat with Bush Vetch and Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil

#### Dry-Humid Acid Grassland GS3

This habitat type is scattered around the study area, though largely it is confined to steep slopes around Lackeragh Mountain, Glenvagalliagh Mountain and Formoyle Beg. If often forms mosaics with Wet heath HH3, Upland blanket bog PB2 and Wet grassland GS4. It exhibits a good species diversity of vascular plants, herbs and mosses. Species include Purple moor grass (*Molinia caerulea*), Mat Grass (*Nardus stricta*), Bent grass (*Agrostis spp*), Wavy Hair Grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*), Fescue Grasses (*Festuca spp.*), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), Self Heal (*Prunella vulgaris*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*). Hard Fern (*Blechnum spicant*) and Bracken

(Pteridium aquilinum) and mosses such as Polytrichum commune and Sphagnum spp. also occur.

<b>Ecological Interest</b>	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
C- County	EU Habitats Directive Annex I includes the priority	Ballymoloney,
Importance, Very	habitat 'species-rich Nardus grasslands on siliceous	Drummod,
Sensitive	substrates in mountain areas (6320)' which is linked to	Ballydonaghan,
	Dry-humid acid grasslands. This habitat type was found	Aillemore
	at Drummod and Aillemore.	



Image 4.7: Acid grassland vegetation

#### Wet Grassland GS4

This habitat is widespread occurring throughout the site where drainage is impeded. On acidic soils this habitat is characterised by rushes (*Juncus articulatus/acutiflorus/effusus/inflexus*), sedges (*Carex* spp.), Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*), Heath Wood-rush (*Luzula multiflora*) and Lousewort (*Pedicularis* sp.). Bog mosses (*Sphagnum* spp.) can often be found in the damp hollows throughout. This habitat often forms mosaics with Wet Heath HH3 and Upland Blanket Bog PB2. Wet Grassland often grades in to Marsh GM1 and forms mosaics with it in places.

Small areas of *Molinia*-dominated Wet Grassland GS4 also occur in few areas such as in the townlands of Kilroughil and Ballydonaghan. These *Molinia* rich grasslands correspond to EU Habitats Directive Annex I Habitat, '*Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*)' (6410).

The species diversity of this grassland type varies considerably throughout the study area and is largely determined by management practices. Species-rich and diverse examples of Wet Grassland GS4 are target noted.

<b>Ecological Interest</b>	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
C/D- County to Local	Few Wet Grassland GS4 habitats within the study site	Throughout the
Importance, Very to	correspond to the EU Habitats Directive Annex I Habitat:	study site.
Moderately Sensitive	'Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-	
	laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)' (6410). Devil's-bit	
	Scabious, which is the food plant of the Marsh Fritillary,	
	prevails in a number of sites. Wet grasslands are	
	susceptible to agricultural management practices;	
	therefore species rich examples are under constant threat.	
	Although this habitat type is widespread, it is considered	
	to be of moderate ecological value.	



Image 4.8: Wet grassland with abundant rushes, Yorkshire Fog and Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil

#### Marsh GM1

Small areas of Marsh GM1 are found throughout the study area, occurring predominantly in the margins of rivers in association with other habitats such as Reed and Large Sedge Swamps, Tall Herb Swamps FS2, and wet hollows in Wet Grassland GS4 habitats - often forming intimate mosaics with these habitats and covering too small an area to map. More extensive areas of Marsh are located in the vicinity of Bridgetown. Marsh GM1 habitat comprises a diversity of species similar to Wet Grassland GS4; however there is a predominance of herbs including Ragged Robin (*Lynchnis flos-cuculi*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula vulgaris*) and Marsh Woundwort (*Stachys palustris*), with horsetails (*Equisetum* spp), Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), and Reedmace (*Typha latifolia*) occurring.

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
C/D- County to Local	Marsh may sometimes contain pockets of the Annex I	Throughout
Importance, Very to	habitat, 'hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains	Study Area
Moderately Sensitive	and of the montane to alpine levels (6430)'.	



Image 4.9: Marsh with abundant Marsh Woundwort

# Dry Siliceous Heath HH1

Small areas of Dry Siliceous Heath occur in the central section of the study area, in the Lackeragh mountain region and on the south-facing slopes of the Slieve Bernagh Bog cSAC. This habitat type is generally found in areas with free-draining acidic soils and it often exists in close association with Dry-humid Acid Grasslands GS3. Typical species include Ling (*Calluna vulgaris*) and Bell heather (*Erica cinerea*).

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
A/B- International to	Dry siliceous heath is linked to the Annex I habitat	Ballymoloney,
National Importance,	'European dry heaths (4030)' and any areas with	Carrownakilly
Highly Sensitive	scattered Juniper ( <i>Juniperus communis</i> ) may correspond to the annexed habitat ' <i>Juniperus communis</i>	
	formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands'.	



Image 4.10: Ling, Bell heather and Gorse - Dry Siliceous heath species

#### Wet Heath HH3

This habitat type occurs in small areas throughout the site such as in the northern townlands of Drummod and Caherhurly. With more sizable examples mainly confined to the south western section of the study area in the townlands of Formoyle and Drumsillagh as well as in the Slieve Bernagh Bog cSAC. It is a common habitat in Cutover Bogs (PB4), but also occurs on shallow peat, generally under 0.5 metres in depth.

Wet heath species include Ling Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) and Cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*), Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*), Common Rush (*Juncus effusus*), Heath Rush (*Juncus squarrosus*), Heath Milkwort (*Polygala serpyllifolia*), Devil's bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) and Cotton grass (*Eriophorum vaginatum*). Mosses such as *Rhytidiadelphus loreus*, *Hylocomium splendens* and *Polytrichum commune* are common, with *Sphagnum* species and Star Sedge (*Carex echinata*) occurring in the flushed areas.

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
A/B- International to National	Wet heath is linked to the Annex I	Formolye, Drumsillagh,
Importance, Highly Sensitive	habitat 'northern Atlantic wet heaths	Drummod, Caherhurly,
	with Erica tetralix (4010)'.	Magherareagh



Image 4.11: Wet Heath in Kyleglass: Deergrass, Purple-moor Grass, and dwarf shrubs Ling heather and Bog Myrtle



Image 4.12: Close-up of Wet Heath vegetation – Heath rush, *Sphagnum* moss, Ling heather and Purple-moor Grass

### Dense Bracken HD1

Small areas of Dense Bracken HD1 occur in a variety of habitats within the study area, such as in areas of scrub, and woodland. This habitat also occurs in the upland grasslands in areas of low intensity grazing.

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
E- Local Importance	This habitat is not linked to EU Habitats Directive	Small areas
(lower value), Robust	Annex I Habitats. This vegetation type can be	throughout study
	invasive and is considered to be of low conservation	area
	value.	



Image 4.13: Dense Bracken with Gorse scrub invading

# Raised Bogs PB1

Uncut raised bogs are a rarity in Ireland and those found within the study area are no exception. Raised bogs are found mostly in the midlands of Ireland; however they also occur in a limited number of areas in County Clare. They form in lowland areas in river valleys, hollows and lake basins. Their domed shape gives rise to the name 'raised bog' and can be as deep as 13m.

Within the study area, there is one area of Raised Bog PB1 occurring in Clonboy. The dome shape can still be seen at some of these sites, however, the tall peat banks and ramparts show evidence of a long history of peat extraction, and so only small pockets can be classified as intact Raised Bog. The areas of Cutover Bog PB4 are often colonised by Wet Heath HH3 vegetation, or if it has been significantly drained and reclaimed, Dry Humid Acid Grassland GS3 can establish. Some of the bogs have been planted with conifers and/or Bog Woodland WN7 has established on the drier edges. Bog habitats are also under threat from the invasion of non-native species such as Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*).

The typical floral assemblage of Raised Bog includes; Deergrass (*Trichophorum cespitosum*), Common Cottongrass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*.), Bog Rosemary (*Andromeda* 

polifolia), Bog Asphodel (Narthecium ossifragum), White Beak Sedge (Rhynchospora alba), Purple Moor-grass (Molinia caerulea) and Sundew (Drosera rotundifolia) with Sedge (Carex spp.) and Rush species (Juncus spp.). Ling Heather (Calluna vulgaris), Cross-leaved Heath (Erica tetralix) and occasional dwarf shrubs also occur such as Bilberry (Vaccinium myrtillus) and Bog Myrtle (Myrica gale). Wetter areas and pools containing large patches of Sphagnum are interspersed across the bog with Reindeer Mosses (Cladonia spp.) on the drier hummocks.

In Raised Bogs (PB1), the annexed habitat, 'depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion (7150)' can occur in the cutover areas.

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
A/B- International to National Importance, Highly Sensitive	Raised bogs has links to the priority habitat, '*active raised bogs (7110)' if they are still capable of peat formation, or if peat formation has temporarily ceased. 'Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration (7120)' are also listed as an annexed habitat. These are damaged bogs where it is judged that the peat forming capability can be restored within 30 years. The annexed habitat, 'depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion (7150)' occurs in pockets as a subhabitat of raised bog.	Clonboy,



Image 4.14: Clonboy: Intact Raised Bog in the foreground with bare peat banks showing extent of cutting



Image 4.15: Close-up of Intact Raised Bog vegetation at Clonboy with Deergrass, Bog Asphodel, Cross-leaved Heath and White-beaked Sedge

### Upland Blanket Bog PB2

There are few areas of pristine Upland Blanket Bog within the study area. Previously this type of habitat would have covered all of the uplands between Broadford and Killaloe, however, they have largely been damaged due to anthropogenic activities such as land reclamation for agriculture, forestry, peat extraction and overgrazing. Intact examples are to be found in the Slieve Bernagh cSAC, and the townlands adjoining it, such as Gortarassa, Classagh, Ballydonaghan and Ballykildea. This habitat may grade into Wet heath HH3 and where it has been drained and/or improved it may grade into Wet grassland GS4, Dry-humid Acid grassland GS3 or Improved Agricultural grassland GA1.

Typical flora occurring in Upland blanket bog includes Deergrass (*Tricophorum cespitosum*), cottongrasses (*Eriophorum* spp.), Ling (*Calluna vulgaris*), Cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*), Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtilis*) with locally abundant Purple Moor-grass (*Molinea caerulea*) and Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*). Bog mosses (*Sphagnum* spp.) can be found throughout, and on dry exposed hummocks in conjunction with Raindeer moss (*Cladonia* sp.).

<b>Ecological Interest</b>	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
A/B- International to National Importance, Highly Sensitive	, , , ,	Ballykildea, Killuran More, Coumnagun,



Image 4.16: Upland Blanket Bog at Classagh surrounded by Confer plantations

## Cutover Bog PB4

Turf banks occur throughout the Raised Bog PB1 areas and in the majority of the Blanket Bog PB2 areas within the study site. These ramparts are relics of a long history of peat extraction in the area. Bare banks are still evident where turbary harvesting of peat is ongoing. The areas of modified Raised Bog PB1, that have been cut have re-vegetated with varying assemblages of species, depending on hydrology, depth of peat remaining, nature of the peat and underlying substratum. The peat banks as a result of natural succession have been colonised with heath vegetation. However, the wetter hollows are usually dominated by Deer Grass (*Trichophorum cespitosum*), Bog Cotton Grasses (*Eriophorum angustifolium*) and Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*). The Sphagnum species occur throughout.

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
	The EU Annex I habitat 'depressions on peat	O.Briensbridge,
C- County	substrates of the Rhyncosporion (7150)' can occur in	Clonboy,
Importance, Very	pockets on cutover bog. However this was not found	Gortarassa,
Sensitive	within the study are.	Inchalughoge,
		Carragnoe Valley



Image 4.17: Cutover Bog in Clonboy

#### Poor Fen and Flush PF2

Fens develop from damp or water logged hollows in the landscape and areas which were too small to map can be found throughout the study area. They are generally associated with lake edges, flood plains and river valleys. Fens often form mosaics with a variety of woodland, wetland and open water habitats. Poor Fen and Flush PF2 are fed by groundwater or surface waters that are acidic and typically occur in peat-forming systems. Vegetation is usually dominated by sedges (*Carex* spp.) and rushes (*Juncus* spp.). Other common species include Bog Bean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), Common Cottongrass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*) and Marsh Cinquefoil (*Potentilla palustris*). Extensive areas carpeted with mosses are characteristic of this habitat type. Examples of Poor Fen and Flush can be found at Muingboy/Kyleglass, Cloongaheen East and Ballydonaghan.

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
	Does not have links to any annexed habitats	Muingboy/Kyleglass
C- County Importance, Very	however their distribution in Ireland is limited	Cloongaheen East
Sensitive	and therefore should be considered of high	Ballydonaghan
	ecological value in a local context.	



Image 4.18: Poor Fen and Flush with abundant Rushes and Bog Bean

## • Transition Mire and Quaking Bog PF3

Transition Mire and Quaking Bog are very wet peat-forming systems and are characterised by having features which are transitional between poor and rich fens. This habitat was found in only three locations in the study area, in the townlands of Ballydonaghan and Ballynamona. This area is wetter than most raised bogs in the area and does not display the typical dome shape that is characteristic. It does however contain many typical raised bog species; Round-leaved Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*), White Beak-sedge (*Rhynchospora alba*) and Bog asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*), alongside more fen affiliated species such as Marsh Cinquefoil (*Potentilla palustris*). Vegetation typically forms a floating matt or scraw and moss coverage can be extensive.

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
B- National Importance,	Transition Mire and Quaking Bog has links to the	Ballydonaghan
Highly Sensitive	Annex I habitat 'transition mires and quaking bogs	Ballynamona
	(7140)'.	



Image 4.19: Transition Mire and Quaking Bog habitat

# Oak-Birch-Holly Woodland WN1

This habitat type is scattered throughout the study area, with numerous examples of small size found, for example, in the townlands Gortatrassa, Knockalecka, Aharinaghbeg, Fahy More (South), Knockatloe, Drummod and Ballydonaghan. This type of woodland occurs on acid or base-poor soils that may be either dry or humid, but not waterlogged. Stands are usually dominated by Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) or mixed stands of Sessile and Pedunculate Oak (*Q. petraea* and *Q. robur*) or their hybrids. Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) can be the dominant tree in some situations, as is the case with the examples found in the study area. Other common trees are Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*).

The woodlands of this type found within the study area were quite humid with moss-covered siliceous boulders and a rich field layer. Species recorded were Hard Fern (*Blechnum spicant*), Polypody Fern (*Polypodium vulgare*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), Great Wood-rush (*Luzula sylvatica*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) and Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*). Moss species covering tree trunks and rocks included Feather Moss (*Thuidium tamarascinum*), Common Haircap (*Polytrichum commune*) and Little Shaggymoss (*Rytidiadelphus loreus*).

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
B/C- National to County	This habitat is linked to the Annex I habitat	Throughout the study
Importance, Highly to	'old sessile oak woods with <i>llex</i> and	area in small pockets.
Very Sensitive	Blechnum in the British Isles (91A0)'. One	
-	example of this annexed habitat was found	
	at Aharinagbeg (4503-d_TN2).	



Image 4.20: Birch-dominated Woodland in the townland of Aharinaghbeg

#### Oak-Ash-Hazel Woodland WN2

This habitat type has a very limited distribution within the study area as it occurs on base-rich or calcareous soils that are generally dry or well drained and these conditions are not common here. It is comprised of Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), with Holly (*Ilex aquilinum*) occurring intermittently. The composition of the ground flora is variable and may include Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Lords and Ladies (*Arum maculatum*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*), Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*) and a variety of ferns.

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
C- County Importance,	This habitat is not linked to any Annex I habitats,	Knockaderreen
Very Sensitive	however the habitat is considered to be of moderate	
	to high conservation value in a local context as	
	semi-natural woodlands are a rarity in the	
	landscape.	



Image 4.21: Hazel at top of steeply sloping Oak-Ash-Hazel Woodland

#### Wet Pedunculate Oak-Ash Woodland WN4

There are small isolated areas of this habitat type within the study area, located in Kilmore, Drummod, Killuran More and Knocklaur, in the western section. Wet Pedunculate Oak-Ash Woodland WN4 typically has dominant Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) – however Sessile Oak (*Quercus robur*) was found to occur at this site - and/or Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) however some of the examples seen here were in an early stage of development with only occasional Oak trees/saplings present. Other common species include: Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Willow (*Salix* sp.) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). The ground flora is comprised of Enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaea luteiana*), Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Brambles (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), Creeping Bent-grass (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) and Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*).

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
B/C- National to County Importance, Highly to Very Sensitive	Semi-natural woodlands are a rarity in the landscape otherwise dominated by agricultural grassland, heath and conifer plantations. On alluvial sites this habitat corresponds to the Annex I priority habitat 'alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alnopadion, Alnion incarnate, Salicion albae) (91E0)'. There are no alluvial sites within the study area.	Knocklaur, Killuran



Image 4.22: Wet Pendunculate Oak-Ash Woodland

### Riparian Woodland WN5

This classification includes woodlands of river margins that occur in ribbon-like strips and are typically dominated by Willows (*Salix* spp.) with infrequent Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). This habitat type is limited to the riparian zone of the watercourses and within the study area it was often located in ravines, carved out by fast-flowing mountain streams, inaccessible due to the steepness of the bank. The ground flora varies depending on the levels and frequency of inundation; it may include Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Nettles (*Urtica dioica*), Wild Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*) and Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*). The invasive species Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) may be locally abundant – as found at Scott's Bridge in the townland Lisroe.

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
C/D- County to Local	This habitat does not have links to Annex I	Mainly to the southwest
Importance, Very to	habitats, however the habitat is considered	of Slieve Bernagh and
Moderately Sensitive	to be of moderate to high conservation	southeast of Lackeragh,
	value in a local context as semi-natural	Mountain where there are
	woodlands are a rarity in the landscape.	numerous streams and
		rivers.



Image 4.23: Riparian Woodland in the townland of Ross dominated by Willows

#### Wet Willow-Alder-Ash Woodland WN6

This classification includes woodlands of permanently waterlogged sites that are dominated by willows (*Salix* spp.), Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) or Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). The field layer generally comprises: Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria* and Purple-loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and Skullcap (*Scutellaria galericulata*). In flushed or spring-fed sites the ground flora is often 'grassy' in appearance with abundant Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*) and Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*). There are examples of lakeshore woodlands at McNamara's Lough and Ballymacdonnell Lough.

<b>Ecological Interest</b>	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
C- County	This habitat is not linked to any Annex I	McNamara's Lough,
Importance, Very	habitats, however the habitat is considered to	Ballymacdonnell Lough,
Sensitive	be of moderate to high conservation value in a	Drummod, Cappanaslish,
	local context as semi-natural woodlands are a	Springmount,
	rarity in the landscape.	Knocknalecka



Image 4.24: Woodland edge with rich ground flora of 'grassy' appearance

### Bog Woodland WN7

This woodland occurs on areas of Cutover Bog (PB4) in the south eastern section of the study site between Bridgetown and O'Briensbridge in the townland of Clonboy, and in a few localised areas in the northern section of the study area. The examples of this habitat type that occur in this area are not yet fully developed but are instead in immature stages. Bog woodland typically occurs on peat bogs of significant depth, where the upper layers are well drained. The dominant tree species is Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), with occasional Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and Willow (*Salix spp.*). Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*), Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Ling Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), and Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) occur in the understory. Sedges (*Carex* spp.), rushes (*Juncus* spp.), Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) also occur.

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
A/B- International to	This habitat is linked to the Annex I priority habitat	Clonboy
National Importance,	'Bog Woodland (91D0)' which refers to woodland of	Leitrim
Highly Sensitive	intact raised bog and is very rare in Ireland. This	Fahy More
	priority habitat was not found within the study area.	Inchalughoge
	,	Caherhurly



Image 4.25: Bog Woodland WN7 beginning to form on an area of Cutover Bog in the townland of Clonboy

## (Mixed) Broadleaved Woodland WD1

This woodland type occurs throughout the study area with the greatest concentration in the central southern section. This category incorporates woodlands composed of both native and non-native broadleaved tree species with up to 25% conifers. The woodlands range in species diversity and composition, including; Oak (*Quercus* spp.), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), and the occasional conifer such as Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*). The scrub layer and ground flora varies dramatically between the sites, depending on species mix of trees, drainage and management practices.

<b>Ecological Interest</b>	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
D- Local Importance	This habitat does not have links to any Annex I habitats	Throughout
(higher value),	and is quite common throughout the study area. However,	Study Site
Moderately Sensitive	compartments of deciduous woodland can be valuable to	
	wildlife, providing refuge and foraging for a variety of	
	animals. It is therefore considered to be of high	
	conservation value in a local context.	



Image 4.26: Mixed broadleaved woodland - Sweet Chestnut, Sessile Oak and Beech

#### Mixed Broadleaved/Conifer Woodland WD2

This habitat comprises mixed stands of broadleaved trees and conifer trees. Small areas of this woodland type can be found throughout the study area.

<b>Ecological Interest</b>	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
D- Local Importance	This habitat does not have links to any Annex I	Throughout study
(higher value),	habitats, but does however offer some refuge to	site
Moderately Sensitive	wildlife.	

## (Mixed) Conifer plantation WD3

Small compartments of this habitat type occur throughout the study area. Most have been planted for commercial plantation forestry.

<b>Ecological Interest</b>	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
E- Local Importance	This habitat does not have links to any Annex I	Throughout study site
(lower value), Robust	habitats.	

#### Conifer Plantation WD4

There are several extensive areas of commercial forestry in the study area, for example in the north western section in the townlands of Carrownagowan and Inchalughoge, and Carrownakilly in the east. There are also large areas in the uplands at Lackeragh and Magherareagh. Other small pockets are scattered throughout the study area. Many of these areas have been recently planted. The plantations are harvested for commercial forestry. The closed canopies of these woodlands deprive the ground layers of light and are therefore a diverse woodland flora is absent. Deciduous trees are often planted on the edge of conifer

plantations to increase species diversity. In some cases, habitats of conservation value such as Wet Heath have been planted with conifers.

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
E- Local Importance	This habitat does not have links to	Large area in the north western corner
(lower value), Robust	any Annex I habitats.	and in the east, smaller areas are
		scattered throughout the study area

#### Scattered Trees and Parkland WD5

Small clusters of Scattered Trees and Parkland WD5 occur in agricultural grasslands throughout the study area, and in a few larger areas such as the grove of Beech trees located near Bridgetown. Large mature native and non-native trees are a prominent feature in the landscape. Horse chestnut, Beech and Oak are a regular feature. These large mature trees can provide refuge for a number of bird species, including Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*), bats and a variety of insects.

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
E- Local Importance	This habitat does not have links to any Annex I habitats,	Bridgetown
(lower value), Robust	however some exquisite examples of mature trees have	
	persisted in these landholdings.	



Image 4.27: Scattered Trees and Parkland

#### Scrub WS1

Scrub vegetation occurs on thin soils where agriculture has been abandoned and scrub has encroached. To be considered scrub, the habitat must comprise 50% of shrubs, low trees and /or brambles with a canopy height of less than 5m. Species such as Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) are a common component, as are Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*).

Areas of scrub occur throughout the study area, largely dominated by Gorse, Blackthorn, Hawthorn and Bramble.

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
D- Local Importance	This habitat is not linked to any Annex I habitats, however it	Throughout
(higher value),	can be important for wildlife, particularly insects and birds.	study site
Moderately Sensitive		-



Image 4.28: Area of dense Scrub (WS1) in the townland of Kiluran More

## Immature Woodland WS2

Plots of immature woodland occur in few areas in the south of the study site. The plantations are principally on marginal agricultural land such as Wet grassland GS4 and the ground flora reflects these habitats. Immature Woodlands WS2 are a favoured foraging habitat for Hen Harrier.

<b>Ecological Interest</b>	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
D/E- Local Importance (lower	This habitat is not linked to any Annex I habitats,	Ardtaggle
to higher value), Moderately	however it can be important for wildlife, particularly	Bridgetown /
Sensitive to Robust	insects and birds.	O'Briensbridge



Image 4.29: Immature plantation of Scot's Pine and Oak

#### Ornamental/non-native shrub WS3

This habitat type is associated with residential gardens and is also found surrounding abandoned houses. There was only one example of this habitat type which was not in a built-up area, this was located in the townland of Cappanalish. Ornamental shrubs consisted mainly of Fuschia (*Fuschia magellanica*), with Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*).

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
E- Local Importance	This habitat does not have links to	Throughout Study Area in
(lower value), Robust	Annex I habitats.	residential gardens and
		abandoned homesteads

#### Recently-felled Woodland WS5

This habitat type occurs in large areas in the central northern section of the study area where Conifer Plantations are extensive. There are smaller areas of Recently-felled woodland in the southern region. Following harvesting of the timber these areas are recolonised by Rose-bay Willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*), Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) and grasses such as False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum eliatus*) in between the brash and tree stumps.

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
E- Local Importance	This habitat is not linked to any Annex	Widespread throughout Conifer
(lower value), Robust	I habitats.	plantations in the study area

## Hedgerows WL1

Hedgerows occur throughout the study area. They are often found in association with stonewalls and earth banks. These linear features are prominent throughout the study site. Good examples of well-managed and diverse examples were recorded, with the greatest species diversity occurring in the hedgerows bordering roads. In areas where management of hedgerows has ceased or is not upkept they have become gappy or are surrounded by encroaching scrub, or developing into tree-lines. Species composition may include native and ornamental/non-native species; native species included Honeysuckle (Lonicera periclymenum), Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna), Blackthorn (Prunus spinosa), Gorse (Ulex europaeus), Holly (Ilex aquifolium), Elder (Sambucus nigra) and Willow (Salix spp). Taller mature trees were also recorded within the hedgerows, such as Ash (Fraxinus excelsior), Oak (Quercus spp.) and Scots Pine (Pinus sylvestris) but to be considered hedgerows these must not dominate the feature. Non-native species recorded include Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus), Fuchsia (Fuchsia magellanica) and Montbretia (Crocosmia x crocosmiflora), and in some areas the extremely invasive exotic species Japanese Knotweed (Fallopia japonica). The ground flora of hedgerows within the study area was equally diverse supporting a variety of species corresponding to Dry Meadows and Grassy Verges Habitat GS2.

<b>Ecological Interest</b>	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
D- Local Importance	This habitat is not linked to any Annex I habitats.	Throughout study site
(higher value),	Tree-lines and hedgerows provide habitats for	
Moderately Sensitive	plants and animals and also provide connectivity	
	between larger wildlife habitats, allowing birds	
	and mammals to move between them.	



Image 4.25: Traditional management of Hedgerows includes laying

#### • Tree-lines WL2

Exceptional examples of mature tree-lines can be found enclosing farmlands throughout the study site. Mature Oak (*Quercus* spp) is a prominent feature with Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Horsechestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Poplars (*Populus Spp.*) occur occasionally. Hedgerows dominated by Leyland Cyprus (*Cupressocyparis leylandii*) and Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*), were also recorded, usually bordering houses. A good diversity of herbaceous species was found in the understorey, including Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), Bush Vetch (*Vicia sepium*), Common Figwort (*Scrophularia nodosa*), Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosa*), Couch Grass (*Elytrigia repens*), Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Ground Ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), Broad-leaved Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*) and Cleavers (*Galium aparine*). The ground beneath the herbaceous layer often has a dense covering of moss. Tree-lines and hedgerows provide suitable habitats for nesting birds and can also be valuable for providing connectivity between larger areas of wildlife habitats, allowing birds and mammals to move between them.

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
D- Local Importance	This habitat is not linked to any Annex I habitats.	Throughout study
(higher value),	Tree-lines and hedgerows provide habitats for	site
Moderately Sensitive	plants and animals and also provide connectivity	
	between larger wildlife habitats, allowing birds and	
	mammals to move between them.	



Image 4.26: Tree-lined road near Bridgetown

### Exposed Siliceous Rock ER1

This habitat type is represented as rock outcrops which are often partially vegetated (less than 50% cover) with heath-type vegetation and lichens. These rock outcrops are frequently too small to map, occurring in a mosaic with Wet Heath HH3, Dry Siliceous Heath HH1, Scrub WS1, or Woodland habitats. There are also a number of disused quarries in the area which also fall into this classification. The largest of these disused quarries is at Ardskeagh which also has extensive areas of exposed loose shale, a large pit filled with water and numerous exposed pits which were excavated. These pits are somewhat recolonised with Gorse (*Ulex europaea*) and heather (*Calluna vulgaris, Erica cinerea*). There are smaller disused quarries which may be classified here or as Siliceous Scree and Loose Rock ER3.

<b>Ecological Interest</b>	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
D- Local Importance	This habitat has links to the Annex I habitat 'siliceous	Throughout the
(higher value),	rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation (8220)'.	study area
Moderately Sensitive	No examples of this annexed habitat were found	
-	within the study area.	



Image 4.27: Exposed sandstone at a disused quarry in Drumsillagh

#### Siliceous Scree and Loose Rock ER3

This habitat type occurs in the townlands of Ardskeagh, Formoyle and Crean in the form of disused quarries of shale, or gravel. Typically this type of habitat occurs on the steep slopes or at the base of cliffs which may or may not be vegetated. Vegetation would comprise dwarf shrubs and mosses with less than 50% cover.

<b>Ecological Interest</b>	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
D- Local Importance	This habitat is linked to the Annex I habitat 'siliceous	Ardskeagh
(higher value),	scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia	Formoyle
Moderately Sensitive	alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) (8110). No examples	Crean
·	of this annexed habitat occur within the study area.	



Image 4.28: Loose shale at Ardskeagh disused quarry

# Exposed Sand, Gravel or Till ED1

There is only one example of this habitat at the disused quarry at Ballyquin More. The exposed sand, gravel or till is often colonised by a variety of broadleaved herbs and grasses.

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
E- Local Importance	This habitat is not linked to any Annex I habitat.	Ballyquin More
(lower value), Robust		

## Spoil and Bare Ground ED2

Small areas of spoil and bare ground occur throughout the study area, these are largely too small to map. This habitat type is often associated with excavations for the construction of buildings and roads, and the dredging of drains and watercourses. Largely unvegetated but if left undisturbed for long enough pioneer species will colonise these habitats.

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
E- Local Importance (lower value), Robust	This habitat is not linked to any Annex I habitat.	Throughout the study area

## Recolonising Bare Ground ED3

This habitat classification is used to describe areas of bare ground or derelict sites that have been colonised by herbaceous plants. To be considered under this category vegetation should exceed 50% cover. This habitat can support early pioneer plants and ruderal species such as Nettles (*Urtica dioica*); Willow-herbs (*Epilobium* spp.), Colt's-foot (*Tussilago farfara*), Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), Dandelion (*Taraxacum* spp.), Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) and annual grasses may also be present but should not dominate. There are examples of this habitat scattered throughout the study area.

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
D- Local Importance (higher value), Moderately Sensitive	This habitat is not linked to any Annex I habitat.	Throughout the study area

#### Active Quarries and Mines ED4

There is a large active quarry in the southern section of the study area in the townland of Woodpark, near Bridgetown. It provides sand, gravel and stone for general construction purposes. There smaller quarries in the north eastern area of the study site.

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
E- Local Importance	This habitat is not linked to any Annex I habitat.	Woodpark
(lower value), Robust		Carnagnoe



Image 4.29: Active quarry at Woodpark

#### • Refuse and Other Wastes ED5

This category includes any areas where domestic, agricultural or industrial waste is stored, treated or disposed. There are two locations of this sort within the study area at Derry, and at Woodpark where there is a scrap yard.

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
E- Local Importance	This habitat is not linked to any Annex I habitat.	Woodpark
(lower value), Robust		Derry

# Arable Crops BC1

Agricultural land that is cultivated for the production of crops including cereals and root or leaf crops is included here. There was only one example of this type in the south western section of the study site; this was a Maize crop which had failed due to the poor summer. However, where they occur they may provide important habitats for birds associated with farmland such as Yellowhammer and Lapwing.

<b>Ecological Interest</b>	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
D/E- Local Importance	This habitat is not linked to any Annex I	Drumsillagh
(higher to lower value),	habitat.	_
Moderately Sensitive		
to Robust		

#### Horticultural Land BC2

This category includes land that is cultivated for the production of fruits, vegetables, herbs and ornamental flowers. This habitat type is only found in one location in the south western region of the study area in the townland of Kilroughil.

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
D/E- Local Importance	This habitat is not linked to any Annex I habitat.	Kilroughil
(higher to lower value),		
Moderately Sensitive to		
Robust		

#### Stone Wall and Other Stonework BL1

This category includes stone walls and other stonework excluding buildings which are intact, for example stone bridges and ruined stone buildings. These may have been constructed with or without mortar. Older structures which have been neglected may be important wildlife habitats. For example stone bridges and ruined buildings may have bat roost potential. Stone structures may be colonised by mosses, lichens and higher plants.

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
D/E- Local Importance	This habitat is not linked to any Annex I habitat but	Throughout the
(higher to lower value),	may provide habitats for annexed species.	study area
Moderately Sensitive to		
Robust		



Image 4.30: Dry stone wall at Ballybroghan with bat roost potential

### • Earth Banks BL2

This is a common type of field boundary and is often found in conjunction with hedgerows or drainage ditches. It may be composed of peat, earth, gravel or stone. Typically these are vegetated with a wide range of grasses and broadleaved herbs. Earth banks are considered to be of high ecological value in a local context as they can provide refuge for a wide variety of wildlife. An example of this habitat type is described in Target Note **4505-a\_TN3**.

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
D/E- Local Importance	This habitat is not linked to any Annex I habitat but	Throughout the
(higher to lower value),	may provide habitats for annexed species.	study area
Moderately Sensitive to		
Robust		



Image 4.31: Vegetated Earth bank at Fahy Beg

# Buildings and Artificial Structures BL3

This classification includes all buildings: domestic, agricultural, industrial; and artificial surfaces such as roads, tracks, car parks, pavements etc. Older structures can be important habitats for wildlife such as bats and birds.

Ecological Interest	Links to Annex I Habitats	Locations
D/E- Local Importance	This habitat is not linked to any Annex I habitat but	Throughout the
(higher to lower value),	may provide habitats for annexed species.	study area
Moderately Sensitive to		
Robust		

### 4.2.1 Wildlife Recorded

Where signs of wildlife were seen or heard they were recorded in the Target Notes. Records of Sparrowhawks (*Accipiter nisus*) seen and heard are in Target Notes **4444-d**, **4504-a**, **4505-a**, **4505-b**. Signs of Badger (*Meles meles*) were recorded in Target Notes **4444-d**, **4446-c**, **4505-a**, **4387-a**, **4328-b**. Fox was seen and recorded in Target Notes **4328-b**. Signs of Deer (probably *Cervus elaphus*) recorded in Target Notes **4444-d**, **4388-a**, **4328-b**, **4328-d**. Redshank (*Tringa tetanus*) was recorded in Target Note **4445-c**. Hare (*Lepus timidus hibernicus*) recorded in Target Notes **4446-c**, **4503-b**, **4388-a**, **4388-d** and Feral Goats recorded in Target Note **4503-b**.

# 4.3 SUMMARY OF HABITATS

The habitats recorded within the study area, percentage cover and overall ranking in accordance with the guidelines in Table 4.1 are detailed in **Table 4.3**.

Table 4.3: Conservation Value of Habitats Recorded Within the Study Area

Habitat Group	Habitat Sub-Group	Habitat	Townland	Target Note Ref.	Ranking
		FL2 Acid oligotrophic lakes	Ballydonaghan	4271-a_TN2	C- County Importance
	FL Lakes and Ponds	FL4 Mesotrophic lakes	O'Briensbridge	4505-c_TN1	C- County Importance
		FL8 Other Artificial lakes and ponds	Ballyquin More	N/A	E- Local Importance (Lower Value)
F Freshwater	FW Watercourses	FW1 Eroding/upland rivers	Cappanaslish Killeagy (Goonan) Kilroughil Bridgetown	4445-c_TN3, 4445-b_TN5, 4446-c_TN6, 4505-a_TN5	C- County Importance
		FW2 Depositing/lowland rivers	Kilbane	4387-a_TN2	C- County Importance
		FW4 Drainage ditches	Throughout the Study Area	N/A	D- Local Importance (Higher Value)
	FP Springs	FP2 Non-calcareous springs	Kilmore	4504-a_TN2/3	D- Local Importance (Higher Value)
	FS Swamps	FS1 Reed and large sedge swamps	Ballynamona Ballydonaghan	4504-b_TN1, 4271-a_TN2	D- Local Importance (Higher Value)
G Grassland & Marsh	GA Improved	GA1 Improved agricultural grassland	Throughout Study Area	4387-d_TN1	E- Local Importance (Lower Value)
	grassland	GA2 Amenity grassland (improved)	Throughout Study Area	N/A	E- Local Importance (Lower Value)

Habitat Group	Habitat Sub-Group	Habitat	Townland	Target Note Ref.	Ranking
		GS1 Dry calcareous and neutral grassland	Throughout Study Area	N/A	D- Local Importance (Higher Value)
	GS Semi-natural grassland	GS2 Dry meadows and grassy verges	Killeagy Killeagy Kilroughil Kilroughil Ross Fahy Beg Ardataggle Inchalughoge Garraunboy	4387-b_TN1 4387-b_TN2, 4446-c_TN2, 4446-c_TN5, 4446-d_TN1, 4505-a_TN3, 4505-c_TN4, 4329-a_TN4, 4388-d_TN1	A/D- International to Local Importance (Higher Value)
		GS3 Dry-humid acid grassland	Killeagy Cloonconry Beg Springmount Ballymoloney Ballymoloney Ballymoloney O'Briensbridge Magherareagh Drummod Drummod Drummod Ballydonaghan Ballydonaghan Ballydonaghan Cloongaheen West Cloongaheen West Aillemore	4387-b_TN2, 4445-a_TN1, 4504-a_TN4, 4445-b_TN2, 4445-b_TN3, 4445-b_TN4, 4505-b_TN4, 4388-c_TN3, 4270-b_TN9, 4270-d_TN7, 4270-d_TN8, 4271-a_TN5, 4271-d_TN2, 4271-d_TN4, 4386-b_TN1, 4386-b_TN4, 4388-c_TN4	B/D- National to Local Importance (Higher Value)
		GS4 Wet grassland	Killeagy Cloongaheen East Cloonconry Beg Drumsillagh/Sallybank	4387-b_TN2, 4387-c_TN1, 4445-a_TN2, 4503-b_TN1,	A/D- International to Local Importance (Higher Value)
			Drumsillagh/Sallybank Aharinaghbeg	4503-b_TN1, 4503-b_TN2, 4503-d_TN1,	

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Habitat Group	Habitat Sub-Group	Habitat	Townland	Target Note Ref.	Ranking
			Fahy More Lackereagh More Kilroughil Kilroughil Kilroughil Leitrim Bridgetown Bridgetown O'Briensbridge Drummod Drummod Ballydonaghan Caherhurly Caherhurly Ballydonaghan Inchalughloge Magherareagh	4445-d_TN1 4446-a_TN1, 4446-c_TN1, 4446-c_TN3 4446-c_TN4, 4504-b_TN3, 4505-a_TN4, 4505-a_TN8, 4505-d_TN1, 4270-b_TN5, 4270-b_TN7, 4270-b_TN14, 4271-b_TN1, 4271-b_TN1, 4271-d_TN1, 4388-c_TN2	
	GM Freshwater marsh	GM1 Marsh	Ballynamona Bridgetown Bridgetown Ballydonaghan Drummod Ballymacdonnell Ballydonaghan Ballydonaghan	4504-b_TN1, 4505-a_TN4, 4505-a_TN7, 4271a_TN2, 4270-b_TN8, 4270-d_TN9, 4271-a_TN2, 4271-a_TN3	C/D- County to Local Importance (Higher Value)
H Heath & Dense Bracken		HH1 Dry siliceous heath	Ballymoloney Ballymoloney Carrownakilly	4445-b_TN1, 4445-b_TN4, 4330-c_TN2	A/B- International to National Importance
	HH Heath	HH3 Wet heath	Formoyle More Muingboy/Kyleglass Kyleglass Leitrim O'Briensbridge Drummod	4444-d_TN1, 4444-d_TN2, 4444-d_TN3, 4504-b_TN3, 4505-a_TN1, 4270-d_TN5,	A/D- International Importance to Local Importance (Higher Value)

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Habitat Group	Habitat Sub-Group	Habitat	Townland	Target Note Ref.	Ranking
			Drummod Ballymacdonnell Caherhurly Caherhurly Inchalughloge Carrownakilly Cloongaheen West Coumbrack Magherareagh Magherareagh Carrownakilly	4270-d_TN6, 4270-d_TN10, 4271-b_TN1, 4271-b_TN3, 4329-a_TN1, 4330-c_TN1, 4386-b_TN2, 4388-a_TN3, 4388-c_TN1, 4388-c_TN2, 4330-a_TN2	
	HD Dense bracken	HD1 Dense bracken	Killuran More Kilroughil Drummod Classagh	4328-b_TN3, 4446-c_TN5, 4270-b_TN10, 4388-a_TN1	D/E-Local Importance (Higher to Lower value)
P Peatlands		PB1 Raised bogs	Clonboy	4505-b_TN2,	A/B- International to National Importance
	PB Bogs	PB2 Upland blanket bog	Gortatrassa, Killuran More Gortatrassa Inchalughloge Ballydonaghan Drummod Ballydonaghan Ballydonaghan Coumnagun Carrownakilly Cloongaheen West Classagh Classagh	4328-b_TN1, 4328-b_TN2, 4328-d_TN2, 4329-a_TN2 4270-b_TN13, 4270-d_TN1, 4271-a_TN1, 4271-a_TN4, 4329-b_TN1, 4330-a_TN1, 4386-b_TN3, 4388-a_TN4, 4388-a_TN5	A/C- International to County Importance
		PB4 Cutover bog	Gortatrassa O'Briensbridge O'Briensbridge	4328-b_TN1, 4505-a_TN1, 4505-a_TN2,	C- County Importance

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Habitat Group	Habitat Sub-Group	Habitat	Townland	Target Note Ref.	Ranking
			O'Briensbridge Inchalughloge	4505-b_TN4, 4329-a_TN3	
	PF Fens and	PF2 Poor fen and flush	Muingboy/Kyleglass Ballydonaghan Cloongaheen East	4444-d_TN2, 4270-b_TN12, 4387-c_TN2	C- County Importance
	Flushes	PF3 Transition mire and quaking bog	Ballydonaghan Ballydonaghan Ballynamona	4270-d_TN2, 4271-a_TN4, 4504-b-TN1	B-National Importance
W Woodland and scrub	WN Semi-natural woodland	WN1 Oak-birch-holly woodland	Gortatrassa Aharinaghbeg Fahy More (South) Knockatloe Drummod Drummod Drummod Ballydonaghan	4328-d_TN1, 4503-d_TN2, 4504-c_TN1, 4270-b_TN1, 4270-b_TN4, 4270-b_TN10, 4270-b_TN11, 4270-d_TN4	B/C- National to County Importance
		WN2 Oak-ash-hazel woodland	Knockaderreen	4446-b_TN1	C- County Importance
		WN4 Wet Pendunculate oak- ash woodland	Killuran More Killuran More Kilmore Knocklaur Drummod	4328-b_TN6, 4328-b_TN7, 4504-a_TN2-3, 4270-b_TN2, 4270-b_TN6	C/D- County to Local Importance (Higher Value)
		WN5 Riparian woodland	Kilmore Killeagy (Goonan) Knockaderreen Ross Bridgetown Bridgetown/O'Briensbridge	4504-a_TN1, 4445-b_TN5, 4446-b_TN1, 4446-d_TN2, 4504-b_TN2, 4505-a_TN9	C/D- County to Local Importance (Higher Value)
		WN6 Wet willow-alder-ash woodland	Cappanaslish Cappanaslish O'Briensbridge	4445-c_TN1, 4445-c_TN2, 4505-c_TN1,	C/D- County to Local Importance (Higher Value)

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Habitat Group	Habitat Sub-Group	Habitat	Townland	Target Note Ref.	Ranking
			O'Briensbridge Drummod	4505-c_TN2, 4270-b_TN3	
		WN7 Bog woodland	Cloongaheen East Fahy More	4387-c_TN2, 4504-d_TN2	C- County Importance
		WD1 (Mixed) broadleaved woodland	Cappanaslish Bridgetown O'Briensbridge Ardataggle	4445-c_TN3, 4505-a_TN5, 4505-c_TN1, 4505-c_TN3	D- Local Importance (Higher Value)
		WD2 Mixed broadleaved/conifer woodland	Killuran More Clonboy	4328-b_TN3, 4505-a_TN11	D- Local Importance (Higher Value)
	WD Highly modified/non-native woodland	WD3 Mixed Conifer Woodland	On the slopes and foothills of Slieve Bearnagh and scattered throughout study area	N/A	E- Local Importance (Lower Value)
		WD4 Conifer plantation	On the slopes and foothills of Slieve Bearnagh and scattered throughout study area	N/A	E- Local Importance (Lower Value)
		WD5 Scattered trees and parkland	Bridgetown/O'Briensbridge	4505-a_TN10	D- Local Importance (Higher Value)
	WS Scrub/transitional woodland	WS1 Scrub	Killuran More Killeagy Cloongaheen East Ballymoloney Ballymoloney Leitrim Ballydonaghan Carrownakilly Classagh Magherareagh	4328-b_TN5, 4387-b_TN2, 4387-c_TN2, 4445-b_TN1, 4445-b_TN4, 4504-b_TN3, 4271-a_TN3, 4330-a_TN3, 4388-a_TN1, 4388-c_TN2	D- Local Importance (Higher Value)
		WS2 Immature woodland	Ardataggle Bridgetown/O'Briensbridge	4504-d_TN1, 4505-b_TN1	D- Local Importance (Higher Value)
		WS3 Ornamental/ non-native	Cappanaslish	4445-c_TN4	D- Local Importance

Habitat Group	Habitat Sub-Group	Habitat	Townland	Target Note Ref.	Ranking
		shrubs			(Higher Value)
		WS5 Recently-felled woodland	O'Briensbridge	4505-b_TN3	E- Local Importance (Lower Value)
	WL Linear woodland/scrub	WL1 Hedgerows	Killuran More Killuran More Cloongaheer Fahy Beg Bridgetown Throughout study area	4328-b_TN3, 4328-b_TN4, 4387-a_TN1, 4505-a_TN3, 4505-a_TN6	D- Local Importance (Higher Value)
		WL2 Treelines	Cloongaheen West Fahy Beg Bridgetown and Throughout study area	4387-a_TN2, 4505-a_TN3, 4505-a_TN6	C- County Importance
		ER1 Exposed siliceous rock	Throughout study area	N/A	D- Local Importance (Higher Value)
		ER3 Siliceous scree and loose rock	Ardskeagh Formoyle Crean	N/A	D- Local Importance (Higher Value)
E Exposed		ED1 Exposed sand, gravel or till	Ballyquin More	N/A	E- Local Importance (Lower Value)
rock and disturbed ground	ER Exposed rock	ED2 Spoil and bare ground	Throughout study area	N/A	E- Local Importance (Lower Value)
		ED3 Recolonising bare ground	Throughout study area	N/A	D- Local Importance (Higher Value)
		ED4 Active quarries and mines	Woodpark Carnagnoe	N/A	E- Local Importance (Lower Value)
		ED5 Refuse and Other Wastes	Woodpark Derry	N/A	E- Local Importance (Lower Value)
B Cultivated and built	BC Cultivated land	BC1 Arable crops	Drumsillagh	N/A	D/E-Local Importance (Higher

Habitat Group	Habitat Sub-Group	Habitat	Townland	Target Note Ref.	Ranking
					to Lower value)
land		BC2 Horticultural land	Kilroughil	N/A	D/E-Local Importance (Higher to Lower value)
	stor	BL1 Stone walls and other stonework	Ballydonaghan Ballydonaghan Drumsillagh/Sallybank	4271-a_TN6, 4271-d_TN3, 4503-b_TN1	D/E-Local Importance (Higher to Lower value)
		BL2 Earth banks	Fahy Beg and throughout study area	4505-a_TN3	D/E-Local Importance (Higher to Lower value)
		BL3 Buildings and artificial surfaces	Ballydonaghan Ballymacdonnell Coumbrack and throughout study area	4270-d_TN3, 4270-d_TN11, 4388-a_TN2	D/E-Local Importance (Higher to Lower value)

#### 4.4 SITES OF LOCAL BIODIVERSITY INTEREST

Discussed below are the habitat types found within Mid Clare and their sensitivity to development. The habitat types are subdivided into **Highly Sensitive**, **Very Sensitive**, **Moderately Sensitive** and **Robust Habitats**. Habitats classified as Highly Sensitive or Very Sensitive should, where appropriate, form part of plans to retain and enhance existing biodiversity.

# 4.4.1 A/B: Internationally/Nationally Important Ecological Sites – Highly Sensitive Habitats

These habitats have been chosen due to their links to Annex I habitats as listed in the Habitats Directive. These habitats are considered to be highly sensitive. Locations of these habitats within the study area are given, along with Target Notes numbers for the best examples of these habitat types.

#### **Grassland Habitats**

- Dry Meadows and Grassy Verges GS2 corresponds to the EU Annex I habitat 'Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis*) (6510)'. There was one example of this habitat type found within the study area in the Ardtaggle townland (Target Note 4505-c\_TN4).
- Dry-humid Acid Grassland GS3 is linked to the Annex I priority habitat 'Species-rich Nardus grasslands on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (6230)'. Acid grasslands are frequent throughout the study area, however the priority habitat was only found at two locations: in the townlands of Aillemore and Drummod (Target Notes 4388-c\_TN4 and 4270-d TN8).
- Wet Grassland GS4 is linked to the Annex I habitat 'Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) (6410)'. Wet Grassland is abundant throughout the study area, but examples corresponding to the annexed habitat were found at only three sites: in the townlands of Kilroughil and Ballydonaghan (Target Notes 4446-c\_TN3, 4446-c\_TN4 and 4270-b\_TN14).

#### **Heath and Dense Bracken Habitats**

Dry Siliceous Heath HH1 is linked to the Annex I habitat 'European dry heaths (4030)'. There were few areas of Dry heath found in the study area however one example of the annexed habitat is located in the townland of Ballymoloney (Target Note 4445-b\_TN1).

• Wet Heath HH3 corresponds to the annexed habitat 'northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix (4010)'. Found in the townlands of Formoyle More, Kyleglass, Ballymacdonnell, Inchalughoge and Cloonaheen West. Good examples of this habitat type are described in Target Notes 4444-d\_TN1, 4444-d\_TN3, 4270-d\_TN10, 4329-a\_TN1 and 4386-b\_TN2.

#### **Peatland Habitats**

- Raised Bog PB1 is a priority habitat if actively peat-forming as 'Active Raised Bogs (7110)'. Raised bog areas are located in the townland of Clonboy (Target Notes 4505-b TN2 and 4329-a TN2).
- Upland blanket bog PB2 where it is actively peat-forming corresponds to the priority habitat 'Blanket bog (if active) (7130)'. Located in the townlands Inchalughoge, Gortarassa, Classagh, Ballydonaghan, Ballykildea, Killuran More, Coumnagun and Carrownakilly, Target notes 4328-b\_TN1, 4328-d\_TN2, 4329-a\_TN2, 4271-a\_TN1, 4271-a\_TN4, 4329-b\_TN1, 4330-a\_TN1, 4386-b\_TN3, 4388-a\_TN4 and 4388-a\_TN5
- Transition Mire and Quaking Bog PF3 corresponds to the annexed habitat, 'Transition mires and quaking bogs (7140)'. Found at a single location, in the townland of Ballynamona (see Target Note 4504-b\_TN1).

#### **Woodland Habitats**

Oak-birch-holly Woodland WN1 is linked to the Annex I habitat 'Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles (91A0)'. This habitat is found at one location, in the townland of Aharinagbeg (see Target Note 4503-d\_TN2).

The areas listed above are of particular interest on an International and National level. These habitats are listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive and a number of them are also Priority Habitats. Theses sites are rich in biodiversity and support a number of Annex II species. The Peatlands and Woodlands provide refuge and habitat for numerous animal and invertebrate species, including, Badger, Fox, Pine Martin, Smooth Newt, Common Frog, various species of bird including Barn Owl, Sparrow Hawk, Kestrel, Meadow Pipit, Sky Lark, and a variety of beetle, dragon fly and damselfly species.

#### 4.4.2 C - County Importance – Very Sensitive Habitats

These habitats are considered to be of High Ecological Importance to a County Level as they contain semi-natural habitat types with high biodiversity in a county context with a high

degree of naturalness. They also form valuable linkages and function as part of the designated sites, which are found within and border the study area.

#### **Freshwater Habitats**

- Acid oligotrophic lakes FL2. Found at Ballydonaghan Lough (Target Note 4271a\_TN2).
- Mesotrophic Lakes FL4. McNamara's Lough (Target Note 4505-c\_TN1).
- Eroding Upland Rivers FW1. Found throughout the study area.
- Depositing/Lowland Rivers FW2. Found throughout the study area.
- Reed and Tall Sedge Swamps FS1. Occurs in drains, rivers and fringing lakes throughout study area, for example at Ballynamona (Target Note 4504-b\_TN1).

#### **Grassland and Marsh Habitats**

Dry-humid Acid Grassland GS3 which corresponds to the priority habitat 'Species-rich Nardus grasslands on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (6230)' but is small in size is considered to have a high ecological importance at a county level. Examples of this kind were found at Drummod and Ballydonaghan (4270-d\_TN8 and 4271-d\_TN2).

#### **Peatland Habitats**

- Upland Blanket Bog PB2 which does not correspond to the annexed habitat 'Blanket Bog (if active) (7130)' is found throughout the study area. Good examples of this habitat are found in Ballydonaghan, Drummod, Killuran More and described in Target Notes 4270-b\_TN13, 4270-d\_TN1, 4328-b\_TN2.
- Cutover Bog PB4 which does not correspond to the annexed habitat, 'depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion (7150)' was found in numerous locations throughout the study area, including Gortarassa, O'Briensbridge and Clonboy (see Target Notes 4328-b\_TN1, 4505-a\_TN1, 4505-a\_TN2 and 4505-b\_TN2).
- Poor Fen and Flush PF2 is limited in extent in Ireland and thus is of special conservation importance. This habitat is found in a few locations within the study area, for example is the townlands of Muingboy and Cloonagheen East (Target Notes 4444-d\_TN1 and 4387-c\_TN2)

#### Woodlands

Oak-Birch-Holly Woodland WN1 which does not correspond to the annexed habitat
 'Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles (91A0)' occurs in

small isolated pockets scattered throughout the study area. Good examples of this habitat can be found in the townlands of Drummod, Knockaloe and Ballydonaghan (Target Notes **4270-b TN1/TN4/TN11** and **4270-d TN4**).

- Oak-Ash-Hazel Woodland WN2 was found only at one site, in the townland of Knockaderreen (Target Note 4446-b\_TN1).
- Wet Pedunculate Oak-Ash Woodland WN4. There are small isolated areas of this habitat type in the western section of the study area, located in the townlands of Kilmore, Drummod, Killuran More and Knocklaur (Target Notes 4328-b\_TN6, 4328-b\_TN7, 4504-a\_TN2-3, 4270-b\_TN2 and 4270-b\_TN6).
- Riparian Woodland WN5 is considered to be of ecological importance on a county level as semi-natural woodlands are of limited distribution in Ireland. This type of habitat is found where there are numerous streams and rivers for example in the vicinity of Slieve Bernagh and Lackeragh Mountain (Target Notes 4504-a\_TN1, 4445-b\_TN5, 4446-b\_TN1 and 4446-d\_TN2).
- Wet Willow-Alder-Ash Woodland WN6 which does not correspond to the Annex I habitat 'Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) (91E0)' but is semi-natural is considered to be of ecological importance to county level as semi-natural woodlands are of limited distribution in Ireland. This type of habitat is found on the shores of McNamara's Lough and Ballymacdonnell Lough, and in the townlands of Drummod, Cappanaslish and O'Briensbridge (Target Notes 4445-c\_TN1/TN2, 4505-c\_TN1/2 and 4270-b\_TN3).
- Treelines WL2 are of limited extent in Ireland and are considered to be of high ecological value in a county context, particularly when composed of native species, as they can provide a corridor along which wildlife can travel and play a role in connecting habitats which have become fragmented in the landscape. Treelines of note were found in the townlands of Cloonagheen West, Fahy Beg and Bridgetown (Target Notes 4387-a\_TN2 and 4505-a\_TN3/TN6).

#### 4.4.2.1 D – Local Importance (Higher Value) – Moderately Sensitive Habitats

Sites containing some semi-natural habitat or locally important for wildlife;

#### **Freshwater Habitats**

Drainage Ditches FW4. These are found scattered throughout the study area.

#### **Grassland and Marsh Habitats**

- Dry Meadows and Grassy Verges GS2. Where this habitat does not correspond to
  the annexed habitat 'Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis*) (6510)' but has a good diversity of species, it is considered to be of high
  ecological importance at a local level. This habitat was found at a number of locations
  within the study area. Good examples are described in Target Notes 4387-b\_TN1,
  4387-b\_TN2, 4445-d\_TN1, 4446-c\_TN2, 4329-a\_TN4 and 4388-d\_TN1.
- Dry-humid Acid Grassland GS3 which does not correspond to the priority habitat 'Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (6230)' but is fairly species-rich is considered to have a high ecological importance at a local level. This type of habitat was found scattered throughout the study area with good examples described in Target Notes 4387-b\_TN2, 4445-a\_TN1, 4504-a\_TN4, 4445-b\_TN2, 4445-b\_TN5, 4505-b\_TN4, 4388-c\_TN3 and 4270-b\_TN9.
- Wet Grassland GS4. Where Wet Grassland does not correspond to the Annex I habitat 'Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) (6410)', but is still quite species-rich, it is considered to be of high ecological importance on a local scale. This habitat type was found scattered throughout the study area. Good examples are described in Target Notes 4387-c\_TN1, 4445-a\_TN2, 4503-b\_TN1, 4445-d\_TN1, 4446-a\_TN1, 4505-d\_TN1, and 4270-b TN5.
- Marsh GM1. This habitat type was scattered throughout the study area. Good examples of this habitat type are described in Target Notes 4505-a\_TN7, 4271-a TN2, 4270-b TN8 and 4271-a TN3.

#### **Heath and Dense Bracken Habitats**

- Dry Siliceous Heath HH1 where it does not correspond to the Annex I habitat 'European dry heaths (4030)' but still supports a good diversity of species is considered to be of high ecological importance on a local scale. This type of habitat is located in the townlands of Ballymoloney and Carrownakilly (Target Notes 4445-b\_TN4 and 4330-c\_TN2).
- Wet Heath HH3 which does not correspond to the annexed habitat 'northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* (4010)'. Found in the townlands of Formoyle More, Kyleglass, Ballymacdonnell, Inchalughoge and Cloonaheen West. Good examples of this habitat type are described in Target Notes 4504-b\_TN3, 4505-a\_TN1, 4270-d\_TN5, 4271-b\_TN1, 4388-a\_TN3 and 4388-c\_TN1.

#### **Woodlands and Scrub**

- (Mixed) Broadleaved Woodland WD1. This habitat type is found throughout the study area, for example, a particularly diverse example with a good proportion of native species is located at Cappanlish (Target Note 4445-c\_TN3).
- Mixed Broadleaved/Conifer Woodland WD2. This woodland type is also found throughout the study site such as at Killuran More and Clonboy (Target Notes 4338b TN3 and 4505-a TN11).
- Scrub WS1. This habitat type is found throughout the study area.
- Immature Woodland WS2. Found in the townlands of Ardataggle and Bridgetown/O'Briensbridge.
- Ornamental/non-native Shrubs WS3. Found throughout the study area localised in residential areas.
- Hedgerows WL1 criss-cross the whole of the study area, except for some upland and conifer plantation areas.

#### **Exposed Rock and Disturbed Ground**

- Exposed Siliceous Rock ER1 was found throughout the study area. One of the larger examples of this habitat type is located in the disused quarry at Ardskeagh.
- Siliceous Scree and Loose Rock ER3 was found in several locations such as in the townlands of Ardskeagh, Formoyle and Crean.
- Recolonising Bare Ground ED3 is found scattered throughout the study area.

#### **Cultivated and Built Land**

- Stone Walls and Other Stonework BL1 which may provide wildlife habitats and thus
  are classified as having high ecological value in a local context are found throughout
  the study area, for example in the townland of Ballydonaghan (Target Note 4271a\_TN3).
- Earthbanks BL2 are found throughout the study area, often in association with Treelines or Hedgerows.
- Buildings and Artificial Surfaces BL3 may be considered to be of high ecological value in a local context where they provide habitats for wildlife, for example an abandoned homestead in Coumbrack (Target Note 4388-a\_TN3).

#### 4.4.2.2 E- Local Importance (Lower Value) – Robust Habitats

#### **Grassland and Marsh Habitats**

- Improved Agricultural Grassland GA1 is one of the main habitats in the study area.
- Amenity Grassland GA2 is found throughout the study area, mainly in gardens and parklands.

#### **Heath and Dense Bracken Habitats**

 Dense Bracken HD1 was recorded in small patches throughout the study area, mainly in areas of under-grazed farmland.

#### Woodlands

- (Mixed) Conifer plantation WD3. Found in small pockets throughout the study area, often in association with Conifer Plantations WD4.
- Conifer Plantation WD4. Large areas in the north western section, in the townlands of Carrownagowan and Inchalughoge, and Carrownakilly in the east. There are also large areas in the uplands at Lackeragh and Magherareagh.
- Scattered Trees and Parkland WD5. A good example of this habitat is located near Bridgetown.
- Recently Felled Woodland WS5 occurs throughout the study area in association with Conifer Plantations WD4.

#### **Exposed Rock and Disturbed Ground**

- Exposed Sand, Gravel or Till ED1 was found at the disused quarry in Ballyquin More
- Spoil and Bare Ground ED2 was found throughout the study area.
- Active Quarries and Mines ED4. A good example of this type was found at Woodpark, near Bridgetown.
- Refuse and Other Wastes ED5. Found in Woodpark and Derry townlands.

#### **Cultivated and Built Land**

- Arable Crops BC1 was found in the townland of Drumsillagh/Sallybank
- Horticultural Land BC2. Found in the townland of Kilroughil.
- Stone Walls and Other Stonework BL1. Found throughout the study area.
- Buildings and Artificial Surfaces BL3. Found throughout the study area.

The locations of these habitats can be found in **Table 4.2** and in the supporting Habitat Map.

#### 4.5 HABITAT MANAGEMENT AND INVASIVE SPECIES

Some of the sites found within the study area which are of high conservation value are under threat from invasive species. The locations of these invasive species can be seen on the habitat map. These sites are in need of management measures in order to restore them to a favourable conservation status. Recommendation on the treatment and prevention of spread these species is provided in various guidance documents, including the following:

- Clare County Council, (2009). Clare Invasive Alien Species Project. The Heritage Council
   & Clare County Council,
- European Commission's Invasive Species website.
   (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/invasivealien/index\_en.htm).
- Invasive Species Ireland. (<u>www.invasivespeciesireland.com</u>) Best Practice Management Guidelines, and
- NRA, 2008c. Guidelines on The Management of Noxious Weeds and Non-Native Invasive Plant Species on National Roads .National Roads Authority

#### 4.5.1 Himalayan balsam

The Broadford/Glenomra River is the largest Lowland/depositing River FW2 within the study area. Numerous rivers and streams drain the adjacent upland areas to the north and south. It flows through the valley east of Broadford which is a natural floodplain. The bank-side vegetation is currently under threat from invasion by Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*). This is an introduced species which is native to the western Himalayan Mountains; it can form dense monocultural stands, shading out native plants, in particular colonising river banks and damp areas. It is considered to cause significant environmental impact and is known to be invasive in many parts of continental Europe. This species was noted on the day of the site visit to have colonised an area of the riverbank where the Kilbane road crosses the Glenomra River at Scott's Bridge. This not only threatens this waterside vegetation but is also capable of spreading as seeds may be dispersed by water, animal or human means. It is recommended that this species be removed in a sensitive fashion in order to prevent the spread of this species in accordance with the Best Practice Management Guidelines.

#### 4.5.2 Rhododendron

There were a number of heath and bog habitats found to be relatively intact, some of which are classified as Annex I habitats, and therefore of high ecological value. These habitats are important for their composition of species, which is largely native. Where there is a seminatural assemblage if native species the habitat will support a good variety of insects, birds and mammals. The integrity of these habitats in some cases is threatened by the invasion of Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) which is starting to spread in numerous areas. This poses a threat to the diversity of the bog habitat, as Rhododendron is an invasive species which grows thickly and casts a heavy shade, suppressing the growth of other plants beneath it.

It is recommended that the Rhododendron be cleared at these sites, in order to preserve the integrity of the bog habitat. There are several publications available on control of Rhododendron, such as Best Practice Management Guidelines Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum* and Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*, Maguire, C.M., Kelly, J. and Cosgrove, P.J. (2008). Methods for control of Rhododendron described in this publication include cutting and removal of the plant, and treatment of stumps.

#### 4.5.3 Japanese knotweed

Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) is categorised as one of the 100 worst invasive alien species list by the Global Invasive Species programme. This species was seen in numerous locations within the study area, for the most part it was seen to be colonising hedgerows and treelines, and in one particular case it has infested an entire field in the townland of Inchalughoge in the northern section of the study are. Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) is not known to reproduce by seed in Ireland but does however, rapidly spread vegetatively. A new colony can grow from a small fragment of rhizome (underground stem). It forms dense thickets and shades out native plant species, reducing local biodiversity and preventing the dispersal of native species. It can also do serious damage to buildings, roads and infrastructure as well as river banks as it spreads by rhizomes, these send up new shoots which are strong enough to penetrate through tarmac. It is extremely important to adhere to the Best Practice Management Guidelines, for example those published by Invasive Species Ireland and Clare County Council, as Japanese knotweed is notoriously difficult to control and needs to be treated and disposed of properly in order to prevent its spread.

#### 4.6 ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS AND BUFFER ZONES

The survey identified areas of biodiversity importance on a local and national level. Some examples of priority habitat protected under the EU Habitats Directive were also identified. Under the provisions of the Directive require Member States have an obligation under the Habitats Directive to protect, maintain or restore natural habitats, which are of conservation importance as defined in the Directive, at a favourable conservation status.

In addition, Article 10 of the Habitats Directive refers to features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild flora and fauna, by virtue of their linear and continuous structures (such as rivers with their banks or the traditional systems for marking field boundaries), or their function as stepping stones (such as ponds or small woods). These features are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species. Member States are required to endeavour, where they consider it necessary, in their land use planning and development policies, to encourage the management of these features of the landscape, with a view to improving the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network.

Many habitats of conservation concern particularly designated sites are linked to the surrounding landscape by natural and manmade features, such as water courses (rivers, streams, canals and drainage ditches), hedgerows, treelines, roads and railways. Therefore, areas of conservation concern must not be considered in isolation, their linkages and buffer zones must also be protected to ensure the continued migration of species and genetic diversity throughout the study area.

Prescribing buffer zone widths to within or outside designated sites, areas of conservation concern or ecological corridors is dependant on a number of variables and often a 'one size fits all' approach is not always applicable. The need for maintaining a buffer zone adjacent to conservation sites is well documented; the width, however, is contested.

When prescribing buffer zones the following should be considered;

- Conservation value of the feature to be protected,
- Intensity of adjacent land use,
- Tolerance of species and habitat to disturbance,
- Buffer characteristics (e.g. slope, soil type);

- Specific buffer functions,
- Proximity to existing development and lands zoned for development, and
- Area that could be practicable and appropriate from the point of management of the buffer zone.

For example, buffer zones have been recommended for Riparian Zone Management in Forestry and are detailed in guidance from the Department of Agriculture Food and the Forest Service. The purpose of these buffer zones is to protect watercourses from forestry activities. Details of recommended buffer zones are provided in **Table 4.4** below.

Table 4.4: Buffer Zone widths for Riparian Zone Management in Forestry

Average slope leading to aquatic zone	Zone width on each side of the aquatic zone	Zone width on each side of highly erodable soils
Moderate slope 0- 1in7	10m	15m
Steep 1in7 –1in3	15m	20m
Very steep 1in3 or>	20m	25m

(Source:http://www.westernrbd.ie/PDF/Riparian/RiparianZone\_Workshop\_Pat\_OCallaghan.pdf)

There are no prescribed buffer zones for ecological corridors and designated sites, therefore for illustrative purposes buffer zones of 20m, 50m and 100m have been place around key ecological corridors and designated sites. Drains and hedgerows also provide valuable corridors; these features are illustrated but are not buffered. The buffer zones are illustrated in **Figure 4.1**.

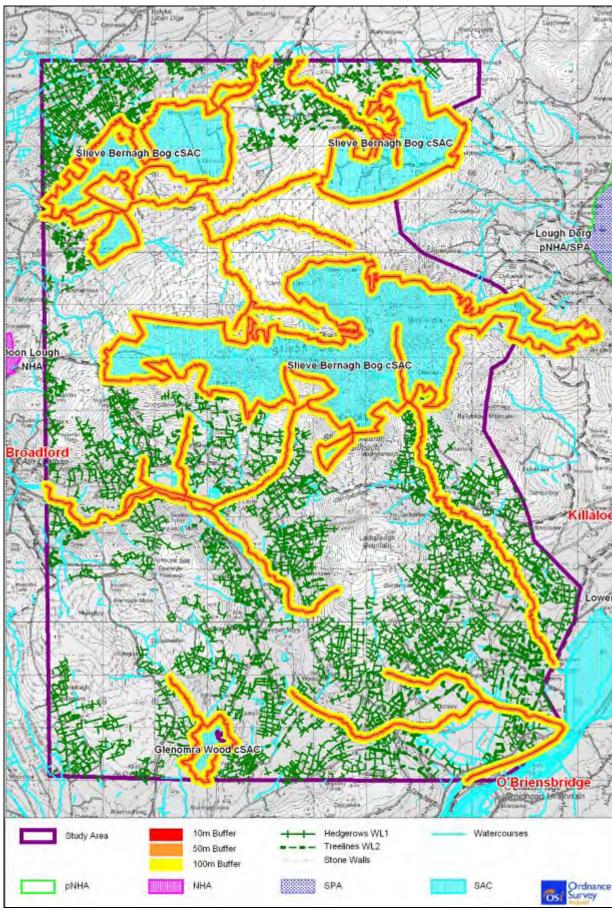


Figure 4.1 Buffer Zones

#### 4.7 AREAS LIABLE TO FLOOD

As part of the project brief, there is a requirement to outline and compare existing habitats with areas marked as "liable to flood" in the 6 inch Ordnance Survey maps. The Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 - Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and the current OPW flood maps for the area (<a href="www.floodmaps.ie">www.floodmaps.ie</a>) were also consulted for recorded flood events correspond to the "liable to flood" identified on the 6 inch maps.

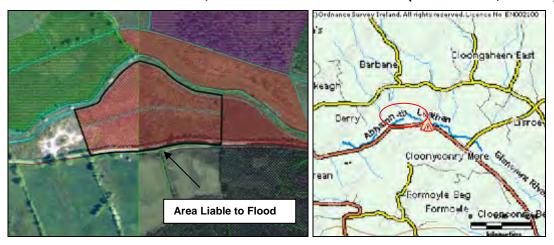
The locations of all of the flood events within and adjacent to the study area are shown in **Habitat**Map attached and **Figure 4.1** below.

Each area is identified and discussed below in relation to flooding potential and existing habitats. The areas identified as "liable to flood" in the 6 inch maps are delineated by a black line.



Figure 4.1: OPW National Flood Mapping Flood events within the Study Area

AREA 1: GLENOMRA RIVER, EAST OF GRAFFA BRIDGE (IGR: 160030, 172350)



**Habitat Map** 

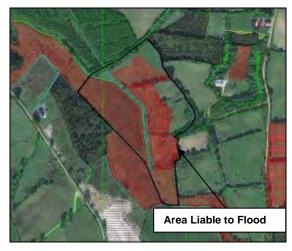
**Extent of Flooding (OPW Flood Map)** 

**Habitats:** The area comprises Wet Grassland (GS4). This area may extend eastwards and westwards along the Glenomra River.

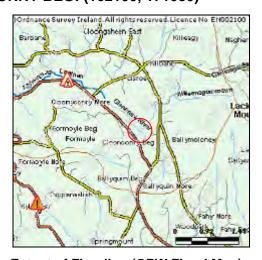
**Watercourses nearby:** The Glenomra River runs along the northern boundary of the area liable to flood.

**OPW Flood maps website:** The OPW website highlights a flooding event approximately 300m to the east of the site. It is likely that there have been further flood events nearby along this river.

AREA 2: GLENOMRA RIVER AT CLOONCONRY BEG: (162100, 171080)



**Habitat Map** 



**Extent of Flooding (OPW Flood Map)** 

**Habitats:** The habitats in the area marked Liable to Flood on the 6" Historical Maps comprise mainly Wet Grassland (GS4) to the west of Glenomra River and Marsh (GM1) to the east. This area liable to flooding may extend northwest and southeast along the Glenomra River.

**Watercourses nearby:** This wet area is just south of the confluence of the Aileenagommaun River and the Glenomra River.

**OPW Flood maps website:** The OPW website highlights a flooding event approximately 2km to the northwest of the site along the Glenomra River. It is likely that there have been further flood events nearby along this river.

AREA 3: ARDCLOONY RIVER AT LACKAREAGH BEG: (165440, 172270)





**Habitat Map** 

**Extent of Flooding (OPW Flood Map)** 

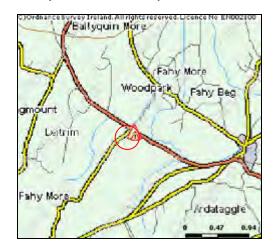
**Habitats:** The habitats in the area marked Liable to Flood on the 6" Historical Maps comprise mainly Improved Grassland (GA1) with Yellow Iris (*Iris Pseudacorus*) and some Scrub (WS1) to the northern part of the area. There are areas of Wet Grassland (GS4) to the northwest and southeast of the area, and some Improved Grassland (GA1) and Scattered Trees (WD5) to the southeast of the area.

Watercourses nearby: This area is just south of Ardcloony River.

**OPW Flood maps website:** There are no OPW records for recent flooding events at this location.

AREA 4: BLACK RIVER AT LACKAREAGH BEG: (162950, 168290)





**Habitat Map** 

**Extent of Flooding (OPW Flood Map)** 

**Habitats:** The habitats in the area marked as recurring flood events comprise mainly Improved Grassland (GA1) to the south of the regional road, R466. There are areas of Wet Grassland (GS4), Marsh (GM1) and Reed and Large Sedge Swamps to the north of the regional road, R466.

Watercourses nearby: The Black River runs to the north of the flood event area.

**OPW Flood maps website:** This area is not marked as Liable to Floods on the 6" Historical Maps but is recorded as a recurring flood events on the OPW website.

#### 4.7.1 Conclusions on Areas Liable to Flood

A total of four areas were identified from the 6 inch Ordnance Survey maps as 'liable to flood', while one area with a recurring flood on the OPW website is not mapped as 'liable to flood' on the 6 inch Ordnance Survey maps. Many of these, and adjacent, areas are still represented by wetland habitats which reflect high water tables or seasonal inundation with flood waters. Some areas are however Improved Agricultural Grasslands which have been subject to changes in the historical drainage patterns. These changes may have been implemented by the landowners or the OPW as part of maintenance works on the arterial drainage network or flood alleviation programmes.

In relation to the potential development of these lands careful consideration must be given to wetland habitats and their associated hydrology, whether they are supported by surface or groundwater fluctuations. Further investigation is required at these locations to identify potential pollution pathways and appropriate measures to be put in place to protect wetland habitats and their associated waterbodies.

#### 5 OVERALL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Information from this survey is principally of value in revealing the nature of the biodiversity interest within the Study Area. The results can be used to compare the status of biodiversity with other areas where such surveys have taken place, provide a baseline to inform discussion and policy-making on biodiversity and/or inform future research on other aspects of biodiversity.

There are 117 habitat types classified in Ireland (Fossitt, 2000), 89 of these habitat types are terrestrial and 28 of these are marine habitat. Of the 89 terrestrial habitat types, 52 different types of habitats occur within the study area. Of the 52 different habitat types, 5 are classified under cultivated and built land and the remaining 47 habitats are described in detail throughout the report.

The habitats found within the study area are evaluated based on their naturalness, value and vulnerability. Habitats that are assessed to be good examples of Annex I and/or Priority habitats are considered to be of International or National importance. Rare semi-natural habitats with high biodiversity are considered to be of County Importance. Habitats that are considered semi-natural habitat or locally important for wildlife are considered to be of Local Importance Higher Value, and robust habitats that have been highly modified are considered to be of Local Importance Lower Value.

The habitat inventory and supporting biodiversity evaluation of the lands in Mid Clare has important implications for spatial planning in the area. This information also establishes a forum for education and further research into the biodiversity value of study area.

#### 5.1 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPATIAL PLANNING

Spatial Planning goes beyond traditional land use planning to bring together and integrate policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programs which influence the nature of places and how they function. The challenge for planning is to guide and manage the use of these resources as wisely as possible so as to provide for requirements now and in the future without compromising the ability of those resources to continue to sustain future generations. Spatial Planning therefore attempts to achieve a balance between development and conservation.

Strategic planning should recognise the sensitivity of the certain habitats to development, in particular water dependant habitats, where disruptions in the hydrological regime of an area can have significant impacts on these sensitive habitats. Projects such as quarrying, road building and large industrial and residential developments can cause irreversible consequences to these habitats.

Linkages and buffer zones have been incorporated into the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017. The removal of these linkages leads to habitat fragmentation and isolation. These corridors ensure the continued vitality of designated sites and protected habitats.

Specific policies should be developed to take into consideration habitats categorised in **Section 4.4** Sites of Local Biodiversity Interest. Development should be avoided in habitats classified as Highly Sensitive and Very Sensitive and minimised in habitats classified as Moderately Sensitive. The majority of the study area is covered by habitats categorised as Robust and development may be considered in these areas.

Where development is considered in habitats listed categorised as Highly Sensitive and Very Sensitive, policies may contain requirements for developers to evaluate and assess the impacts of the proposals on sensitive habitats. Under the Environmental Liability Regulations (SI 547, 2008), it is also important to note that protected species and natural habitats fall under the remit of this legislation wherever they occur in Ireland, for example in sites that do not meet the criteria for designation as a SAC. Designated site boundaries do not as a result present any limits on their protection. Damage to protected species and natural habitats can take place where such species and habitats occur, including migratory species.

Where developments are required for the socio-economic improvement of an area, these developments should be evaluated against the wider area at a strategic level. The assessment must include the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of such developments, and the evaluation of any possible environmental impacts to specific sensitive habitats against the impact of the habitat coverage within the locality and area as a whole. Where such developments require it, this information should be assessed through a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Process.

#### 5.2 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The positive engagement and co-operation of land owners and their representative bodies such as IFA etc., can contribute significantly to the success of the protection of local sites of ecological value. The management of these sites should also reflect the broad interests of landowners and identify mechanisms which will allow effective input.

The availability of digital information at County Council Offices, Teagasc, IFA and civic centres will assist in the dissemination of information to landowners, developers and agencies that advice on landuse and development. Hardcopies of the Habitat Map and report can also be made available on request at these centres.

#### 5.3 OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Further studies should be conducted at sites identified as Internationally, Nationally, County Important Ecological Sites and also sites identified as being of Local Importance Higher Value as per Table 4.1 Section 4.1. Some of these sites may meet the criteria for designation under European or Irish legislation, such as those described in **Section 4.1.1**.

Other sites that do not meet the criteria for legal designation as detailed in Section but contain habitats of conservation value may be designated as Sites of Local Nature Conservation Interest (SLNCI) and a strategic context for the designation of these sites may be incorporated into Local Area Plans in conjunction with the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

# APPENDIX A ANNEX I HABITATS

# APPENDIX 1: Habitat categories in this classification and their relationships with EU Annex I habitats, and with habitat complexes from the BioMar marine biotope classification. Note that correspondence is approximate in many cases.

	FILA 11 15 ( /N) . 2000 13	
NON-MARINE	EU Annex I habitats (Natura 2000 code) (*- priority type)	
	("- priority type)	
FRESHWATER	National distance his labor and manda (3150)	
FL1 Dystrophic lakes	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds (3160)	
FL2 Acid oligotrophic lakes	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) (3110) Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea	
	uniflorae and/or of the Isoeto-Nanojuncetea (3130)	
FL3 Limestone/marl lakes	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. (3140)	
FL4 Mesotrophic lakes		
FL5 Eutrophic lakes	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation (3150)	
FL6 Turloughs	*Turloughs (3180)	
FL7 Reservoirs		
FL8 Other artificial lakes and ponds		
FW1 Eroding/upland rivers	Watercourses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation (3260)	
FW2 Depositing/lowland rivers	Rivers with muddy banks with Chenopodion rubri p.p. and Bidention p.p. vegetation (3270)	
FW3 Canals		
FW4 Drainage ditches		
FP1 Calcareous springs	*Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) (7220)	
FP2 Non-calcareous springs		
FS1 Reed and large sedge swamps		
FS2 Tall-herb swamps	Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels (6430)	
GRASSLAND AND MARSH		
GA1 Improved agricultural grassland		
GA2 Amenity grassland (improved)		
GS1 Dry calcareous and neutral grassland	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometea) (*important orchid sites) (6210)  Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands (5130)  Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae (6130)	
GS2 Dry meadows and grassy verges	Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis) (6510)	
GS3 Dry-humid acid grassland	*Species-rich Nardus grasslands on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in continental Europe) (6230) Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae (6130)	
GS4 Wet grassland	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) (6410)	
GM1 Marsh	Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels (6430)	
HEATH AND DENSE BRACKEN		
HH1 Dry siliceous heath	European dry heaths (4030)	
HH2 Dry calcareous heath	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands (5130)	
HH3 Wet heath	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix (4010)	
HH4 Montane heath	Alpine and Boreal heaths (4060)	
HD1 Dense bracken		

	PEATLANDS		
PB1	Raised bog	*Active raised bogs (7110)	
		Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration (7120)	
		Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion (7150)	
	Upland blanket bog	Blanket bog (*if active bog) (7130)	
	Lowland blanket bog	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion (7150)	
	Cutover bog	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion (7150)	
	Eroding blanket bog		
	Rich fen and flush	*Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion davallianae (7210) Alkaline fens (7230)	
PF2	Poor fen and flush		
PF3	Transition mire and quaking bog	Transition mires and quaking bogs (7140)	
	WOODLAND AND SCRUB		
WN1	Oak-birch-holly woodland	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles (91A0)	
	Oak-ash-hazel woodland		
WN3	Yew woodland	*Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles (91J0)	
WN4	Wet pedunculate oak-ash	*Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-padion, Alnion incanae,	
	woodland	Salicion albae) (91E0)	
	Riparian woodland		
WN6	Wet willow-alder-ash woodland		
WN7	Bog woodland	*Bog woodland (91D0)	
WD1	(Mixed) broadleaved woodland		
WD2	Mixed broadleaved/conifer woodland		
WD3	(Mixed) conifer woodland		
	Conifer plantation		
WD5	Scattered trees and parkland		
WS1	Scrub	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands (5130)	
WS2	Immature woodland		
WS3	Ornamental/non-native shrub		
	Short rotation coppice		
	Recently-felled woodland		
	Hedgerows		
WL2	Treelines		
	EXPOSED ROCK/ DISTURBED GROUND		
ER1	Exposed siliceous rock	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation (8220)	
ER2	Exposed calcareous rock	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation (8210) *Limestone pavements (8240)	
ER3	Siliceous scree and loose rock	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) (8110)	
ER4	Calcareous scree and loose rock	Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (Thlaspietea rotundifolii) (8120)	
EU1	Non-marine caves	Caves not open to the public (8310)	
EU2	Artificial underground habitats		
	Exposed sand, gravel or till		
	Spoil and bare ground		
	Recolonising bare ground		
	Active quarries and mines		
	Refuse and other waste		

CULTIVATED AND BUILT LAND	
BC1 Arable crops BC2 Horticultural land	
BC3 Tilled land	
BC4 Flower beds and borders	
BL1 Stone walls and other stonework	
BL2 Earth banks	
BL3 Buildings and artificial surfaces	
COASTLAND	
CS1 Rocky sea cliffs	
CS2 Sea stacks and islets	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts (1230)
CS3 Sedimentary sea cliffs	
CW1 Lagoons and saline lakes	*Coastal lagoons (1150)
CW2 Tidal rivers	Estuaries (1130)
CM1 Lower salt marsh	Salicomia and other annuals colonising mud and sand (1310)
	Spartina swards (Spartinion maritimae) (1320)
	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) (1330)
740 11	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi) (1420)
CM2 Upper salt marsh	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) (1330)
CR1 Shinala and annual hands	Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) (1410)
CB1 Shingle and gravel banks	Perennial vegetation of stony banks (1220)
CD1 Embryonic dunes	Embryonic shifting dunes (2110)
CD2 Marram dunes	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ("white dunes") (2120)
CD3 Fixed dunes	*Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") (2130)
	*Decalcified fixed dunes with Empetrum nigrum (2140)  *Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea) (2150)
	Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (Salicion arenariae) (2170)
CD4 Dune scrub and woodland	Dunes with Hippophae rhamnoides (2160)
CD5 Dune slacks	Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (Salicion arenariae) (2170)
	Humid dune slacks (2190)
CD6 Machair	Machairs (*in Ireland) (21A0)
CC1 Sea walls, piers and jetties	[See littoral/sublittoral rock sections]
CC2 Fish cages and rafts	

**APPENDIX B** 

**TARGET NOTES** 



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 1			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 21/07/11			
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4270-b Townland: Knockatloe		Grid Ref: 159810, 179866	

Target note no.: TN1 Area: 3ha

Ecological value: County Importance – Semi Natural Woodland has limited distribution within the study area and is therefore considered to be of conservation value.

# Habitat code

WN1

Area of Oak-birch-holly woodland (WN1) adjacent to road. Gently sloping downhill to south. Outcrops of siliceous rocks covered in bryophytes occur throughout the site. Trees found on site which correspond to WN1 included; Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*), Birch (*Betula sp*), Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) with Billberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*) and Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*) as ground layer. Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) was also recorded. An eroding stream (FW1) borders the site on the west following a southerly direction. The stream crosses the road via a stone culvert. This has a dry roof with crevices and has a good roost potential for bats. No evidence of bats was found. An adult sparrowhawk with two juveniles were also recorded on site.

**Species List** 

Species ( <i>Latin</i> name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Betula sp.	Birch	Dominant
Blechnum spicant	Hard Fern	Occasional
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	Occasional
Epilobium sp.	Willowherb	Occasional
Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet	Occasional
Geranium robertianum	Herb Robert	Abundant
Geum urbanum	Wood Avens	Occasional
Hedera helix	lvy	Frequent
llex aquifolium	Holly	Occasional
Lathyrus pratensis	Meadow Vetchling	Rare
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle	Rare
Oxalis acetosella	Wood sorrel	Abundant
Asplenium scolopendrium	Hart's-tongue Fern	Rare
Polypodium vulgare	Polypody Fern	Rare
Quercus petraea	Sessile Oak	Occasional
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	Abundant
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan	Occasional
Teucrium scorodonia	Wood Sage	Rare
Vaccinium myrtillus	Bilberry	Occasional







4.4
11
0524

Target note no.: TN2 Area: 0.1ha

Ecological value: County Importance – Semi Natural Woodland has limited distribution within the study area and is therefore considered to be of conservation value.

# Habitat code

WN4

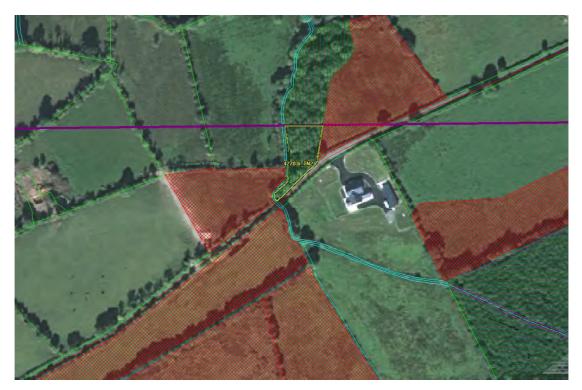
Woodland following course of stream with topography rising to the left and right of stream (FW1). Area is poached. Trees corresponding to WN4 found on the site include; *Corylus avellana* (Hazel), *Fraxinus excelsior* (Ash), *Crataegus monogyna* (Hawthorn) and *Salix* (Willow). Other species corresponding to wet pedunculate oak-ash woodland include; *Hedera helix* (Ivy), *Rubus fruticosus agg* (bramble), *Filipendula ulmaria* (Meadowsweet), *Circaea lutetiana* (Enchanters-Nightshade), and *Carex remota*.

**Species List** 

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Betula pubescens	Downy Birch	Frequent
Carex remota	Remote Sedge	Occasional
Circaea lutetiana	Enchanter's-nightshade	Frequent
Corylus avellana	Hazel	Frequent
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	Frequent
Dryopteris filix-mas	Male Fern	Frequent
Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet	Occasional
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	Frequent
Geranium robertianum	Herb Robert	Occasional
Geum urbanum	Wood Aven	Occasional
Hedera helix	lvy	Frequent
Leontodon sp.	Hawkbit	Occasional
Oxalis acetosella	Wood sorrel	Occasional
Phyllitis scolopendrium	Hart's-tongue Fern	Frequent
Prunus	Blackthorn	Occasional
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	Abundant
Rumex sanguineus	Wood Dock	Occasional
Salix	Willow	Occasional
Stachys sylvatica	Hedge Woundwort	Occasional
Valeriana officinalis	Wild Valerian	Rare
Vicia sepium	Bush Vetch	Rare
Viola sp.	Violet	Occasional



#### Habitat Map



#### Photographic Record









Images 1-4 Overview of Habitat



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 3			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 25/07/11			
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare	
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4270-b <b>Townland:</b> Drummod		Grid Ref: 158767, 180040	

Target note no.: TN3 Area: 1ha

Ecological value: County Importance – Semi Natural Woodland has limited distribution within the study area and is therefore considered to be of conservation value.

# Habitat code

Wet woodland with marshy understory, appears to be permanently flooded. Willow is abundant. The area is flat. Threatened by Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*).

WN6 Species List

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Alnus glutinosa	Alder	Occasional
Fallopia japonica	Japanese Knotweed	Frequent
Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet	Frequent
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	Occasional
Galium palustre	Marsh-bedstraw	Occasional
Glyceria cf maxima	Sweet-grass	Abundant
Iris sp.	Iris	Frequent
Mentha aquatica	Water Mint	Frequent
Quercus petraea	Sessile Oak	Occasional
Salix	Willow	Abundant
Rosa canina	Dog Rose	Occasional







# Photographic Record

Image 1: Japanese Knotweed Fallopia japonica



TARGET NOTES- ID No. 4			
Survey Title: Survey and M	lapping of Habitats in Mid Clare	Survey date: 25/07/11	
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare	
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4270-b	Townland: Drummod	Grid Ref: 158784, 180243	

**Target note no.:** TN4 **Area:** 0.8ha

Ecological value: County Importance – Semi Natural Woodland has limited distribution within the study area and is therefore considered to be of conservation value.

# Habitat code

WN1

Woodland following course of stream. Ground well poached in areas. Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) dominates the ground flora in other areas. There is natural regeneration of oak (*Quercus petraea*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and willow (*Salix sp*) saplings as well as some sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). Oak is the most abundant tree species in the woodland.

**Species List** 

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	Occasional
Alnus glutinosa	Alder	Occasional
Circaea lutetiana	Enchanters-Nightshade	Occasional
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	Frequent
Dryopteris filix-mas	Male Fern	Occasional
Fagus sylvatica	Beech	Occasional
Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet	Occasional
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	Occasional
Geranium robertianum	Herb Robert	Occasional
Hedera helix	lvy	Occasional
llex aquifolium	Holly	Rare
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn	Occasional
Quercus petraea	Sessile Oak	Abundant
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	Dominant
Salix sp.	Willow	Occasional
Vaccinium myrtillus	Bilberry	Rare



#### Habitat Map



#### Photographic Record



Image 1: Overview of Habitat



TARGET NOTES- ID No. 5				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare		Survey date: 25/07/11		
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare		
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4270-b   Town	land: Drummod	Grid Ref: 158970, 180080		
Target note no.: TN5	Area: 40ha			

**Ecological value: Local Importance (Higher Value)** 

Habitat code

GS4

Grassland with some bramble and nettle encroachment. Slope moves downhill away from road to the East. Borders area of dense bracken (HD1) to the West and Japanese Knotweed to the South.

**Species List** 

Species ( <i>Latin</i> name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Agrostis sp.	Bent grass	Frequent
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot	Occasional
Fallopia japonica	Japanese Knotweed	Abundant on the
		southern border of habitat
Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet	Occasional
Galium aparine	Cleavers	Occasional
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Abundant
Iris sp.	Iris	Occasional
Juncus articulatus	Jointed Rush	Frequent
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Occasional
Juncus subnodulosus	Blunt-flowered Rush	Occasional
Lotus pendunculatus	Greater Birds-foot-trefoil	Occasional
Phleum pratense	Timothy Grass	Frequent
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	Occasional
Poa sp.	Meadow-grass	Occasional
Potentilla anserina	Silverweed	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Occasional
Ranunculus repens	Creeping buttercup	Occasional
Rumex acetosella	Sheep's Sorrel	Frequent
Rumex sp.	Sorrel	Occasional
Stellaria media	Common Chickweed	Occasional
Stellaria sp.	Chickweed	Rare

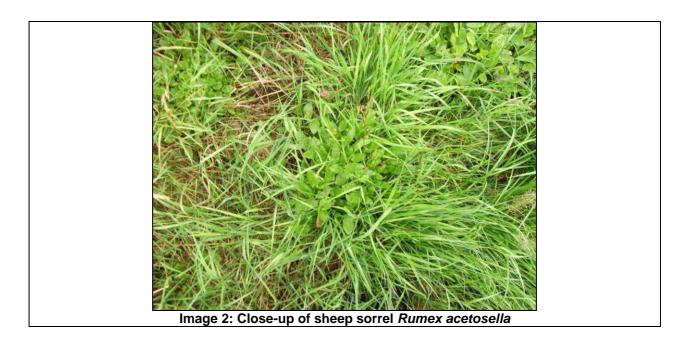






Image 1: Overview of Habitat







TARGET NOTES- ID No. 6				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 25/07/11				
Surveyor: John Curtin			County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4270-b Townland: Drummod		od	Grid Ref: 158800, 179910	
<b>T</b> 1 1 TNO				

Target note no.: TN6 Area: 2.5ha

Ecological value: County Importance – Semi Natural Woodland has limited distribution within the study area and is therefore considered to be of conservation value.

Habitat code

Woodland bordering road. Sloped downhill to the north west. Some sandstone outcrops with good bryophyte layer covering. Brambles (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) dominate the understory.

WN4

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Abundant
Circaea lutetiana	Enchanters-Nightshade	Abundant
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	Occasional
Crepis sp.	Hawk's-beard	Occasional
Dryopteris filix-mas	Male Fern	Frequent
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	Dominant
Geranium robertianum	Herb Robert	Occasional
Geum urbanum	Wood Aven	Occasional
llex aquifolium	Holly	Occasional
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Occasional
Asplenium scolopendrium	Hart's-tongue Fern	Occasional
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn	Occasional
Quercus petraea	Sessile Oak	Occasional
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	Rare
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Brambles	Dominant
Rumex sanguineus	Wood Dock	Rare
Salix	Willow	Rare





Image 1&2: Overview of Woodland





Image 3: Close-up of ground layer



TARGET NOTES- ID No. 7				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 25/07/10				
Surveyor: John Curtin			County name: Clare	
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4270-b <b>Townland:</b> Drummod		Grid Ref: 158857, 179710		
Target note no.: TN7		Area: 0.3ha		

**Ecological value: Local Importance (Higher Value)** 

Habitat code

GS4

Neglected wet grassland with Bracken and bramble scrub encroachment. Several oak planted (6-9ft tall). Willow and scrub bordering to the south. Slopes downhill to south. Field to west similar. Sward height at time of survey ~ 4-5ft. Fairly wet.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Frequent
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Occasional
Carex pendula	Pendulous Sedge	Occasional
Dactylis glomerata	Cooks-foot	Frequent
Dactylorhiza cf maculata	Heath-spotted Orchid	Rare
Erica cinerea	Bell Heather	Occasional
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved Heather	Occasional
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Abundant
Juncus articulatus	Jointed Rush	Frequent
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Frequent
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle	Occasional
Lotus pedunculatus	Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil	Frequent
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Frequent
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Frequent
Prunella vulgaris	Self-heal	Occasional
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken	Occasional
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	Abundant
Rumex acetosella	Sheep's Sorrel	Occasional
Scorpidium scorpoides	Hooked Scorpion moss	Frequent
Rumex sp.	Dock	Occasional
Stellaria media	Common Chickweed	Occasional
Ulex sp.	Gorse	Occasional



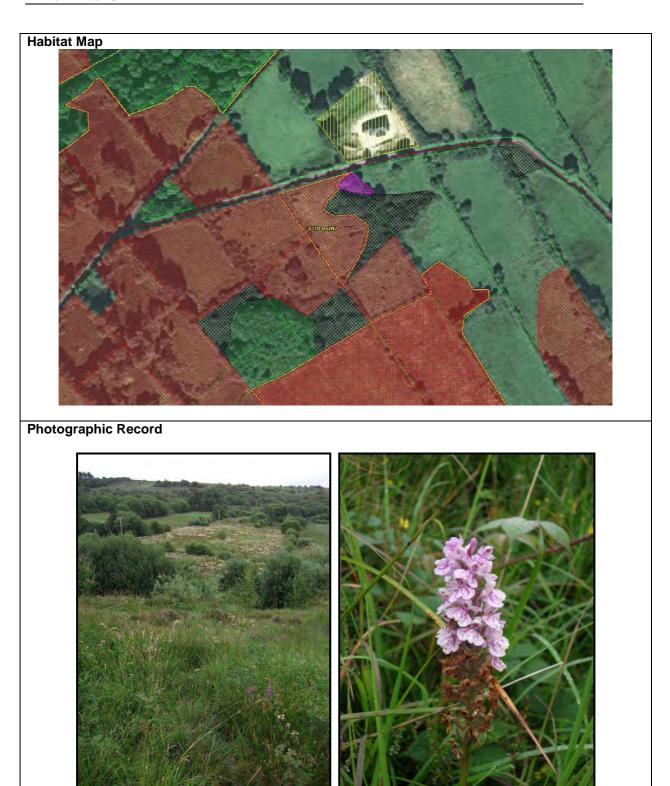


Image 2: Heath-spotted Orchid

Image 1: Overview of Habitat



TARGET NOTES- ID No. 8				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 26/07/11				
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare		
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4270-b Townland: Drummod		od	Grid Ref: 158927, 179539	
Target note no.: TN8		Area: 3ha		

**Ecological value: Local Importance (Higher Value)** 

Habitat code

GM1

Large marsh (GM1) with good species diversity. The site contained standing water of 2in at time of survey to the north. It is located in a basin with higher ground to the north and south.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Frequent
Carex echinata	Star Sedge	Occasional
Carex nigra	Common Sedge	Occasional
Carex panicea	Carnation Sedge	Occasional
Carex pendula	Pendulous Sedge	Occasional
Carex pulicaris	Flea Sedge	Occasional
Cirsium paluste	Marsh Thistle	Occasional
Dactylorhiza sp.	Orchid (fruited)	Occasional
Epilobium obsurum	Willowherb	Occasional
Epilobium palustre	Marsh Willowherb	Occasional
Equisetum sp	Horsetail	Occasional
Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet	Abundant
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Frequent
Iris sp	Iris	Occasional
Juncus articulatus/ acutiflorus	Jointed Rush	Abundant
Lotus pendunculatus	Greater Birds-foot-trefoil	Occasional
Luzula multiflora	Heath Wood-rush	Occasional
Mentha aquatica	Water Mint	Frequent
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Occasional
Potentilla anserina	Silverweed	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Occasional
Prunella vulgaris	Self-heal	Occasional
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	Occasional
Rumex acetosella	Sheep's Sorrel	Occasional
Stellaria graminea	Lesser Stitchwort	Occasional
Stellaria media	Common Chickweed	Occasional
Typha latifolia	Bulrush	Occasional
Vicia cracca	Tufted Vetch	Occasional







Image 1: Abundant Meadowsweet with occasional Marsh Thistle





Image 2: Close-up showing Greater Birds-foot-trefoil and Sedges



TARGET NOTES- ID No. 9				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 26/07/11				
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare		
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4270-b Townland: Drummod		Grid Ref: 158833, 179490		
Target note no.: TN9		Area: 0.5ha		

**Ecological value: Local Importance (Higher Value)** 

Habitat code

GS3

Grassland that borders marsh (TN8) to the south. The site is slightly uphill and dryer than the marsh. Some stone outcrops occur here containing a covering of bryophyte species. An old ruin of a homestead occurs on the site.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Frequent
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Frequent
Calluna vulgaris	Ling	Frequent
Carex cf diandra	Lesser-panicled Sedge	Occasional
Carex hostiana	Tawny Sedge	Frequent
Carex nigra	Common Sedge	Occasional
Carex pulicaris	Flea Sedge	Occasional
Cirsium paluste	Marsh Thistle	Occasional
Erica cinerea	Bell Heather	Occasional
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved Heather	Occasional
Festuca cf ovina	Sheep Fescue	Occasional
Galium saxatile	Heath Bedstraw	Rare
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Frequent
Juncus articulatus/	Jointed Rush	Occasional
acutiflorus		
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Frequent
Leontodon sp.	Hawkbit	Occasional
Luzula multiflora	Heath Woodrush	Occasional
Luzula sylvatica	Great Wood-rush	Occasional
Lycopodium	Club Moss	Frequent
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Occasional
Nardus stricta	Mat-grass	Frequent
Pedicularis sylvatica	Lousewort	Occasional
Poa sp.	Meadow grass	Occasional
Polygala vulgaris	Milkwort	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Occasional
Sphagnum sp.	Peat moss	Occasional
Trifolium repens	White Clover	Occasional
Vaccinium myrtillus	Bilberry	Rare
L	i.	1







Image 1: Overview of Habitat





Image 2: Close-up of Dry Humid Acid Grassland GS3 vegetation



Image 3: Old Ruin



TARGET NOTES- ID No. 10			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 26/07/11			
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare	
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4270-b	Townland: Drummod	Grid Ref: 159137, 179972	

Target note no.: TN10 Area: 0.24ha

Ecological value: County Importance – Semi Natural Woodland has limited distribution within the study area and is therefore considered to be of conservation value.

# Habitat code

Earthen ring fort with dense bracken (HD1) in the center surrounded by woodland. The site is on the summit of a small hill.

#### **Species List**

HD1/ WN1

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	Rare
Circaea lutetiana	Enchanters-Nightshade	Occasional
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	Frequent
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	Frequent
Galium aparine	Cleavers	Occasional
Geranium robertianum	Herb Robert	Frequent
Geum urbanum	Wood Aven	Occasional
Hedera helix	lvy	Frequent
Heracleum sphondylium	Hogweed	Occasional
Oxalis acetosella	Wood Sorrel	Frequent
Asplenium scolopendrium	Hart's-tongue Fern	Occasional
Prunella vulgaris	Self-heal	Occasional
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn	Occasional
Quercus petraea	Sessile Oak	Frequent
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	Occasional
Rumex sanguineus	Wood Dock	Occasional
Rumex sp	Dock	Occasional
Urtica dioica	Nettle	Occasional
Veronica sp	Speedwell	Occasional







Image 1: Dense Bracken





Image 2: Woodland WN1



TARGET NOTES- ID No. 11			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 26/07/11			
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare	
:2,500 Sheet no: 4270-b Townland: Drummod		Grid Ref: 159373, 179490	
<b>T</b> 4 4 <b>T</b> N144			

Target note no.: TN11 Area: 0.7ha

Ecological value: County Importance – Semi Natural Woodland has limited distribution within the study area and is therefore considered to be of conservation value.

Habitat code

WN1

Oak-birch-holly woodland WN1 uphill from road. Dry underfoot. Linked to a corridor of woodland across road to north. Deep hedgerows also connect this woodland to others to the east.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Agrostis sp.	Bent Grass	Occasional
Betula pubescens	Downy Birch	Abundant
Blechnum spicant	Hard Fern	Occasional
Corylus avellana	Hazel	Occasional
Dryopteris filix-mas	Male Fern	Occasional
Epilobium sp.	Willowherb	Occasional
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	Frequent
Geranium robertianum	Herb Robert	Frequent
Hedera helix	lvy	Occasional
Hypericum androsaemum	Tutsan	Rare
Hypericum pulchrum	Slender St. John's-wort	Occasional
llex aquifolium	Holly	Frequent
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle	Occasional
Quercus petraea	Sessile Oak	Occasional
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	Abundant
Salix	Willow	Occasional
Silene dioica	Red Campion	Rare
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan	Occasional



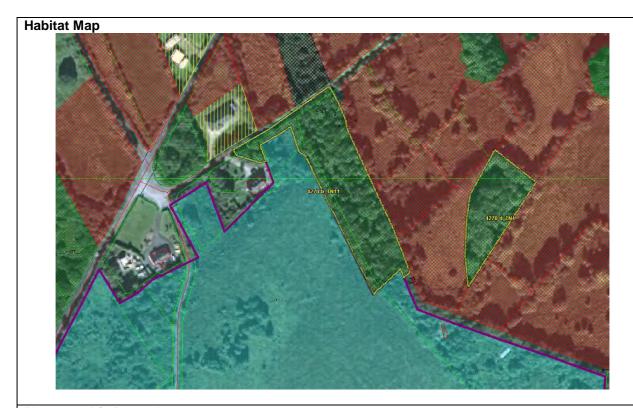




Image 1: Overview of Woodland vegetation



TARGET NOTES- ID No. 12			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 26/7/1			Survey date: 26/7/11
Surveyor: John Curtin			County name: Clare
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4270-b	Townland: Ballydor	naghan	Grid Ref: 159947, 180093
Target note no : TN12		<b>Area:</b> 0.17ha	

**Ecological value: County Importance** 

Habitat code

PF2

Small, very wet Poor Fen and Flush PF2 habitat located at bottom of small valley. Wet grassland (GS4) drains into site from the south. Forestry lies to the east and a small section of bog adjoins site to the north.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Bryophyte	Mosses	Abundant
Equesetum sp.	Horsetail	Occasional
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved heather	Occasional
Juncus articulatus	Jointed Rush	Abundant
Lycopodium sp.	Club moss	Frequent
Menyanthes trifoliata	Bogbean	Abundant
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Occasional
Salix sp	Willow	Occasional





Image 1: Close up of Fen vegetation



Image 2: Overview of Habitat



TARGET NOTES- ID No. 13			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 26/07/11			Survey date: 26/07/11
Surveyor: John Curtin			County name: Clare
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4270-b	Townland: Ballydor	naghan	Grid Ref: 159942, 180120
Target note no.: TN13		Area: 2.1ha	

**Ecological value: County Importance** 

Habitat code

PB2

Section of bog just uphill from flush (Target Note 4270-b\_TN12). Does not appear to be active as there is not very much Sphagnum moss and it is quite dry underfoot. Area has recently been burnt and grazed.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Occasional
Calluna vulgaris	Ling heather	Abundant
Carex hostiana	Tawny sedge	Occasional
Carex sp.	Sedge	Occasional
Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed	Occasional
Erica cinerea	Bell heather	Occasional
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved heath	Frequent
Eriophorum sp.	Cottongrass	Rare
Juncus articulatus	Jointed Rush	Abundant
Luzula multiflora	Heath wood-rush	Occasional
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Abundant
Narthecium ossifragum	Bog asphodel	Frequent
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Frequent
Sphagnum sp.	Peat moss	Frequent
Vaccinium myrtillus	Bilberry	Occasional







Image 1: Overview of habitat



Image 2: Close-up of Blanket bog vegetation with Narthecium ossifragum



TARGET NOTES- ID No. 14			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare		Survey date: 26/07/11	
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare	
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4270-b	Townland: Ballydon	aghan	Grid Ref: 159476, 179893
Target note no.: TN14 Area: 3ha		Area: 3ha	
Fcological value: International Importance – linked to the appeared habitat '6410 Molinia			

Ecological value: International Importance – linked to the annexed habitat '6410 *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)'

# Habitat code

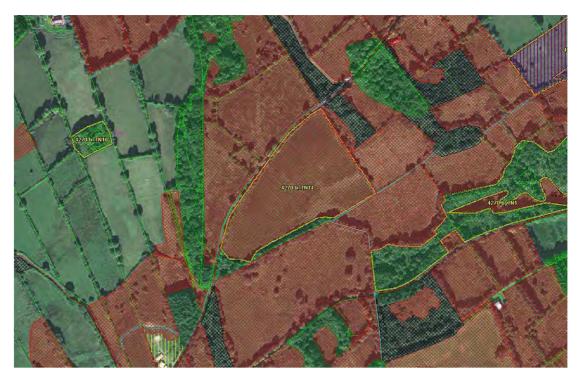
GS4

Large wet grassland (GS4) with a good species composition. Field was recently baled. The site slopes gently uphill away from the road to the south east. Sward height reached a maximum of 1ft. Sisyrinchium bermudiana (Blue-eyed grass) was present.

The species composition is linked to the annex habitat '*Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caerulae) (6410)'

Species ( <i>Latin</i> name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	Occasional
Agrostis sp.	Bent grass	Occasional
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Occasional
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Abundant
Carex panicea	Carnation sedge	Occasional
Carex pulicaris	Flea Sedge	Occasional
Cirsium paluste	Marsh-thistle	Occasional
Dactylorhiza sp.	Orchid	Occasional
Euphrasia arctica	Eyebright	Abundant
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Occasional
Hypochaeris radicata	Cat's-ear	Abundant
Juncus articulatus	Jointed Rush	Abundant
Lotus pendunculatus	Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil	Frequent
Luzula multiflora	Heath woodrush	Occasional
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Occasional
Pedicularis sylvatica	Lousewort	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Frequent
Prunella vulgaris	Self-heal	Occasional
Ranunculus repens	Creeping buttercup	Occasional
Rhinanthus minor	Yellow-rattle	Occasional
Rumex acetosella	Sheep's Sorrel	Occasional
Sisyrinchium bermudiana	Blue-eyed Grass	Occasional
Taraxacum sp.	Dandelion	Frequent
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover	Occasional







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TARGET NOTES- ID No. 15			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 04/08/11			
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4270-d Townland: Drumme	od	Grid Ref: 158777, 179099	
Target note no.: TN1	Area: 1.3ha		

**Ecological value: County Importance** 

Habitat code

PB2

Area of bog containing a large degree of *Molinia caerulea* (Purple Moor-grass). The site is flat. A newly built house sits on the site.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Calluna vulgaris	Ling heather	Abundant
Carex nigra	Common Sedge	Occasional
Cladonia sp.	Lichen	Frequent
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved heather	Frequent
Galium palustre	Marsh-bedstraw	Occasional
Juncus articulatus	Jointed Rush	Frequent
Juncus effusus	Soft rush	Frequent
Lotus pendunculatus	Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil	Occasional
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Dominant
Narthecium ossifragum	Bog asphodel	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Frequent
Sphagnum sp.	Peat moss	Frequent







Image 1: Overview of Habitat



Image 2: Close up of Blanket Bog vegetation, Sphagnum moss and Molinia caerulea



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 16			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare		Survey date: 04/08/11	
Surveyor: John Curtin			County name: Clare
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4270-d	Townland: Ballydonaghan		Grid Ref: 159930, 178567
Target note no.: TN2		<b>Area:</b> 0.13ha	

**Ecological value: National Importance** 

Habitat code

PF3

Area of transition mire and quaking bog (PF3). Very wet, with surface mat of vegetation quaking. The site sits in a depression compared to the surrounding bog. Surrounding the site is numerous *Rhododendron ponticum* (Rhododendron) plants, thus there is significant threat of invasion by this species.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Frequent
Calluna vulgaris	Ling	Occasional
Carex nigra	Common Sedge	Occasional
Drosera rotundifolia	Round-leaved Sundew	Occasional
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved heather	Frequent
Juncus articulatus	Jointed Rush	Occasional
Juncus effusus	Soft rush	Occasional
Menyanthes trifoliata	Bogbean	Abundant
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Frequent
Polygala serpyllifolia	Heath milkwort	Rare
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Frequent
Rhododendron ponticum	Rhododendron	Occasional
Salix sp	Willow	Occasional
Sphagnum sp	Peat moss	Abundant





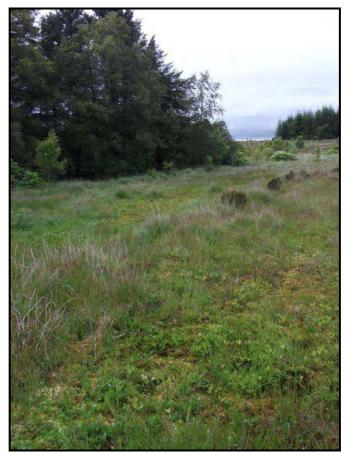


Image 1: Overview of flush habitat



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 17			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare		Survey date: 04/08/11	
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare	
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4270-d	Townland: Balllydonaghan		Grid Ref: 159360, 179153
Target note no.: TN3		Area: 0.2ha	

Ecological value: Local Importance (Lower Value)

Habitat code

BL3

Abandoned house. Has corrugated roof which lowers the possibility of bats using the site

as a roost. Trees surround house.

#### **Habitat Map**





Image 1: Abandoned house



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 18			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare		Survey date: 04/08/11	
Surveyor: John Curtin			County name: Clare
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4270-d	Townland: Ballydon	aghan	Grid Ref: 159519, 179467

Target note no.: TN4 Area: 0.3ha

Ecological value: County Importance – Semi Natural Woodland has limited distribution within the study area and is therefore considered to be of conservation value.

# Habitat code

WN1

Woodland located on gentle slope uphill to the north west. The site is reasonably open underneath and quiet dry. The area is grazed and seems to be managed; some trees and branches have been cut in the past and cattle have grazed the undergrowth. Although the site does not contain *Quercus* (oak) species typical of oak-birch-holly woodlands (WN1) it does contain several characteristic species from this habitat including; *Betula* (birch), *Ilex aquifolium* (holly), *Lonicera periclymenum* (honeysuckle) and *Teucrium scorodonia* (wood sage).

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Agrostis sp.	Bent grass	Frequent
Betula pubescens	Downy Birch	Frequent
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Frequent
Corylus avellana	Hazel	Frequent
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	Occasional
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	Frequent
Hedera helix	lvy	Occasional
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Frequent
Ilex aquifolium	Holly	Occasional
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle	Occasional
Lycopodium sp.	Club moss	Occasional
Oxalis acetosella	Wood sorrel	Occasional
Rubus fruticosus agg	Bramble	Frequent
Salix sp.	Willow	Frequent
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan	Occasional
Teucrium scorodonia	Wood Sage	Rare



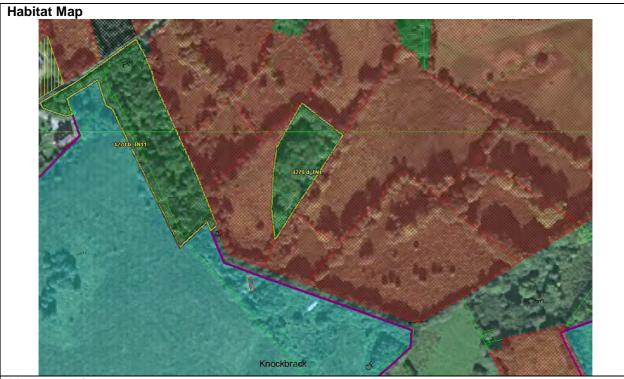




Image 1: oak-birch-holly woodland





Image 2: woodland canopy is fairly open in areas



Image 3: Fallen tree within the woodland. Field layer is rich in grasses and bryophytes



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 19				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare			Survey date: 04/08/11	
Surveyor: John Curtin			County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4270-d Townland: Drummod		Grid Ref: 159083, 179434		
Target note no.: TN5		Area: 0.5ha		

**Ecological Importance: County Importance** 

# Habitat code

HH3

Section of wet heath (HH3) which has recently been burnt. Heather had a height of up to 3ft but is now much reduced. Some stones close to the surface suggest very little peat accumulation.

This habitat appears to link to the annexed habitat 'northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* (4010)' however due to its small size it is of Ecological Importance to County level.

This habitat is adjacent to an area of Wet Willow-Alder-Ash Woodland WN6 with extensive tracts of conifer plantations beyond this area of semi-natural woodland. The area is under threat of afforestation and burning.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Calluna vulgaris	Ling heather	Occasional
Carex pulicaris	Flea sedge	Occasional
Cladonia sp	Lichen	Occasional
Dactylorhiza sp.	Orchid (fruited)	Frequent
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved heather	Occasional
Juncus articulatus	Jointed Rush	Frequent
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Dominant
Narthecium ossifragum	Bog asphodel	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Occasional
Salix sp	Willow	Occasional
Vaccinium myrtillus	Bilberry	Occasional





Image 1: Recolonising area of previously burnt heather





Image 2: Exposed bedrock – peat accumulation is restricted in parts



Image 3: Close-up of vegetation - Narthecium ossifragum, Molinia caerulea



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 20			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 04/08/11			
Surveyor: John Curtin			County name: Clare
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4270-d Townland: Drummod		Grid Ref: 158962, 179229	
Target note no.: TN6		Area: 1.5ha	

# Habitat code

HH3 / WS1/ HD1 / GS4 Mosaic habitat includes *Salix* (willow) scrub (WS1), *Pteridium aquilinum* (bracken) (HD1) heath (HH3) and wet grassland (GS4). The area has had some grazing by cattle even though the sward height is quite high (3–6ft.). Underfoot the surface is quite hummocky. The heath species are listed below.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Agrostis sp	Bent grass	Occasional
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Frequent
Blechnum spicant	Hard Fern	Occasional
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Frequent
Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed	Occasional
Cirsium paluste	Marsh Thistle	Occasional
Dactylorhiza sp.	Orchid (fruited)	Occasional
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved Heather	Frequent
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Occasional
Juncus articulatus	Jointed Rush	Frequent
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Frequent
Lotus pendunculatus	Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil	Occasional
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Abundant
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Occasional
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken	Frequent
Rubus fruticosus agg	Bramble	Occasional
Succisa pratensis	Devils-bit Scabious	Rare
Taraxacum sp.	Dandelion	Occasional







Image 1: Tussocky grasses and dwarf shrubs such as heather with occasional Ash trees





Image 2: Close-up of vegetation – rushes, Bracken and ferns



Image 3: Close-up of tussocky grasses (Purple Moor-grass) with Ling heather and occasional broadleaved herbs such as Tormentil



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 21				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare			<b>Survey date:</b> 04/08/11	
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare		
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4270-d	:2,500 Sheet no: 4270-d Townland: Drummod		Grid Ref: 158530, 178942	
Target note no.: TN7		Area: 3ha		

**Ecological Importance: Local Importance (Higher Value)** 

# Habitat code

GS3 / GS4 / WS1 Large area of acid grassland (GS3) (several acres) with a smaller proportion of wet grassland (GS4) and scrub (WS1) throughout. Cattle were in field at time of survey. The site slopes downhill to the north west away from the road. The surface of the field was dry with a low sward of 3 inches in general. Some rushes reached a height of 2-3ft. Some stone outcrops occur throughout the field. The site contained a high diversity of species.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Agrostis sp	Bent grass	Frequent
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Occasional
Betula pendula	Silver Birch	Rare
Briza media	Quaking Grass	Occasional
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Abundant
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Frequent
Carex panicea	Carnation Sedge	Frequent
Carex sp.	Sedge	Rare
Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed	Occasional
Cirsium paluste	Marsh Thistle	Occasional
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	Occasional
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved Heather	Occasional
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Occasional
Hypericum pulchrum	Slender St John's-wort	Rare
Juncus articulatus	Jointed Rush	Abundant
Juncus effusus	Soft rush	Occasional
Leontodon sp.	Hawkbit	Frequent
Lotus pendunculatus	Greater Birds-foot-trefoil	Frequent
Luzula campestris	Field Wood-rush	Occasional
Mentha aquatica	Water Mint	Occasional
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Frequent
Narthecium ossifragum	Bog asphodel	Occasional
Pedicularis sylvatica	Lousewort	Occasional
Phleum pratense	Timothy Grass	Occasional
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	Occasional
Polygala serpyllifolia	Heath milkwort	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Frequent
Prunella vulgaris	Self-heal	Occasional
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	Occasional
Salix sp.	Willow	Frequent
Sphagnum sp.	Peat moss	Frequent



Succisa pratensis	Devils-bit Scabious	Frequent
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover	Occasional
Trifolium sp.	Clover	Occasional
Ulex europaeus	European Gorse	Occasional





Image 1: Overview of Acid grassland habitat





Image 2: Close-up of Acid grassland vegetation



Image 3: Close-up with Tormentil, Purple Moor-grass, Ling and non-Sphagnum mosses



TARGET NOTES- ID No. 22				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 04/08/11				
Surveyor: John Curtin			County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4270-d Townland: Drummod		Grid Ref: 158791, 179477		
Target note no.: TN8		Area: 0.63ha		

Ecological value: County Importance – may be linked to the priority habitat 'Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (6230)'.

# Habitat code

GS3

Nice Dry-humid acid grassland (GS3) situated on slight hill. To the south east, downhill lies wet grassland. To the north west improved grassland begins. Cattle graze the site. It was dry underfoot.

May be linked to the Annex I priority habitat '6230 Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in continental Europe)'. However, as the area is quite small it is assigned an ecological importance value to County level.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	Frequent
Agrostis sp.	Bent Grass	Occasional
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Frequent
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Abundant
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Frequent
Carex nigra	Common Sedge	Occasional
Carex panicea	Carnation Sedge	Frequent
Carex pulicaris	Flea Sedge	Frequent
Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed	Occasional
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved Heath	Occasional
Hieracium sp.	Hawkweed	Frequent
Juncus articulatus	Jointed Rush	Occasional
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Occasional
Juncus squarrosus	Heath Rush	Frequent
Lotus pendunculatus	Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil	Frequent
Luzula campestris	Field Wood-rush	Frequent
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Frequent
Nardus stricta	Mat-grass	Frequent
Polygala serpyllifolia	Heath milkwort	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Frequent
Sphagnum sp.	Peat moss	Frequent
Succisa pratensis	Devil's-bit Scabious	Frequent
Trifolium sp.	Clover	Occasional



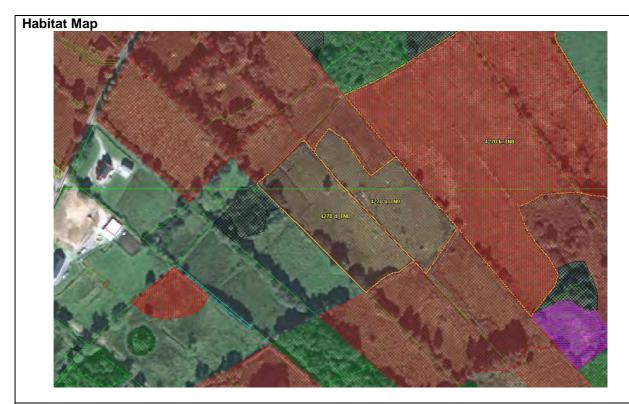




Image 1: Overview of Acid grassland with scrub in the distance





Image 2: Close-up of Acid grassland vegetation with Heath Rush



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 23			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 05/08/11			Survey date: 05/08/11
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare	
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4270-d	0 Sheet no: 4270-d Townland: Ballymacdonnell		Grid Ref: 158110, 179133
Target note no.: TN9		<b>Area:</b> 1.25ha	

Habitat code

GM1

Flat marsh (GM1) located in basin. Surface was fairly wet at time of survey although it was a dry day. The sward height reached up to 4ft. Some poaching can be seen.

The area has a network of drainage ditches throughout so it is under threat from drying out, however, this habitat has a good diversity of species and therefore can be considered as being of ecological value on a county level.

Species ( <i>Latin</i> name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Agrostis sp.	Bent Grass	Occasional
Angelica sylvestris	Wild Angelica	Occasional
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Occasional
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Frequent
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Rare
Carex nigra	Common Sedge	Frequent
Carex panicea	Carnation Sedge	Frequent
Carex pendula	Pendulous Sedge	Occasional
Carex pulicaris	Flea Sedge	Occasional
Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed	Frequent
Cirsium paluste	Marsh Thistle	Occasional
Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle	Occasional
Dactylorhiza sp.	Orchid	Occasional
Equisetum sp.	Horsetail	Occasional
Eriophorum angustifolium	Common Cottongrass	Occasional
Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet	Abundant
Galium aparine	Cleavers	Occasional
Galium saxatile	Heath Bedstraw	Occasional
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Frequent
Juncus articulatus	Jointed Rush	Abundant
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Occasional
Lotus pendunculatus	Greater Birds-foot-trefoil	Frequent
Luzula sylvatica	Great Wood-rush	Occasional
Mentha aquatica	Water Mint	Occasional
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Frequent
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Frequent
Potentilla palustris	Marsh Cinquefoil	Occasional
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	Rare
Rumex sp.	Sorrel	Frequent
Salix sp.	Willow	Occasional



Stachys sylvatica	Hedge Woundwort	Frequent
Stellaria media	Common Chickweed	Occasional
Succisa pratensis	Devils-bit Scabious	Frequent
Taraxacum sp.	Dandelion	Occasional
Valeriana officinalis	Wild Valerian	Frequent
Vicia sp.	Vetch	Occasional





Image 1: Marsh habitat with abundant Meadowsweet and occasional Wild Angelica





Image 2: Overview of Marsh habitat with tall rank vegetation



Image 3: Close-up with Devil's-bit Scabious, Marsh Cinquefoil and Tormentil



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 24			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 05/08/11			<b>Survey date:</b> 05/08/11
Surveyor: John Curtin			County name: Clare
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4270-d	Townland: Ballyma	cdonnell	Grid Ref: 158830, 178161
Target note no.: TN10		Area: 2.7ha	

Ecological value: National Importance – linked to the Annex I habitat '4010 Northern Atlantic wet heath with *Erica tetralix*'.

# Habitat code

HH3

Section of wet heath (HH3) with *Calluna vulgaris* (ling) dominating. Surrounded by forestry except to the north west where the site joins the protected lands of Slieve Bernagh cSAC. The site slopes uphill to the north west.

This area is under threat from invasion by the alien species Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*).

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Dominant
Carex panicea	Carnation Sedge	Rare
Cladonia sp.	Lichen	Frequent
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved Heather	Frequent
Eriophorum angustifolium	Common Cottongrass	Rare
Juncus squarrosus	Heath Rush	Frequent
Luzula campestris	Field Wood-rush	Rare
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Abundant
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Occasional
Rhododendron ponticum	Rhododendron	Rare
Sphagnum sp.	Peat moss	Abundant
Trichophorum cespitosum	Deergrass	Frequent







Image 1: Wet heath habitat overview with an abundance of dwarf shrubs



Image 2: Ling, Cross-leaved heath, Purple Moor-grass and Cladonia lichen





Image 3: Wet heath area with adjacent afforested areas



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 25			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare			<b>Survey date:</b> 05/08/11
Surveyor: John Curtin			County name: Clare
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4270-d Townland: Ballymacdonnell		Grid Ref: 159370, 178497	
Target note no.: TN11		Area: 0.2ha	

**Ecological value: Local Importance (Higher Value)** 

Habitat code

BL3

Abandoned house (BL3). It has slates which contain some gaps. Shrubs and trees

surround. Good roost potential for bats. Near Slieve Bernagh Bog cSAC

**Habitat Map** 





Image 1: Abandoned stone house with loose slates on roof – bat roost potential





Image 2: Close-up of loose slates on roof



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 26			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 30/08/11			Survey date: 30/08/11
Surveyor: John Curtin			County name: Clare
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4271-a	4271-a <b>Townland:</b> Ballydonaghan		Grid Ref: 160492, 180139
Target note no.: TN1 Area: 0.7ha			

Habitat code

PB2

Section of bog close to lake to the east. The site is immediately surrounded by scrub (WS1) with forestry (WD4) behind this to the west and south. Sward height on the bog reached up to 4ft. The surface was fairly spongy with some deeper depressions throughout. Some deer droppings present. A frog (*Rana temporaria*) was spotted on the site.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Frequent
Carex pendula	Pendulous Sedge	Rare
Cladonia sp.	Lichen	Occasional
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved Heather	Frequent
Eriophorum vaginatum	Hares-tail Cottongrass	Occasional
Juncus articulatus	Jointed Rush	Frequent
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Rare
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Abundant
Myrica gale	Bog Myrtle	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Occasional
Ranunculus flammula	Lesser Spearwort	Rare
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	Rare
Salix sp.	Willow	Occasional
Sphagnum sp.	Peat moss	Frequent









Image 1: Overview of Upland blanket bog habitat with adjacent Conifer plantation



Image 2: Overview of Upland blanket bog habitat with adjacent Conifer plantation



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 27			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare		Survey date: 30/08/11	
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4271-a	Townland: Ballydonaghan		Grid Ref: 160605, 180193
Target note no.: TN2		Area: 0.7ha	

Habitat code

FL2/GM1/ FS1 Acid oligotrophic lake (FL2) in valley with recently cut forestry (WS5) to the south, wet grassland to the north and a small section of blanket bog (PB2) to the west (see TN1). Some reed swamp (FS1) surrounds lake especially to the west. Bordering the lake parallel to the northern shore is an area which may be described as a floating mat of vegetation. Species-wise the closest habitat to this is 'marsh (GM1)'. This quickly grades into wet grassland (GS4).

### **Species List**

#### FL2

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
cf Nymphaea alba	White Water-lily	Rare
Menyanthes trifoliata	Bogbean	Frequent
Potamogeton sp.	Pondweed	Frequent

#### GM1

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Frequent
Carex echinata	Star Sedge	Occasional
cf Lysimachia nummularia	Creeping Jenny	Rare
Equisetum sp.	Horsetail	Occasional
Eriophorum vaginatum	Hare's-tail Cottongrass	Occasional
Galium aparine	Cleavers	Occasional
Hydrocotyle vulgaris	Marsh Pennywort	Occasional
Juncus articulatus	Jointed Rush	Frequent
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Occasional
Mentha aquatica	Water Mint	Frequent
Potentilla anserina	Silverweed	Occasional
Potentilla palustris	Marsh Cinquefoil	Frequent
Prunella vulgaris	Self-heal	Occasional
Ranunculus flammula	Lesser Spearwort	Frequent
Salix sp.	Willow	Occasional







Image 1: Acid oligotrophic lake with Marsh and Reed swamp vegetation





Image 2: Mosaic of habitats surrounding the lake



Image 3: Close-up of the lake with emergent Bogbean



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 28			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare		Survey date: 30/08/11	
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4271-a	Townland: Ballydonaghan		Grid Ref: 160422, 180370
Target note no.: TN3		Area: 2.7ha	

Habitat code

GM1 / WS1 / GS4 Mosaic of marsh (GM1) with some wet grassland (GS4) and Scrub (WS1). Some standing water in parts. Fairly flat topography. Wet grassland (GS4) and scrub (WS1) surrounds. Sward height reaches up to 5 ft.

# Species List GM1

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Frequent
Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed	Occasional
Cirsium paluste	Marsh Thistle	Occasional
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot	Occasional
Equisetum sp.	Horsetail	Occasional
Galium aparine	Cleavers	Occasional
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Frequent
Juncus articulatus	Jointed Rush	Frequent
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Occasional
Mentha aquatica	Water Mint	Frequent
Potentilla anserina	Silverweed	Frequent
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Occasional
Ranunculus flammula	Lesser Spearwort	Occasional
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	Frequent
Rumex acetosella	Sheeps Sorrel	Occasional
Stachys palustris	Marsh Woundwort	Occasional
Stellaria media	Common Chickweed	Occasional
Succisa pratensis	Devils-bit Scabious	Occasional
Vicia sp	Vetch	Occasional

#### WS1

****		
Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	Occasional
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn	Frequent
Rubus fruticosus agg	Bramble	Frequent
Salix	Willow	Abundant







Image 1: Overview of Marsh/ Wet grassland with occasional Marsh Woundwort





Image 2: Willow scrub is encroaching



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 29				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 30/08/11			Survey date: 30/08/11	
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare		
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4271-a Townland: Ballydonaghan		naghan	Grid Ref: 160826, 179954	
Target note no.: TN4		Area: 0.6ha		

**Ecological value: National Importance** 

Habitat code

PB2/PF3

Small section of blanket bog (PB2) and transition mire (PF3) surrounded by forestry (WD4) and recently cut forestry (WS5). Although the site is flat it is situated in a slight valley with a rise occurring outside the site on all directions when the forestry starts. The typical sward height on the blanket bog is up to 5ft, whilst the mire is much shorter; up to 1ft. The blanket bog has some self-seeded spruce growing on it.

## Species List PB2

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Frequent
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Frequent
Carex pendula	Pendulous Sedge	Occasional
Cladonia sp	Lichen	Occasional
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved Heather	Occasional
Eriophorum vaginatum	Hare's-tail Cottongrass	Rare
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Abundant
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Occasional
Sphagnum sp	Peat moss	Abundant

#### PF3

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Occasional
Carex pendula	Pendulous Sedge	Occasional
Drosera rotundifolia	Round-leaved Sundew	Frequent
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved Heather	Frequent
Eriophorum angustifolium	Common Cottongrass	Occasional
Menyanthes trifoliata	Bogbean	Frequent
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Occasional
Narthecium ossifragum	Bog Asphodel	Frequent
Polygala serpyllifolia	Heath Milkwort	Rare
Rhynchospora alba	White Beak-sedge	Occasional
Sphagnum sp	Peat moss	Dominant



## Habitat Map





Image 1: Overview of Upland bog with wet flush area. Spruce from plantation has self-seeded in parts





Image 2: Blanket bog vegetation with heather and Purple Moor-grass



Image 3: Close-up of Transition mire with abundant Sphagnum mosses and occasional Bogbean



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 30				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 30/08/11			Survey date: 30/08/11	
Surveyor: John Curtin			County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4271-a Townland: Ballydonaghan		Grid Ref: 161953, 180195		
Target note no.: TN5		Area: 0.97ha		

Habitat code

GS3

Nice grassland. Site slopes uphill to the north away from stream (FW1). The site has been grazed within a few months. In general the sward height is very short throughout the site; however the stems of several species (*Succisa pratensis, Leontodon* and *Juncus*) reach a height of up to 2ft. The site is dry.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	Frequent
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Frequent
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Abundant
Carex nigra	Black Sedge	Occasional
Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed	Occasional
Cynosurus cristatus	Dog's-tail Grass	Occasional
Dactylorhiza sp.	Orchid (withered)	Occasional
Euphrasia arctica	Eyebright	Occasional
Festuca sp.	Fescue	Occasional
Juncus articulatus	Jointed Rush	Frequent
Leontodon autumnalis	Autumn Hawkbit	Occasional
Lichen sp.	Lichen	Frequent
Lotus pendunculatus	Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil	Frequent
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	Occasional
Poa sp.	Meadow Grass	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Abundant
Succisa pratensis	Devils-bit Scabious	Abundant
Trifolium sp.	Clover	Occasional







Image 1: Close-up of Acid grassland with Devil's-bit Scabious, Tormentil and Yarrow





Image 2: Overview of grassland with abundant Devil's-bit Scabious



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 31				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 30/08/11				
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare		
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4271-a Townland: Ballydonaghan		Grid Ref: 161851, 180138		
Target note no.: TN6	<b>Area:</b> 0.01ha			

Habitat code

Old stone bridge with lots of tree and shrub cover surrounding. Some dry cracks underneath. No bats where present at time of survey however the site has a good roost potential.

BL1

**Habitat Map** 





Image 1: Old stone bridge





Image 2: stonework underneath bridge

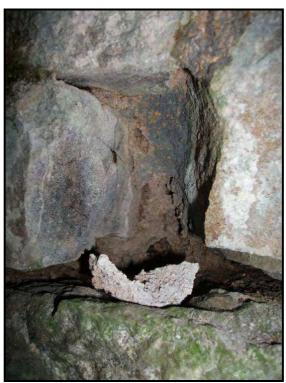


Image 3: Crack in stonework – bat roost potential





Image 4: Arch of bridge



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 32			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 30/08/11			
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4271-b Townland: Caherhurly		Grid Ref: 163779, 179952	
Target note no.: TN1	Area: 0.9ha		

Habitat code

HH3/GS4

Section of boggy ground. Fairly flat. A similar habitat lies adjacent to the west. Wet grassland (GS4) lies to the south. Close to the site to the north west beyond some bog woodland (WN7) lies some cutover bog (PB4). This site is a mosaic of heath (HH3), wet grassland (GS4) and scrub (WS1). The area is grazed by cattle.

#### Species List HH3

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Frequent
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Frequent
Carex nigra	Common Sedge	Occasional
Carex pulicaris	Flea Sedge	Occasional
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved Heather	Occasional
Eriophorum angustifolium	Common Cottongrass	Frequent
Eriophorum vaginatum	Hare's-tail Cottongrass	Frequent
Festuca sp.	Fescue	Occasional
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Occasional
Juncus articulatus	Jointed Rush	Frequent
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Occasional
Juncus squarrosus	Heath Rush	Occasional
Lycopodium sp.	Club Moss	Occasional
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Occasional
Polygala serpyllifolia	Heath Milkwort	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Frequent
Sphagnum sp.	Peat moss	Frequent
Succisa pratensis	Devils-bit Scabious	Occasional
Ulex europaeus	European Gorse	Occasional
Vaccinium myrtillus	Bilberry	Frequent

#### GS4

<del>007</del>		
Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Occasional
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Frequent
Galium saxatile	Heath Bedstraw	Occasional
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Frequent
Juncus articulatus	Jointed Rush	Abundant
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Occasional
Luzula multiflora	Heath Wood-rush	Occasional
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Frequent



Poa sp.	Meadow Grass	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Occasional
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	Occasional
Stellaria media	Common Chickweed	Occasional
Succisa pratensis	Devils-bit Scabious	Occasional
Trifolium sp.	Clover	Occasional

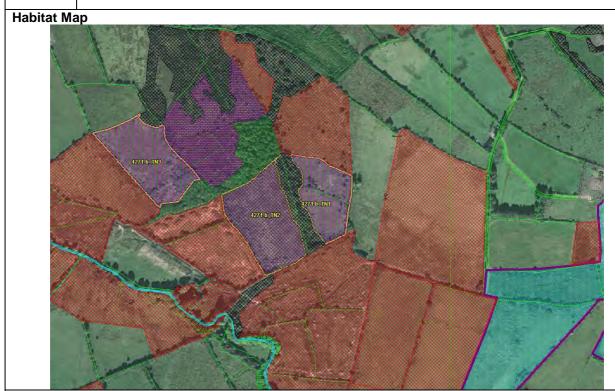




Image 1: Overview of Wet heath habitat





Image 2: Overview of Wet grassland habitat



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 33			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 30/08/11			
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4271-b Townland: Caherhurly		Grid Ref: 163695, 179933	
Target note no.: TN2 Area: 1.4ha			

Habitat code

GS4

Unusual habitat adjacent to TN1. Cutover bog (PB4) lies directly to the north. The surface is flat and dry, with cattle grazing occurring recently.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Agrostis sp.	Bent Grass	Occasional
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Occasional
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Abundant
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Occasional
Carex nigra	Common Sedge	Occasional
Carex panicea	Carnation sedge	Occasional
Carex pulicaris	Flea Sedge	Frequent
Dactylorhiza sp.	Orchid (withered)	Occasional
Epilobium palustre	Marsh Willowherb	Rare
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved Heather	Occasional
Eriophorum angustifolium	Common Cottongrass	Occasional
Eriophorum vaginatum	Hare's-tail Cottongrass	Occasional
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Frequent
Hypochoeris radicata	Cat's-ear	Rare
Juncus articulatus	Jointed Rush	Abundant
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Frequent
Leontodon sp.	Hawkbit	Occasional
Peltigera hymenina	Lichen	Occasional
Luzula campestris	Field Wood-rush	Occasional
Luzula multiflora	Heath Wood-rush	Frequent
Lycopodium sp.	Club moss	Occasional
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Occasional
Poa sp.	Meadow Grass	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Frequent
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	Occasional
Rumex acetosella	Sheep's Sorrel	Occasional
Sphagnum sp.	Peat moss	Occasional
Succisa pratensis	Devils-bit Scabious	Frequent







Image 1: Close-up of Devil's-bit Scabious (Succisa pratensis)





Image 2: Overview of Wet grassland habitat



Image 3: Close-up of lichen (Peltigera hymenina)



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 34			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 30/08/11			<b>Survey date:</b> 30/08/11
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4271-b Townland: Caherhurly		Grid Ref: 163500, 180021	
Target note no.: TN3 Area: 1.3ha		Area: 1.3ha	

Habitat code

HH3

Section of heath with a short sward of up to 2ft. The site rises slightly to the north. The site has recently been cleared of some gorse scrub (WS1) which was piled up. The area is quite poached. Just to the east of the site lies a section of cutover bog (PB4). To the north are improved grasslands. To the west the site grades into wet grassland (GS4). The abundance of *Juncus squarrosus* (Heath rush) defines this site as wet heath (HH3).

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	Occasional
Agrostis sp	Bent grass	Occasional
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Frequent
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Abundant
Carex pulicaris	Flea Sedge	Frequent
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved Heather	Occasional
Eriophorum sp	Cottongrass	Occasional
Juncus articulatus	Jointed Rush	Frequent
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Frequent
Juncus squarrosus	Heath Rush	Abundant
Lycopodium sp.	Club Moss	Frequent
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Frequent
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Occasional
Sphagnum sp	Peat moss	Abundant
Succisa pratensis	Devils-bit Scabious	Rare
Ulex europaeus	Gorse	Occasional



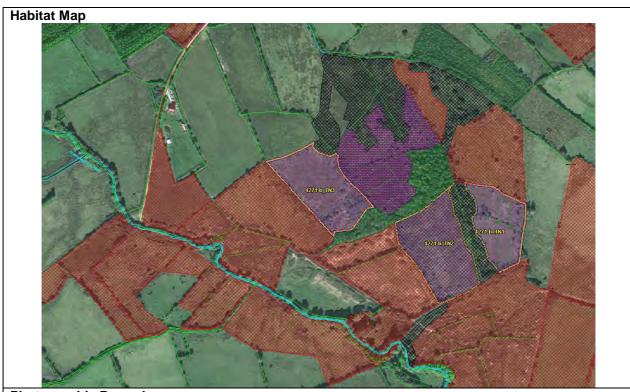




Image 1: Overview of Wet heath area





Image 2: Wet heath with Bell heather, Compact rush and encroaching Bracken and Gorse



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 35			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 08/08/11			
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4271-d Townland: Ballydonaghan		Grid Ref: 162019, 178450	
Target note no.: TN1 Area: 1.1h		Area: 1.1ha	

Habitat code

GS4

Nice wet grassland (GS4). Slopes downhill to the north west, away from the road. Forestry (WD4) borders the site on all sides but the north west which continues with more wet grassland.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Frequent
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Abundant
Carex nigra	Common Sedge	Occasional
Carex pulicaris	Flea Sedge	Occasional
Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed	Occasional
Dactylorhiza sp.	Orchid (withered)	Frequent
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Frequent
Juncus articulatus	Jointed Rush	Abundant
Leontodon sp.	Hawkbit	Frequent
Lichen	Lichen	Occasional
Lotus pendunculatus	Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil	Abundant
Luzula campestris	Field Wood-rush	Frequent
Lychnis flos-cuculi	Ragged-robin	Occasional
Lycopodium sp.	Club moss	Occasional
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	Frequent
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Frequent
Prunella vulgaris	Self-heal	Occasional
Ranunculus repens	Creeping buttercup	Frequent
Rumex acetosella	Sheep's Sorrel	Frequent
Succisa pratensis	Devils-bit Scabious	Occasional
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover	Occasional







Image 1: Overview of Wet grassland – Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil, Hawkbit and Sweet Vernalgrass





Image 2: Close-up of Selfheal, Creeping Buttercup and Sheep's Sorrel



Image 3: Wet grassland with tall sward - Cock's-foot, Yorkshire-fog and Sweet Vernal-grass



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 36				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare		Survey date: 08/08/11		
Surveyor: John Curtin			County name: Clare	
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4271-d	Townland: Ballydonaghan		Grid Ref: 163085, 179020	
Target note no.: TN2		Area: 0.7ha		

Ecological value: County Importance – linked to the priority habitat '6230 species-rich *Nardus* grasslands on siliceous substrates in mountain areas'.

# Habitat code

GS3

Small area of acid grassland (GS3) surrounding old ruin. The site rises to the south as grassland meets forestry (WD4). To the north, east and west lies wet grassland (GS4). A small earthen cliff/drop-off splits the site. The area has been grazed by cattle.

This habitat may be linked to the priority habitat '6230 species-rich *Nardus* grasslands on siliceous substrates in mountain areas' however the area is quite small so it is probably not an area of high ecological value at National level but at County level.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	Occasional
Agrostis sp.	Bent Grass	Frequent
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Abundant
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Occasional
Carex panicea	Carnation Sedge	Frequent
Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed	Frequent
Festuca sp.	Fescue	Occasional
Galium saxatile	Heath Bedstraw	Frequent
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Frequent
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Occasional
Juncus squarrosus	Heath Rush	Frequent
Nardus stricta	Mat-grass	Abundant
Pedicularis sylvatica	Lousewort	Occasional
Polygala serpyllifolia	Heath Milkwort	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Occasional
Rumex acetosella	Sheep's Sorrel	Occasional
Stellaria media	Common Chickweed	Occasional
Succisa pratensis	Devil's-bit Scabious	Frequent
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover	Frequent
Trifolium repens	White Clover	Occasional







Image 1: Close-up of Acid grassland vegetation with abundant non-Sphagnum mosses and needle-leaved grasses





Image 2: Acid grassland with short sward



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 37			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare		Survey date: 08/08/11	
Surveyor: John Curtin			County name: Clare
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4271-d	Townland: Ballybroghan		Grid Ref: 163944, 178957
Target note no : TN3		<b>Area</b> : 0.01ha	

Habitat code

BL1

Wall dividing road from old quarry. It contained several dry gaps although no evidence was found of bats being present at time of survey. A good tree and shrub line runs from the site to the north-north-east. Good roost potential.

**Species List** 

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Agrostis stolonifera	Creeping Bent	Occasional
Asplenium trichomanes	Maidenhair Spleenwort	Frequent
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Frequent
Cirsium paluste	Marsh Thistle	Occasional
Epilobium sp	Willowherb	Occasional
Fragaria vesca	Wild Strawberry	Frequent
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Frequent
Phyllitis scolopendrium	Hart's-tongue Fern	Frequent
Rubus fruticosus agg	Bramble	Frequent
Stellaria media	Common Chickweed	Occasional

#### **Habitat Map**





Image 1: Close-up of Maidenhair spleenwort growing on stonewall



Image 2: Overgrown stone wall





Image 3: Wild strawberries growing on stone wall



Image 4: Crevice in stone wall – provides roost potential for bats



Image 5: Close-up of fairly large crevice



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 38				
Survey Title: Survey and Ma	apping of Habitats in Mid Clare	Survey date: 08/08/11		
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare		
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no</b> : 4271-d	Townland: Ballybroghan	Grid Ref: 163884, 178876		
Target note no.: TN4	<b>Area:</b> 1.1ha			

**Ecological value: Local Importance (Higher Value)** 

Habitat code

GS3

Large field containing a mosaic of wet grassland (GS4), acid grassland (GS3) and *Ulex europaeus* (gorse) scrub (WS1). The species for the most interesting of these habitats; acid grassland are listed below.

**Species List** 

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Frequent
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Abundant
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Occasional
Cirsium paluste	Marsh Thistle	Occasional
Festuca sp.	Fescue	Frequent
Galium saxatile	Heath Bedstraw	Frequent
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Abundant
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Frequent
Luzula multiflora	Heath Wood-rush	Occasional
Nardus stricta	Mat-grass	Frequent
Pedicularis sylvatica	Lousewort	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Frequent
Rumex acetosella	Sheep's Sorrel	Frequent
Succisa pratensis	Devil's-bit Scabious	Frequent
Trifolium sp.	Clover	Occasional



# **Habitat Map**





Image 1: Overview of Acid grassland with occasional patches of rushes





Image 2: Close-up of vegetation – Tormentil, Heath Bedstraw, Fescues and mosses



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 39				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 8/8/2011				
Surveyor: Shane O Neill			County name: Clare	
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4328-b	Townland: Gortatra	assa	Grid Ref.: 159723, 176667	
Target note no.: TN1		Area: 6ha		

Ecological value: National Importance – linked to the priority habitat '7130 active blanket bog'

Habitat code

**PB4/ PB2** 

This area of Cutover Bog PB4 is at the base of a steep slope. The slope is a mosaic of Cutover Bog and intact Upland Blanket Bog PB2 with an abundance of Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*), *Sphagnum* and non-*Sphagnum* mosses. Therefore this bog is likely to be actively peat-forming and has links to the EU Priority habitat 7130 Active blanket bog. There are cutaway pools in the Cutover Bog PB4 area which appear to be active and contain White beaked-sedge (*Rhyncospora alba*), however, this species is rare here thus it is not linked to the EU Annex I Habitat 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion. The area is used for grazing is somewhat poached.

#### **Species List:**

Species ( <i>Latin</i> name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Bryophyte	Moss	Abundant
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Abundant
Carex panicea	Carnation Sedge	Occasional
Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed	Occasional
Drosera rotundifolia	Round- leaved Sundew	Frequent
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved heath	Occasional
Eriophorum angustifolium	Common Cottongrass	Occasional
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Occasional
Molinia caerulea	Purple moor grass	Abundant
Myrica gale	Bog Myrtle	Abundant
Narthecium ossifragum	Bog Asphodel	Frequent
Polygala vulgaris	Common Milkwort	Rare
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Occasional
Rhynchospora alba	White Beak-sedge	Rare
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	Frequent
Salix sp.	Willow	Occasional
Sphagnum spp.	Bog moss	Abundant
Trichophorum cespitosum	Deer grass	Abundant
Vaccinium myrtillus	Bilberry	Frequent









Image 1: Close-up of Upland Blanket Bog PB2



Image 2: Overview of Area



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 40			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 8/8/2011			
Surveyor: Shane O Neill		County name: Clare	
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4328-b	Townland: Killuran More	<b>Grid Ref.:</b> 158607, 177136	

Target note no.: TN 2 Area: 3ha

**Ecological value: Local importance (Higher Value)** 

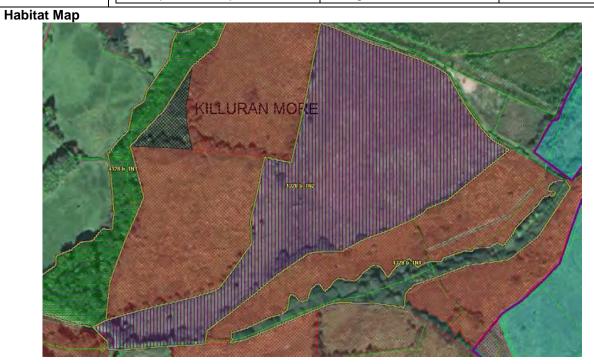
Habitat code

PB2

Grassed over Upland Blanket Bog PB2 showing some signs of erosion. The vegetation is very short in places and peat is exposed in places. Two female Red Deer were seen as well as a dead male near the southern hedge.

**Species List:** 

Species ( <i>Latin</i> name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Occasional
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Frequent
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Frequent
Erica cinerea	Bell Heather	Rare
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved Heath	Occasional
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Occasional
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Frequent
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Abundant
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Occasional
Sphagnum spp.	Peat moss	Occasional
Trichophorum cespitosum	Deergrass	Dominant









TARGET NOTES - ID No. 41			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 9/8/2011			
Surveyor: Shane O Neill		County name: Clare	
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4328-b	Townland: Killuran More	Grid Ref.: 158457, 177151	

Target note no.: TN 3 Are

Ecological value: Local Importance (Higher Value)

Habitat code

WD2 / WL1 / HD1 A small section of Mixed Broadleaved/conifer woodland WD2 expands out from a section of Hedgerow WL1 which is approximately 15 meters deep in places. There is a small stream on the Eastern edge partially vegetated by dense Bracken HD1. A freshly dug animal hole was found - this could be a new Badger sett or a Fox hole.

Area: 0.85ha

Species List: WL1

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	Abundant
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	Abundant
llex aquifolium	Holly	Abundant
Salix cinerea	Willow	Abundant
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn	Frequent
Betula pubescens	Downy Birch	Occasional
Hedera helix	lvy	Frequent
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	Frequent

**Species List: WD2** 

Species ( <i>Latin</i> name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Aesculus hippocastanum	Horse Chestnut	Occasional
Fagus sylvatica	Beech	Frequent
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	Occasional
Pinus sylvestris	Scot's pine	Frequent
Prunella vulgaris	Self-heal	Occasional
Geranium robertianum	Herb Robert	Frequent
Urtica dioica	Nettle	Occasional
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken	Occasional



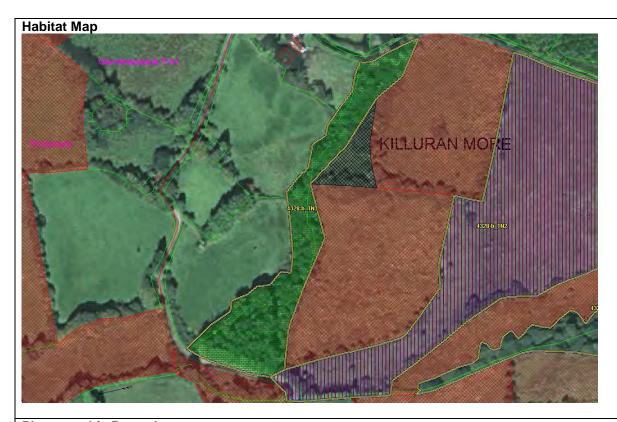




Image 1. View of Mixed Broadleaved/conifer woodland from adjacent field.





Image 2: View of Mixed Broadleaved/conifer woodland



Image 3: View of Mixed Broadleaved/conifer woodland



Image 4: Recently dug hole



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 42				
Survey Title: Survey and Map	pping of Habitats in Mid Clare	Survey date: 9/8/2011		
Surveyor: Shane O Neill		County name: Clare		
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4328-b	Townland: Killuran More	Grid Ref.: 158697, 177072		
Target note no.: TN4	Area: 0.5ha			

**Ecological value: Local Importance (Higher Value)** 

Habitat code

WL1/WD1

This Hedgerow WL1 is located on a slope in between two fields of Wet Grassland GS4. It is about 5-10 meters thick and appears to be well used by Badgers, Deer and Fox. This Hedgerow WL1 joins a stand of Birch and that continues into a Conifer plantation WD4.

Species List: WL1

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Betula pubescens	Birch	Frequent
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	Frequent
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	Occasional
Geranium robertianum	Herb Robert	Frequent
llex aquifolium	Holly	Occasional
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle	Occasional
Oxalis acetosella	Wood sorrel	Frequent
Polystitchum setiferum	Soft Shield fern	Occasional
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn	Frequent
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	Frequent
Salix cinerea	Willow	Dominant

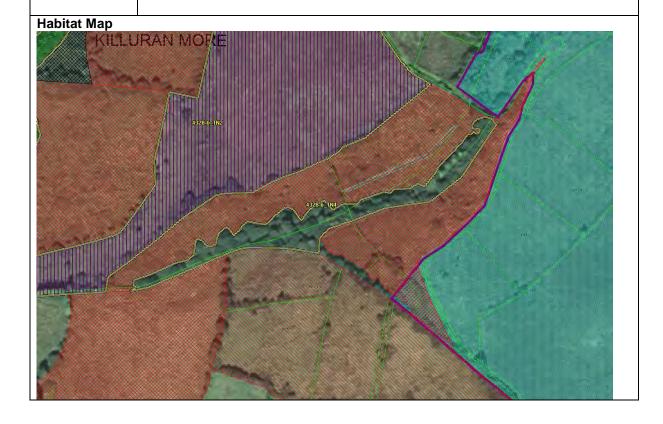






Image 1. Hedgerow with Hawthorn and Willow



Image 2. Birch-dominant patch of Hedgerow with Bracken in front





Image 3. Overview of Upland Blanket Bog adjacent to Hedgerow



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 43				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 9/8/2011				
Surveyor: Shane O Neill		County name: Clare		
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4328-b Townland: Killuran More		Grid Ref.: 158072, 177072		

Target note no.: TN 5Area: 0.5ha

**Ecological value: Local Importance (Higher Value)** 

#### **Habitat code**

WS1

A large area of very dense Scrub WS1 composed of Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) on a steep slope. There are Willow (*Salix* sp.), Holly (*Ilex aquifloium*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus mongyna*) and Birch (*Betula* sp.) throughout - these may be remnants of old Hedgerows WL1 but it is impossible to tell. There is evidence of Badgers and Deer.

**Species List: WS1** 

Species ( <i>Latin</i> name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
llex aquifolium	Holly	Abundant
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	Abundant
Betula pubescens	Birch	Frequent
Salix cinerea	Willow	Abundant
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	Rare
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	Abundant
Ulex europaeus	Gorse	Abundant
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn	Frequent
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken	Abundant





Image 1: Overview of Scrub WS1 habitat



Image 2: Close up of Scrub WS1 with abundant Brambles



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 44				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 9/8/2011				
Surveyor: Shane O Neill		County name: Clare		
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4328-b Townland: Killuran Mo		n More	Grid Ref.: 158359, 177643	
Target note no : TN 6		<b>Δrea:</b> 1 6ha		

Ecological value: County Importance – Semi Natural Woodland has limited distribution within the study area and is therefore considered to be of conservation value.

### Habitat code

#### WN4

An old woodland with dominant Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and frequent Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) situated on the slopes of a small steep valley with an Eroding/Upland River FW1 at the bottom.

This habitat is best described by Wet pedunculate oak-ash woodland WN4; however there are elements of the woodland that could be categorised as Oak-ash-hazel woodland WN2.

**Tree Layer Species List:** 

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Betula pubescens	Birch	Occasional
Corylus avellana	Hazel	Dominant
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	Frequent
llex aquifolium	Holly	Occasional
Quercus petraea	Sessile Oak	Occasional

**Ground Flora Species List:** 

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Hedera helix	lvy	Occasional
Athyrium filix-femina	Lady fern	Frequent
Bryophyte	Moss	Abundant
Circaea lutetiana	Enchanter's-nightshade	Occasional
Geranium robertianum	Herb-Robert	Abundant
Hyacinthoides non-scripta	Bluebell	Occasional
Lysimachia nemorum	Yellow Pimpernel	Occasional
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	Rare
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	Abundant







Image 1: Woodland on steep slope with moss- and fern-covered rocks and abundant Hazel



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 45			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 9/8/2011			
Surveyor: Shane O Neill		County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4328-b	Townland: Killuran	n More	Grid Ref.: 157995, 177557
Target note no.: TN7		Area: 2.2ha	

Ecological value: County Importance – Semi Natural Woodland has limited distribution within the study area and is therefore considered to be of conservation value.

Habitat code

WN4

This area of woodland is joined to 4328-b\_TN6 by a network of Hedgerows WL1 (see TN5) and is encroaching on some of the Improved agricultural grasslands GA1s. It is similar to TN6 but the banks are not as steep and it has what look like old terraces. It is not as wet as TN6, only in places. This woodland best fits the Wet Pendunculate Oak-Ash woodland WN4 category, however with some elements which correspond to Oak Ash Hazel Woodland WN2.

Tree Layer Species List: WN4

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Corylus avellana	Hazel	Dominant
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	Frequent
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn	Occasional
Quercus petraea	Sessile Oak	Occasional
Salix cinerea	Willow	Occasional

**Ground Flora Species List: WN4** 

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Hedera helix	lvy	Occasional
Athyrium filix-femina	Lady fern	Abundant
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Abundant
Geranium robertianum	Herb-Robert	Frequent
Oxalis acetosella	Wood Sorrel	Abundant
Polypodium vulgare	Polypody fern	Frequent
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	Frequent







Image 1: Overview of woodland habitat





Image 2: View within woodland habitat



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 46				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 10/8/2011				
Surveyor: Shane O Neill			County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4328-d Townland: Gorta		rassa	Grid Ref.: 158121, 176358	
Target note no.: TN 1		Area: 0.04ha		

Ecological value: County Importance – Semi Natural Woodland has limited distribution within the study area and is therefore considered to be of conservation value.

## Habitat code

#### WN1/FW1

An area of Birch-dominated woodland with frequent Willow (*Salix* sp.), on sloping banks (steep in places) either side of an Upland/Eroding river FW1. The river fords the road, then drops about twenty or thirty foot and continues on other side of the road.

This woodland best fits the Oak-birch-holly woodland WN1 classification although Oak is not present.

#### **Tree Layer Species List:**

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Betula pubescens	Birch	Dominant
Salix cinerea	Willow	Frequent
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	Frequent
Corylus avellana	Hazel	Occasional
llex aquifolium	Holly	Occasional
Malus sylvestris	Crab-apple	Occasional
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	Occasional

## **Ground Flora Species List:**

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken	Frequent
Rubus fruticosus agg	Bramble	Frequent
Urtica dioica	Nettle	Frequent
Geranium robertianum	Herb Robert	Frequent
Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet	Occasional
Angelica sylvestris	Wild Angelica	Occasional
Vicia cracca	Tufted Vetch	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Occasional
Prunella vulgaris	Selfheal	Occasional
Asplenium scolopendrium	Hart's tongue Fern	Occasional
Blechnum spicant	Hard Fern	Occasional







Image 1: View of Birch Woodland Area





Image 2: Stream running through Birch Woodland



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 47				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare			Survey date: 11/8/2011	
Surveyor: Shane O Neill			County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4328-d Townland: Gorta		assa	Grid Ref.: 159776, 176327	
Target note no.: TN2		Area: 35ha		

**Ecological value: National Importance** 

Habitat code

PB2

This area is an Upland Blanket Bog PB2 with abundant to dominant dwarf shrubs of Heather and abundant Purple Moor-grass (*Molina caerulea*) and Sphagnum moss. Birch (*Betula* sp.) and Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) have begun to move into some areas, this may begin developing into Bog Woodland in the absence of disturbance. The bog slopes down to a Conifer plantation WD4 on northern edge and there is an area of Cutover Bog PB4 on north eastern corner (outside the study area).

This habitat is under threat from invading Spruce and Rhododendron is also just beginning to colonise some areas.

Ground Flora Species List: PB2/Molina meadow

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Dominant
Erica cinerea	Bell Heather	Abundant
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved heath	Abundant
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor grass	Abundant
Narthecium ossifragum	Bog Asphodel	Abundant
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Frequent
Sphagnum sp.	Sphagnum	Abundant
Trichophorum cespitosum	Deergrass	Abundant
Vaccinium myrtillus	Bilberry	Frequent

Tree Species List: PB2/Molina meadow

Tree openies List. I B2/Monna meadow			
Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale	
Picea sp.	Spruce sp	Occasional	
Betula pubescens	Birch	Rare	
Rhododendron	Rhododendron sp	Rare	
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan	Rare	







Image 1: View of Upland Blanket Bog



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 48				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 08/08/11				
Surveyor: John Curtin			County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4329-a Townland: Inchalug		hoge	Grid Ref: 161822, 177700	
Torget note no . TN1		Araai 0 9ha		

Target note no.: TN1 Area: 9.8ha

Ecological value: International Importance – linked to the Annex I habitat '4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix'*.

# Habitat code

GS4 with HH3 elements Nice, large wet grassland with wet heath (HH3) elements. The site has a very gentle slope uphill to the south east. Forestry (WD4) surrounds the site except for a similar smaller habitat across the road to the north west.

To the east of this lies a field of *Fallopia japonica* (Japanese Knotweed). The invasive plant; *Rhododendron ponticum* (Rhododendron) was present on the site. This area is under significant threat from invading species.

### **Species List**

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Agrostis stolonifera	Creeping bent	Occasional
Angelica sylvestris	Wild Angelica	Occasional
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Frequent
Blechnum spicant	Hard Fern	Occasional
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Abundant
Calluna vulgaris	Ling	Abundant
Carex nigra	Common Sedge	Frequent
Carex panicea	Carnation Sedge	Occasional
Carex pulicaris	Flea Sedge	Abundant
Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed	Occasional
Cirsium paluste	Marsh Thistle	Occasional
Epilobium palustre	Marsh Willowherb	Occasional
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved Heather	Rare
Eriophorum vaginatum	Hare's-tail Cottongrass	Occasional
Hieracium sp.	Hawkweed	Frequent
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Occasional
Juncus articulatus/	Jointed Rush	Abundant
acutiflorus		
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Frequent
Luzula campestris	Field Wood-rush	Occasional
Luzula multiflora	Heath Wood-rush	Occasional
Lycopodium	Club moss	Occasional
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Frequent
	(Withered) orchid	Occasional
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	Occasional
Poa sp.	Meadow grass	Occasional
Polygala serpyllifolia	Heath Milkwort	Rare
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Abundant
Rhododendron ponticum	Rhododendron	Frequent



Rumex acetosella	Sheep's Sorrel	Occasional
Rumex sp.	Dock	Frequent
Sphagnum sp.	Peat moss	Occasional
Succisa pratensis	Devil's-bit Scabious	Frequent
Trichophorum cespitosum	Deergrass	Frequent
Ulex europaeus	Gorse	Occasional
Vaccinium myrtillus	Bilberry	Occasional











Image 2: Close-up of Wet heath vegetation – Cross-leaved heath, Heath rush



Image 3: Close-up of Wet heath vegetation – Ling, Devil's-bit Scabious and sedges



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 49			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 08/08/11			
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4329-a	Townland: Inchalug	hoge	Grid Ref: 160733, 177495
Target note no : TN2		Area: 5ha	

**Ecological value: National Importance** 

Habitat code

PB2

Section of Upland Blanket Bog (PB2). Wet and spongy surface underfoot. The sward height generally reached to 1.5ft. *Rhynchospora alba* (White Beaked-sedge) and *Drosera rotundifolia* (Sundew) where present. The site is surrounded by forestry (WD4), with a section of recently felled woodland (WS5) to the south. A timber cabin, long disused by forestry workers is located on the bog. A line from this shed to the west seems the only drain/ access or man-made interference to the site. This has mostly recolonised with vegetation. Deer graze the site.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Andromeda polifolia	Bog Rosemary	Occasional
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Abundant
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Abundant
Cladonia sp.	Reindeer Lichen	Occasional
Drosera rotundifolia	Sundew	Abundant
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved Heather	Abundant
Eriophorum vaginatum	Hare's-tail Cottongrass	Rare
Narthecium ossifragum	Bog Asphodel	Frequent
Rhynchospora alba	White Beaked-sedge	Frequent
Sphagnum sp.	Peat moss	Dominant
Trichophorum cespitosum	Deergrass	Abundant
Vaccinium myrtillus	Bilberry	Rare







Image 1: Overview of Raised bog with adjacent Conifer plantation



Image 2: Raised bog vegetation – Deergrass, Cottongrass and heathers





Image 3: Old forester's hut



Image 4: White Beaked-sedge



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 50			
			_
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 08/08/			Survey date: 08/08/11
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare	
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4329-a	: 4329-a <b>Townland</b> : Inchalughoge		Grid Ref: 160400, 177868
Target note no · TN3		<b>Area:</b> 0.5ha	

**Ecological value: County Importance** 

Habitat code

Small section of recovering cutover blanket bog (PB4). Surrounded by forestry (WD4).

PB4 **Species List** 

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Abundant
Cladonia sp.	Raindeer Lichen	Occasional
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved Heather	Frequent
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Dominant
Myrica gale	Bog Myrtle	Occasional
Narthecium ossifragum	Bog Asphodel	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Occasional
Sphagnum sp.	Peat moss	Frequent
Trichophorum cespitosum	Deergrass	Frequent

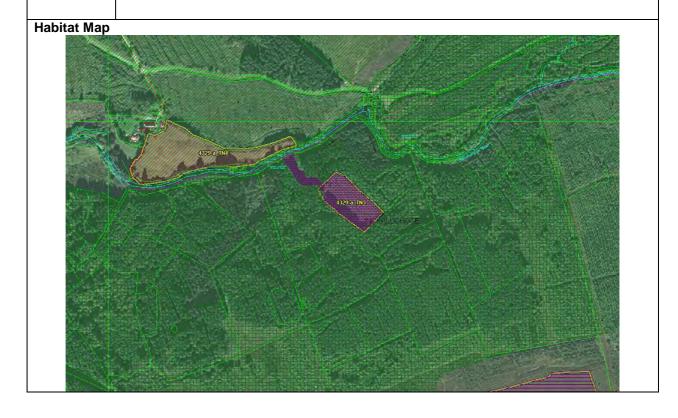






Image 1: Cutover bog surrounded by Conifer plantation



Image 2: Purple Moor-grass is dominant with abundant Ling



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 51				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 08/08/11				
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare		
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4329-a Townland: Inchalughoge		Grid Ref: 160174, 177949		
Target note no.: TN4		Area: 1.2ha		

**Ecological Importance: Local Importance (Higher Value)** 

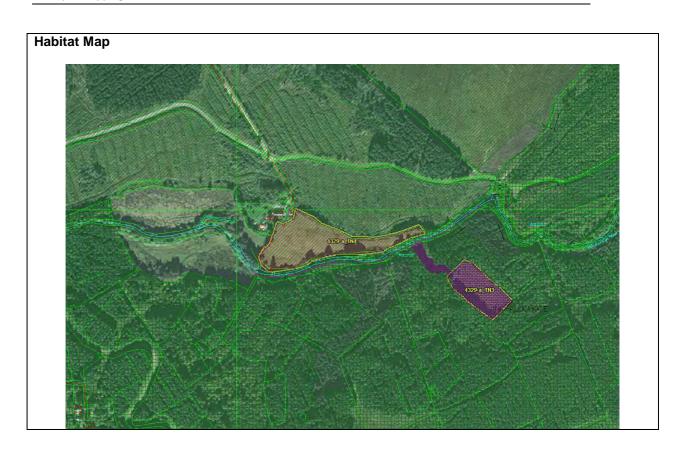
Habitat code

GS2

Dry meadow which has not been fertilized in ten years. Shows no signs of grazing. Sward height was up to 4ft. A stream (FW1 ) borders the site to the south beyond which lies forestry (WD4)

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	Occasional
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Abundant
Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed	Occasional
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot	Frequent
Heracleum sphondylium	Hogweed	occasional
Hieracium sp.	Hawkweed	Frequent
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Frequent
Juncus articulatus/ acutiflorus	Jointed Rush	Occasional
Lathyrus pratensis	Meadow-vetchling	Occasional
Lolium perenne	Rye-grass, perennial	Occasional
Lotus pendunculatus	Greater Birds-foot-trefoil	Occasional
Phleum pratense	Timothy Grass	Occasional
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	Frequent
Poa sp.	Meadow grass	Occasional
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	Occasional
Rumex acetosella	Sheep's Sorrel	Occasional
Rumex sp.	Dock	Frequent
Stellaria media	Common Chickweed	Occasional
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover	Occasional
Vicica sepium	Bush Vetch	Occasional







TARGET NOTES - ID No. 52				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 17/08/11				
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare		
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4329-b Townland: Coumnagun		<b>Grid Ref:</b> 162328, 177858 162633, 177790		

Target note no.: TN1 Area: 6.7ha and 1.8ha

Ecological value: National importance – may be linked to the EU priority habitat '7130 active blanket bogs'.

Habitat code

PB2

Section of Upland Blanket Bog PB2 in good condition. *Sphagnum* moss is abundant, as is Ling Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) - it is likely that this bog is still peat-forming. The surface is quite hummocky with a sward height reaching up to 3ft. Forestry (WD4) borders the site to the west and south, and a section of recently felled forestry (WS5) borders the site to the east. There is a gentle slope downhill to the north. A frog (*Rana temporaria*) was spotted on the site.

This habitat may have links to the priority habitat 'active blanket bog 7130'.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Abundant
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Abundant
Cladonia sp	Lichen	Occasional
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved Heath	Frequent
Eriophorum vaginatum	Hares-tail Cottongrass	Rare
Fungi sp		Rare
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Rare
Sphagnum sp	Peat moss	Abundant
Trichophorum cespitosum	Deergrass	Abundant
Vaccinium myrtillus	Bilberry	Occasional









Image 1: Upland blanket bog - overview



Image 2: Close-up of blanket bog vegetation – Ling and Cross-leaved heather





Image 3: Close-up of Sphagnum sp. and unknown fungus



Image 4: Unknown fungus from above



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 53			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare			Survey date: 11/08/11
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare	
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4330-a	:2,500 Sheet no: 4330-a Townland: Carrownakilly		Grid Ref: 164917, 176517
Target note no : TN1		Area: 6ha	

**Ecological value: County Importance** 

Habitat code

PB2

This site is an area of upland blanket bog (PB2) in good condition and is moderately wet underfoot. The site slopes uphill to the south. Conifer forestry (WD4) adjoins site to the north. The sward height is quite short at 1ft. Deer grazing is evident by numerous droppings.

**Species List** 

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Abundant
Cladonia sp	Raindeer Lichen	Occasional
Erica cinerea	Bell heather	Frequent
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved Heather	Frequent
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Abundant
Narthecium ossifragum	Bog Asphodel	Frequent
Sphagnum sp	Peat moss	Abundant
Trichophorum cespitosum	Deergrass	Frequent
Vaccinium myrtillus	Bilberry	Rare

### **Habitat Map**







Image 1: Upland blanket bog – abundant Purple Moor-grass



Image 2: Bog Asphodel is frequent in patches





Image 3: Close-up of Bog Asphodel, Purple Moor-grass and Ling



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 54			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare			Survey date: 11/08/11
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4330-a Townland: Carrownakilly		Grid Ref: 165061, 176530	
Target note no.: TN2 Area: 1.8ha			

Habitat code

HH3

Wet Heath HH3 on steep slope with a downhill slope to the east. The site is adjoined by upland blanket bog (PB2) to the west and forestry (WD4) to the north and east. The sward height reaches to a maximum of 2ft. The *Molinia caerulea* (Purple Moor-grass) and *Trichophorum cespitosum* (Deergrass) found on site only existed in hollows thus was not characteristic of the habitat.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Abundant
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Dominant
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved Heath	Occasional
Luzula sylvatica	Great Wood-rush	Occasional
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Rare
Sphagnum sp	Peat moss	Occasional
Trichophorum cespitosum	Deergrass	Occasional
Vaccinium myrtillus	Bilberry	Abundant

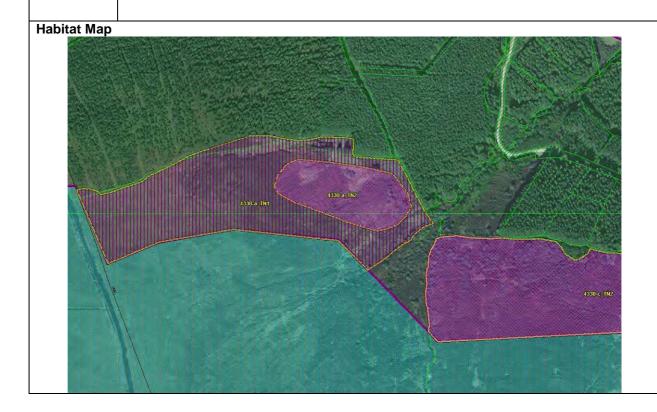






Image 1: View over Lough Derg from Wet heath habitat



Image 2: Close-up of vegetation – Bilberry, Bell heather and Ling





Image 3: Wet heath vegetation on hillside



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 55			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare			<b>Survey date:</b> 11/08/11
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare	
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4330-a	Townland: Carrownakilly		Grid Ref: 165851, 176501
Target note no.: TN3	arget note no.: TN3 Area: 0.3ha		

Habitat code

Unusual area of Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn) scrub with a grassy understory.

WS1

Species List

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Agrostis sp.	Bent grass	Frequent
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Frequent
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	Dominant
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Occasional
Poa sp.	Meadow Grass	Frequent
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Occasional
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken	Occasional
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	Frequent
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	Occasional
Rumex acetosella	Sheep's Sorrel	Frequent
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan	Frequent
Stellaria media	Common Chickweed	Occasional
Ulex sp.	Gorse	Occasional

### **Habitat Map**







Image 1: Area of Low-growing Hawthorn shrubs with grass-dominant field layer



Image 2: Low-growing Hawthorn shrubs



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 56			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 11/08/11			<b>Survey date:</b> 11/08/11
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare	
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4330-c	:2,500 Sheet no: 4330-c Townland: Carrownakilly		Grid Ref: 165742, 176307
Target note no.: TN1 Area: 1.6ha			

Habitat code

HH3

Wet Heath located on a steep slope. Looks wetter than heath above in SAC. Site seems to form following course of runoff off the hill to the south west. Some exposed rock was present. The sward reached a height of up to 4ft.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Agrostis stolonifera	Creeping bent	Occasional
Blechnum spicant	Hard Fern	Occasional
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Abundant
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Abundant
Carex pulicaris	Flea sedge	Frequent
Erica cinerea	Bell heather	Occasional
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved Heath	Occasional
Festuca sp	Fescue	Occasional
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Occasional
Luzula sylvatica	Great Wood-rush	Occasional
Lycopodium sp.	Club moss	Occasional
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Abundant
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Frequent
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken	Occasional
Salix cinerea	Sally	Occasional
Sphagnum sp.	Peat moss	Frequent
Stellaria media	Common Chickweed	Occasional
Vaccinium myrtillus	Bilberry	Frequent







Image 1: Overview of Wet heath area





Image 2: Close-up of vegetation with Polytrichum moss, Ling and Tormentil



Image 3: Wet heath with abundant dwarf shrubs



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 57			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare			<b>Survey date:</b> 11/08/11
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare	
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4330-c	:2,500 Sheet no: 4330-c Townland: Carrownakilly		Grid Ref: 165484, 176368
Target note no.: TN2 Area: 7.4ha			

Habitat code

HH1

Dry Siliceous Heath HH1 located adjacent and to the west of TN1. This heath is drier, has a lower sward height of 2ft and has a different species composition than the previous site. Ling heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) is dominant.

This habitat does not link to the EU Annex I habitat 4030 European dry heaths.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Abundant
Calluna vulgaris	Ling heather	Dominant
Erica cinerea	Bell heather	Frequent
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Occasional
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken	Occasional
Sphagnum sp	Peat moss	Occasional
Trichophorum cespitosum	Deergrass	Occasional
Vaccinium myrtillus	Bilberry	Abundant

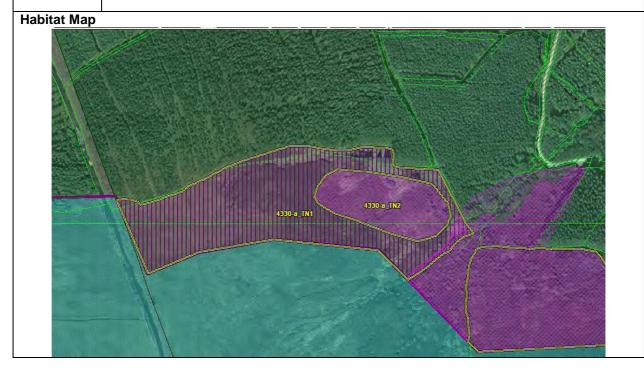




Image 1: Dry heath - overview of habitat with view of Lough Derg from hillside



Image 2: Dry Siliceous heath vegetation - Ling and Bell heathers



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 58			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare		Survey date: 18/08/11	
Surveyor: John Curtin			County name: Clare
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4386-b	Townland: Cloongaheen West		Grid Ref: 158970, 174227
Target note no.: TN1		<b>Area:</b> 2.11ha	

Habitat code

GS3 / GA1 / WS1 Mosaic of improved grassland (GA1), bramble and gorse scrub (WS1) and acid grassland (GS3). The acid grassland is confined to the slopes of hummocks and small hills doted throughout the site. The site is bordered to the north and west by forestry.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	Occasional
Agrostis sp	Bent-grass	Occasional
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Occasional
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Occasional
Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed	Occasional
Cynosurus cristatus	Crested Dog's-tail	Frequent
Euphrasia arctica	Eyebright	Frequent
Festuca sp.	Fescue	Occasional
Galium saxatile	Heath Bedstraw	Occasional
Nardus stricta	Mat-grass	Frequent
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	Frequent
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Occasional
Prunella vulgaris	Self-heal	Occasional
Ranunculus repens	Creeping buttercup	Occasional
Rumex acetosella	Sheep's Sorrel	Occasional
Stellaria media	Common Chickweed	Occasional
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover	Frequent
Trifolium repens	White clover	Occasional



# Habitat Map



Image 1: Acid grassland with dense short sward





Image 2: Overview of Acid grassland habitat



Image 3: Close-up of Acid grassland vegetation – Tormentil, Heath Bedstraw



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 59				
Survey Title: Survey and M	lapping of Habitats in	Mid Clare	Survey date: 18/08/11	
Surveyor: John Curtin			County name: Clare	
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4386-b	Townland: Cloongaheen West		Grid Ref: 158195, 173916	
Target note no.: TN2		Area: 6.9ha		
Factorial and the International Investment Polarity the Association (A) And Association Atlanta				

Ecological value: International Importance – linked to the Annex I habitat 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*'.

Habitat code

HH3 / GS4

Mosaic of wet grassland (GS4) and wet heath (HH3) at summit of hill. The area is quite wet and the wet grassland grades out towards the bottom of the hill with only wet heath downhill to the north east.

This habitat may be linked to the Annex I habitat '4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix' and therefore is of International ecological importance.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Occasional
Blechnum spicant	Hard fern	Rare
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Frequent
Calluna vulgaris	Ling heather	Abundant
Carex nigra	Common sedge	Occasional
Carex panicea	Carnation sedge	Occasional
Carex pulicaris	Flea sedge	Occasional
Erica cinerea	Bell heather	Occasional
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved heath	Occasional
Eriophorum angustifolium	Common cottongrass	Occasional
Eriophorum vaginatum	Hare's-tail cottongrass	Frequent
Juncus effususs	Soft rush	Frequent
Juncus squarrosus	Heath rush	Frequent
Luzula multiflora	Heath wood-rush	Occasional
Lycopodium sp.	Club moss	Occasional
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Occasional
Narthecium ossifragum	Bog asphodel	Occasional
Polygala serpyllifolia	Heath milkwort	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Occasional
Sphagnum sp.	Peat moss	Frequent
Stellaria media	Common chickweed	Rare
Ulex gallii	Western gorse	Frequent







Image 1: Wet heath vegetation - Ling heather, rushes and abundant sphagnum mosses





Image 2: Close-up of vegetation – Ling heather, Sweet Vernal-grass and Cottongrasses



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 60				
Survey Title: Survey and M	lapping of Habitats in	Mid Clare	Survey date: 18/08/11	
Surveyor: John Curtin			County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4386-b Townland: Cloongaheen V		heen West	Grid Ref: 158550, 174416	
Target note no.: TN3		Area: 4.0ha		

**Ecological value: County Importance** 

Habitat code

PB2

Area dominated by Ling heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) uphill but adjoining TN2. The site contained no Heath Rush (*Juncus squarrosus*) so this habitat is best categorised as Upland Blanket Bog PB2. Starts on slope and continues to top of hill. Forestry borders site from north to east.

This is unlikely to be an active bog as Sphagnum moss cover is not extensive, therefore it does not link to the priority habitat '7130 active blanket bog'.

**Species List** 

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Bryophyte	Moss spp	Frequent
Calluna vulgaris	Ling heather	Dominant
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved heather	Occasional
Eriophorum sp	Cottongrass	Frequent
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Occasional
Sphagnum sp	Peat moss	Frequent
Trichophorum cespitosum	Deergrass	Occasional

#### **Habitat Map**

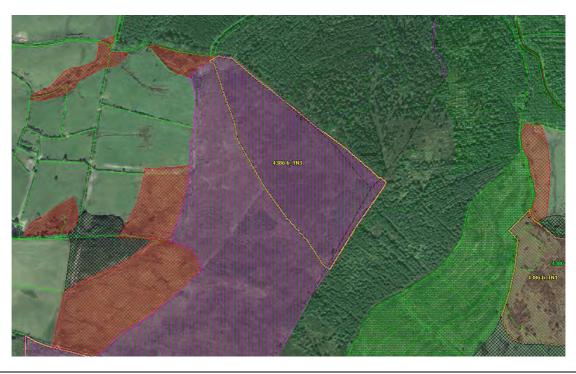






Image 1: Upland blanket bog vegetation – Ling heather and Cottongrasses



Image 2: Ling heather is dominant in this area



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 61				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 18/08/11				
Surveyor: John Curtin			County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4386-b Townland: Cloongaheen West		Grid Ref: 158342, 173712		
Target note no · TN4		<b>Area:</b> 0.23ha		

Habitat code

GS3

Small section of species-poor acid grassland (GS3) surrounded by Gorse scrub (WS1). Improved grassland (GA1) can be found adjacent to the site to the south and west. To the north lies wet heath (HH3).

**Species List** 

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	Occasional
Agrostis sp.	Bent grass	Frequent
Bryophyte	Moss	Frequent
Calluna vulgaris	Ling	Occasional
Carex panicea	Carnation sedge	Occasional
Hieracium sp.	Hawkweed	Occasional
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Occasional
Nardus stricta	Mat-grass	Frequent
Polygala serpyllifolia	Heath milkwort	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Frequent
Rumex acetosella	Sheep's Sorrel	Occasional
Succisa pratensis	Devil's-bit Scabious	Frequent

### **Habitat Map**







Image 1: Acid grassland with short dense sward and abundant non-Sphagnum mosses



Image 2: Overview of Acid grassland habitat





Image 3: Acid grassland with encroaching Gorse scrub



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 62				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 15/8/2011				
Surveyor: Shane O Neill		County name: Clare		
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4387-a	Townland: Kilbane	Grid Ref.: 160882, 173785		
Target note no.: TN1	Area: 0.85	ha		

Habitat code

WL1 / WS1

A nice Hedgerow WL1 on the banks of an Upland/Eroding river FW1. The banks are steep and densely vegetated in places. On the south-western edge it grades from a Hedgerow WL1 into Scrub WS1 of Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.).

Tree Layer Species List: WL1

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Corylus avellana	Hazel	Dominant
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	Frequent
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	Frequent
Salix cinerea	Willow	Frequent
Sambucus nigra	Elder	Occasional

Species List: WL1

Species ( <i>Latin</i> name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken	Frequent
Rubus fruticosus agg	Bramble	Abundant
Rumex obtusifolius	Broad-leaf Dock	Frequent
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover	Frequent
Geranium robertianum	Herb Robert	Frequent
Vicia sepium	Bush Vetch	Occasional
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Frequent
Dactylis glomerata	Cocks-foot	Frequent
Lolium perenne	Perennial Rye-grass	Frequent
Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet	Occasional
Senecio jacobaea	Ragwort	Occasional
Angelica sylvestris	Wild Angelica	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Rare
Urtica dioica	Nettle	Occasional
Fuchsia magellanica	Fuchsia	Occasional
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle	Occasional



# Habitat Map



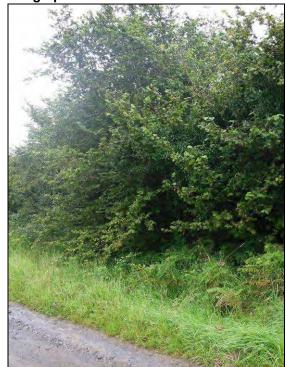


Plate 1: View of Hedgerow



Plate 2: View of Hedgrow



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 63			
Survey Title: Survey and Map	ping of Habitats in Mid	Clare	Survey date:15/8/2011
Surveyor: Shane O Neill		County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4387-a Townland: Kilbane		Grid Ref.: 161742, 173757	
Target note no.: TN2		Area: 0.4ha	

#### Habitat code

#### WL2

A Lowland/depositing river FW2 occurs here, lined on either side by a mixed composition of trees, up to twenty meters wide in places. This Treeline WL2 contains native and non native trees, but even the native trees appear to have been planted. This is a good wildlife corridor with signs of Fox and Badger. There may have been a house on this Treeline at one time.

The invasive species Japanese Knotweed (Fallopia japonica) is abundant here.

**Tree Species List: WL2** 

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	Dominant
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	Abundant
Salix sp.	Willow	Frequent
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	Rare
Picea sp.	Spruce	Rare

**Ground Flora Species List: WL2** 

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Fallopia japonica	Japanese Knotweed	Abundant
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	Abundant
Urtica dioica	Nettle	Abundant
Geranium robertianum	Herb Robert	Frequent
Fuchsia magellanica	Fuchsia	Occasional
Circaea lutetiana	Enchanter's-nightshade	Frequent
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken	Frequent
Buxus sempervirens	Box hedge	Rare



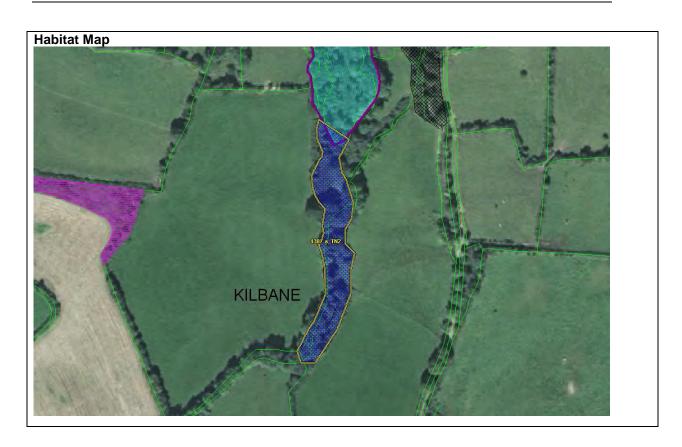




Image 1: View from field side of vegetation lining river



Image 2: Japanese Knotweed growing along the river



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 64				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 16/8/2011				
Surveyor: Shane O Neill			County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4387-b Townland: Killeagy		Grid Ref.: 162345, 173645		
Target note no.: TN1 Area: 2.1ha				

Habitat code

GS2

A Dry Meadow GS2 that had been left uncut (all other fields surrounding it had been cut for silage at the time of surveying). From the road the meadow sloped gently down to an area of Dense Bracken HD1 and dropped off steeply after that to a river.

**Species List: GS2** 

Species ( <i>Latin</i> name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Dominant
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot	Abundant
Alopecurus pratensis	Meadow Foxtail	Occasional
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Frequent
Rhinanthus minor	Yellow Rattle	Frequent
Lotus corniculatus	Bird's-foot Trefoil	Frequent
Rumex obtusifolius	Broad-leaved Dock	Frequent
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover	Abundant
Cirsium palustre	Marsh Thistle	Occasional
Cirsium dissectum	Meadow Thistle	Occasional
Rumex acetosa	Common Sorrel	Abundant
Conopodium majus	Pignut	Occasional
Stellaria graminea	Lesser Stitchwort	Frequent
Ranunculus acris	Meadow Buttercup	Frequent
Hypochaeris radicata	Common Cat's-ear	Frequent







Image 1: Overview of Dry Meadow GS2



Image 2: Close up of vegetation



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 65			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 17/8/2011			
Surveyor: Shane O Neill			County name: Clare
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4387-b Townland: Killeagy		Grid Ref.: 162984, 173492	
Target note no.: TN2 Area: 1.8ha			

**Habitat code** 

GS2 / GS3 / GS4 / WS1 This area is a mosaic of Dry Meadow and Grassy Verge GS2, Dry-humid Acid Grassland GS3, Wet Grassland GS4 and Scrub WS1. It is very difficult to access as it is located on a steep hillside with dense Scrub WS1 (Gorse, Brambles and some Bracken) and Conifer Plantations WD4 on either side. There are patches of abundant Purple Moor-grass throughout with scrub encroaching at the base of the hill. There are no signs of grazing apart from deer.

**Species List: GS2** 

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Abundant
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Abundant
Cynosurus cristatus	Crested Dog's-tail	Abundant
Hypochaeris radicata	Cat's-ear	Frequent
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Frequent
Prunella vulgaris	Selfheal	Frequent
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover	Occasional
Trifolium repens	White Clover	Occasional
Cirsium palustre	Marsh Thistle	Occasional
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Occasional
Stellaria graminea	Lesser Stitchwort	Occasional
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Occasional

**Species List: GS3** 

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Frequent
Juncus articulatus	Jointed Rush	Frequent
Deschampsia flexuosa	Wavy Hair-grass	Frequent
Agrostis capillaris	Common Bent	Abundant
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Occasional
Nardus stricta	Mat-grass	Frequent
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Abundant
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Frequent
Bryophyte	Moss	Abundant
Ulex europaeus	Gorse	Occasional
Erica cinerea	Bell Heather	Rare
Vaccinium myrtillus	Bilberry	Rare



# **Habitat Map**





Image 1: View of Habitat Mosaic with Conifer plantation





Image 2: View of Dry Meadow



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 66			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 10/08/11			
Surveyor: Sarah O'Loughlin Irwin			County name: Clare
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4387-c	<b>Townland:</b> Cloongaheen East		Grid Ref: 160222, 172784
Target note no : TN1		Area: 2ha	

Full species list given below.

Habitat code

GS4

Relatively species rich Wet grassland GS4 with varied topography and water regime. On lower ground rushes are extremely abundant to dominant, herbs and grasses are also abundant in these areas and the occasional Willow tree. On higher ground it is drier and there is and absence of rushes, grasses are dominant with abundant Silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*).

### Rushy area:

#### **Species List**

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Juncus effusus	Soft rush	Dominant
J. conglomeratus	Compact rush	Abundant
J. acutiflorus	Sharp-flowered rush	Dominant
J. articulatus	Jointed rush	Occasional
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire fog	Abundant
Cirsium palustre	Marsh thistle	Frequent
Stachys palustris	Marsh woundwort	Occasional
Angelica sylvatica	Wild angelica	Frequent
Ranunculus repens	Creeping buttercup	Frequent
Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet	Occasional
Lotus pedunculatus	Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil	Occasional
Rumex acetosella	Sheep's sorrel	Occasional
Stellaria media	Common chickweed	Occasional
Valeriana officinale	Common valerian	Rare
Galium palustre	Marsh Bedstraw	Rare
Agrostis stolonifera	Creeping bent grass	Occasional
Salix sp.	Willow	Occasional

## Non-rushy areas:

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire fog	
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet vernal grass	
Molinia caerulea	Purple moor grass	
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort plantain	
Agrostis spp.	Bent grass	
Rumex acetosella	Sheep's sorrel	
Potentilla anserina	Silverweed	
Centaurea nigra	Common knapweed	
Stellaria media	Common chickweed	



Trifolium pratense	Red clover	
Ranunculus repens	Creeping buttercup	
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	
Leontodon sp.	Hawkbit	
Lotus pedunculatus	Greater bird's-foot-trefoil	
Rumex crispus	Curled dock	
Dactylis glomeratus	Cock's foot	
Odontites vernus	Red bartsia	







Image 1. Wet grassland with abundant rushes, occasional Marsh thistle and Wild Angelica.





Image 2: More diverse Wet grassland with Silverweed, Red Bartsia, Common Knapweed, Red Clover, Ribwort Plantain.



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 67			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare			Survey date: 10/08/11
Surveyor: Sarah O'Loughlin Irwin			County name: Clare
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4387-c	<b>Townland:</b> Cloongaheen East		<b>Grid Ref</b> : 160173, 172619
Target note no.: TN2		Area: 8.08h	ia

# Habitat code

WS1 / PF2 / (WN7) Scrub WS1 encroaching on previously cutover blanket bog habitat which has recolonised to form a mosaic of scrub, heath, grassland and flush communities. The area was observed from an adjacent peat bank as the margins are extremely wet, probably an old drain which has now recolonised with Poor flush and fen PF2 type of vegetation dominated by Bog bean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) and is abundant in *Sphagnum* moss and rushes. Open grassland/heath areas appear to be abundant in Purple moor grass (*Molinia caerulea*), Deergrass (*Trichophorum cespitosum*), Cottongrasses (*Eriophorum* sp.) and *Sphagnum* moss, occasional Ling heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) and rarely Royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*). Scrub is mainly Willows (*Salix* sp.) with occasional Gorse (*Ulex europaea*) and Birch (*Betula* sp.), appears to be developing into Bog woodland WN7.

#### **Habitat Map**







Image 1. Willow and Gorse scrub with occasional Birch on recolonised cutover bog.



Image 2. Wet margins with abundant Bog bean (probably an old drain).



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 68			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare		Survey date: 17/8/2011	
Surveyor: Shane O Neill		County name: Clare	
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4387-d	Townland: Killeagy		Grid Ref.: 163303, 172784
Target note no.: TN1		Area: 2.6ha	

Habitat code

GA1

This Improved agricultural grassland GA1 appears not to have been reseeded recently (it may be a field left for REPS). Rye-grass (*Lolium* spp.) was not present but it contained White Clover (*Trifolium repens*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), and common agricultural herbs.

**Species List: GA1** 

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Occasional
Cirsium palustre	Marsh Thistle	Frequent
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	Occasional
Deschampsia flexuosa	Wavy Hair-grass	Frequent
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Dominant
Rumex acetosa	Common Sorrel	Abundant
Rumex obtusifolius	Broadleaved Dock	Occasional
Senecio jacobaea	Ragwort	Occasional
Stellaria graminea	Stitchwort	Occasional
Stellaria media	Common Chickweed	Occasional
Trifolium repens	White Clover	Frequent
Ulex europaeus	Gorse	Occasional

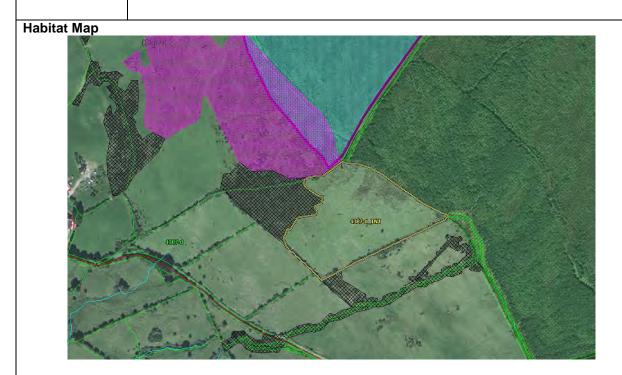






Image 1: Improved agricultural grassland with occasional Hawthorn



Image 2: Improved agricultural grassland with White Clover and Yorkshire-fog



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 69			
Survey Title: Surveying and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare		are <b>Survey date:</b> 12/08/11	
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4388-a   Townland: (	Classagh	Grid Ref: 164926, 174094	
Target note no.: TN1	Area: 1.	9ha	

Habitat code

Mosaic habitat of Scrub WS1, Dense Bracken HD1 and Dry-humid Acid grassland GS3 on steep slope adjacent to a small Upland/Eroding river FW1.

WS1 / HD1 / GS3

**Species List** 

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Bryophyte	Moss	Abundant
Calluna vulgaris	Ling	Occasional
Carex panicea	Carnation sedge	Occasional
Cirsium paluste	Marsh Thistle	Frequent
Euphrasia arctica	Eyebright	Frequent
Festuca sp.	Fescue	Frequent
Galium saxatile	Heath Bedstraw	Abundant
Hieracium sp.	Hawkweed	Occasional
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Frequent
Hypericum pulchrum	Slender St. John's-wort	Occasional
Lycopodium	Club Moss	Occasional
Lysimachia nemorum	Yellow Pimpernel	Rare
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Frequent
Prunella vulgaris	Self-heal	Frequent
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken	Abundant
Stellaria media	Common Chickweed	Occasional
Trifolium sp.	Clover	Occasional
Ulex europaeus	Gorse	Abundant
Veronica arvensis	Wall Speedwell	Occasional
Veronica sp.	Speedwell	Occasional
Viola sp.	Violet	Occasional







Image 1. Scrub WS1 and Dense Bracken HD1



TARGET NOTES - ID No.70			
Survey Title: Surveying and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare		<b>Survey date:</b> 16/08/11	
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare	
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4388-a	Townland: Coumbrack		Grid Ref: 164758, 173637
Target note no · TN2		<b>Area</b> : 0.2ha	

Habitat code

BL3

Abandoned house with a slated roof. Gaps in roof give possible entrance ways for bats. Some tree and shrub lines surround the house. Has good roost potential.

## **Habitat Map**





Image 1: Abandoned homestead



Image 2: Loose slates on roof offer potential entry to bats



Image 3: Loose slates at edge of roof



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 71			
Survey Title: Surveying and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare		Survey date: 16/08/11	
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare	
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4388-a	Townland: Coumbrack		Grid Ref: 164220, 174012
Target note no.: TN3		Area: 1.15ha	

**Ecological value: County Importance** 

Habitat code

PB2

Area of heath-dominant Upland Blanket Bog PB2 located on the side of a steeply sloped hill running downhill to the north east. This area is adjacent to Slieve Bernagh cSAC. Scrub borders the site to the north west with forestry to the south. The site is grazed by deer, with droppings found on site.

**Species List** 

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Agrostis sp.	Bent Grass	Frequent
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Occasional
Blechnum spicant	Hard Fern	Occasional
Bryophyte	Moss	Abundant
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Abundant
Carex echinata	Star Sedge	Occasional
Carex pulicaris	Flea Sedge	Frequent
Drepanocladus sp.	Drepanocladus Moss	Frequent
Erica cinerea	Bell Heather	Occasional
Festuca sp.	Fescue	Occasional
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Occasional
Juncus articulatus	Jointed Rush	Frequent
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Frequent
Lycopodium sp.	Club Moss	Occasional
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Occasional
Nardus stricta	Mat-grass	Occasional
Poa sp.	Meadow Grass	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Frequent
Sphagnum sp.	Peat Moss	Frequent
Succisa pratensis	Devil's-bit Scabious	Occasional
Vaccinium myrtillus	Bilberry	Occasional



# Habitat Map

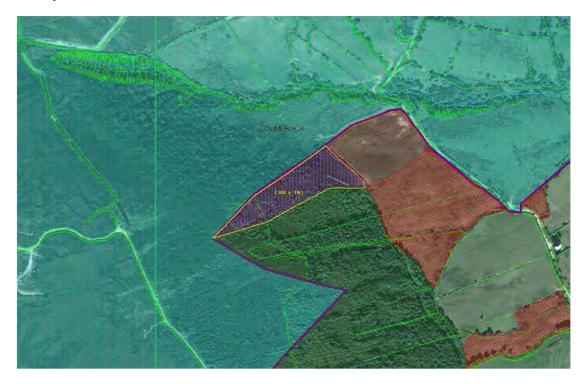




Image 1: Upland Blanket bog with dwarf shrubs dominating the vegetation





Image 2: Upland blanket bog on steep hillside



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 72				
Survey Title: Surveying and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 17/08/11				
Surveyor: John Curtin			County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4388-a Townland: Classagh		Grid Ref: 166238, 173825		
Target note no.: TN4		Area: 2.8ha		

Habitat code

PB2

Section of bog on summit of hill. The sward height reaches a maximum of 3ft. Although Sphagnum moss is abundant the area appears to have been drained extensively and Conifer plantations surround site to the north, south and west thus the bog is unlikely to be actively peat-forming therefore it is not linked to the EU priority habitat '7130 active blanket bog'.

This habitat is under threat from afforestation.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Bryophyte	Moss	Frequent
Calluna vulgaris	Ling heather	Abundant
Erica cinerea	Bell heather	Occasional
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Abundant
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Occasional
Salix sp.	Willow	Rare
Sphagnum sp.	Peat moss	Abundant
Trichophorum cespitosum	Deergrass	Occasional
Vaccinium myrtillus	Bilberry	Occasional







Image 1: Upland blanket bog with what looks like old drains running parallel down the hill



Image 2: As above parallel linear features observed here are overgrown – probably old drains





Image 3: Blanket bog vegetation dominated by Ling heather



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 73				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 17/08/11				
Surveyor: John Curtin			County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4388-a Townland: Classagh		Grid Ref: 165764, 174804		
Target note no.: TN5		Area: 6.3ha		

**Ecological value: County Importance** 

Habitat code

PB2

Upland Blanket Bog PB2 located on a sharp slope of hill. Quite spongy underfoot. Some channels have been dug. One such channel shows a peat dept of 7ft. This would have a considerable effect on the hydrology of the site. The typical sward height is approx 1ft. Forestry surrounds this area to the southwest, southeast and northeast.

This area is under threat from drainage and afforestation.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Bryophyte	Moss	Occasional
Calluna vulgaris	Ling heather	Abundant
Erica cinerea	Bell heather	Occasional
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved heath	Frequent
Eriophorum sp.	Cottongrass	Frequent
Lycopodium sp.	Club moss	Occasional
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Frequent
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Occasional
Salix sp.	Willow	Occasional
Sphagnum sp.	Peat moss	Abundant
Ulex europaeus	Gorse	Occasional
Vaccinium myrtillus	Bilberry	Occasional





Image 1: Tall peat bank where channel has been dug



Image 2: Channel from above





Image 3: Blanket bog vegetation



Image 4: Blanket bog vegetation - Ling and Sweet Vernal-grass



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 74				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 16/08/11				
Surveyor: John Curtin			County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4388-c Townland: Magherareagh		Grid Ref: 164150, 172178		
Target note no.: TN1		Area: 8.5ha	•	

**Ecological value: County Importance** 

Habitat code

PB2

This area has an abundance of heath on summit of hill. However, there was an absence of Heath Rush (*Juncus squarrosus*) so this habitat is best categorised as Upland Blanket Bog PB2. It is unlikely that this area of bog is active as Sphagnum moss cover is not extensive, therefore it is not linked to the EU priority habitat 'active blanket bog 7130'. Sward height reached up to 2ft. Hummocky. Some Spruce seedlings have self seeded from nearby forestry to North and East. A fair slope occurs to the North, West and East. More boggy hills occur to the south.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Bryophyte	Moss	Frequent
Calluna vulgaris	Ling heather	Dominant
Cladonia sp.	Lichen	Occasional
Erica cinerea	Bell heather	Frequent
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved Heath	Occasional
Lycopodium sp.	Club Moss	Occasional
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Abundant
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Frequent
Sphagnum sp.	Peat moss	Frequent
Trichophorum cespitosum	Deergrass	Occasional
Vaccinium myrtillus	Bilberry	Frequent







Image 1: Upland blanket bog PB2



Image 2: Close-up of blanket bog vegetation – abundant Purple Moor-grass and Ling





Image 3: Close-up of blanket bog vegetation – abundant Purple Moor-grass and Ling

TARGET NOTES - ID No. 75			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 16/08/11			
Surveyor: John Curtin			County name: Clare
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4388-c Townland: Magherare		areagh	Grid Ref: 164330, 173259
Target note no : TN2		Area: 4 7ha	•

Habitat code

HH3 / GS3 / WS1 Mosaic of Wet Heath (HH3), Dry-humid Acid grassland (GS3) and Scrub (WS1). Until its recent burning, gorse scrub would have been the main component of this area. Patches of acid grassland can be found mostly to the North West of the site. Adjacent to the site in the South East is an area of grassland with forestry surrounding on all other sides. The site slopes downhill to the South East. Cattle have grazed the site recently.

Dry-humid Acid grassland

**Species List** 

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	Occasional
Agrostis sp	Bent grass	Frequent
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Frequent
Bryophyte	Moss	Frequent
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Frequent
Carex nigra	Common Sedge	Occasional
Carex panicea	Carnation Sedge	Frequent
Festuca sp	Fescue	Frequent
Galium saxatile	Heath Bedstraw	Frequent
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Frequent
Nardus stricta	Mat-grass	Frequent
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Frequent
Succisa pratensis	Devil's-bit Scabious	Frequent

#### Wet Heath

**Species List** 

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Bryophyte	Moss	Frequent
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Abundant
Erica cinerea	Bell Heather	Occasional
Eriophorum sp	Cottongrass	Occasional
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Frequent
Juncus squarrosus	Heath Rush	Occasional
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Abundant
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Frequent
Sphagnum sp.	Peat moss	Occasional
Ulex europaeus	Gorse	Occasional

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Image 1: Acid grassland GS3



Image 2: Acid grassland GS3



Image 3: Wet heath HH3



Image 4: Wet heath HH3



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 76			
Survey Title: Survey and M	lapping of Habitats in	Mid Clare	Survey date: 16/08/11
Surveyor: John Curtin			County name: Clare
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4212-a	Townland: Magherareagh		Grid Ref: 165071, 172088
Target note no · TN3		<b>Area:</b> 2.5ha	

Habitat code

Section of Acid Grassland (GS3) recently grazed, on steep slope at top of field. Forestry is located to the South and West

GS3

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Agrostis sp.	Bent grass	Frequent
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Occasional
Bryophyte	Moss	Abundant
Carex panicea	Carnation sedge	Frequent
Galium saxatile	Heath Bedstraw	Frequent
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire-fog	Frequent
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Frequent
Luzula sp (veg)	Wood-rush	Rare
Nardus stricta	Mat-grass	Frequent
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Frequent
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken	Frequent
Trifolium repens	White clover	Occasional





TARGET NOTES - ID No. 77			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 16/08/11			Survey date: 16/08/11
Surveyor: John Curtin			County name: Clare
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4388-c	Townland: Aillemore		<b>Grid Ref:</b> 165901, 173291 165733, 173420
			100=1

Target note no.: TN4 Area: 1.64ha and 0.65ha

Ecological value: National Importance – linked to the EU priority habitat '6230 Species-rich *Nardus* grassland on siliceous substrates in mountain areas'.

Habitat code

GS3 / GS4 / WS1 Mosaic of wet grassland (GS4), Scrub (WS1) and acid grassland (GS3). Forestry is located to the north and west. Scrub borders the site to the south. The site slopes downhill to the south.

This habitat is linked to the EU priority habitat '6230 Species-rich *Nardus* grassland on siliceous substrates in mountain areas'. However it is a small area so can be classified as being of National ecological importance.

Species ( <i>Latin</i> name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	Occasional
Agrostis sp.	Bent grass	Occasional
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Occasional
Bryophyte	Moss	Frequent
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Frequent
Carex hostiana	Tawny sedge	Occasional
Carex panicea	Carnation sedge	Occasional
Drepanocladus sp	Drepanocladus moss	Frequent
Galium saxatile	Heath Bedstraw	Frequent
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire-fog	Occasional
Juncus articulatus	Jointed Rush	Occasional
Nardus stricta	Mat-grass	Frequent
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Frequent
Succisa pratensis	Devils-bit Scabious	Occasional







TARGET NOTES - ID No. 78			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 17/08/11			Survey date: 17/08/11
Surveyor: John Curtin		County name: Clare	
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4388-d	eet no: 4388-d Townland: Garraunboy		Grid Ref: 166906, 172214
Target note no.: TN1		Area: 3.07ha	

Habitat code

GS2

Large field. Southern slope dominated by Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*). Some Bracken and Bramble encroachment. Sward height reached a maximum of 3ft. There was no evidence of grazing. The slope of the field increased to the north. The surrounding fields have been improved.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	Occasional
Agrostis sp.	Bent grass	Frequent
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Frequent
Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed	Occasional
Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle	Occasional
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot	Abundant
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Frequent
Lathyrus pratensis	Meadow-vetchling	Occasional
Lotus pendunculatus	Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil	Occasional
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	Frequent
Poa sp.	Meadow grass	Frequent
Potentilla anserina	Silverweed	Occasional
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken	Frequent
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	Occasional
Rumex acetosella	Sheep's Sorrel	Occasional
Stellaria media	Common Chickweed	Occasional
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover	Occasional
Trifolium repens	White Clover	Occasional
Veronica officinalis	Heath Speedwell	Frequent
Veronica sp.	Speedwell	Frequent







Image 1: Large field of Dry meadow GS2





Image 2: Close-up of grasses - Cock's-foot is dominant



Image 3: Dry meadow GS2



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 79				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 26/07/11			Survey date: 26/07/11	
Surveyor: Sarah O'Loughlin Irwin		County name: Clare		
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4444-d	Townland: Formoyle More		Grid Ref: 159339, 170299	
Target note no.: TN1 Area: 28ha				

Ecological value: International Importance – linked to the Annex I Habitat 'Northern Atlantic Wet Heaths with *Erica tetralix* (4010)'

# Habitat code

HH3

Area of low-lying Wet Heath HH3, bordered by conifer plantations, with abundant Deergrass and Purple Moor-grass. Sphagna and other mosses are also abundant. There is a slight slope and sandstone outcrops. The ground is somewhat poached and there is a mosaic of dry and wet areas. Gorse and Willow scrub are encroaching on the heath.

This area is under threat of being afforested by conifers.

Full species list below.

#### Dry areas:

#### **Species List**

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Trichophorum cespitosum	Deer-grass	Abundant
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Abundant
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Frequent
Juncus acutiflorus	Sharp-flowered Rush	Frequent
Carex panicea	Carnation Sedge	Frequent
Carex echinata	Star Sedge	Frequent
Juncus squarrosus	Heath Rush	Occasional
Carex spp.	Sedges	Frequent
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Abundant
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved Heather	Frequent
Erica cinerea	Bell Heather	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Occasional
Eriophorum angustifolium	Common Cottongrass	Rare
Vaccinium myrtillus	Bilberry	Rare
Cladonia spp.	Cladonia lichen	Frequent
Sphagnum spp.	Sphagnum moss	Abundant
Salix sp.	Willows	Occasional
Ulex europaea	Gorse	Occasional

#### Wet areas:

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Trichopherum cespitosum	Deer-grass	Abundant
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Abundant
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Abundant
Potentilla palustris	Creeping Cinquefoil	Frequent
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Frequent
Narthecium ossifragum	Bog Asphodel	Occasional



Galium palustre	Marsh Bedstraw	Rare
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Frequent
Juncus conglomeratus	Compact Rush	Frequent
Mentha aquatica	Water mint	Occasional
Ranunculus acris	Meadow Buttercup	Frequent
Polygala serpyllifolia	Thyme-leaved Milkwort	Rare
Carex panicea	Carnation Sedge	Frequent
Vaccinium myrtillus	Bilberry	Occasional
Juncus acutiflorus	Sharp-flowered Rush	Abundant
Luzula multiflora	Heath Wood Rush	Occasional
Eriophorum vaginatum	Hare's-Tail Cottongrass	Occasional
Polytrichum sp.		Abundant
Sphagnum sp.		Abundant







Image 1. Wet heath HH3 with abundant Deer-grass and scrub encroaching.



Image 2. Close-up of heath flora with Purple Moor-grass, Cross-leaved Heather and Gorse scrub invading.





Image 3. Wet area of Heath with abundant rushes and Creeping Cinquefoil in foreground.



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 80			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 29/07/11			
Surveyor: Sarah O'Loughlin Irwin		County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4444-d Townland: Muingboy / Kyleglass		Grid Ref: 158115, 169385	
Target note no.: TN2		Area: 5.7ha	

**Ecological value: County Importance** 

Habitat code

Undulating to flat area of Wet heath HH3 interspersed with Poor fen and flush PF2 areas with encroaching Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*).

HH3 PF2

Poor Fen and Flush is not linked to any annexed habitat but is of limited extent in Ireland and therefore is considered to be of conservation importance.

Wet heath:

**Species List** 

Species ( <i>Latin</i> name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Agrostis sp	Bent grass	Frequent
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Frequent
Calluna vulgaris	Ling	Frequent
Carex spp.	Sedges	Frequent
Cladonia sp.	Raindeer Lichen	Occasional
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved heath	Frequent
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Dominant
Juncus acutiflorus	Sharp-flowered Rush	Dominant
Juncus squarrosus	Heath Rush	Occasional
Luzula multiflora	Heath Wood-rush	Occasional
Polygala serpyllifolia	Thyme-leaved Milkwort	Occasional
Sphagnum sp.	Peat moss	Frequent
Polytrichum sp.		Occasional
(cf.) Succisa pratensis	Devil's-bit Scabious	Frequent

### Poor flush:

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Menyanthes trifoliata	Bog bean	Abundant
Equisetum sp.	Horsetails	Occasional
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Occasional
Carex spp.	Sedges	Frequent
Carex nigra	Black Sedge	Occasional
Ranunculus flammula	Lesser Spearwort	Frequent
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Abundant
Juncus acutiflorus	Sharp-flowered Rush	Abundant
Juncus articulatus	Jointed Rush	Occasional
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Frequent
Juncus conglomeratus	Compact Rush	Frequent
Rumex acetosella	Sheep's Sorrel	Rare
Galium saxatile	Heath Bedstraw	Occasional



Viola palustre	Marsh Violet	Occasional
Sphagnum spp.	Peat moss	Frequent
Polytrichum sp.		Occasional

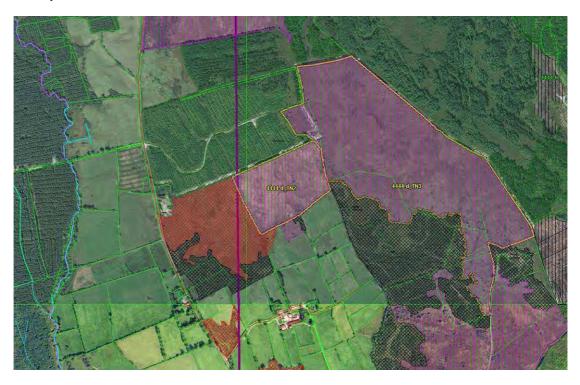




Image 1. Wet heath HH3 with undulating land, abundant Sweet Vernal-grass and Ling Heather. Encroaching Willow can be observed in the distance.





Image 2. Close up of Wet Heath vegetation: *Sphagnum* sp., *Polytrichum* sp., Purple Moor-grass and (cf.) Devil's-bit Scabious.



Image 3. Poor Flush with abundant Bog bean and rushes.



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 81			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 29/07/11			
Surveyor: Sarah O'Loughlin Irwin		County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4444-d Townland: Kyle	Townland: Kyleglass		Grid Ref: 158530, 169392
Target note no.: TN3 Area: 25		<b>Area:</b> 25.5ha	

Ecological value: International Importance - linked to the Annex I Habitat 'Northern Atlantic Wet Heaths with *Erica tetralix* (4010)'

Habitat code

HH3

Undulating to flat upland area of Wet heath HH3 bordered by forestry to the north and east and farmland to the west. The area is somewhat poached as it is grazed by cattle and wild goats.

This habitat is under threat of being planted by conifers.

# Wet heath: Species List

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Trichophorum	Deer-grass	Dominant
cespitosum		
Erica cinerea	Bell Heather	Occasional
Calluna vulgaris	Ling Heather	Abundant
Carex spp.	Sedges	Frequent
Carex nigra	Black Sedge	Occasional
Carex flacca	Glaucous Sedge	Occasional
Cladonia sp.	Raindeer Lichen	Occasional
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved Heather	Frequent
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Abundant
Eriophorum spp.	Cottongrasses	Frequent
Eriophorum latifolium	Broad-leaved Cottongrass	Rare
Juncus squarrosus	Heath Rush	Occasional to Frequent
Luzula multiflora ssp. congesta	Dense-headed Heath Wood-rush	Rare
Luzula multiflora	Heath Wood-rush	Occasional
Vaccinium myrtillis	Bilberry	Occasional
Polygala serpyllifolia	Thyme-leaved Milkwort	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Frequent
Juncus articulatus	Jointed Rush	Occasional
Sphagnum spp.	Peat moss	Abundant
Polytrichum sp.		Occasional
Narthecium ossifragum	Bog Asphodel	Frequent in wet patches



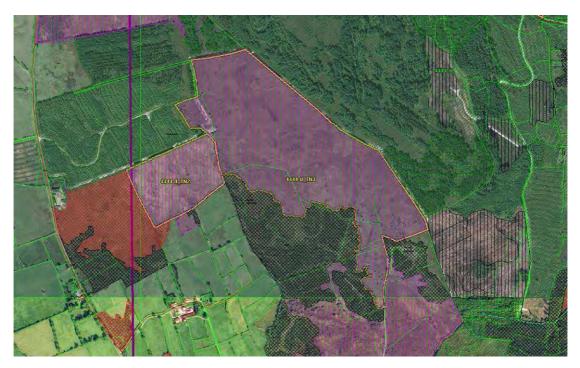




Image 1. Wet heath HH3 with abundant Heather and Deer-grass. Conifer plantation observed in the distance.





Image 2. Close up of Wet Heath vegetation: Cladonia lichen and Ling heather dominate.



Image 3. Wet area with abundant *Sphagnum* moss and Cottongrasses and frequent Bog Asphodel.



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 82				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 02/08/11				
Surveyor: Sarah O'Loughlin Irwin			County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4445-a Townland: Cloonconry Beg		Grid Ref: 161380, 170943		
Target note no.: TN1		Area: 1.9ha		

Habitat code

GS3

Dry-humid acid grassland GS3 on very steep east-facing slope. The field is poached and cattle ridges have developed. There are frequent patches of bare ground. Vegetation is composed of a low dense sward with abundant grasses such as Fescues, Meadow grasses and Sweet vernal grass. Moss cover is also quite high and abundant broadleaved herbs include Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*) and Eyebright (*Euphrasia* sp.). Species list below.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Festuca sp.	Fescue	Abundant
Poa spp.	Meadow grasses	Abundant
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet vernal grass	Abundant
Nardus stricta	Mat grass	Rare
Cynosurus cristatus	Crested dog's-tail	Frequent
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort plantain	Frequent
Euphrasia sp.	Eyebright	Abundant
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Abundant
Trifolium repens	White clover	Occasional
T. pratense	Red clover	Abundant
Viola sp.	Violets	Frequent
Ranunculus acris	Meadow buttercup	Rare
Potentilla sterilis	Barren strawberry	Rare
Centaurea nigra	Common knapweed	Occasional
Hypocharis radicata	Cat's ear	Occasional
Leontodon autumnalis	Autumn hawkbit	Frequent
Rumex acetosella	Sheep's sorrel	Rare
Senecio jacobaea	Ragwort	Occasional
Prunella vulgaris	Selfheal	Occasional
Cirsium palustre	Marsh thistle	Frequent
Lysimachia nemorum	Yellow pimpernel	Rare
Lotus corniculatus	Bird's-foot-trefoil	Rare
	Mosses	Abundant







Image 1. Dry-humid acid grassland GS3 on steep slope.





Image 2. Close up of vegetation with patches of bare ground.



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 83				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 09/08/11				
Surveyor: Sarah O'Loughlin Irwin			County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4445-a Townland: Cloonconry Beg		Grid Ref: 161186, 171411		
Target note no.: TN2		Area: 1.3ha		

Habitat code

GS4

Wet grassland GS4 on north-facing slope. The field is dominated by rushes and is very wet underfoot – streams run either side of it – grasses and broadleaved herbs are also abundant. Vegetation is generally >1m tall. Species list below.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Juncus effusus	Soft rush	Dominant
J. articulatus	Jointed rush	Abundant
J. acutiflorus	Sharp-flowered rush	Abundant
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire fog	Abundant
Deschampsia cespitosa	Tufted hair-grass	Occasional
Lotus pedunculatus	Greater bird's-foot-trefoil	Frequent
Ranunculus repens	Creeping buttercup	Occasional
Rumex acetosella	Sheep's sorrel	Frequent
Cirsium palustre	Marsh thistle	Occasional
Epilobium palustre	Marsh willowherb	Rare
Lythrum salicaria	Purple-loosestrife	Rare
Galium palustre	Marsh bedstraw	Occasional
Juncus conglomeratus	Compact rush	Frequent
Urtica dioica	Stinging nettle	Occasional
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	Occasional
Stellaria media	Common chickweed	Rare
Potentilla anserina	Silverweed	Rare
P. erecta	Tormentil	Rare
Senecio jacobaea	Ragwort	Frequent
Prunella vulgaris	Selfheal	Occasional
Trifolium pratense	Red clover	Occasional
Angelica sylvestris	Wild angelica	Occasional



### **Habitat Map**





Image 1. Wet grassland GS4 with dominant rushes, abundant Yorkshire fog and frequent patches of Greater bird's-foot-trefoil. Wild angelica can be seen at the far edge of the field.





Image 2. Close up of vegetation with dominant rushes (e.g. Soft rush and Jointed rush), abundant Yorkshire fog and frequent dense patches of Greater bird's-foot-trefoil.



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 84			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 03/08/11			Survey date: 03/08/11
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton			County name: Clare
<b>Sheet no:</b> 4445-b	Townland: Ballymole	oney	Grid Ref: 163733, 171103
Target note no.: TN1		Area: 35ha	

Ecological Value: International Importance - linked to Annexed Habitat, 'European dry heaths (4030)'

Habitat code

**HH1/WS1** 

Dry Siliceous Heath HH1 in an upland area. Dominated by Ling (*Calluna vulgaris*), with abundant Bell Heather (*Erica cinerea*), Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) and low-growing Western Gorse (*Ulex gallii*). Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), Heath Rush (*Juncus squarrosus*), Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*) and Common Gorse (*Ulex europaea*) are occasional. Gorse (*Ulex* spp.) is dominant and forms the main structural component of the vegetation in some areas, forming a Dry Siliceous Heath / Gorse Scrub mosaic.

**Habitat Map** 





Image 1: Dry Siliceous Heath HH1 Vegetation



Image 2: Close-up of Dry Siliceous Heath HH1 Vegetation



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 85			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 03/08/11			Survey date: 03/08/11
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton		County name: Clare	
Sheet no: 4445-b Townland: Ballymoloney		Grid Ref: 163706, 170892	
Target note no.: TN2		Area: 0.16ha	

Habitat code

GS3

Heath/Scrub has been cleared here – looks like it may have been burned in the past. Has become recolonised with Acid Grassland GS3 vegetation with a low dense sward of grasses.

Scientific Name	Common Name	DAFOR
Agrostis stolonifera	Creeping Bent	Dominant
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal	Abundant
Calluna vulgaris	Ling	Abundant
Carex spp.	Sedges	Abundant
Erica cinerea	Bell Heather	Frequent
Festuca spp.	Fescues	Frequent
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Occasional
Polygala serpyllifolia	Heath Milkwort	Frequent
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Frequent
Vaccinium myrtillus	Bilberry	Frequent









Image 1: Acid Grassland in Area Cleared of Scrub/Heath



Image 2: Close-up of Acid Grassland Vegetation



TARGET NOTES - ID No.86			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 03/08/11			
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton		County name: Clare	
Sheet no: 4445-b Townland: Ballymoloney		Grid Ref: 163705, 170895	
Target note no.: TN3		Area: 0.16ha	

Habitat code

GS3

Acid grassland in an upland area. Dominated by Sweet Vernal (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) with abundant rushes (*Juncus* spp.), bents (*Agrostis* spp.), sedges (*Carex* spp.). Thick carpet of mosses with occasional patches of *Sphagnum*..

Scientific Name	Common Name	DAFOR
Agrostis spp.	Bents	Abundant
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal	Dominant
Carex nigra	Common Sedge	Frequent
Carex echinata	Star Sedge	Abundant
Luzula multiflora ssp.	Heath Woodrush	Frequent
congesta		
Pedicularis sylvatica ssp.	Lousewort	Abundant
sylvatica		
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Occasional
Rhytidiadelphus loreus	Little Shaggy Moss	Abundant
Juncus	Jointed/Sharp-flowered	Abundant
articulatus/acutiflorus	Rush	
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Abundant
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Abundant
Polytrichum commune	Common Haircap Moss	Abundant
Sphagnum spp.	Bog mosses	Occasional

### **Habitat Map**







Image 1: Acid Grassland



Image 2: Close-up of Acid Grassland Vegetation



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 87			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 03/08/11			
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton		County name: Clare	
<b>Sheet no:</b> 4445-b	heet no: 4445-b Townland: Ballymoloney		Grid Ref: 163379, 171516
Target note no.: TN4 Area: 5.6ha			

Habitat code GS3 / HH1 /

WS1

Several fields in an upland area, comprising a mosaic of Acid Grassland GS3, Dry Siliceous Heath HH1 and Ulex-dominated Scrub WS1.

### **Habitat Map**







Image 1: Overview of area.



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 88			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 03/08/11			
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton		County name: Clare	
<b>Sheet no:</b> 4445-b	Townland: Killeagy (Goonan)	Grid Ref: 163576, 171984	
Target note no.: TN5	<b>Area:</b> 1.1ha		

Habitat code

FW1/WN5

Eroding upland river (Ailleenagommaun River) FW1 in a deep ravine in the valley between Lackereagh and Lackereagh Beg peaks. The sides of the ravine consist of Riparian Woodland WN5, dominated by Willows (*Salix* spp.). Unable to access the ground flora due to the steep sides of the ravine.

### **Habitat Map**







Image 1: Riparian Woodland in Ravine



Image 2: Abundant Willows (Salix spp.)



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 89			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 03/08/11			
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton		County name: Clare	
<b>Sheet no:</b> 4445-b	45-b <b>Townland:</b> Ballymoloney		Grid Ref: 163172, 171487
Target note no.: TN6 Area: 0.7ha			

Habitat code

GS3

This field is classified as an Acid Grassland. The sward is quite low, with Sweet Vernal (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) dominant. Bents (*Agrostis* spp.) and fescues (*Festuca* spp.) are abundant. This area has been semi-improved, with species common to Improved Agricultural Grassland GA1 present in the sward (including Crested Dog's-tail and Clovers).

Scientific Name	Common Name	DAFOR
Agrostis spp.	Bents	Abundant
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal	Dominant
Cynosurus cristatus	Crested Dog's-tail	Frequent
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	Frequent
Cirsium palustre	Marsh Thistle	Frequent
Trifolium repens	White Clover	Abundant
Succisa pratensis	Devil's-bit Scabious	Occasional
Prunella vulgaris	Selfheal	Frequent
Festuca spp.	Fescues	Frequent
Cynosurus cristatus	Crested Dog's-tail	Frequent
Cerastium fontanum	Common Mouse-ear	Frequent
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Occasional
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	Frequent
Centaurea nigra	Knapweed	Frequent









Image 1: Semi-Improved Acid Grassland



Image 2: Close-up of Acid Grassland Vegetation with abundant Anthoxanthum odoratum



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 90			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 27/07/11			
Surveyor: Sarah O'Loughlin Irwin County name: Clare			County name: Clare
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4445-c	et no: 4445-c Townland: Cappanaslish		<b>Grid Ref:</b> 161379, 170943
Target note no · TN1		Area: 1 9ha	

# Habitat code

WN6

Small very dense copse of woodland. Species present appear to correspond to Wet willow-alder-ash woodland WN6, although Ash was not observed at this site. Sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*) growing at the edges only, inside the copse Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) is abundant, as is Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) scrub. Willows (*Salix* sp.) and Birch (*Betula* sp.) are frequent and the ground layer is quite species-poor and overgrown with Brambles (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and rank tussocky grasses and rushes. Signs of deer observed (tracks and damage to tree bark). Species list below.

#### Trees and shrubs:

#### **Species List**

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Quercus petraea	Sessile oak	Occasional
Alnus glutinosa	Alder	Abundant
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn	Abundant
Salix sp.	Willow	Frequent
Betula sp.	Birch	Frequent
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan	Occasional
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	Frequent

#### Ground flora:

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Rumex acetosella	Sheep's sorrel	Occasional
Ranunculus repens	Creeping buttercup	Abundant
Epilobium palustre	Marsh willowherb	Rare
Veronica chamaedrys	Germander speedwell	Occasional
Cf. Galium palustre	Common Marsh Bedstraw	Occasional
Stellaria media	Common chickweed	Frequent
Geranium robertianum	Herb Robert	Occasional
Lotus pedunculatus	Greater bird's-foot –trefoil	Frequent
Juncus effusus	Soft rush	Abundant
J. conglomeratus	Compact rush	Abundant
Cirsium palustre	Marsh thistle	Occasional
Senecio jacobaea	Ragwort	Rare



# Habitat Map





Image 1. Alder is abundant and the area is densely vegetated with small trees and Brambles.





Image 2. Close up of field layer at woodland edge – grasses, Brambles, Creeping buttercup, Greater bird's-foot-trefoil and Bedstraw are all present.



Image 3. Young Alder tree with bark damage caused by deer.



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 91			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 27/07/11			
Surveyor: Sarah O'Loughlin Irwin County name: Clare			County name: Clare
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4445-c Townland: Cappanaslish		Grid Ref: 161186, 171411	

Target note no.: TN2 Area: 1.3ha

Ecological value: County Importance – Semi Natural Woodland has limited distribution within the study area and is therefore considered to be of conservation value.

# Habitat code

Woodland dominated by Willows on a slight slope. Deep brown soils – poached by horses. Ground flora is rich in grasses and broadleaved herbs. Species list below.

WN6

This woodland seems to fit best into Bog Woodland WN7 for its tree species composition, however it appears to be seasonally waterlogged and its field layer does have a grassy appearance as described in Wet Willow-Alder-Ash Woodland WN6.

#### Trees and shrubs:

#### **Species List**

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Salix spp.	Willows	Dominant
Salix aurita	Eared willow	Abundant
Betula sp.	Birch	Frequent
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan	Frequent
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	Occasional
llex aquifolium	Holly	Occasional

#### Ground flora:

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Prunella vulgaris	Selfheal	Occasional
Ranunculus repens	Creeping buttercup	Frequent
Thuidium tamariscinum	Common Tamarisk-moss	Frequent
Oxalis acetosella	Wood sorrel	Occasional
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	Abundant
Viola sp.	Violet	Rare
Agrostis sp.	Bent grass	Abundant to Dominant
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken	Frequent
Digitalis purpurea	Foxglove	Occasional



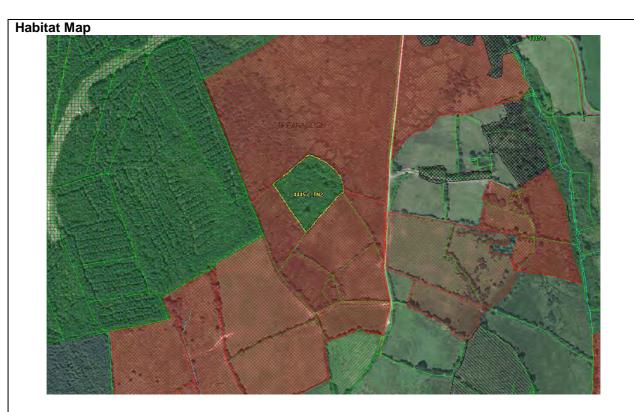




Image 1. Willow dominated woodland with occasional Hawthorn, field layer is abundant in Bent grasses with frequent Brambles and Bracken.





Image 2. The ground is quite heavily poached in areas. Occasional Foxgloves are present.



Image 3. Close up of field layer with abundant Bent grass, Creeping buttercup, Wood sorrel and Brambles.



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 92			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare		Survey date: 27/07/11	
Surveyor: Sarah O'Loughlin Irwin		County name: Clare	
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4445-c	Townland: Cappana	ıslish	Grid Ref: 161423, 170194
Target note no.: TN3		Area: 7.3ha	

# Habitat code

**WD1 / FW1** 

Woodland composed of planted/ornamental trees and native species, corresponds to (Mixed) Broadleaved woodland WD1. Ground flora is rich in grasses and broadleaved herbs. However, there are some patches where leaf litter/bare ground has considerably high cover i.e. under Beech trees. The area is heavily poached in areas where tracks run through the woodland, otherwise it is located on quite a steep slope. There is an Upland/eroding stream FW1 located at the Northern end of the woodland. Species list below.

This woodland is best categorised as (Mixed) Broadleaved Woodland WD1 however, it does contain a large proportion of native species in the canopy and has a well-developed field layer and therefore has a high ecological value in a local context.

#### Trees and shrubs:

#### **Species List**

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Castanea sativa	Sweet chestnut	Abundant
Quercus petraea	Sessile oak	Abundant
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	Rare
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan	Frequent
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	Frequent
Fagus sylvatica	Beech	Frequent
Corylus avellana	Hazel	Rare
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle	Occasional

#### Ground flora:

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Stellaria holostea	Greater chickweed Abundant in patches	
Lysimachia nemorum	Yellow pimpernel	Rare
Hyacinthoides non- scripta	Bluebell Frequent	
Oxalis acetosella	Wood sorrel	Frequent
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	Frequent
Viola sp.	Violet	Occasional
Agrostis sp.	Bent grass	Frequent to Abundant
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken	Occasional
Geum urbanum	Wood Aven	Rare
Geranium robertianum	Herb Robert	Rare
Hedera helix	lvy	Occasional
Circaea lutiana	Enchanter's-nightshade	Occasional



Blechnum spicant	Hard fern	Occasional
	Ferns	Occasional to Frequent
	Mosses	Occasional to Frequent
	Grasses	Occasional to Frequent

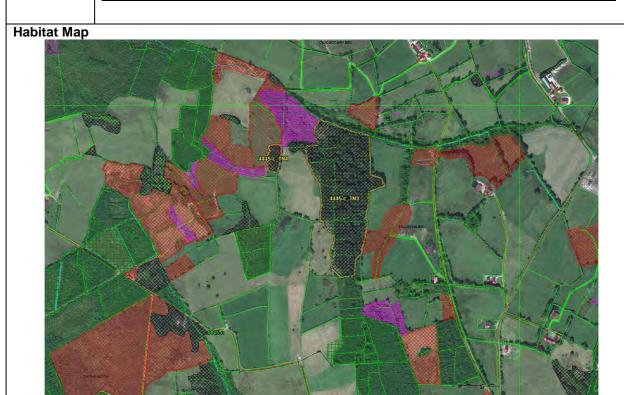




Image 1. Sweet chestnut and Sessile oak are both abundant in the woodland canopy.





Image 2. Field layer with Greater chickweed, Wood sorrel, Herb Robert and Bluebells (in seed).



Image 3. This area of the woodland has a Beech canopy, is rich in leaf litter and poor ground flora.





Image 4. At the Northern end of the woodland a stream forms a natural boundary between the woodland and adjacent farmland.



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 93			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare		Survey date: 27/07/11	
Surveyor: Sarah O'Loughlin Irwin		County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4445-c	Townland: Cappanaslish		Grid Ref: 161189, 170324
Target note no.: TN4		<b>Area:</b> 0.34ha	

# Habitat code

WS3

Remnants of planted shubbery, now very overgrown with scrub and Bracken – follows an old stone wall and has a corrugated iron shed located within it. Although it is composed of a mix of native and non-native species it best corresponds to Ornamental/ non-native Shrubs WS3. Species list below.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Fuschia magellanica	Fuschia	Abundant
Quercus petraea	Sessile oak	Abundant
Fagus sylvatica	Beech	Frequent
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn	Abundant
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken	Abundant
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	Frequent

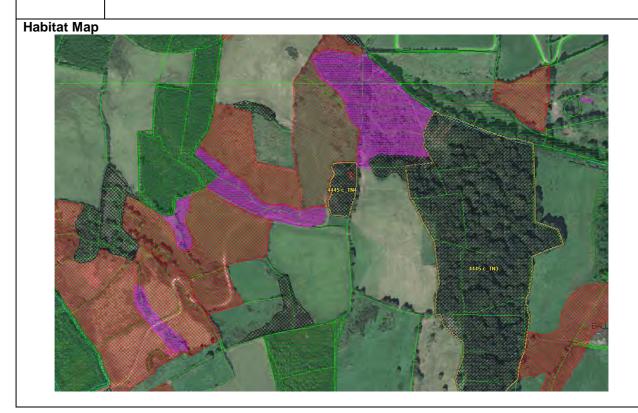




Image 1. Fuschia is abundant and covers the old stone wall.



Image 2. Beech and Sessile oak are abundant here in the treeline.



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 94			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare		Survey date: 03/08/11	
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton		County name: Clare	
Sheet no: 4445-d	Townland: Fahy More		Grid Ref: 163581, 169642
Target note no.: TN1	Ar	<b>ea:</b> 1.1ha	

Habitat code

GS2/GS4

Wet Grassland on gently sloping hillside which had just been mown at time of survey. Leftover edges indicate Wet Grassland vegetation with good species diversity. Quite mossy, with lots of grey lichen (see photos).

Small mammal tracks going across field and into drain – possibly otter.

Common Name	Latin Name	DAFOR
Jointed/Sharp-flowered	Juncus articulatus/acutiflorus	Frequent
Rush		
Compact Rush	Juncus conglomeratus	Abundant
Ribwort Plantain	Plantago lanceolata	Occasional
False Oat-grass	Arrhenatherum elatius	Abundant
Dandelion	Taraxacum officinale agg.	Occasional
Devil's-bit Scabious	Succisa pratensis	Frequent
Mouse-ear Hawkweed	Pilosella officinarium	Abundant
Lousewort	Pedicularis sylvatica ssp. sylvatica	Abundant
Tormentil	Potentilla erecta	Abundant







Image 1: Recently-mown field



Image 2: Edge vegetation





Image 3: Close-up of mown area with grey lichen



Image 4: Mammal tracks through field



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 95					
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 12/08/11					
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton			County name: Clare		
Sheet no: 4446-a Townland: Lackereagh More		agh More	Grid Ref: 164932, 170634		
Target note no.: TN1		Area: 1.7ha			

Habitat code

Species-rich Wet Grassland GS4 on gently sloping ground with abundant Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*).

GS4 Scabious (Succisa pratensis

Scientific Name	Common Name	DAFOR
Agrostis stolonifera	Creeping Bent	Frequent
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal	Frequent
Carex echinata	Star Sedge	Frequent
Carex panicea	Carnation Sedge	Abundant
Cynosurus cristatus	Crested Dog's-tail	Occasional
Euphrasia sp.	Eyebright	Abundant
Festuca spp.	Fescues	Frequent
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Frequent
Hypochaeris radicata	Cat's-ear	Occasional
Juncus	Jointed/Sharp-flowered	Dominant
articulatus/acutiflorus	Rush	
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	
Lotus pedunculatus	Greater Bird's-foot	Frequent
	Trefoil	
Luzula multiflora ssp.	Heath Woodrush	
congesta		
Pedicularis sylvatica ssp.	Lousewort	Frequent
sylvatica		
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Occasional
Prunella vulgaris	Selfheal	Frequent
Ranunculus acris	Meadow Buttercup	Occasional
Ranunculus flammula	Lesser Spearwort	Occasional
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	Occasional
Rhinanthus minor	Yellow-rattle	Rare
Succisa pratensis	Devil's-bit Scabious	Abundant
Trifolium spp.	Clovers	Frequent







Image 1: Wet Grassland with abundant Devil's-bit Scabious





Image 2: Close-up of Wet Grassland vegetation



Image 3: Orchid spike and Eyebright growing in Wet Grassland



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 96				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 11/08/11				
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton			County name: Clare	
Sheet no: 4446-b Townland: Knockaderreen		Grid Ref: 166494, 171423		
Target note no.: TN1		Area: 17ha		

Ecological Value: County Importance – Semi Natural Woodland has limited distribution within the study area and is therefore considered to be of conservation value.

# Habitat code

Eroding Upland River FW1 in a deep ravine. Very rapid flow. Woodland on either side of the river composed mainly of Willows (*Salix* spp.) with occasional Ash (*Fraxinus* excelsior) and Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). Also abundant Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) on slopes of ravine. The woodland on the western side of the river is probably best described as Oak-Ash-Hazel woodland WN2; this occurs on the steep slopes of the ravine and quite dry, with a field layer dominated by Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) with abundant ferns. The woodland on the eastern side is on a gentler slope and is dominated by Willows (*Salix* spp.) and best described as Riparian Woodland WN5. Some areas along the river have been planted with conifers, and are therefore classified as Conifer Plantation WD4.

**WN2/WN5** 





Image 1: View of Woodland from top of slope



Image 2: Ash/Hazel woodland





Image 3: Hazel growing on top of slope



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 97					
	TARGET NOTES - ID No. 97				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare			Survey date: 28/07/11		
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton			County name: Clare		
<b>Sheet no:</b> 4446-c	Townland: Kilroughil		Grid Ref: 165555, 169479		
Target note no.: TN1		Area: 0.9ha			

# Habitat code

GS4

Grassland on flat ground, dominated by Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Jointed/Sharp-flowered Rush (*Juncus articulatus/acutiflorus*) and Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*). Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*) is abundant. Other species noted were Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*), White Clover (*Trifolium repens*), Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Common Mouse-ear (*Cerastium fontanum*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and Curled Dock (*Rumex crispus*).





Image 1: Wet Grassland Overview



Image 2: Close-up of Wet Grassland Vegetation



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 98				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 28/07/11				
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton			County name: Clare	
Sheet no: 4446-c Townland: Kilroughil		Grid Ref: 165508, 169434		
Target note no : TN2		<b>∆rea</b> : 1 1ha		

Habitat code

Similar to adjacent field (TN1) but drier, with rushes absent. Best classified as Dry Meadows and Grassy Verges GS2.

GS2

Scientific Name	Common Name	DAFOR
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Dominant
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Abundant
Agrostis stolonifera	Creeping Bent	Abundant
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot	Occasional
Cynosurus cristatus	Crested Dog's-tail	Abundant
Lotus corniculatus	Bird's-foot Trefoil	Abundant
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover	Abundant
Trifolium repens	White Clover	Occasional
Vicia cracca	Tufted Vetch	Occasional
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	Rare
Senecio jacobea	Ragwort	Rare
Cerastium fontanum	Common Mouse-ear	Occasional
Centaurium erythyraea	Common Centaury	Occasional

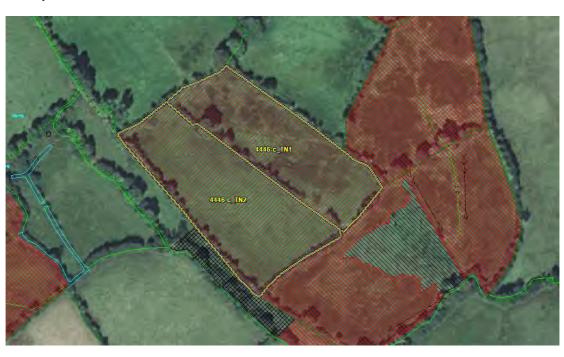






Image 1: Dry meadow GS2 with Tufted vetch and Bird's-foot Trefoil



Image 2: Common Centaury



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 99				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 28/07/11				
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton			County name: Clare	
Sheet no: 4446-c Townland: Kilroughil		Grid Ref: 165421, 169168		
Target note no : TN3		<b>Δrea:</b> 1 4ha		

Ecological Value: International Importance – linked to the EU Annex I habitat 6410 *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*)

Habitat code

GS4

**Description:** Wet Grassland on gently sloping ground, with Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) abundant – this is linked to the Annex I habitat 6410 *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*). No signs of grazing or recent improvement.

**Threats:** Meadowsweet (*Filipendula*) is quite tall and rank in places, and is in danger of taking over.

### **Species List:**

Scientific Name	Common Name	DAFOR
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Abundant
Juncus	Jointed/Sharp-flowered	Abundant
articulatus/acutiflorus	Rush	
Juncus conglomeratus	Compact Rush	Abundant
Luzula multiflora ssp	Heath Rush	Abundant
multiflora		
Succisa pratensis	Devil's-bit Scabious	Abundant
Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet	Frequent
Carex echinata	Star Sedge	Frequent
Lotus pedunculatus	Greater Bird's-foot	Abundant
	Trefoil	
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Frequent
Dactylorhiza maculata	Heath Spotted-orchid	Frequent
Cirsium palustre	Marsh Thistle	Frequent
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Abundant
Agrostis spp.	Bents	Frequent
Ranunculus acris	Meadow Buttercup	Occasional
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Occasional
Carex panicea	Carnation Sedge	Frequent
Carex nigra	Common Sedge	Occasional
Galium palustre	Marsh Bedstraw	Occasional
Arrhenatherum elatius	False Oat-grass	Occasional



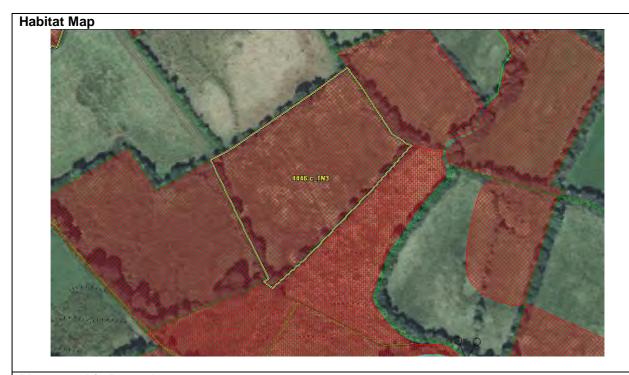




Image 1: Wet Grassland GS4





Image 2: Close-up of Wet Grassland vegetation



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 100			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare			Survey date: 28/07/11
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton		County name: Clare	
Sheet no: 4446-c Townland: Kilroughil		Grid Ref: 165170, 169262	
Target note no.: TN4 Area: 0.5ha		Area: 0.5ha	

Ecological Value: International Importance – linked to the EU Annex I habitat 6410 *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*)

Habitat code

Wet Grassland on flat ground. Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) is dominant. The vegetation is quite tall and rank, with no evidence of cutting or grazing.

GS4

Scientific Name	Common Name	DAFOR
Agrostis capillaris	Bents	Frequent
Dactylorhiza maculata	Heath Spotted-Orchid	Occasional
Carex nigra	Common Sedge	Frequent
Carex echinata	Star Sedge	Abundant
Carex panicea	Carnation Sedge	Frequent
Luzula multiflora ssp.	Heath Woodrush	Occasional
congesta		
Luzula multiflora ssp.	Heath Woodrush	Occasional
multiflora		
Succisa pratensis	Devil's-bit Scabious	Frequent
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Dominant
Juncus conglomeratus	Compact Rush	Frequent
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Frequent
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Abundant
Lotus pedunculatus	Greater Bird's-foot	Frequent
	Trefoil	
Arrhenatherum elatius	False Oat-grass	Occasional
Vicia cracca	Tufted Vetch	Occasional









Image 1: Wet Grassland with Molina caerulea dominant



Image 2: Close-up of Wet Grassland



TARGET NOTES - ID No.101			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 28/07/11			Survey date: 28/07/11
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton		County name: Clare	
<b>Sheet no:</b> 4446-c	Townland: Kilroughil		Grid Ref: 164802, 170286
Target note no.: TN5 Area: 8ha			

# Habitat code

**Description:** Abandoned farmland on gently sloping ground. Has been taken over mostly by tall ruderals and rank grasses and is similar to Dry Meadows and Grassy Verges habitat, though there does not appear to be any cutting being carried out. Hare forms were noted here.

#### GS2/HD1

**Threats:** Dense Bracken is encroaching and will most likely eventually take over, if cutting or grazing is not carried out.

### **Species List:**

Scientific Name	Common Name	DAFOR
Centaurea nigra	Knapweed	Abundant
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Abundant
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Frequent
Agrostis spp.	Bents	Abundant
Euphrasia sp.	Eyebright	Abundant
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	Frequent
Rhinanthus minor	Yellow Rattle	Frequent
Lotus corniculatus	Bird's-foot Trefoil	Abundant
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	Occasional
Cerastium fontanum	Common Mouse-ear	Occasional
Juncus	Jointed/Sharp-flowered	Occasional
articulatus/acutiflorus	Rush	
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover	Frequent







Image 1: Abandoned Farmland with GS2-type vegetation



Image 2: Close-up of Vegetation with Abundant Eyebright and Yellow Rattle





Image 3: Hare Forms in Long Grass



Image 4: Overview of Area with Bracken Invading



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 102			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 28/07/11			Survey date: 28/07/11
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton		County name: Clare	
Sheet no: 4446-c Townland: Kilroughil		Grid Ref: 164160, 169753	
Target note no.: TN6 Area		Area: 3.5ha	

Ecological Value: County Importance – Semi Natural Woodland has limited distribution within the study area and is therefore considered to be of conservation value.

# Habitat code

Small stream flowing down a hillside set into a ravine, best classified as an Eroding Upland River FW1. Bordered on both sides by a strip of Hazel woodland, best classified as an Oak-Ash-Hazel Woodland WN2.

### **FW1 / WN2**

The woodland has a species-rich field layer (see species list below).

A possible badger sett was found in this woodland.

### **Species List**

Scientific Name	Common Name	
Oxalis acetosella	Wood Sorrel	
Viola sp.	Violet sp. (not in flower)	
Geum urbanum	Wood Aven	
Lysimachia nemorum	Yellow Pimpernel	
Geranium robertianum	Herb Robert	
Circaea lutetiana	Enchanter's Nightshade	
Glechoma hederacea	Ground-Ivy	
Urtica dioeca	Nettle	
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Brambles	
Epilobium sp.	Willowherb	
Stellaria media	Common Chickweed	
Politrychum commune	Common Haircap Moss	





Image 1: Hazel Woodland beside Stream



Image 2: Stream (Eroding Upland River FW1)





Image 3: Ground Flora with Oxalis acetosella



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 103			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 10/08/11			Survey date: 10/08/11
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton		County name: Clare	
Sheet no: 4446-d Townland: Ross		Grid Ref: 166903, 170148	
Target note no.: TN1 Area: 1.2		Area: 1.2ha	

Habitat code

GS2

Dry meadow on gently sloping ground. Dominated by tall, tussocky grasses. Looks like it hasn't been cut in a while. Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Hedge Bindweed (*Calystegia sepium ssp. sepium*) are starting to invade. There are some areas where gravel has been deposited, which are becoming recolonised with mosses, Eyebright (*Euphrasia* spp.), Bents (*Agrostis* spp.), Sweet Vernal (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) and some conifer saplings (conifer plantation adjacent).

Scientific Name	Common Name	DAFOR
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	Occasional
Agrostis sp.	Bents	Abundant
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Frequent
Arrhenatherum elatius	False Oat-grass	Abundant
Calystegia sepium ssp. sepium	Hedge Bindweed	Occasional
Centaurea nigra	Knapweed	Frequent
Centaurium erythyraea	Common Centaury	Occasional
Crocosmia x	Montbretia	Occasional
crocosmiflora		
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot	Abundant
Euphrasia sp.	Eyebright	Occasional
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Abundant
Hypochaeris radicata	Cat's-ear	Abundant
Leucanthemum vulgare	Ox-eye Daisy	Frequent
Lotus corniculatus	Bird's-foot Trefoil	Frequent
Lotus pedunculatus	Greater Bird's-foot	Frequent
District Warren	Trefoil	0
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken	Occasional
Rhinanthus minor	Yellow Rattle	Frequent
Vicia cracca	Tufted Vetch	Occasional
Vicia sepium	Bush Vetch	Occasional







Image 1: Hay Meadow





Image 2: Close-up of Hay Meadow habitat with False Oat-grass, Knapweed and Tufted Vetch



Image 3: Deposited gravel recolonising with mosses, grasses, etc.





Image 4: Bracken invading



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 104			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 10/08/11			Survey date: 10/08/11
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton		County name: Clare	
Sheet no: 4446-d Townland: Ross		Grid Ref: 166951, 170073	
Target note no.: TN2		Area: 1ha	

Habitat code

WN5

Riparian woodland dominated by Willows. The water table is very high here with some pooling, probably fed by a small stream flowing through the woodland. The ground flora is dominated by Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) with frequent Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*), Ragged Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*), Wild Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), Great Horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia*), Marsh Bedstraw (*Galium palustre*), Enchanter's Nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.).









Image 1: Wet Woodland dominated by Willows



Image 2: Ground flora with Tufted Hair-grass (Deschampsia cespitosa)





Image 3: Small stream in woodland



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 105				
Survey Title: Survey and M	Survey date: 25/07/11			
Surveyor: Sarah O'Loughlin Irwin			County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4503-b Townland: Drumsillagh / Sallybank		agh / Sallybank	Grid Ref: 158833, 168505	
Target note no.: TN1		Area: 2.6ha		

Habitat code

**GS4 / BL1** 

Wet grassland GS4 on west-facing slope with co-dominant Sharp-flowered Rush (*Juncus acutiflorus*) and Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*). There is an old stone cottage in ruins covered by Blackthorn scrub within the field, classified as Stone Walls and other Stonework BL1. Grassland species include:

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Dominant
Juncus acutiflorus	Sharp-flowered Rush	Dominant
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Abundant
Agrostis sp.	Bent grass	Abundant
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	Frequent
Rumex acetosella	Sheep's Sorrel	Occasional
Cynosurus cristatus	Crested Dog's tail	Occasional
Rhinanthus minor	Yellow Rattle	Occasional
Euphrasia sp.	Eyebright	Abundant in patches
Prunella vulgaris	Self heal	Occasional
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	Frequent
Ranunculus acris	Meadow Buttercup	Frequent
Trifolium repens	White Clover	Occasional
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover	Occasional







Image 1. Wet grassland GS4.



Image 2. Close-up of flora with Sweet Vernal-grass, White Clover and Meadow Buttercup.





Image 3. Ruined cottage with Blackthorn scrub.



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 106				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare			<b>Survey date:</b> 25/07/11	
Surveyor: Sarah O'Loughlin Irwin			County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4503-b Townland: Drumsillagh or Sallybank			Grid Ref: 158767, 168393	
Target note no.: TN2		Area: 0.5ha		

Habitat code

GS4

Wet grassland GS4 on west-facing slope, similar to that described in Target Note 4503-b\_TN1 but with dominant Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*). Grassland species include:

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Abundant
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Abundant
Juncus acutiflorus	Sharp-flowered Rush	Abundant
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Dominant
Agrostis sp.	Bent grass	Frequent
Juncus bufonius	Toad Rush	Frequent in patches
Cerastium fontanum	Common Mouse-ear	Occasional
Lotus pedunculatus	Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil	Occasional
Alopecurus pratensis	Meadow Foxtail	Frequent
Alopecurus geniculatus	Marsh Foxtail	Occasional
Poa sp.	Meadow grass	Occasional
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	Frequent
Ranunculus acris	Meadow Buttercup	Frequent
Trifolium repens	White Clover	Occasional
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover	Occasional







Image 1. Wet grassland GS4.





Image 2. Close-up of flora with Yorkshire Fog, Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil and Marsh Foxtail.



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 107				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 28/07/11				
Surveyor: Sarah O'Loughlin Irwin			County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4503-d Townland: Aharinaghbeg		hbeg	Grid Ref: 159706, 167100	
Target note no.: TN1		Area: 1ha		

Habitat code

GS4

Wet grassland GS4 surrounded by tree-lines composed of a mix of broadleaved and coniferous species. Field is highest at its centre and slopes away to the sides. Vegetation is >50cm tall with dominant Sweet vernal grass and abundant Bent grasses. Species list below.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Agrostis sp.	Bent grass	Abundant
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet vernal grass	Dominant
Luzula multiflora ssp.	Dense-headed heath	
Congesta	wood-rush	
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire fog	Frequent
	Hawkbit	Frequent
Lotus pedunculatus	Greater bird's-foot-trefoil	Abundant in patches
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort plantain	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Frequent
Prunella vulgaris	Selfheal	Rare
Cerastium fontanum	Common mouse ear	Occasional
Rumex acetosella	Sheep's sorrel	Occasional
Urtica dioica	Stinging nettle	Occasional
Rhinanthus minor	Yellow rattle	Rare
Ranunculus acris	Meadow buttercup	Rare
Cirsium palustre	Marsh thistle	Occasional patches
Trifolium pratense	Red clover	Rare
Juncus inflexus	Hard rush	Occasional patches
Euphrasia sp.	Eyebright	Abundant in patches
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Brambles	Frequent patches
Rumex sp.	Docks	Frequent patches







Image 1. Wet grassland GS4 – Sweet vernal grass is abundant, Brambles occur in frequent patches, as do rushes and docks. Tree-line is observed in the distance.





Image 2. Close up of tall vegetation with abundant Sweet vernal grass and Greater bird's-foot-trefoil.



Image 3. Close up of shorter vegetation with Hawkbits, Selfheal and Common knapweed.



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 108				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 28/07/11				
Surveyor: Sarah O'Loughlin Irwin			County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4503-d Townland: Aharinaghbeg		hbeg	Grid Ref: 159911, 167030	
Target note no.: TN2		Area: 0.95ha		

Ecological value: National Importance – linked to the Annex I habitat '91A0 Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British isles.'

# Habitat code

WN1

Oak-birch-holly woodland WN1 located on a rocky slope with scattered moss-covered (*Thuidium tamariscinum* and *Rhytidiadelphus loreus*) sandstone boulders. Sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*) is the dominant canopy tree and there are occasional seedlings also, Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Downy birch (*Betula pubescens*) are abundant. The field layer is relatively species rich with abundant ferns and mosses and frequent broadleaved herbs, vegetated areas are interspersed with frequent patches of leaf litter. Some illegal dumping issues. Species list below.

This area is linked to the annexed habitat 'Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British isles (91A0)' though the area it cover is small so may only be of high ecological importance at a national level.

### Trees and shrubs:

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Quercus petraea	Sessile oak	Dominant
Corulus avellana	Hazel	Abundant
Betula pubescens	Downy birch	Abundant
llex aquifolium	Holly	Occasional to Frequent
Salix caprea	Goat willow	Frequent at wet margins
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle	Frequent
Hedera helix	lvy	Frequent
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	Frequent
Polypodium vulgare	Polypody fern	Frequent
Blechnum spicant	Hard fern	Occasional
Oxalis acetosella	Wood sorrel	Frequent
Vaccinium myrtillis	Bilberry	Rare
Geranium robertianum	Herb robert	Rare
Lysimachia nemorum	Yellow pimpernel	Rare
Luzula sylvatica	Great wood-rush	Rare patches
Polytrichum sp.	Moss	Frequent on rocks
Thuidium tamariscinum	Moss	Frequent on rocks &
		trees
Rhytidiadelphus loreus	Moss	Frequent on rocks &
Otallaria halasta	One stem etitele went	trees
Stellaria holostea	Greater stitchwort	Rare







Image 1. Woodland with abundant Downy birch and Hazel. Rock boulders covered with moss frequent the woodland floor, as do patches of leaf litter, and ferns are frequent.





Image 2. Close up of sandstone boulders covered with *Polytrichum* sp. moss, Ivy, Honysuckle and Wood sorrel. Grasses and ferns are growing around the boulders.



Image 3. Close up of Great wood-rush, Bent grasses and abundant Wood sorrel.



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 109			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 28/07/11			
Surveyor: Sarah O'Loughlin Irwin		County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4504-a Townland: Kilmore			Grid Ref: 160741, 167603

Target note no.: TN1 Area: 0.5ha

Ecological value: County Importance – Semi Natural Woodland has limited distribution within the study area and is therefore considered to be of conservation value.

# Habitat code

Riparian woodland WN5 adjacent to Glenomra Woods SAC. Sparrowhawks were heard from the nearby Conifer plantation.

WN5

This woodland and river offer connectivity between Glenomra Woods and the adjacent habitats.

#### Trees and shrubs:

#### **Species List**

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Salix spp.	Willows	Dominant
Acer psudoplatanus	Sycamore	Rare
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	Occasional
Betula sp.	Birch	Rare
Corylus avellana	Hazel	Occasional
llex aquifolium	Holly	Occasional
Ulex europaeus	Gorse	Occasional

### Ground flora:

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Angelica sylvestris	Wild Angelica	Frequent
Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet	Occasional
Valeriana officinale	Common Valerian	Abundant
Urtica dioica	Nettle	Rare
Geum urbanum	Wood Aven	Occasional
Veronica spp.	Speedwell	Occasional
Circaea lutetiana	Enchanter's-nightshade	Abundant
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Brambles	Frequent
	Ferns	Occasional



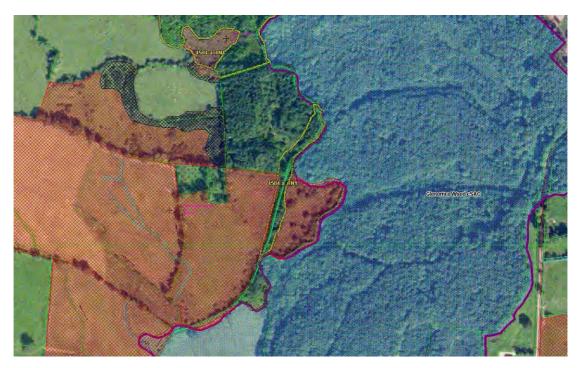




Image 1. Riparian woodland alongside Eroding/Upland river.





Image 2. Ground flora at woodland edge.



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 110			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 03/08/11			
Surveyor: Sarah O'Loughlin Irwin		County name: Clare	
<b>1:2,500 Sheet no:</b> 4504-a <b>Townland:</b> Kilmore		Grid Ref: 160725, 167960	
Target note no · TN2–TN3		Area: 2 3ha	

Ecological value: County Importance – Semi Natural Woodland has limited distribution within the study area and is therefore considered to be of conservation value.

# Habitat code

#### **WN4 / FP2**

Small Wet Pedunculate Oak-Ash Woodland WN4 copse dominated by Hazel (*Corylus* avellana) with abundant Willows, such as the Eared Willow (*Salix* aurita), on a slight slope with a non-calcareous spring FP2 arises in its centre and flowing down the slope to form a small stream. The ground is somewhat poached by cattle and horses however it retains substantial vegetation cover in the field layer with abundant bryophytes, grasses and broadleaved herbs. A small bee's nest was observed within the woods next to the stream bank. There is an earthen mound with small mammal burrows with a scattering of broken hazelnut shells at the entrance which appear to have been nibbled by Wood mice.

This woodland is very diverse for its small size and there is an absence of non-native species. Consider upgrading its Ecological value to National Importance.

### Trees and shrubs:

## **Species List**

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Corylus avellana	Hazel	Dominant
Quercus petraea	Sessile oak	Rare
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	Occasional
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan	Rare
Salix aurita	Eared Willow	Abundant
llex aquifolium	Holly	Rare

### Ground flora:

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Ranunculus repens	Creeping buttercup	Abundant
Geranium robertianum	Herb Robert	Frequent
Prunella vulgaris	Selfheal	Occasional
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	Occasional
Oxalis acetosella	Wood Sorrel	Abundant in patches
Lysimachia nemorum	Yellow Pimpernel	Occasional
Circaea lutetiana	Enchanter's Nightshade	Abundant in patches
Galium uliginosum	Fen Bedstraw	Frequent
Viola sp.	Violet	Occasional
Hedera helix	lvy	Occasional
Hyacinthoides non- scripta	Bluebell	Rare
Dactylorhiza incarnata	Early Marsh-orchid	Rare
Carex remota	Remote Sedge	Occasional
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle	Rare
Urtica dioica	Nettle	Abundant in patches



Stellaria holostea	Great Stichwort	Occasional
Agrostis stolonifera	Creeping Bent grass	Dominant in patches

Further down the slope from TN2 the woodland canopy changes, with taller spindley trees and a more open canopy. The ground is undulating and has a varying degree of bare ground (due to poaching) and leaf litter as well as occasional Sphagnum hummocks. An earth mound within the woods contains small mammal holes with evidence of wood mouse in the form of gnawed hazel nuts.

### Trees and shrubs:

## **Species List**

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Betula pubescens	Downy birch	Dominant
Salix caprea	Goat willow	Occasional
Corylus avellana	Hazel	Frequent
Fagus sylvatica	Beech	Rare
Salix aurita	Eared Willow	Occasional
Ilex aquifolium	Holly	Frequent

### Ground flora:

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Sphagnum spp.	Moss	Occasional
Agrostis stolonifera	Creeping bent grass	Abundant
Carex remota	Remote sedge	Occasional
Blechnum spicant	Hard fern	Occasional
Vaccinium myrtillis	Bilberry	Occasional
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Rare
Polytrichum spp.	Moss	Occasional
Hedera helix	lvy	Frequent
Thuidium tamariscinum	Common Tamarisk moss	Frequent
Carex echinata	Star sedge	Occasional
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	Frequent
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire fog	Occasional
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet vernal grass	Rare
Calluna vulgaris	Ling heather	Rare patches
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved heather	Rare
Carex spp.	Sedges	Occasional
	Ferns	Occasional







Image 1. Wet pedunculate oak-ash woodland WN4. Hazel dominates the canopy layer with Ash and Oak are also present – seedlings occur here. An abundance of Creeping Bent grass and Enchanter's Nightshade can be seen here.





Image 2. Creeping Bent grass is dominant in the field layer with Enchanter's-nightshade, Wood Sorrel, Creeping Buttercup, Herb Robert and Early Marsh Orchid.



Image 3. Small mammal holes in an earth mound with scattered gnawed hazel nuts.





Image 4. Stream with over-hanging trees covered with mosses and Ivy. Field layer has patches of leaf litter and dominant Creeping bent grass.



Image 5. Tall spindley Birch trees.





Image 6. Bees nest partially torn apart and scattered on the ground.



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 111			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 03/08/11			
Surveyor: Sarah O'Loughlin Irwin		County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4504-a Townland: Springmount		Grid Ref: 160622, 167818	
Target note no.: TN4		Area: 0.4ha	

Habitat code

GS3

Acid grassland GS3 with abundant non-*Sphagnum* mosses, short needle-leaved grasses, sedges and broadleaved herbs. Sharp-flowered rush is abundant in places. Gorse and Willow scrub are encroaching. Species list below.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Juncus acutiflorus	Sharp-flowered rush	Abundant
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet vernal grass	Frequent
Luzula multiflora	Heath wood rush	Frequent
Molinia caerulea	Purple moor grass	Frequent
Briza media	Quaking grass	Rare
Carex echinata	Star sedge	Occasional
C. flacca	Glaucous sedge	Occasional
C. pulicaris	Flea sedge	Rare
Prunella vulgaris	Selfheal	Occasional
Lotus pedunculatus	Greater bird's-foot-trefoil	Occasional
Pedicularis palustris	Marsh lousewort	Frequent in patches
Pedicularis sylvatica	Lousewort	Occasional
Rhinanthus minor	Yellow rattle	Frequent
Ranunculus acris	Meadow buttercup	Frequent
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Occasional
Centaurea nigra	Common knapweed	Occasional
Equisetum sp.	Horsetails	Rare
Euphrasia sp.	Eyebright	Abundant in patches
Cf. Succisa pratensis	Devil's bit scabious	Abundant







Image 1. Acid grassland GS3 – Sweet vernal grass, Eyebright and Common knapweed are abundant with frequent Marsh lousewort – scrub is encroaching.



Image 2. Close up of vegetation. Non-*Sphagnum* mosses, short needle-leaved grasses, Glaucous sedge and cf. Devil's-bit scabious are abundant with occasional Lousewort and Meadow buttercup.



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 112			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare		Survey date: 04/08/11	
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton		County name: Clare	
Sheet no: 4504-b	Townland: Ballynamona		Grid Ref: 163486, 168092
Target note no.: TN1		Area: 3.8ha	

**Ecological Value: National Importance (very limited in extent in Ireland)** 

Habitat code

Mosaic of wetland habitats on gently undulating ground, adjacent to a small stream. Comprising Marsh GM1, Transition Mire and Quaking Bog PF3 and Reed and Large Sedge Swamp FS1.

GM1/PF3/ FS1

The flush area has a species composition which is intermediate between poor and rich fens and is quite wet and spongy underfoot. For this reason it is classified as Transition Mire and Quaking Bog PF3. This site lies between an area of sandstone bedrock (acidic) to the west and an area of limestone (basic) to the east, which would explain the intermediate nature of the fen/flush habitat. Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) is the dominant species, with abundant sedges (particularly *Carex flacca*) and Marsh Cinquefoil (*Potentilla palustre*). A broad range of other broadleaved species was noted, including Lesser Spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*), Marsh Lousewort (*Pedicularis palustre*) and Water Forget-me-not (*Myosotis scorpiodes*). The area also has an extensive carpet of (non-*Sphagnum*) mosses.

The Marsh habitat is dominated by rushes and Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), with a good diversity of herbaceous species, including Ragged Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*), Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) and Marsh Lousewort (*Pedicularis palustre*).

Some areas are dominated by Reedmace (*Typha latifolia*), with very few other species. These areas may be described as Reed and Large Sedge Swamp FS1, but are too limited in extent to denote on the habitat map.

Two species of damselfly were recorded here – Common Blue (*Enallagma cyanthigerum*) and Azure Blue (*Coenagrion puella*) (see **Image 4** below).

**Transition Mire and Quaking Bog PF3 Species List** 

Latin Name	Common Name	DAFOR
Carex flacca	Glaucous Sedge	Abundant
Carex spp.	Other small sedges	Abundant
Epilobium sp.	Willowherb	Occasional
Dactylorhiza sp.	Dactylorchid sp.	Rare
Equisetum fluviatile	Water Horsetail	
Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet	Rare
Galium palustre	Marsh Bedstraw	Abundant
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Rare
Iris pseudacorus	Yellow Iris	Occasional
Juncus	Jointed/Sharp-flowered Rush	Dominant
articulatus/acutiflorus		
Juncus bufonius	Toad Rush	Occasional
Lotus pedunculatus	Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil	Abundant
Mentha aquatica	Watermint	Frequent
Menyanthes trifoliata	Bogbean	Dominant
Pedicularis palustre	Marsh Lousewort	Frequent
Potentilla palustre	Marsh Cinquefoil	Frequent
Triglochin palustris	Marsh Arrowgrass	Rare



Marsh	Sno	ocioe	I ict
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Latin Name	Common Name	DAFOR
Angelica sylvestris	Wild Angelica	Frequent
Carex panicea	Carnation Sedge	Frequent
Cirsium palustre	Marsh Thistle	Occasional
Dactylorhiza maculata	Heath Spotted-Orchid	Rare
Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet	Abundant
Glyceria maxima	Reed Sweet Grass	Occasional
Juncus	Jointed/Sharp-flowered Rush	Dominant
articulatus/acutiflorus	•	
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Abundant
Lathyrus pratensis	Meadow Vetchling	Occasional
Lotus pedunculatus	Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil	Occasional
Lychnis flos-cuculi	Ragged Robin	Occasional
Lythrum salicaria	Purple-Loosestrife	Frequent
Mentha aquatica	Watermint	Frequent
Prunella vulgaris	Selfheal	Frequent
Succisa pratensis	Devil's-bit Scabious	Occasional





Image 1: View of area showing mosaic of Marsh GM1 (foreground), Reed and Large Sedge Swamp FS1 with *Typha latifolia* dominant (back left) and Transition Mire and Quaking Bog PF3 (back right).



Image 2: Area of Flush / Transition Mire and Quaking Bog PF3





Image 3: Close-up of Flush / Transition Mire and Quaking Bog PF3 vegetation



Image 4: Azure Blue Damselfly (*Coenagrion puella*) in Flush / Transition Mire and Quaking Bog PF3 habitat





Image 5: Dactylorchid spike in Transition Mire and Quaking Bog PF3 habitat (probably Dactylorhiza maculata)



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 113			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare		Survey date: 04/08/11	
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton		County name: Clare	
<b>Sheet no:</b> 4504-b	Townland: Bridgetov	wn	Grid Ref: 163838, 167810
Target note no.: TN2		<b>Area:</b> 0.36ha	

# Habitat code

WN5

Woodland surrounding stream (classified as an Eroding Upland River FW1). Dominated by Ash and Willows with occasional Hybrid Oak (*Quercus robur x. petraea*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). Field layer dominated by Brambles (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), with abundant Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), frequent Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Horsetails (*Equisetum* sp) and Marsh Bedstraw (*Galium palustre*). Other species noted included Ground Ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), Violet (*Viola* sp.), Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*), Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*) and Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*).

### **Habitat Map**





Image 1: Riparian Woodland



Image 2: Ground Flora of Riparian Woodland



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 114			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 09/08/11			Survey date: 09/08/11
Surveyor: Jean Hamilt	on		County name: Clare
Sheet no: 4504-b	Townland: Leitrim		Grid Ref: 162423, 168211
Target note no : TN3		<b>Area:</b> 3.2ha	

Habitat code

GS4/WS1/ HH3 Mosaic of habitats. Probably best described as Wet Grassland GS4, but with some elements of heath and scrub.

Latin Name	Common Name	DAFOR
Agrostis spp.	Bents	Frequent
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal	Frequent
Calluna vulgaris	Ling	Occasional
Carex echinata	Star Sedge	Occasional
Cirsium palustre	Marsh Thistle	Frequent
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Abundant
Hypochaeris radicata	Cat's-ear	Rare
Juncus	Jointed/Sharp-flowered Rush	Dominant
articulatus/acutiflorus		
Juncus conglomeratus	Compact Rush	Abundant
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Abundant
Lotus pedunculatus	Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil	Abundant
Luzula multiflora	Heath Woodrush	Occasional
Pedicularis sp.	Lousewort	Occasional
Polygala serpyllifolia	Heath Milkwort	Frequent
Polytrichum vulgaris		
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Frequent
Ranunculus flammula	Lesser Spearwort	Frequent
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	Occasional
Salix spp.	Willows	Occasional
Sphagnum spp.	Bog Mosses	Occasional
Succisa pratensis	Devil's-bit Scabious	Frequent
Ulex europaeus	Gorse	Frequent
<i>Viola</i> sp.	Violet sp.	Rare





Image 1: Overview of Area



Image 2: Wet Grassland





Image 3: Close-up of Wet Grassland/Heath vegetation



Image 4: Sphagnum spp.



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 115			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 03/08/11			Survey date: 03/08/11
Surveyor: Sarah O'Loughlin Irwin		County name: Clare	
1:2,500 Sheet no: 4504-c Townland: Fahy More (South)		Grid Ref: 161233, 167241	
Target note no.: TN1		Area: 0.4ha	

Ecological value: County Importance – Semi Natural Woodland has limited distribution within the study area and is therefore considered to be of conservation value.

# Habitat code

WN1

Small area of Oak-birch-holly woodland WN1 on acid soil (species poor). Birch and Hawthorn are abundant with frequent Rowan and Holly. Sessile Oak seedlings are present and a single mature tree. The field layer is species poor with a high proportion of bare ground and leaf litter and otherwise has dominant Brambles. Species list below.

This area is not linked to the annexed habitat 'Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British isles (91A0)'.

Species (Latin name)	Species (common name)	DAFOR Scale
Betula pubescens	Downy birch	Abundant
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan	Frequent
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	Occasional
Quercus petraea	Sessile oak	Rare
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	Abundant
Ilex aquifolium	Holly	Frequent
Salix sp.	Willow	Rare
Hedera helix	lvy	Frequent
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle	Occasional
Ulex europaea	Gorse	Occasional
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Brambles	Dominant
	Ferns	Occasional







Image 1. Canopy layer with abundant Downy birch.



Image 2. Understory with Hawthorn and Holly.



Image 3. Species poor filed layer with Brambles and leaf litter.



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 116			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 05/08/11			Survey date: 05/08/11
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton		County name: Clare	
Sheet no: 4504-d Townland: Ardataggle		Grid Ref: 162802, 167074	
Target note no.: TN1	Α	rea: 3.4ha	

# Habitat code

WS2

Young Pendunculate Oak / Scot's Pine plantation – probably planted as part of the Native Woodlands Scheme. The leaves of the Oak trees appear to be affected by oak mildew (caused by the fungus *Erysiphe alphitoides* – see Image). The ground is very wet, with abundant rushes.







Image 1: Immature Woodland WS2



Image 2: Oak Mildew on Pedunculate Oak leaves



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 117			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 09/08/11			Survey date: 09/08/11
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton		County name: Clare	
Sheet no: 4504-d Townland: Fahy More		Grid Ref: 162227, 167057	
Target note no.: TN2		Area: 7.2ha	•

**Ecological Value: County Importance** 

# Habitat code

WN7/WD1

Mature Birch Woodland surrounding bog. This habitat does not have links to the Annex I Habitat 'Bog Woodland (91D0)'. Dominated by Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), with occasional Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Willows (*Salix* spp.) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). The field layer is dominated by Brambles (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), with abundant Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and some Ivy (*Hedera helix*) and abundant (non-*Sphagnum*) mosses. No bog species were noted in the field layer.

### **Habitat Map**





Image 1: Mature Birch Woodland



Image 2: Field Layer with abundant Brambles



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 118			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 22/07/11			Survey date: 22/07/11
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton/Sarah O'Loughlin/John Curtin/Shane O'Neill			County name: Clare
Sheet no: 4505-a Townland: O'Briensbridge		Grid Ref: 165203, 167717	
Target note no.: TN1 Area: 0.6ha		Area: 0.6ha	

Habitat code

PB4/HH3

Highly modified bog habitat. Bog vegetation persists, but Sphagnum is rare, and common agricultural grasses such as Perennial Rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*) are widespread. Gorse is beginning to invade. The ground is somewhat poached, with evidence of burning (Gorse branches blackened). Some drains have been dug.

Common Name	Latin Name	DAFOR
Bent sp.	Agrostis sp.	Occasional
Sweet Vernal Grass	Anthoxanthum odoratum	Frequent
Ling	Calluna vulgaris	Abundant
Common Sedge	Carex nigra	Abundant
Carnation Sedge	Carex panacea	Rare
Bearded Lichen	Cladonia sp.	Occasional
Round-leaved Sundew	Drosera rotundifolia	Occasional
Cross-leaved Heath	Erica tetralix	Occasional
Common Cottongrass	Eriophorum angustifolium	Occasional
Yorkshire Fog	Holcus lanatus	Occasional
Cat's-ear	Hypochaeris radicata	Occasional
Jointed/Sharp-flowered	Juncus articulatus/acutiflorus	Frequent
Rush		
Soft Rush	Juncus effusus	Abundant
Heath Rush	Juncus squarrosus	Occasional
Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil	Lotus pedunculatus	Frequent
Heath Wood-rush	Luzula multiflora ssp. congesta	Occasional
Purple Moor-grass	Molinia caerulea	Abundant
Bog Asphodel	Narthecium ossifragum	Rare
Common Lousewort	Pedicularis sylvatica	Occasional
Tormentil	Potentilla erecta	Frequent
Creeping Buttercup	Ranunculus repens	Occasional
Brambles	Rubus fruticosus agg.	Rare
Common Sorrel	Rumex acetosa	Rare
Willows	Salix sp.	Rare
Bog Mosses	Sphagnum spp.	Occasional
Deergrass	Trichophorum cespitosum	Occasional
White Clover	Trifolium repens	Frequent
Common Gorse	Ulex europaea	Frequent



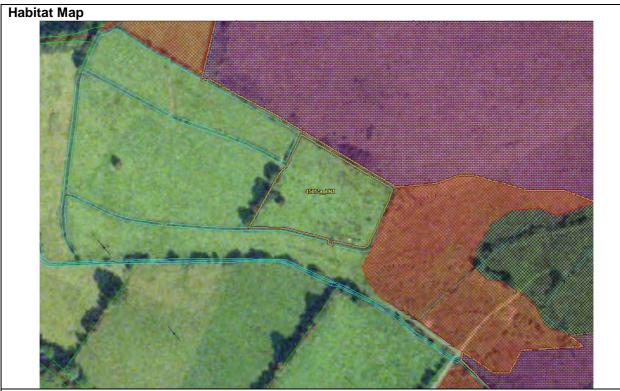




Image 1: Overview of area





Image 2: Close-up of vegetation



Image 3: Close-up of vegetation



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 119			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 22/07/11			
<b>Surveyor:</b> Jean Hamilton/Sarah O'Loughlin/John Curtin/Shane O'Neill			County name: Clare
Sheet no: 4505-a Townland: O'Briensbridge		Grid Ref: 165884, 167936	
Target note no.: TN2 Area: 90ha		Area: 90ha	

**Ecological Value: County Importance** 

Habitat code

PB4

Cutover Bog which is regenerating, with abundant bog mosses (*Sphagnum* spp.). No peat banks are visible here but peat banks further in indicated that the entire area has been cut. This area appears to be grazed with some poaching. Signs of hare were noted here. Rhododendron is invading. No examples of the EU Annex I habitat 7150 'Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhyncosporion' were found here.

Common Name	Latin Name	DAFOR
Bog Rosemary	Andromeda polifolia	Rare
Ling	Calluna vulgaris	Abundant
Common Sedge	Carex nigra	Rare
Bearded Lichen	Cladonia sp.	Occasional
Round-leaved Sundew	Drosera rotundifolia	Occasional
Cross-leaved Heath	Erica tetralix	Occasional
Hare's-tail Cottongrass	Eriophorum vaginatum	Frequent
Heath Rush	Juncus squarrosus	Occasional
Purple Moor-grass	Molinia caerulea	Rare
Bog Asphodel	Narthecium ossifragum	Occasional
White Beak-sedge	Rhyncospora alba	Frequent
Oak sapling	Quercus sp.	Rare
Bog Mosses	Sphagnum spp.	Occasional
Deergrass	Trichophorum cespitosum	Abundant
Bilberry	Vaccinium myrtillus	Rare
Cranberry	Vaccinium oxycoccus	Frequent

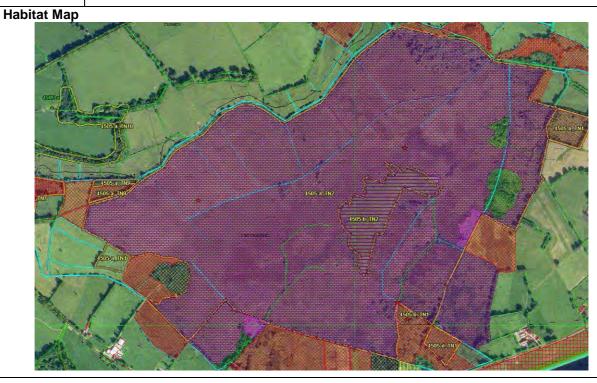






Image 1: Overview of Cutover Bog



Image 2: Cutover bog vegetation with abundant Sphagnum and Deergrass





Image 3: Close-up of Cutover bog vegetation with abundant Sphagnum



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 120					
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 25/07/11					
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton			County name: Clare		
Sheet no: 4505-a Townland: Fahy Beg			Grid Ref: 164424, 168248		
Target note no.: TN3		Area:			

Habitat code

WL1/WL2/ BL2/GS2 Species and structurally-diverse hedgerows on both sides of the road here, typical of hedgerows in the area which are generally of high ecological value with good connectivity. The hedgerow is dominated by Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) with some mature Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), developing in to a treeline WL2 in places. The hedgerow occurs in conjunction with an earth bank and a grassy verge.

Creeping Bent Agrostis capillaries False Oat-grass Arrhenantherum eliatus Maidenhair Spleenwort Asplenium trichomanes Common Mouse-ear Cerastium fontanum Cock's-foot Dactylis glomerata Foxglove Digitalis purpurea American Willowherb Epilobium ciliatum Wild Strawberry Fragaria vesca Cleaver Galium aparine Herb Robert Geranium robertianum Wood Aven Geum urbanum Ground Ivy Glechoma hederacea Ivy Hedera helix Yorkshire Fog Holcus lanatus Perforate St. John's-wort Hypericum perforatum Ox-eye Daisy Leucanthemum vulgare Honeysuckle Lonicera periclymenum Wall Lettuce Mycelis muralis Hart's-tongue Fern Phyllitis scolopendrium Ribwort Plantain Plantago lanceolata Soft Sheild-fern Polistichum setiferum Selfheal Prunella vulgaris Dog Rose Rosa canina Bramble Rubus fruticosus agg. Curled Dock Rumex crispus Broad Dock Rumex crispus Broad Dock Rumex obtusifolia Figwort Scrophularia nodosa Ragwort Senecio jacobea Upright Hedge-Parsley Torilis japonica Nettle Urtica dioeca Bush Vetch Vicia sepium Violet Viola sp.	Common Name	Latin Name
Maidenhair Spleenwort Common Mouse-ear Corastium fontanum Cock's-foot Dactylis glomerata Foxglove Digitalis purpurea American Willowherb Epilobium ciliatum Wild Strawberry Fragaria vesca Cleaver Galium aparine Herb Robert Geranium robertianum Wood Aven Ground Ivy Glechoma hederacea Ivy Hedera helix Yorkshire Fog Holcus lanatus Perforate St. John's-wort Ox-eye Daisy Honeysuckle Lonicera periclymenum Wall Lettuce Mycelis muralis Hart's-tongue Fern Ribwort Plantain Plantago lanceolata Soft Sheild-fern Polistichum setiferum Selfheal Prunella vulgaris Dog Rose Bramble Rubus fruticosus agg. Curled Dock Rumex crispus Ragwort Upright Hedge-Parsley Nettle Urtica dioeca Urica genium trichomanes Cerastium fontanum Cleavillis purpurea American fontanum Fragaria vesca Galium aparine Fepilobium ciliatum Cellatum Fragaria vesca Galium aparine Hedera helix Hedera helix Hypericum perforatum Vulgare Holcus lanatus Hypericum perforatum Pulpus lanatus Pulpus fruicosus Rosolopendrium Ribwort Plantain Plantago lanceolata Prunella vulgaris Rosa canina Rubus fruticosus agg. Curled Dock Rumex crispus Broad Dock Rumex crispus Broad Dock Rumex crispus Broad Dock Rumex crispus Ragwort Vicia sepium	Creeping Bent	Agrostis capillaries
Common Mouse-ear Cock's-foot Dactylis glomerata Foxglove Digitalis purpurea American Willowherb Epilobium ciliatum Wild Strawberry Fragaria vesca Cleaver Galium aparine Herb Robert Geranium robertianum Wood Aven Ground Ivy Glechoma hederacea Ivy Hedera helix Yorkshire Fog Holcus lanatus Perforate St. John's-wort Ox-eye Daisy Honeysuckle Honeysuckle Hart's-tongue Fern Ribwort Plantain Soft Sheild-fern Selfheal Dog Rose Bramble Curled Dock Rumex crispus Ragwort Vicia sepium Nillowin Fost Polistical pricis glomerata Portile glomerata Dactylis glomerata Epilobium ciliatum Fragaria vesca Gelm urbanum Glechoma hederacea Heleva helix Hedera helix Hypericum perforatum Hypericum perforatum Leucanthemum vulgare Lonicera periclymenum Mycelis muralis Hart's-tongue Fern Phyllitis scolopendrium Plantago lanceolata Prunella vulgaris Pog Rose Rosa canina Bramble Rubus fruticosus agg. Curled Dock Rumex obtusifolia Figwort Scrophularia nodosa Ragwort Vorilis japonica Upright Hedge-Parsley Torilis japonica Vicia sepium	False Oat-grass	Arrhenantherum eliatus
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Foxglove Digitalis purpurea American Willowherb Epilobium ciliatum Wild Strawberry Fragaria vesca Cleaver Galium aparine Herb Robert Geranium robertianum Wood Aven Geum urbanum Ground Ivy Glechoma hederacea Ivy Hedera helix Yorkshire Fog Holcus lanatus Perforate St. John's-wort Hypericum perforatum Ox-eye Daisy Leucanthemum vulgare Honeysuckle Lonicera periclymenum Wall Lettuce Mycelis muralis Hart's-tongue Fern Phyllitis scolopendrium Ribwort Plantain Plantago lanceolata Soft Sheild-fern Polistichum setiferum Selfheal Prunella vulgaris Dog Rose Rosa canina Bramble Rubus fruticosus agg. Curled Dock Rumex crispus Broad Dock Rumex obtusifolia Figwort Scrophularia nodosa Ragwort Vicia sepium Nettle Urtica dioeca Bush Vetch Vicia sepium	Common Mouse-ear	Cerastium fontanum
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Wild StrawberryFragaria vescaCleaverGalium aparineHerb RobertGeranium robertianumWood AvenGeum urbanumGround IvyGlechoma hederaceaIvyHedera helixYorkshire FogHolcus lanatusPerforate St. John's-wortHypericum perforatumOx-eye DaisyLeucanthemum vulgareHoneysuckleLonicera periclymenumWall LettuceMycelis muralisHart's-tongue FernPhyllitis scolopendriumRibwort PlantainPlantago lanceolataSoft Sheild-fernPolistichum setiferumSelfhealPrunella vulgarisDog RoseRosa caninaBrambleRubus fruticosus agg.Curled DockRumex crispusBroad DockRumex obtusifoliaFigwortScrophularia nodosaRagwortSenecio jacobeaUpright Hedge-ParsleyTorilis japonicaNettleUrtica dioecaBush VetchVicia sepium	Foxglove	Digitalis purpurea
CleaverGalium aparineHerb RobertGeranium robertianumWood AvenGeum urbanumGround IvyGlechoma hederaceaIvyHedera helixYorkshire FogHolcus lanatusPerforate St. John's-wortHypericum perforatumOx-eye DaisyLeucanthemum vulgareHoneysuckleLonicera periclymenumWall LettuceMycelis muralisHart's-tongue FernPhyllitis scolopendriumRibwort PlantainPlantago lanceolataSoft Sheild-fernPolistichum setiferumSelfhealPrunella vulgarisDog RoseRosa caninaBrambleRubus fruticosus agg.Curled DockRumex crispusBroad DockRumex obtusifoliaFigwortScrophularia nodosaRagwortSenecio jacobeaUpright Hedge-ParsleyTorilis japonicaNettleUrtica dioecaBush VetchVicia sepium		Epilobium ciliatum
Herb Robert  Wood Aven  Ground Ivy  Glechoma hederacea  Ivy  Hedera helix  Yorkshire Fog  Perforate St. John's-wort  Ox-eye Daisy  Honeysuckle  Hart's-tongue Fern  Ribwort Plantain  Soft Sheild-fern  Selfheal  Dog Rose  Bramble  Curled Dock  Broad Dock  Ragwort  Ragwort  Ragwort  Upright Hedge-Parsley  Rivy  Glechoma hederacea  Hedera helix  Hyoris lanatus  Holcus lanatus  Hypericum perforatum  Leucanthemum vulgare  Lonicera periclymenum  Mycelis muralis  Phyllitis scolopendrium  Plantago lanceolata  Prunella vulgaris  Polistichum setiferum  Prunella vulgaris  Rosa canina  Rubus fruticosus agg.  Rumex crispus  Broad Dock  Rumex obtusifolia  Figwort  Scrophularia nodosa  Ragwort  Upright Hedge-Parsley  Nettle  Urtica dioeca  Bush Vetch  Vicia sepium	Wild Strawberry	Fragaria vesca
Ground Ivy Glechoma hederacea Ivy Hedera helix Yorkshire Fog Holcus lanatus Perforate St. John's-wort Ox-eye Daisy Honeysuckle Honeysuckle Hart's-tongue Fern Ribwort Plantain Soft Sheild-fern Polistichum setiferum Selfheal Prunella vulgaris Dog Rose Bramble Rubus fruticosus agg. Curled Dock Rumex crispus Broad Dock Ragwort Senecio jacobea Upright Hedge-Parsley Nettle Urtica dioeca  Noche Hedge Hedge Neuralis Rederate Aller	Cleaver	Galium aparine
Ivy Hedera helix Yorkshire Fog Holcus lanatus Perforate St. John's-wort Hypericum perforatum Ox-eye Daisy Leucanthemum vulgare Honeysuckle Lonicera periclymenum Wall Lettuce Mycelis muralis Hart's-tongue Fern Phyllitis scolopendrium Ribwort Plantain Plantago lanceolata Soft Sheild-fern Polistichum setiferum Selfheal Prunella vulgaris Dog Rose Rosa canina Bramble Rubus fruticosus agg. Curled Dock Rumex crispus Broad Dock Rumex obtusifolia Figwort Scrophularia nodosa Ragwort Senecio jacobea Upright Hedge-Parsley Torilis japonica Nettle Urtica dioeca Bush Vetch Vicia sepium	Herb Robert	Geranium robertianum
IvyHedera helixYorkshire FogHolcus lanatusPerforate St. John's-wortHypericum perforatumOx-eye DaisyLeucanthemum vulgareHoneysuckleLonicera periclymenumWall LettuceMycelis muralisHart's-tongue FernPhyllitis scolopendriumRibwort PlantainPlantago lanceolataSoft Sheild-fernPolistichum setiferumSelfhealPrunella vulgarisDog RoseRosa caninaBrambleRubus fruticosus agg.Curled DockRumex crispusBroad DockRumex obtusifoliaFigwortScrophularia nodosaRagwortSenecio jacobeaUpright Hedge-ParsleyTorilis japonicaNettleUrtica dioecaBush VetchVicia sepium	Wood Aven	Geum urbanum
Yorkshire Fog Holcus lanatus Perforate St. John's-wort Hypericum perforatum Ox-eye Daisy Leucanthemum vulgare Honeysuckle Lonicera periclymenum Wall Lettuce Mycelis muralis Hart's-tongue Fern Phyllitis scolopendrium Ribwort Plantain Plantago lanceolata Soft Sheild-fern Polistichum setiferum Selfheal Prunella vulgaris Dog Rose Rosa canina Bramble Rubus fruticosus agg. Curled Dock Rumex crispus Broad Dock Rumex obtusifolia Figwort Scrophularia nodosa Ragwort Senecio jacobea Upright Hedge-Parsley Torilis japonica Nettle Urtica dioeca Bush Vetch Vicia sepium	Ground Ivy	Glechoma hederacea
Perforate St. John's-wort Ox-eye Daisy Honeysuckle Honeysuckle Wall Lettuce Mycelis muralis Hart's-tongue Fern Ribwort Plantain Selfheal Prunella vulgaris Dog Rose Bramble Curled Dock Broad Dock Ribwort Ragwort Ragwort Upright Hedge-Parsley Nettle Honeysuckle Leucanthemum vulgare Leucanthemum vulgare Mycelis muralis Phyllitis scolopendrium Phyllitis scolopendrium Phyllitis scolopendrium Phyllitis scolopendrium Plantago lanceolata Prunella vulgaris Prunella vulgaris Rosa canina Rubus fruticosus agg. Rumex crispus Rumex obtusifolia Figwort Scrophularia nodosa Ragwort Vicia sepium	lvy	Hedera helix
Ox-eye Daisy Honeysuckle Lonicera periclymenum Wall Lettuce Mycelis muralis Hart's-tongue Fern Ribwort Plantain Plantago lanceolata Soft Sheild-fern Polistichum setiferum Selfheal Prunella vulgaris Dog Rose Rosa canina Bramble Rubus fruticosus agg. Curled Dock Rumex crispus Broad Dock Rumex obtusifolia Figwort Senecio jacobea Upright Hedge-Parsley Nettle Urtica dioeca Bush Vetch Vicia sepium	Yorkshire Fog	Holcus lanatus
Honeysuckle  Wall Lettuce  Hart's-tongue Fern  Ribwort Plantain  Soft Sheild-fern  Selfheal  Dog Rose  Bramble  Curled Dock  Broad Dock  Figwort  Ragwort  Upright Hedge-Parsley  Wall Lettuce  Mycelis muralis  Mycelis muralis  Phyllitis scolopendrium  Plantago lanceolata  Polistichum setiferum  Polistichum setiferum  Rosa canina  Rubus fruticosus agg.  Rumex crispus  Rumex obtusifolia  Figwort  Scrophularia nodosa  Ragwort  Upright Hedge-Parsley  Nettle  Urtica dioeca  Bush Vetch  Vicia sepium	Perforate St. John's-wort	Hypericum perforatum
Wall Lettuce Mycelis muralis Hart's-tongue Fern Phyllitis scolopendrium Ribwort Plantain Plantago lanceolata Soft Sheild-fern Polistichum setiferum Selfheal Prunella vulgaris Dog Rose Rosa canina Bramble Rubus fruticosus agg. Curled Dock Rumex crispus Broad Dock Rumex obtusifolia Figwort Scrophularia nodosa Ragwort Senecio jacobea Upright Hedge-Parsley Torilis japonica Nettle Urtica dioeca Bush Vetch Vicia sepium	Ox-eye Daisy	Leucanthemum vulgare
Hart's-tongue Fern Phyllitis scolopendrium Ribwort Plantain Plantago lanceolata Soft Sheild-fern Polistichum setiferum Selfheal Prunella vulgaris Dog Rose Rosa canina Bramble Rubus fruticosus agg. Curled Dock Rumex crispus Broad Dock Rumex obtusifolia Figwort Scrophularia nodosa Ragwort Senecio jacobea Upright Hedge-Parsley Torilis japonica Nettle Urtica dioeca Bush Vetch Vicia sepium	Honeysuckle	Lonicera periclymenum
Ribwort Plantain  Soft Sheild-fern  Polistichum setiferum  Selfheal  Prunella vulgaris  Dog Rose  Rosa canina  Bramble  Curled Dock  Broad Dock  Rumex crispus  Broad Dock  Rumex obtusifolia  Figwort  Scrophularia nodosa  Ragwort  Upright Hedge-Parsley  Nettle  Bush Vetch  Pulntago lanceolata  Plantago lanceolata  Resulterum  Rubus fruticosus agg.  Rumex crispus  Scrophularia nodosa  Scrophularia nodosa  Torilis japonica  Vicia sepium	Wall Lettuce	
Soft Sheild-fern  Selfheal  Prunella vulgaris  Dog Rose  Rosa canina  Bramble  Curled Dock  Broad Dock  Broad Dock  Figwort  Ragwort  Upright Hedge-Parsley  Rubus fruticosus agg.  Senecio jacobea  Urtica dioeca  Bush Vetch  Punella vulgaris  Rubus fruticosus agg.  Rumex crispus  Rumex obtusifolia  Scrophularia nodosa  Senecio jacobea  Urtica dioeca  Vicia sepium	Hart's-tongue Fern	Phyllitis scolopendrium
SelfhealPrunella vulgarisDog RoseRosa caninaBrambleRubus fruticosus agg.Curled DockRumex crispusBroad DockRumex obtusifoliaFigwortScrophularia nodosaRagwortSenecio jacobeaUpright Hedge-ParsleyTorilis japonicaNettleUrtica dioecaBush VetchVicia sepium	Ribwort Plantain	
Dog Rose Bramble Rubus fruticosus agg. Curled Dock Rumex crispus Broad Dock Rumex obtusifolia Figwort Scrophularia nodosa Ragwort Upright Hedge-Parsley Nettle Urtica dioeca Bush Vetch Rosa canina Rumex obtusifolia Frumex o	Soft Sheild-fern	Polistichum setiferum
Bramble Rubus fruticosus agg. Curled Dock Rumex crispus Broad Dock Rumex obtusifolia Figwort Scrophularia nodosa Ragwort Senecio jacobea Upright Hedge-Parsley Torilis japonica Nettle Urtica dioeca Bush Vetch Vicia sepium	Selfheal	Prunella vulgaris
Curled Dock Rumex crispus Broad Dock Rumex obtusifolia Figwort Scrophularia nodosa Ragwort Senecio jacobea Upright Hedge-Parsley Torilis japonica Nettle Urtica dioeca Bush Vetch Vicia sepium	Dog Rose	
Curled Dock Rumex crispus Broad Dock Rumex obtusifolia Figwort Scrophularia nodosa Ragwort Senecio jacobea Upright Hedge-Parsley Torilis japonica Nettle Urtica dioeca Bush Vetch Vicia sepium	Bramble	Rubus fruticosus agg.
Ragwort Scrophularia nodosa Ragwort Senecio jacobea Upright Hedge-Parsley Torilis japonica Nettle Urtica dioeca Bush Vetch Vicia sepium	Curled Dock	
Ragwort Senecio jacobea Upright Hedge-Parsley Torilis japonica Nettle Urtica dioeca Bush Vetch Vicia sepium	Broad Dock	Rumex obtusifolia
Upright Hedge-Parsley  Nettle  Bush Vetch  Torilis japonica  Urtica dioeca  Vicia sepium	Figwort	Scrophularia nodosa
Nettle <i>Urtica dioeca</i> Bush Vetch <i>Vicia sepium</i>	Ragwort	Senecio jacobea
Bush Vetch Vicia sepium	Upright Hedge-Parsley	Torilis japonica
'	Nettle	Urtica dioeca
Violet Viola sp.	Bush Vetch	Vicia sepium
	Violet	Viola sp.







Image 1: Treeline and hedgerow on either side of road





Image 2: Hedgerow with associated earth bank and grassy verge



Image 3: Close-up of hedgerow/earth bank



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 121				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 25/07/11				
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton			County name: Clare	
Sheet no: 4505-a Townland: Bridgetown		Grid Ref: 164444, 168086		
Target note no.: TN4		Area: 1ha	·	

Habitat code

Wet Grassland GS4 on gently sloping ground, grading in to Marsh GM1 at bottom of slope. The upper area is quite poached (grazed by cattle), while the lower area appears quite undisturbed. Lots of Wood White butterfly (*Leptidea sinapis/reali*) Occasional Willows (*Salix* spp.).

GS4/GM1

**Habitat Map** 

Adjacent GM1 fields are very similar.

**Marsh Species List** 

Common Name	Latin Name	DAFOR
Jointed/Sharp-flowered	Juncus articulatus/acutiflorus	Dominant
Rush		
Soft Rush	Juncus effusus	Abundant
Meadowsweet	Filipendula ulmaria	Abundant
Ragged Robin	Lychnis flos-cuculi	Frequent
Lesser Spearwort	Ranunculus flammula	Frequent
Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil	Lotus pedunculatus	Frequent
Square-stalked St. John's-	Hypericum tetrapterum	Occasional
wort		
Marsh Thistle	Cirsium palustre	Frequent
Meadow Vetchling	Lathyrus pratensis	Occasional
Creeping Buttercup	Ranunculus repens	Occasional
Yorkshire Fog	Holcus lanatus	Occasional
Yellow Iris	Iris pseudacorus	Occasional
Marsh Bedstraw	Galium palustre	Occasional







Image 1: View from top of field showing trampled Wet Grassland



Image 2: Marsh GM1 habitat





Image 3: Close-up of Marsh GM1 vegetation



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 122				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 25/07.				
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton			County name: Clare	
Sheet no: 4505-a Townland: Bridgetown		Grid Ref: 164447, 168004		
Target note no.: TN5		Area:		

# Habitat code

FW1/WD1

Small stream with fairly rapid flow, best classified as an Eroding Upland River FW1. No floating or standing vegetation and a rocky substrate. The adjacent woodland is composed of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Willows (*Salix* spp.), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Oak (*Quercus* sp.) and occasional Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). The field layer is quite rich, with Brambles (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), Enchanter's Nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), Wood Aven (*Geum urbanum*), Wall Lettuce (*Mycelis muralis*), Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), Wood Aven (*Oxalis acetosella*), Wild Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), occasional Oak saplings, ferns and rushes (*Juncus* spp.).

#### **Habitat Map**







Image 1: Stream classified as Eroding upland river FW1



Image 2: Stream with overhanging ferns





Image 3: Woodland on either side of stream



	TARGET NOTES - ID No. 123				
Survey Title: Survey ar	nd Mapping of Habitats in	Survey date: 26/07/11			
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton			County name: Clare		
Sheet no: 4505-a Townland: Bridgetown		Grid Ref: 164686, 168465			
Target note no.: TN6		Area:			

# Habitat code

WL1/WL2

Good example of a mature treeline/hedgerow on either side of the road here. The treeline is dominated by mature Oak (*Quercus* sp.) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), with Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) in the sub-canopy layer. The understory contains Brambles (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Nettle (*Urtica dioica*), Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), Hedge Bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*), Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota* spp. *carota*), Wood Aven (*Geum urbanum*), Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Ground Ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), Barren Strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*), Cleaver (*Galium aparine*), Bush Vetch (*Vicia sepium*), False Oat-grass (*Arrhenantherum eliatus*) and Common Figwort (*Scrophularia nodosa*).

#### **Habitat Map**





Image 1: Mature treeline on either side of road



Image 2: Understory vegetation



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 124					
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 26/07/11					
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton			County name: Clare		
Sheet no: 4505-a Townland: Bridgetown		Grid Ref: 164918, 167944			
Target note no.: TN7		Area: 1.5ha	•		

# Habitat code

GM1

Marsh habitat dominated by Jointed/Sharp-flowered Rush (*Juncus articulatus/acutiflorus*), and Soft Rush (*J. effusus*). Other species include Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus pedunculatus*), Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Watermint (*Mentha aquatica*), Marsh Cinquefoil (*Potentilla palustre*), Marsh Bedstraw (*Galium palustre*), Marsh Thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Compact Rush (*J. compactus*), Common Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*) and occasional Willows (*Salix* spp.).

This habitat is not dominated by herbaceous species, and therefore does not link to the EU Annex I habitat 6430 Hydrophilous Tall Herb Fringe Communities of Plains and of the Montane to Alpine Levels.

### **Habitat Map**





Image 1: Marsh Habitat



Image 2: Close-up of Marsh Vegetation



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 125				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 26/07/11				
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton			County name: Clare	
<b>Sheet no:</b> 4505-a	Townland: Bridgeto	wn	Grid Ref: 165186, 167943	
Target note no · TN8		<b>Area:</b> 0.5ha		

Habitat code

GS4

Wet Grassland habitat adjacent to an area of Cutover Bog PB4. Dominated by Jointed/Sharp-flowered Rush (*Juncus articulatus/acutiflorus*) and Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*).

Common Name	Latin Name	DAFOR
Sweet Vernal-grass	Anthoxanthum odoratum	Dominant
Jointed/Sharp-flowered	Juncus articulatus/acutiflorus	Dominant
Rush		
Purple Moor-grass	Molinia caerulea	Frequent
Meadowsweet	Filipendula ulmaria	Frequent
Tormentil	Potentilla erecta	Abundant
Common Lousewort	Pedicularis sylvatica	Abundant
Carnation Sedge	Carex panacea	Frequent
Common Sedge	Carex nigra	Frequent
Marsh Thistle	Cirsium palustre	Occasional
Heath Woodrush	Luzula multiflora	Occasional
White Clover	Trifolium pratense	Occasional
Devil's-bit Scabious	Succisa pratensis	Abundant



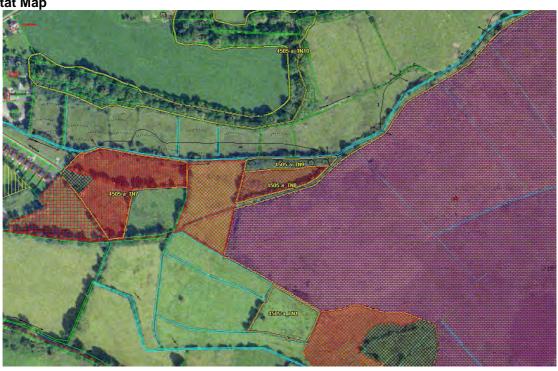






Image 1: Wet Grassland



Image 2: Wet grassland vegetation including *Filipendula ulmaria, Iris pseudacorus* and *Cirsium palustre* 





Image 3: Close-up of Wet Grassland vegetation with abundant Succisa pratensis



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 126				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare			Survey date: 26/07/11	
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton			County name: Clare	
Sheet no: 4505-a	Townland: Bridgetown/O'Briensbridge		Grid Ref: 165207, 167971	
Target note no.: TN9 Area: 0.25ha		Area: 0.25ha		
Facilities I Walter County Institution and County Institutional Way I have I have Provided Best Parties and County Institution and County I have I ha				

Ecological Value: County Importance – Semi Natural Woodland has limited distribution within the study area and is therefore considered to be of conservation value.

Habitat code

WN5

Woodland beside a small stream with Willows (*Salix* spp.) dominant. Ground flora is dominated by Brambles (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), with Ivy, Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lisimachia nemorum*), Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*) and Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*).

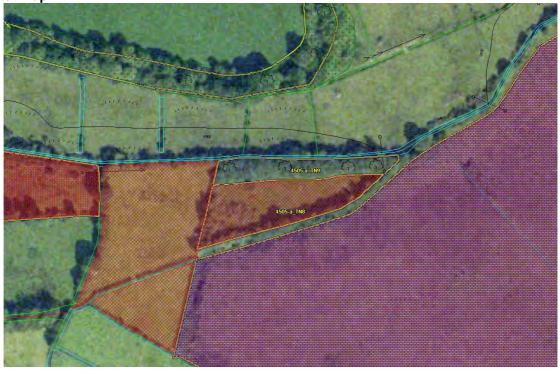






Image 1: Riparian Woodland with abundant willows



Image 2: Yellow Pimpernel (Lysimachia nemorum)



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 127				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare			Survey date: 26/07/11	
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton			County name: Clare	
<b>Sheet no:</b> 4505-a	D5-a Townland: Bridgetown/O'Briensbridge		Grid Ref: 165086, 168051	
Target note no.: TN10		Area: 3ha		

Habitat code

WD5

Grove of mature, well-spaced Beech trees, best described as Scattered Trees and Parkland WD5. Heavily trampled by Cattle, with little or no ground flora. A three-entrance badger sett was found here, which appears to be inactive. The mature beech trees have bat roost potential.

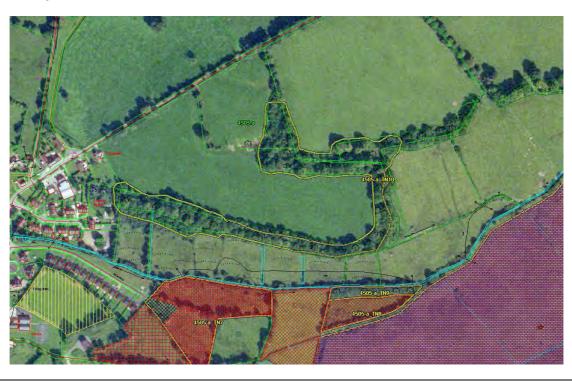




Image 1: Grove of mature Birch



Image 2: Close-up of mature Birch



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 128				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare			Survey date: 29/07/11	
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton			County name: Clare	
<b>Sheet no:</b> 4505-a	4505-a <b>Townland:</b> Clonboy		Grid Ref: 165663, 168924	
Target note no.: TN11		Area: 1.7ha		

Habitat code

WD2

Mixed broadleaved/coniferous woodland beside river. Composed of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Willows (*Salix* spp.) and Scot's Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*).

Adult Sparrowhawk and two juveniles seen and heard in the woodland, probably nesting here.







Image 1: Mature mixed broadleaved/coniferous woodland



Image 2: Understory vegetation





Image 3: Field layer



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 129				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare			Survey date: 25/07/11	
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton			County name: Clare	
Sheet no: 4505-b	et no: 4505-b  Townland: Bridgetown / O'Briensbridge		Grid Ref: 166197, 167538	
Target note no.: TN1		Area: 0.46ha		
Factorial Value County Inspectors County Internal Way Hay 11 or Ported Patrict of an original			Character to the collection of the collection of the	

Ecological Value: County Importance – Semi Natural Woodland has limited distribution within the study area and is therefore considered to be of conservation value.

Habitat code

**WS2/WN7** 

Beginnings of a Bog Woodland WN7, on the edge of an area of cutover Raised Bog (classified as Cutover Bog PB4, but starting to regenerate). Abundant Birch saplings, some mature Birch. Rhododendron is beginning to invade the area. Ground flora consists of abundant Sphagnum, Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*) and Jointed/Sharp-flowered Rush (*J. articulatus/acutiflorus*) and Purple Moor-grass. Other species noted include Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*), Cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*), Ling Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) and Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*).







Image 1: Mature Birch and Saplings



Image 2: Rhododendron ponticum





Image 3: Birch Saplings. Rhododendron in Background



Image 4: Ground flora with Sphagnum spp, Erica tetralix and Molinia caerulea



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 130				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare  Survey date: 25/07/11				
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton			County name: Clare	
Sheet no: 4505-b	Townland: Clonboy		Grid Ref: 166030, 167852	
Target note no · TN2	•	Area: 4 2ha	·	

**Ecological Value: County Importance** 

Habitat code

Small area of intact Raised Bog in the middle of a large area of Cutover. This area is very dry due to cutting which has been carried out on all sides. No Sphagnum, so definitely not active, but bog vegetation persists. The surrounding cut area is wetter and contains abundant Sphagnum, and so appears to be regenerating. *Rhododendron* is beginning to invade however.

PB1/PB4

Species List:

opeoles List.				
Common Name	Latin Name	DAFOR		
Bog Rosemary	Andromeda polifolia	Frequent		
Ling	Calluna vulgaris	Frequent		
Carnation Sedge	Carex panicea			
Round-leaved Sundew	Drosera rotundifolia	Occasional		
Cross-leaved Heath	Erica tetralix	Abundant		
Common Cottongrass	Eriophorum angustifolium	Occasional		
Bog Asphodel	Narthecium ossifragum	Abundant		
White Beak-sedge	Rhynchospora alba	Occasional		
Deergrass	Trichophorum cespitosum	Dominant		







Image 1: Intact area of bog - peat face on left has been cut recently



Image 2: Overview of area showing peat banks





Image 3: Vegetation on Intact Area with Deergrass Dominant



Image 4: Close-up of Intact Bog Area Showing Bare Peat



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 131				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare			Survey date: 26/07/11	
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton			County name: Clare	
<b>Sheet no:</b> 4505-b	Townland: O'Briensbridge		Grid Ref: 167454, 168042	
Target note no : TN3		Area: 3 9ha		

Habitat code

**WS5** 

Woodland has been felled here, but vegetation has recolonised to the extent that the classification Recently-felled Woodland WS5. Tall, rank grasses predominate, including False Oat-grass (*Arrhenantherum eliatus*) and Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*). Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*), Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus pedunculatus*) and vetches including Tufted Vetch (*Vicia cracca*) and Bush Vetch (*Vicia sepium*).







Image 1: Vegetation Recolonised in Recently-felled Area



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 132				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 11/08/11				
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton			County name: Clare	
Sheet no: 4505-b Townland: O'Briensbridge		Grid Ref: 166702, 168152		
Target note no.: TN4		Area: 1.3ha		

Habitat code

PB4/GS3

Acid grassland on an area of Cutover bog. Flat ground, very wet and soft underfoot. Does not appear to be grazed. There is a rich carpet of non-Sphagnum mosses. The vegetation is dominated by Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*) and Carnation Sedge (*Carex panicea*).

Scientific Name	Common Name	DAFOR
Luzula multiflora	Heath Woodrush	Rare
Rumex acetosella	Sheep's Sorrel	Occasional
Calluna vulgaris	Ling	Occasional
Carex panicea	Carnation Sedge	Dominant
Cirsium palustre	Marsh Thistle	Frequent
Festuca spp.	Fescues	Occasional
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	Dominant
Lotus pedunculatus	Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil	Occasional
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass	Frequent
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil	Abundant
Pilosella officinarium	Mouse-ear Hawkweed	Frequent
Succisa pratensis	Devil's-bit Scabious	Abundant
Trifolium repens	White Clover	Abundant







Image 1: Acid Grassland on Cutover Bog



Image 2: Acid Grassland Vegetation





Image 3: Close-up of Acid Grassland vegetation with abundant mosses



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 133				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 26/07/11			Survey date: 26/07/11	
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton		County name: Clare		
<b>Sheet no:</b> 4505-c	Townland: O'Briensbridge		Grid Ref: 166285, 167445	
Target note no.: TN1 Area: 0.8ha				

**Ecological Value: County Importance** 

Habitat code

FL4/WD1/ WN6 McNamara's Lough - Mesotrophic Lake (FL4) surrounded by Wet Willow-Alder-Ash woodland / Mature Treeline. Stoneworts (*Chara* spp.), Alternate Water-Milfoil (*Myriophyllum alternifolium*), and Water-plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*) were observed growing in the lake. The invasive species Canadian Pondweed (*Elodea canadensis*) was also recorded within the lake. The surrounding shoreline is host to a wide variety of wetland species and mature woodland surrounds the entire lake. This woodland is classified as Wet Willow-Alder-Ash Woodland (WN6), see Target Note **4505-c\_TN2**. Some areas within the woodland are dominated by willows and ground flora comprises mosses and wetland species. Non-native species such as Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) also occur, particularly to the northwest of the lake and this area may be considered under Mixed broadleaved woodland (WD1). A path surrounds the lake, indicating that this area is an important local amenity.



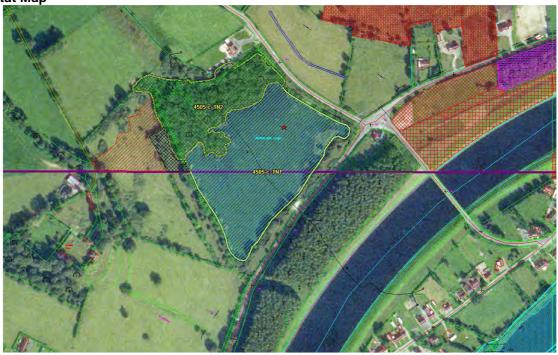






Image 1: View of lakeshore from southeast side

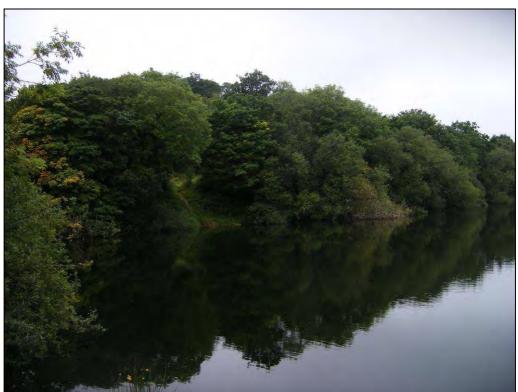


Image 2: Woodland surrounding lake





Image 3: Water-plantain (Alisma plantago-aquatica)



Image 4: Canadian Pondweed (Elodea canadensis) growing in the lake.





Image 5: Canadian Pondweed (Elodea canadensis) on lake edge



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 134				
• ======				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare		id Clare Survey date: 26/07/11		
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton		County name: Clare		
Sheet no: 4505-c	Townland: O'Briensbri	ridge <b>Grid Ref:</b> 165433, 167105		
Target note no.: TN2	Δ.	Area: 2ha		

## Habitat code

WN6

Wet Willow-Alder-Ash woodland WN6 on the edge of a small lake (see 4505-c\_TN1), dominated by Willows (*Salix* spp.). The area appears to be permanently waterlogged, with much standing water. Very little ground flora, except frequent Marsh Pennywort (*Hydrocotyl vulgaris*) and occasional Watermint (*Mentha aquatica*).

The edges of the woodland are somewhat drier, with mature Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) and Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*). These areas are quite moist, with a rich carpet of mosses, Watermint (*Mentha aquatica*), Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), Herb Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), Common Gorse (*Ulex europaea*), Skullcap (*Scuttelaria galericulata*) and Tutsan (*Hypericum androsaemum*)





Image 1: Wet Willow Alder Ash Woodland



Image 2: Standing water in Wet Willow Alder Ash woodland





Image 3: Sparse ground flora with Marsh Pennywort and Watermint



Image 4: Rich ground flora at edge of woodland



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 135				
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 05/08/11			Survey date: 05/08/11	
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton		County name: Clare		
Sheet no: 4505-c	Townland: Ardatagg	le	Grid Ref: 164710, 167064	
Target note no.: TN3		Area: 0.7ha	·	

## Habitat code

WD1

Mixed broadleaved woodland dominated by Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Hybrid Oak (*Quercus petraea x robur*). Occasional Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) excludes this woodland from a WN classification. Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Mountain Ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*) are also frequent. There are also occasional Birch (*Betula* sp.) and Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*).

The ground flora is dominated by grasses, including Cocks-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), but there is a good diversity of herbaceous woodland species.

#### **Species List**

Scientific Name	Common Name
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore
Arrhenatherum elatius	False Oat-grass
Betula sp.	Birch
Circaea lutetiana	Enchanter's Nightshade
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn
Dactylis glomerata	Cocks-foot
Fagus sylvatica	Beech
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash
Geranium robertianum	Herb Robert
Geum urbanum	Wood Aven
Glechoma hederacea	Ground Ivy
Hedera helix	lvy
Hyacinthoides non-scripta	Bluebell
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle
Lysimachia nemorum	Yellow Pimpernel
Oxalis acetosella	Wood Anemone
Quercus petraea x robur	Hybrid Oak
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble
Sorbus aucuparia	Mountain Ash
Stellaria holostea	Greater Stitchwort
Viola sp.	Violet



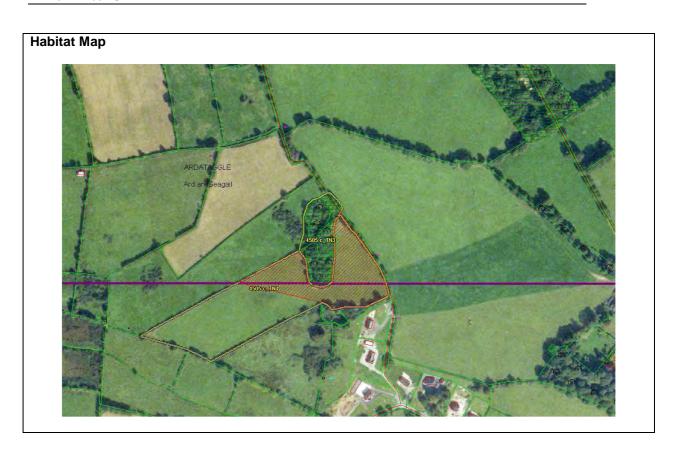






Image 1: Mixed Broadleaved Woodland



Image 2: Ground Flora



TARGET NOTES - ID No. 136			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 05/08/11			Survey date: 05/08/11
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton		County name: Clare	
Sheet no: 4505-c	Townland: Ardatagg	le	Grid Ref: 164769, 167027
T		•	

Target note no.: TN4 Area: 3.2ha

Ecological Value: International Importance - Linked to Annex I habitat 6510 Lowland hay meadows

# Habitat code

GS2

Grassland on gently undulating ground with tall tussocky grasses dominant – appears to be managed as a hay meadow. No signs of recent grazing. The Meadow Brown Butterfly (*Maniola jurtina*) was recorded in this habitat.

Scientific Name	Common Name	DAFOR
Agrostis spp.	Bents	Abundant
Alopecurus pratensis	Meadow Foxtail	Frequent
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal-grass	Abundant
Arrhenatherum elatius	False Oat-grass	Occasional
Centaurea nigra	Knapweed	Rare
Cerastium fontanum	Common Mouse-ear	Frequent
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's-foot	Dominant
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	Abundant
Lolium perenne	Perennial Ryegrass	Occasional
Lotus pedunculatus	Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil	Frequent
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	Frequent
Ranunculus acris	Meadow Buttercup	Frequent
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	Frequent
Stellaria graminea	Stitchwort	Frequent
Trifolium spp.	Clovers	Frequent
Vicia cracca	Tufted Vetch	Occasional







Image 1: View of Hay meadow from bottom of field (eastern end)



Image 2: View of meadow from middle of field looking eastwards







TARGET NOTES - ID No. 137			
Survey Title: Survey and Mapping of Habitats in Mid Clare Survey date: 25/07/11			Survey date: 25/07/11
Surveyor: Jean Hamilton		County name: Clare	
Sheet no: 4505-d	Townland: O'Briens	bridge	Grid Ref: 166287, 167430
Target note no.: TN1	•	Area: 0.8ha	·

Habitat code

GS4

Wet Grassland GS4 with abundant Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*). Probably not species-rich enough to be linked to the EU Annex I habitat *Molinia* Meadow.

Common Name	Latin Name	DAFOR
Star Sedge	Carex echinata	Frequent
Jointed/Sharp-flowered	Juncus articulatus/acutiflorus	Abundant
Rush		
Purple Moor-grass	Molinia caerulea	Abundant
Sweet Vernal-grass	Anthoxanthum odoratum	Abundant
Creeping Bent	Agrostis capillaris	Abundant
Lesser Spearwort	Ranunculus flammula	Frequent
Meadowgrass	Poa sp.	Frequent









Image 1: Wet Grassland with abundant Molinia caerulea



Image 2: Close-up of Wet Grassland vegetation

