

# National Parks and Wildlife Service

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## *Conservation Objectives Series*

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### Galtee Mountains SAC 000646



An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta,  
Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta

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Department of Arts, Heritage,  
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs



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The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

A site-specific conservation objective aims to define favourable conservation condition for a particular habitat or species at that site.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

### **Notes/Guidelines:**

1. The targets given in these conservation objectives are based on best available information at the time of writing. As more information becomes available, targets for attributes may change. These will be updated periodically, as necessary.
2. An appropriate assessment based on these conservation objectives will remain valid even if the targets are subsequently updated, providing they were the most recent objectives available when the assessment was carried out. It is essential that the date and version are included when objectives are cited.
3. Assessments cannot consider an attribute in isolation from the others listed for that habitat or species, or for other habitats and species listed for that site. A plan or project with an apparently small impact on one attribute may have a significant impact on another.
4. Please note that the maps included in this document do not necessarily show the entire extent of the habitats and species for which the site is listed. This should be borne in mind when appropriate assessments are being carried out.
5. When using these objectives, it is essential that the relevant backing/supporting documents are consulted, particularly where instructed in the targets or notes for a particular attribute.

## Qualifying Interests

*\* indicates a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive*

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### 000646 Galtee Mountains SAC

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- 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Cladonia*
- 4030 European dry heaths
- 4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths
- 6230 Species-rich *Poa* grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)E
- 7130 Blanket bogs (\* if active bog)
- 8110 Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*)
- 8210 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation
- 8220 Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation

## Supporting documents, relevant reports & publications

Supporting documents, NPWS reports and publications are available for download from: [www.npws.ie/Publications](http://www.npws.ie/Publications)

### NPWS Documents

<b>Year :</b>	2012
<b>Title :</b>	Ireland Red List no. 8: Bryophytes
<b>Author :</b>	Lockhart, N.; Hodgetts, N.; Holyoak, D.
<b>Series :</b>	Ireland Red List series, NPWS
<hr/>	
<b>Year :</b>	2014
<b>Title :</b>	Guidelines for a national survey and conservation assessment of upland vegetation and habitats in Ireland, Version 2.0
<b>Author :</b>	Perrin, P.M.; Barron, S.J.; Roche, J.R.; O'Hanrahan, B.
<b>Series :</b>	Irish Wildlife Manual No. 79
<hr/>	
<b>Year :</b>	2014
<b>Title :</b>	National survey of upland habitats (phase 4, 2013-2014), summary report
<b>Author :</b>	Barron, S.J.; Perrin, P.M.
<b>Series :</b>	Unpublished report to NPWS
<hr/>	
<b>Year :</b>	2014
<b>Title :</b>	National survey of upland habitats (phase 2, 2011-2012), site report no. 9: Galtee Mountains cSAC (000646), Cos. Tipperary and Limerick (revision)
<b>Author :</b>	Roche, J.R.; Perrin, P.M.; Barron, S.J.; Daly, O.H.
<b>Series :</b>	Unpublished report to NPWS
<hr/>	
<b>Year :</b>	2016
<b>Title :</b>	Galtee Mountains SAC (site code: 646) Conservation objectives supporting document- upland habitats V1
<b>Author :</b>	NPWS
<b>Series :</b>	Conservation objectives supporting document

## Spatial data sources

<b>Year :</b>	2012
<b>Title :</b>	National Survey of Upland Habitats
<b>GIS Operations :</b>	Habitat dataset for site clipped to SAC boundary. Relevant QI selected and exported to new dataset. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising
<b>Used For :</b>	4010, 4030, 4060, 7130, 8110, 8210, 8220 (maps 2 to 8)

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**4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix***

**To restore the favourable conservation condition of Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* in Galtee Mountains SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:**

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area increasing, subject to natural processes	Galtee Mountains SAC was surveyed as part of the National Survey of Upland Habitats (NSUH; see Roche et al., 2014 & Perrin et al., 2014). The total current area of wet heath stated by Roche et al. (2014) is 722.7ha, covering 11.25% of the SAC. Roche et al. (2014) report obvious losses of habitat since 1995 of approximately 0.43ha. A summary of the mapping methodology and a brief discussion of restoration potential are presented in the uplands supporting document
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline from current distribution, subject to natural processes. See map 2	Wet heath was recorded by Roche et al. (2014) throughout the SAC, though it is more frequent in the east. Extensive patches occur on the slopes south of Greenane, on the lower slopes at Cush and on the lower slopes at the east of the SAC. A summary of the mapping methodology is presented in the uplands supporting document
Ecosystem function: soil nutrients	Soil pH and appropriate nutrient levels at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain soil nutrient status within natural range	See the uplands supporting document for further details
Community diversity	Abundance of variety of vegetation communities	Maintain variety of vegetation communities, subject to natural processes	Roche et al. (2014) recorded six different wet heath communities within this SAC. Data on the abundance of these communities is reproduced in the uplands supporting document. Further information on these communities is presented in Perrin et al. (2014)
Vegetation composition: cross-leaved heath	Occurrence within 20m of a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cross-leaved heath ( <i>Erica tetralix</i> ) present near each monitoring stop	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: positive indicator species	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of positive indicator species at least 50%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). The list of positive indicator species for this habitat is presented in Perrin et al. (2014). Further details can be found in the uplands supporting document
Vegetation composition: lichens and bryophytes	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Total cover of <i>Cladonia</i> and <i>Sphagnum</i> species, <i>Racomitrium lanuginosum</i> and pleurocarpous mosses at least 10%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: ericoid species and crowberry	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of ericoid species and crowberry ( <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> ) at least 15%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: dwarf shrub species	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of dwarf shrubs less than 75%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Total cover of negative indicator species less than 1%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). The list of negative indicator species is given in Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: non-native species	Percentage cover at, and in local vicinity of, a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of non-native species less than 1%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details. <i>Campylopus introflexus</i> was recorded within this habitat by Roche et al. (2014) but did not form extensive carpets

Vegetation composition: native trees and shrubs	Percentage cover in local vicinity of a representative number of monitoring stops	Cover of scattered native trees and shrubs less than 20%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: bracken	Percentage cover in local vicinity of a representative number of monitoring stops	Cover of bracken ( <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> ) less than 10%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: soft rush	Percentage cover in local vicinity of a representative number of monitoring stops	Cover of soft rush ( <i>Juncus effusus</i> ) less than 10%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: <i>Sphagnum</i> condition	Condition at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Less than 10% of the <i>Sphagnum</i> cover is crushed, broken and/or pulled up	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: signs of browsing	Percentage of shoots browsed at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Less than 33% collectively of the last complete growing season's shoots of ericoids, crowberry ( <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> ) and bog-myrtle ( <i>Myrica gale</i> ) showing signs of browsing	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: burning	Occurrence in local vicinity of a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	No signs of burning in sensitive areas, into the moss, liverwort or lichen layer or exposure of peat surface due to burning	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). The list of sensitive areas is presented in Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Physical structure: disturbed bare ground	Percentage cover at, and in local vicinity of, a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of disturbed bare ground less than 10%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Physical structure: drainage	Percentage cover in local vicinity of a representative number of monitoring stops	Area showing signs of drainage from heavy trampling, tracking or ditches less than 10%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Indicators of local distinctiveness	Occurrence and population size	No decline in distribution or population sizes of rare, threatened or scarce species associated with the habitat	Roche et al. (2014) compiled and mapped existing rare and notable plant records for the SAC and added any new records collected during the NSUH survey. No relevant species were recorded in this habitat, however, new records should be considered within this attribute. See the uplands supporting document for further details



## Conservation Objectives for : Galtee Mountains SAC [000646]

### 4030 European dry heaths

**To restore the favourable conservation condition of European dry heaths in Galtee Mountains SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:**

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area increasing, subject to natural processes	Galtee Mountains SAC was surveyed as part of the National Survey of Upland Habitats (NSUH; see Roche et al., 2014 & Perrin et al., 2014). The total current area of dry heath in the SAC stated by Roche et al. (2014) is 2165.7ha. It is the most extensive Annex I habitat in the SAC, covering 33.72% of the SAC. Roche et al. (2014) report obvious losses of habitat since 1995 of approximately 0.65ha. A summary of the mapping methodology is presented in the uplands supporting document
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline from current distribution, subject to natural processes. See map 3	Dry heath was recorded by Roche et al. (2014) throughout the SAC, with extensive patches at Knockeenatoung, Knockastakeen, Sturrakeen and Knockaterrif. A summary of the mapping methodology is presented in the uplands supporting document
Ecosystem function: soil nutrients	Soil pH and appropriate nutrient levels at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain soil nutrient status within natural range	See the uplands supporting document for further details
Community diversity	Abundance of variety of vegetation communities	Maintain variety of vegetation communities, subject to natural processes	Roche et al. (2014) recorded four different dry heath communities within this SAC. Data on the abundance of these communities is reproduced in the uplands supporting document. Further information on these communities is presented in Perrin et al. (2014)
Vegetation composition: lichens and bryophytes	Number of species at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Number of bryophyte or non-crustose lichen species present at each monitoring stop is at least three, excluding <i>Campylopus</i> and <i>Polytrichum</i> mosses	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: number of positive indicator species	Number of species at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Number of positive indicator species present at each monitoring stop is at least two	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). The list of positive indicator species for this habitat, which is composed of dwarf shrubs, is presented in Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: cover of positive indicator species	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of positive indicator species at least 50% for siliceous dry heath and 50-75% for calcareous dry heath	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). The list of positive indicator species for this habitat, which is composed of dwarf shrubs, is presented in Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: dwarf shrub composition	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Proportion of dwarf shrub cover composed collectively of bog-myrtle ( <i>Myrica gale</i> ), creeping willow ( <i>Salix repens</i> ) and western gorse ( <i>Ulex gallii</i> ) is less than 50%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Total cover of negative indicator species less than 1%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). The list of negative indicator species is given in Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: non-native species	Percentage cover at, and in local vicinity of, a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of non-native species less than 1%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details. <i>Campylopus introflexus</i> was recorded within this habitat by Roche et al. (2014) but did not form extensive carpets

Vegetation composition: native trees and shrubs	Percentage cover in local vicinity of a representative number of monitoring stops	Cover of scattered native trees and shrubs less than 20%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: bracken	Percentage cover in local vicinity of a representative number of monitoring stops	Cover of bracken ( <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> ) less than 10%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: soft rush	Percentage cover in local vicinity of a representative number of monitoring stops	Cover of soft rush ( <i>Juncus effusus</i> ) less than 10%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: senescent ling	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Senescent proportion of ling ( <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> ) cover less than 50%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: signs of browsing	Percentage of shoots browsed at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Less than 33% collectively of the last complete growing season's shoots of ericoids showing signs of browsing	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: burning	Occurrence in local vicinity of a representative number of monitoring stops	No signs of burning in sensitive areas	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). The list of sensitive areas is presented in Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: growth phases of ling	Percentage cover in local vicinity of a representative number of monitoring stops	Outside sensitive areas, all growth phases of ling ( <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> ) should occur throughout, with at least 10% of cover in the mature phase	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: disturbed bare ground	Percentage cover at, and in local vicinity of, a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of disturbed bare ground less than 10%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Indicators of local distinctiveness	Occurrence and population size	No decline in distribution or population sizes of rare, threatened or scarce species associated with the habitat	Roche et al. (2014) compiled and mapped existing rare and notable plant records for the SAC and added any new records collected during the NSUH. No relevant species were recorded in this habitat, however, new records should be considered within this attribute. See the uplands supporting document for further details

## Conservation Objectives for : Galtee Mountains SAC [000646]

### 4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths

**To restore the favourable conservation condition of Alpine and Boreal heaths in Galtee Mountains SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:**

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes	Galtee Mountains SAC was surveyed as part of the National Survey of Upland Habitats (NSUH; see Roche et al., 2014 & Perrin et al., 2014). The total current area of Alpine and Boreal heath in the SAC stated by Roche et al. (2014) is 62.7ha. It is relatively infrequent covering only 0.98% of the SAC. Roche et al. (2014) report no significant losses of area since 1995. A summary of the mapping methodology is presented in the uplands supporting document
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline from current distribution, subject to natural processes. See map 4	Alpine and Boreal heath was recorded by Roche et al. (2014) on the high ground across the SAC, but was most abundant on the upper slopes of Slievecushnabinnia, Galtymore and the eastern peak of Knockaterriff. A summary of the mapping methodology is presented in the uplands supporting document
Ecosystem function: soil nutrients	Soil pH and appropriate nutrient levels at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain soil nutrient status within natural range	See the uplands supporting document for further details
Community diversity	Abundance of variety of vegetation communities	Maintain variety of vegetation communities, subject to natural processes	Roche et al. (2014) recorded two different Alpine and Boreal heath communities within this SAC. Data on the abundance of these communities is reproduced in the uplands supporting document. Further information on these communities is presented in Perrin et al. (2014)
Vegetation composition: lichens and bryophytes	Number at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Number of bryophyte or non-crustose lichen species present at each monitoring stop is at least three	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: positive indicator species	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of positive indicator species at least 66%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). The list of positive indicator species for this habitat is presented in Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: dwarf-shrub species	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of dwarf-shrub species at least 10%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Total cover of negative indicator species less than 10%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). The list of negative indicator species is given in Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: non-native species	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of non-native species less than 1%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details. No non-native species were recorded within this habitat by Roche et al. (2014)
Vegetation structure: signs of grazing	Percentage of leaves browsed at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Less than 10% collectively of the live leaves of specific graminoids showing signs of grazing	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details including the list of specific graminoids
Vegetation structure: signs of browsing	Percentage of shoots browsed at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Less than 33% collectively of the last complete growing season's shoots of ericoids and crowberry ( <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> ) showing signs of browsing	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details

Vegetation structure: burning	Occurrence in local vicinity of a representative number of monitoring stops	No signs of burning within the habitat	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Physical structure: disturbed bare ground	Percentage cover at, and in local vicinity of, a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of disturbed bare ground less than 10%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Indicators of local distinctiveness	Occurrence and population size	No decline in distribution or population sizes of rare, threatened or scarce species associated with the habitat	Roche et al. (2014) compiled and mapped existing rare and notable plant records for the SAC and added any new records collected during the NSUH survey No relevant species were recorded in this habitat, however, new records should be considered within this attribute. See the uplands supporting document for further details

## Conservation Objectives for : Galtee Mountains SAC [000646]

### 6230 Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)

To restore the favourable conservation condition of Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)\* in Galtee Mountains SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area increasing, subject to natural processes	Galtee Mountains SAC was surveyed as part of the National Survey of Upland Habitats (NSUH; see Roche et al., 2014 & Perrin et al., 2014). Roche et al. (2014) did not record this habitat in the SAC. The target requires conditions to improve to allow the development of this habitat within the SAC. A summary of the mapping methodology is presented in the uplands supporting document
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, subject to natural processes	Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grassland* was not recorded by Roche et al. (2014). A summary of the mapping methodology is presented in the uplands supporting document
Ecosystem function: soil nutrients	Soil pH and appropriate nutrient levels at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain soil nutrient status within natural range	See the uplands supporting document for further details
Community diversity	Abundance of variety of vegetation communities	Maintain variety of vegetation communities, subject to natural processes	Roche et al. (2014) did not record any species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grassland communities within this SAC. Further information on communities relevant to this habitat is presented in Perrin et al. (2014)
Vegetation composition: positive indicator species	Number of species at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Number of positive indicator species present at each monitoring stop is at least seven	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). The list of positive indicator species for this habitat is presented in Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: high quality indicator species	Number of species at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	At least two high quality species for base-rich examples of the habitat and at least one for base-poor examples of the habitat	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). The list of positive indicator species for this habitat is presented in Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: species richness	Number of species at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Species richness at each monitoring stop is at least 25	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: non-native species	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of non-native species less than or equal to 1%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details.
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of negative indicator species individually less than or equal to 10% and collectively less than or equal to 20%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). The list of negative indicator species is given in Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: <i>Sphagnum</i> cover	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of <i>Sphagnum</i> species less than or equal to 10%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: <i>Polytrichum</i> cover	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of <i>Polytrichum</i> species less than or equal to 25%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: scrub, bracken and heath cover	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of scrub, bracken ( <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> ) and heath collectively less than or equal to 5%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details

Vegetation structure: forb to graminoid ratio	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Forb:graminoid ratio is 20-90%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: sward height	Percentage at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Proportion of the sward between 5cm and 50cm tall is at least 25%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: litter cover	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of litter less than or equal to 20%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Physical structure: disturbed bare ground	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of disturbed bare ground less than or equal to 10%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Physical structure: grazing or disturbance	Percentage cover in local vicinity of a representative number of monitoring stops	Area of the habitat showing signs of serious grazing or disturbance less than 20m <sup>2</sup>	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Indicators of local distinctiveness	Occurrence and population size	No decline in distribution or population sizes of rare, threatened or scarce species associated with the habitat	Roche et al. (2014) compiled and mapped existing rare and notable plant records for the SAC and added any new records collected during the NSUH survey. No relevant species were recorded in this habitat, however, new records should be considered within this attribute. See the uplands supporting document for further details

## Conservation Objectives for : Galtee Mountains SAC [000646]

### 7130 Blanket bogs (\* if active bog)

**To restore the favourable conservation condition of Blanket bogs in Galtee Mountains SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:**

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area increasing, subject to natural processes	Galtee Mountains SAC was surveyed as part of the National Survey of Upland Habitats (NSUH; see Roche et al., 2014 & Perrin et al., 2014). Roche et al. (2014) state that the current total area of blanket bog is 1010.5ha (15.74% of the SAC). This comprises 1001.0ha of active blanket bog area and 9.5ha of inactive blanket bog. Roche et al. (2014) also report obvious losses of habitat since 1995 of approximately 0.19ha. However, this is almost certainly an under-estimate, as chronic losses due to erosion since 1995 cannot be quantified (17.4ha were mapped as eroding blanket bog by Roche et al. (2014)). It should be noted that further restoration of blanket bog would be required in order to fulfil the targets for peat formation and hydrology presented below. A summary of the mapping methodology and a brief discussion of restoration potential are presented in the uplands supporting document
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline from current distribution, subject to natural processes. See map 5	Blanket bog was recorded by Roche et al. (2014) across the SAC, but was most abundant on the central ridge running through the site and the eastern slopes. A summary of the mapping methodology is presented in the uplands supporting document
Ecosystem function: soil nutrients	Soil pH and appropriate nutrient levels at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain soil nutrient status within natural range	See the uplands supporting document for further details
Ecosystem function: peat formation	Active blanket bog as a proportion of the total area of Annex I blanket bog habitat	At least 99% of the total Annex I blanket bog area is active	From the areas given by Roche et al. (2014) above, 99.1% of the Annex I blanket bog habitat is currently active. See the uplands supporting document for further details
Ecosystem function: hydrology	Flow direction, water levels, occurrence of drains and erosion gullies	Natural hydrology unaffected by drains and erosion	Further details and a brief discussion of restoration potential is presented in the uplands supporting document
Community diversity	Abundance of variety of vegetation communities	Maintain variety of vegetation communities, subject to natural processes	Roche et al. (2014) recorded five different active blanket bog communities within this SAC. Data on the abundance of these communities is reproduced in the uplands supporting document. Further information on these communities is presented in Perrin et al. (2014)
Vegetation composition: positive indicator species	Number of species at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Number of positive indicator species at each monitoring stop is at least seven	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). The list of positive indicator species for this habitat is presented in Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: lichens and bryophytes	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of bryophytes or lichens, excluding <i>Sphagnum fallax</i> , at least 10%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: potential dominant species	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of each of the potential dominant species less than 75%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details including the list of potentially dominant species
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Total cover of negative indicator species less than 1%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). The list of negative indicator species is given in Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details

Vegetation composition: non-native species	Percentage cover at, and in local vicinity of, a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of non-native species less than 1%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details. <i>Campylopus introflexus</i> was recorded within this habitat by Roche et al. (2014) but did not form extensive carpets
Vegetation composition: native trees and scrub	Percentage cover in local vicinity of a representative number of monitoring stops	Cover of scattered native trees and shrubs less than 10%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: <i>Sphagnum</i> condition	Condition at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Less than 10% of the <i>Sphagnum</i> cover is crushed, broken and/or pulled up	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: signs of browsing	Percentage of shoots browsed at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Last complete growing season's shoots of ericoids, crowberry ( <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> ) and bog-myrtle ( <i>Myrica gale</i> ) showing signs of browsing collectively less than 33%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: burning	Occurrence in local vicinity of a representative number of monitoring stops	No signs of burning in sensitive areas, into the moss, liverwort or lichen layer or exposure of peat surface due to burning	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). The list of sensitive areas is presented in Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Physical structure: disturbed bare ground	Percentage cover at, and in local vicinity of, a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of disturbed bare ground less than 10%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Physical structure: drainage	Occurrence in local vicinity of a representative number of monitoring stops	Area showing signs of drainage from heavy trampling, tracking or ditches less than 10%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Physical structure: erosion	Occurrence in local vicinity of a representative number of monitoring stops	Less than 5% of the greater bog mosaic comprises erosion gullies and eroded areas	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Indicators of local distinctiveness	Occurrence and population size	No decline in distribution or population sizes of rare, threatened or scarce species associated with the habitat	Roche et al. (2014) compiled and mapped existing rare and notable plant records for the SAC and added any new records collected during the NSUH survey. No relevant species were recorded in this habitat, however, new records should be considered within this attribute. See the uplands supporting document for further details



## Conservation Objectives for : Galtee Mountains SAC [000646]

### 8110 Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*)

To restore the favourable conservation condition of Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*) in Galtee Mountains SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes	Galtee Mountains SAC was surveyed as part of the National Survey of Upland Habitats (NSUH; see Roche et al., 2014 & Perrin et al., 2014). The total current area of siliceous scree in the SAC stated by Roche et al. (2014) is 54.8ha. This covers 0.85% of the SAC. Roche et al. (2014) report no significant losses of area since 1995. A summary of the mapping methodology is presented in the uplands supporting document
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline from current distribution, subject to natural processes. See map 6	Siliceous scree was recorded by Roche et al. (2014) throughout the SAC, but was more frequent in the west. The most extensive patches occur on Slievecushnabinnia. A summary of the mapping methodology is presented in the uplands supporting document
Ecosystem function: soil nutrients	Soil pH and appropriate nutrient levels at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain soil nutrient status within natural range	See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: lichens and bryophytes	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of bryophytes and non-crustose lichen species at least 5%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Proportion of vegetation composed of negative indicator species less than 1%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). The list of negative indicator species is given in Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: non-native species	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Proportion of vegetation composed of non-native species less than 1%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: positive indicator species	Number of species in local vicinity of a representative number of monitoring stops	Number of positive indicator species present in vicinity of each monitoring stop in block scree is at least one	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). The list of positive indicator species for this habitat is presented in Perrin et al. (2014) and is the same as for 8220 Siliceous rocky slopes. Further details can be found in the uplands supporting document
Vegetation composition: grass species and dwarf shrubs	Percentage cover in local vicinity of a representative number of monitoring stops	Total cover of grass species and dwarf shrubs less than 20%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: bracken, native trees and scrub	Percentage cover in local vicinity of a representative number of monitoring stops	Total cover of bracken ( <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> ), native trees and scrub less than 25%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: grazing and browsing	Percentage of leaves/shoots grazed/browsed at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Live leaves of forbs and shoots of dwarf shrubs showing signs of grazing or browsing collectively less than 50%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Physical structure: disturbance	Percentage cover at, and in local vicinity of, a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Ground disturbed by human and animal paths, scree running, vehicles less than 10%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details

Indicators of local distinctiveness	Occurrence and population size	No decline in distribution or population sizes of rare, threatened or scarce species associated with the habitat	Roche et al. (2014) compiled and mapped existing rare and notable plant records for the SAC and added any new records collected during the NSUH survey. No relevant species were recorded in this habitat, however, new records should be considered within this attribute. See the uplands supporting document for further details
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## Conservation Objectives for : Galtee Mountains SAC [000646]

### 8210 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation

**To restore the favourable conservation condition of Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation in Galtee Mountains SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:**

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes	Galtee Mountains SAC was surveyed as part of the National Survey of Upland Habitats (NSUH; see Roche et al., 2014 & Perrin et al., 2014). The total current area of calcareous rocky slopes in the SAC stated by Roche et al. (2014) is 2.8ha. This covers 0.04% of the SAC. Roche et al. (2014) report no significant losses of area since 1995. A summary of the mapping methodology is presented in the uplands supporting document
Habitat area	Occurrence	No decline from current distribution, subject to natural processes. See map 7	Calcareous rocky slopes were recorded by Roche et al. (2014) from the north-facing corries of the SAC. A summary of the mapping methodology is presented in the uplands supporting document
Ecosystem function: soil nutrients	Soil pH and appropriate nutrient levels at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain soil nutrient status within natural range	See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: positive indicator fern and <i>Saxifraga</i> species	Number of species in local vicinity of a representative number of monitoring stops	Number of ferns and <i>Saxifraga</i> indicators at each monitoring stop at least one	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: positive indicator species	Number of species in local vicinity of a representative number of monitoring stops	Number of positive indicator species at each monitoring stop at least three	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). The list of positive indicator species for this habitat is presented in Perrin et al. (2014). Further details can be found reproduced in the uplands supporting document
Vegetation composition: non-native species	Percentage cover in local vicinity of a representative number of monitoring stops	Proportion of vegetation composed of non-native species less than 1%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details. <i>Epilobium brunnescens</i> was recorded within this habitat by Roche et al. (2014)
Vegetation composition: bracken, native trees and scrub	Percentage cover in local vicinity of a representative number of monitoring stops	Total cover of bracken ( <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> ), native trees and scrub less than 25%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: grazing and browsing	Percentage of leaves/shoots grazed/browsed in local vicinity of a representative number of monitoring stops	Live leaves of forbs and shoots of dwarf shrubs showing signs of grazing or browsing collectively less than 50%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Indicators of local distinctiveness	Occurrence and population size	No decline in distribution or population sizes of rare, threatened or scarce species associated with the habitat	Roche et al. (2014) compiled and mapped existing rare and notable plant records for the SAC and added any new records collected during the NSUH survey. <i>Leiocolea bantriensis</i> has been recorded from within the habitat. This species is listed as Near Threatened in Lockhart et al. (2012). This and any new records should be considered within this attribute. See the uplands supporting document for further details

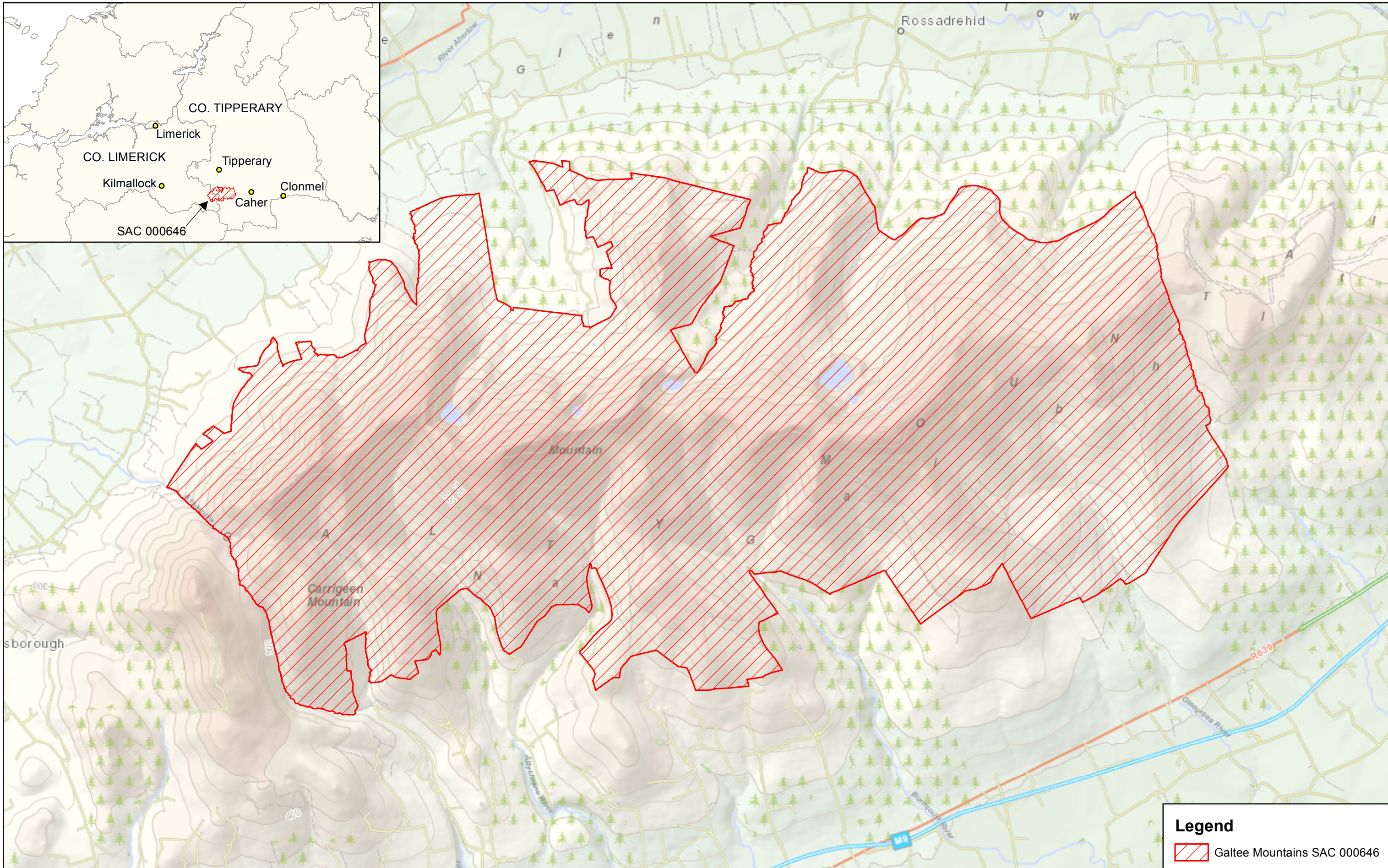
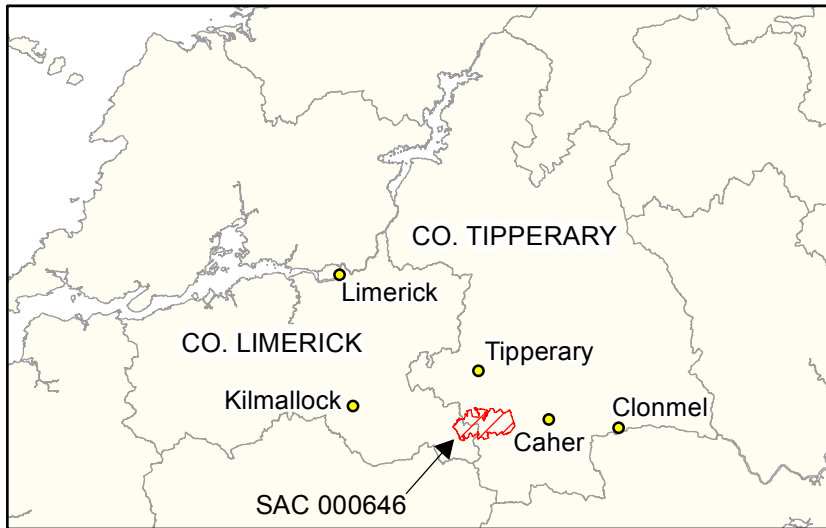
## Conservation Objectives for : Galtee Mountains SAC [000646]

### 8220 Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation


**To restore the favourable conservation condition of Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation in Galtee Mountains SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:**

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes	Galtee Mountains SAC was surveyed as part of the National Survey of Upland Habitats (NSUH; see Roche et al., 2014 & Perrin et al., 2014). The total current area of siliceous rocky slopes in the SAC stated by Roche et al. (2014) is 6.1ha. This covers 0.09% of the SAC. Roche et al. (2014) report no significant losses of area since 1995. A summary of the mapping methodology is presented in the uplands supporting document
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline from current distribution, subject to natural processes. See map 8	Siliceous rocky slopes were recorded by Roche et al. (2014) from the north-facing corries of the SAC. A summary of the mapping methodology is presented in the uplands supporting document
Ecosystem function: soil nutrients	Soil pH and appropriate nutrient levels at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain soil nutrient status within natural range	See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: positive indicator species	Number of species at a representative number of monitoring stops	Number of positive indicator species present in vicinity of each monitoring stop is at least one	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). The list of positive indicator species for this habitat is presented in Perrin et al. (2014). Further details can be found in the uplands supporting document
Vegetation composition: non-native species	Percentage cover in local vicinity of a representative number of monitoring stops	Proportion of vegetation composed of non-native species less than 1%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details. <i>Epilobium brunnescens</i> was recorded within this habitat by Roche et al. (2014)
Vegetation composition: bracken, native trees and scrub	Percentage cover in local vicinity of a representative number of monitoring stops	Total cover of bracken ( <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> ), native trees and scrub less than 25%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: grazing and browsing	Percentage of leaves/shoots grazed/browsed in local vicinity of a representative number of monitoring stops	Live leaves of forbs and shoots of dwarf shrubs showing signs of grazing or browsing collectively less than 50%	Based on Perrin et al. (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details
Indicators of local distinctiveness	Occurrence and population size	No decline in distribution or population sizes of rare, threatened or scarce species associated with the habitat and no decline in status of hepatic mats associated with this habitat	Roche et al. (2014) compiled and mapped existing rare and notable plant records for the SAC and added any new records collected during the NSUH survey. No relevant species were recorded in this habitat, however, new records should be considered within this attribute. Hepatic mats of the <i>Calluna vulgaris-Herbertus aduncus</i> community were recorded within this habitat by Roche et al. (2014). No assessment of the conservation status of this community has been conducted but proposals for such an assessment are presented in Barron and Perrin (2014). See the uplands supporting document for further details

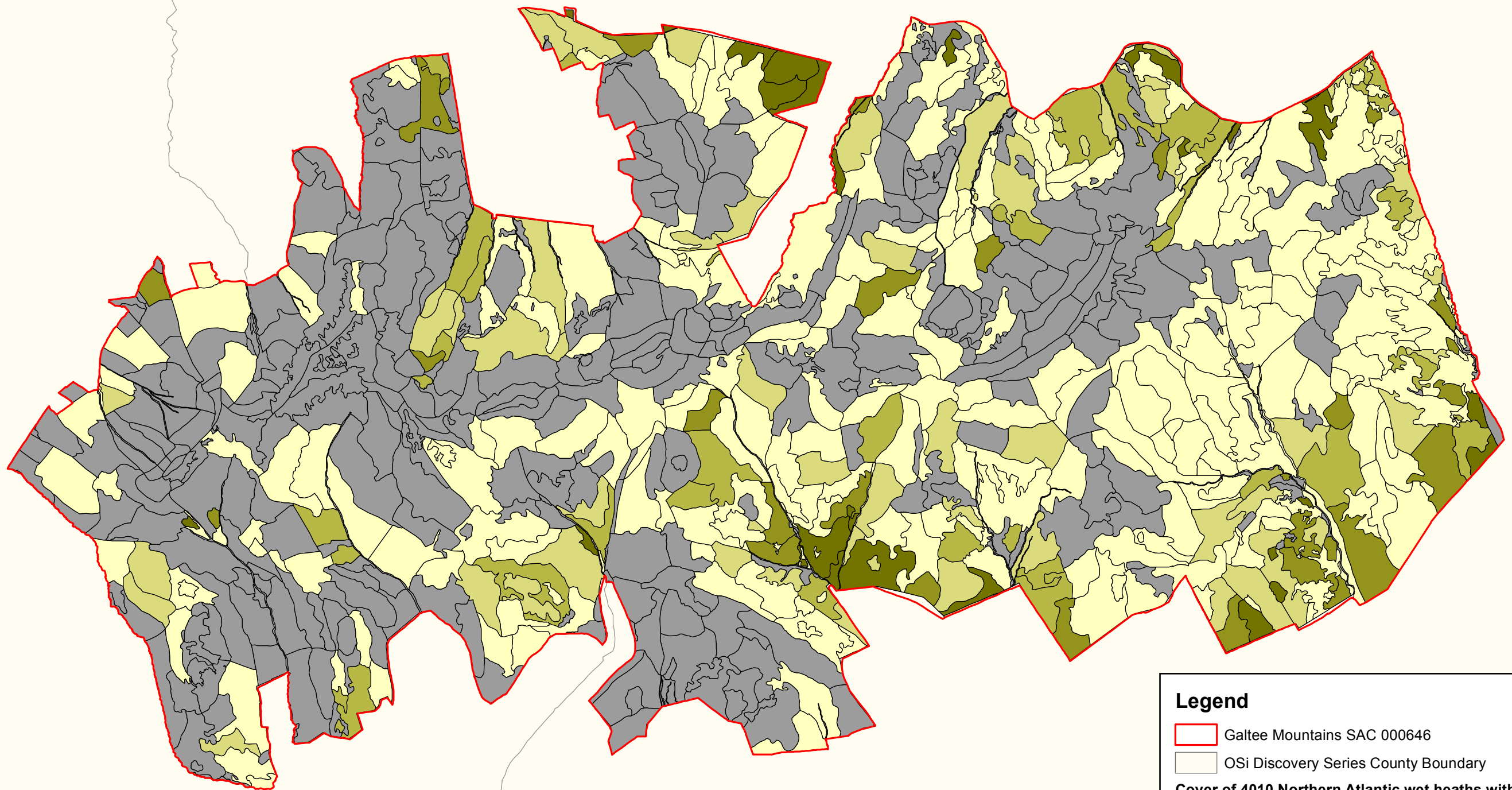




**Legend**

 Galtee Mountains SAC 000646



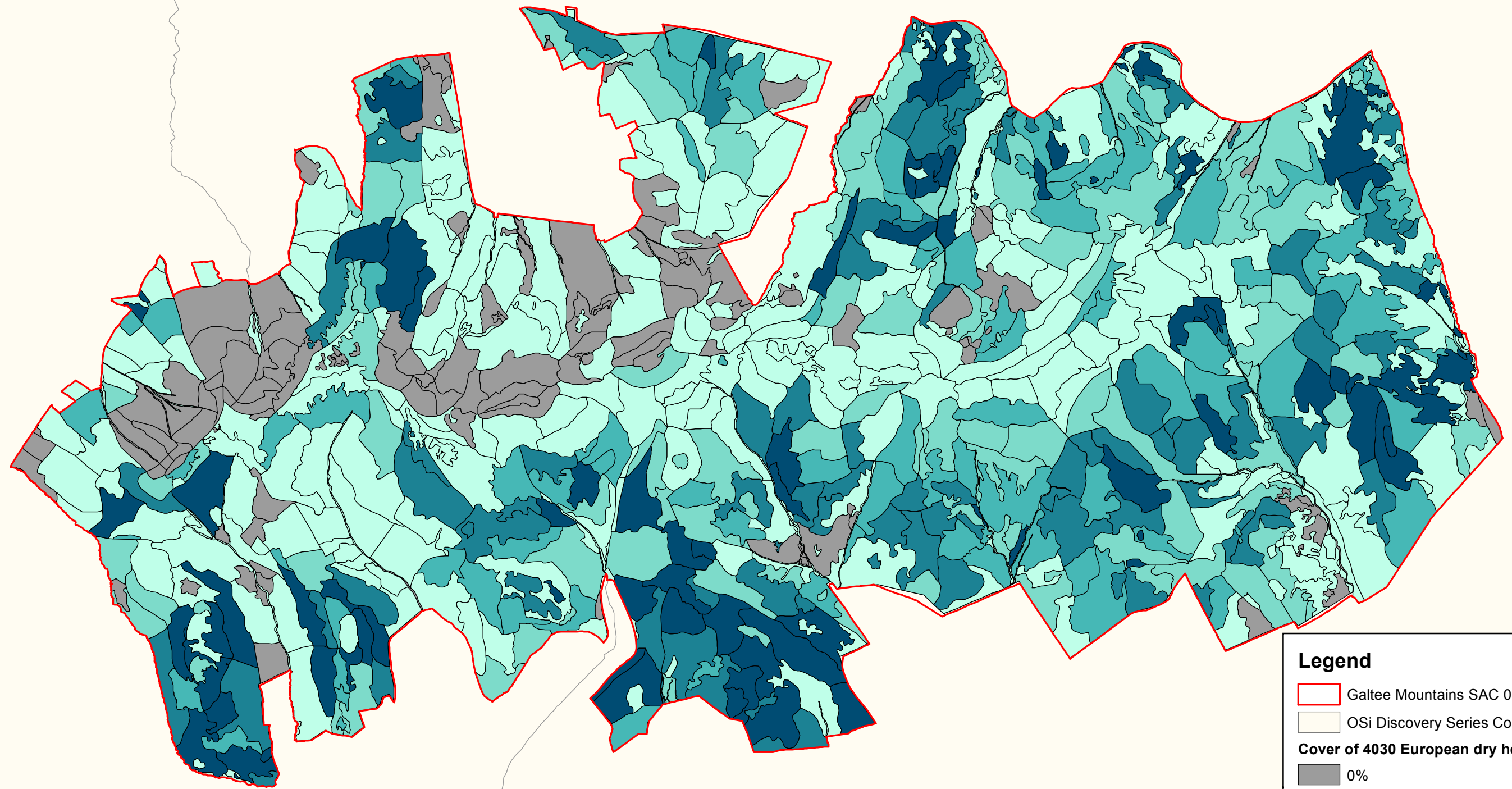


**Legend**

- Galtee Mountains SAC 000646
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundary

**Cover of 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix**

- 0%
- 0.1% - 20%
- 20.1% - 40%
- 40.1% - 60%
- 60.1% - 80%
- 80.1% - 100%

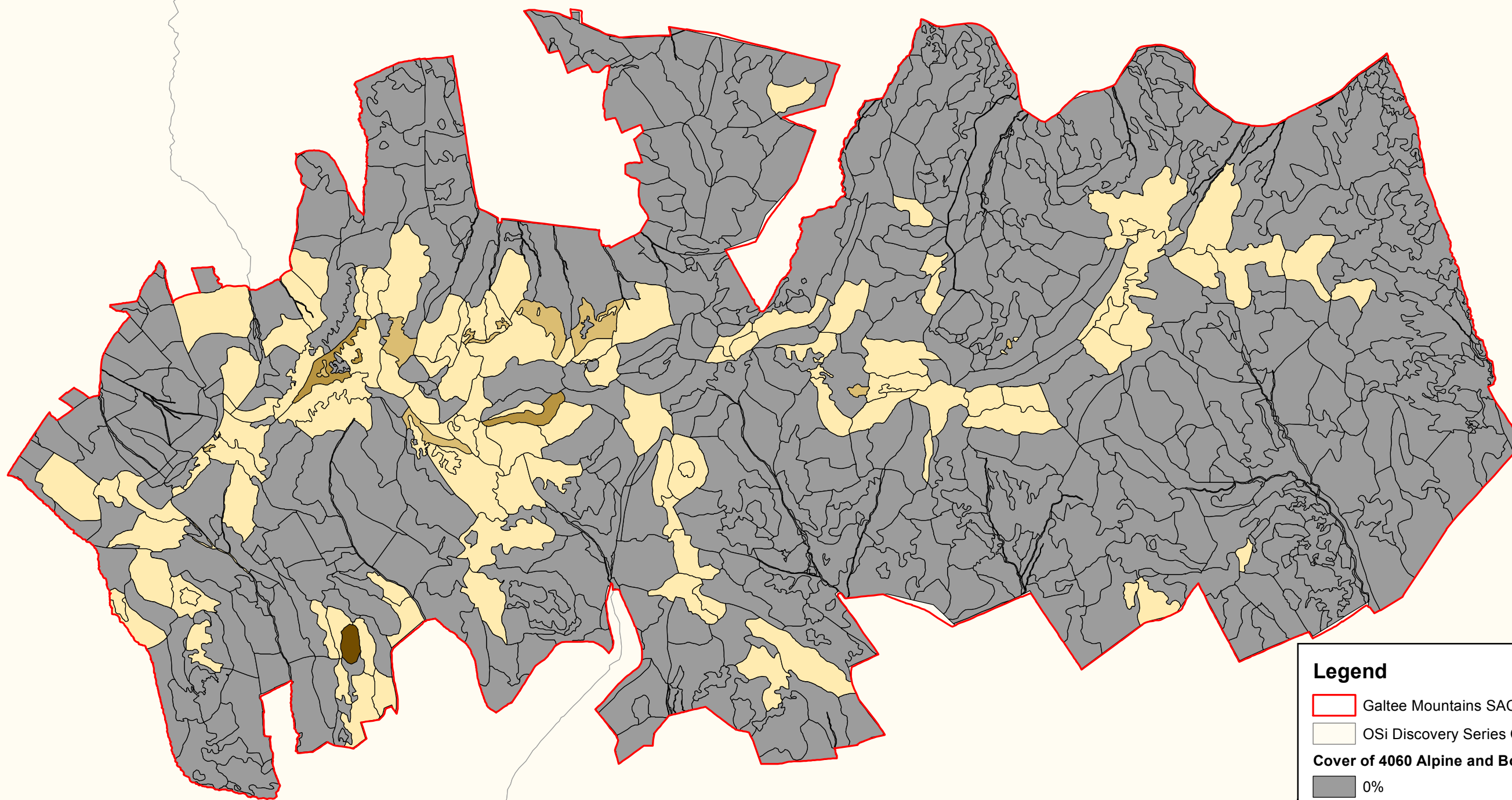


**Legend**

- Galtee Mountains SAC 000646
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundary
- Cover of 4030 European dry heaths**
- 0%
- 0.1% - 20%
- 20.1% - 40%
- 40.1% - 60%
- 60.1% - 80%
- 80.1% - 100%







**Legend**

- Galtee Mountains SAC 000646
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundary
- Cover of 4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths**
- 0%
- 0.1% - 20%
- 20.1% - 40%
- 40.1% - 60%
- 60.1% - 80%
- 80.1% - 100%

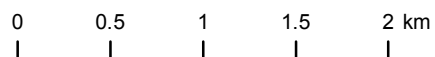


An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta,  
Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta  
Department of Arts, Heritage,  
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

**MAP 4:  
GALTEE MOUNTAINS SAC  
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES  
ALPINE AND BOREAL HEATHS**

Map to be read in conjunction with the NPWS Conservation Objectives Document.

**SITE CODE:  
SAC 000646; version 3. Co. Limerick/Tipperary**



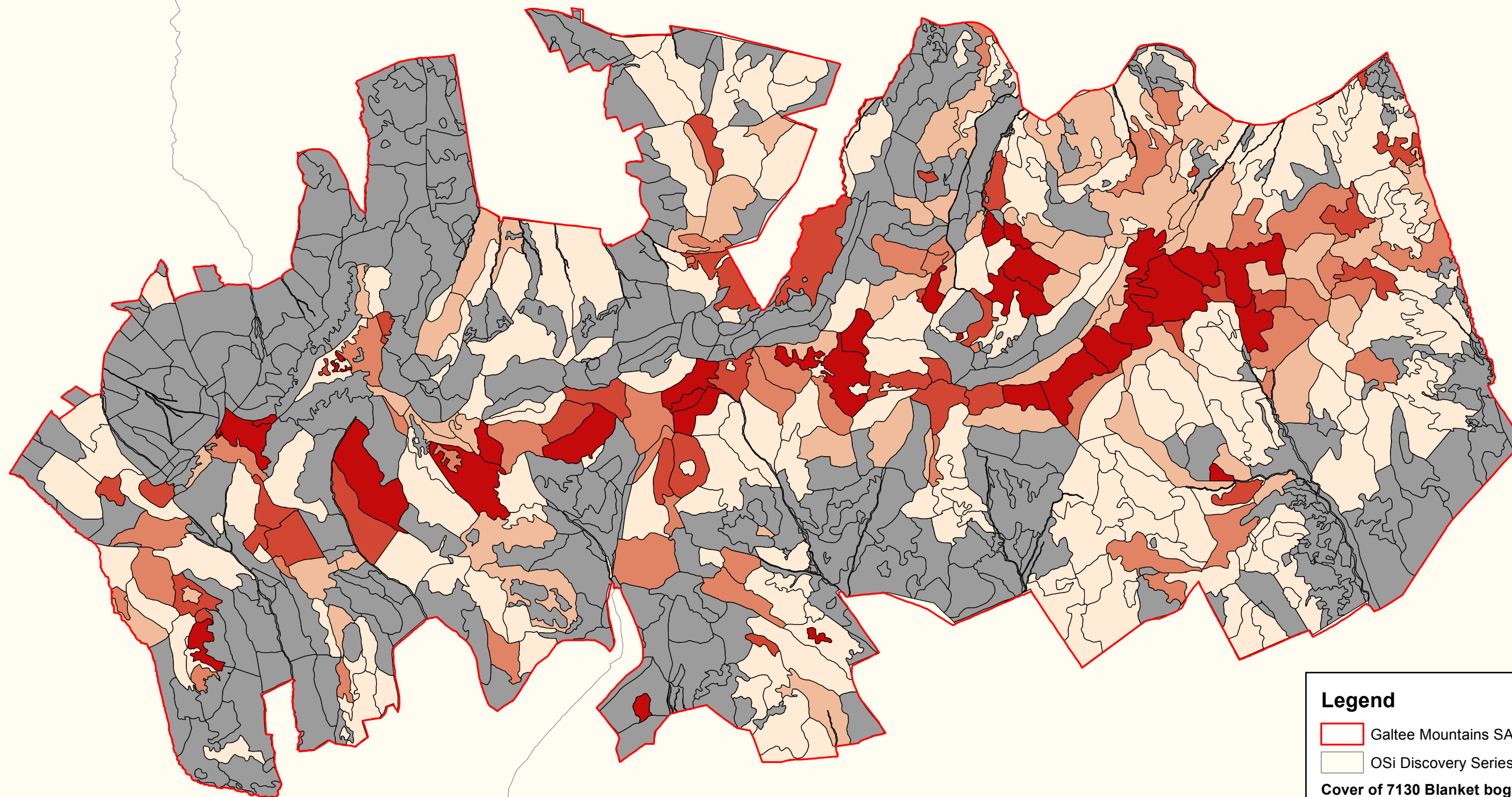
The mapped boundaries are of an indicative and general nature only. Boundaries of designated areas are subject to revision.  
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Níl sna teorainneacha ar na léarscáileanna ach nod garshuíomhach ginearálta. Féadfar athbheithnithe a déanamh ar theorainneacha na gceantar comharthaithe. Suirbhéarachta Ordonáis na hÉireann Ceadúnas Uimh EN 0059214. © Suirbhéarachta Ordonáis na hÉireann Rialtas na hÉireann.



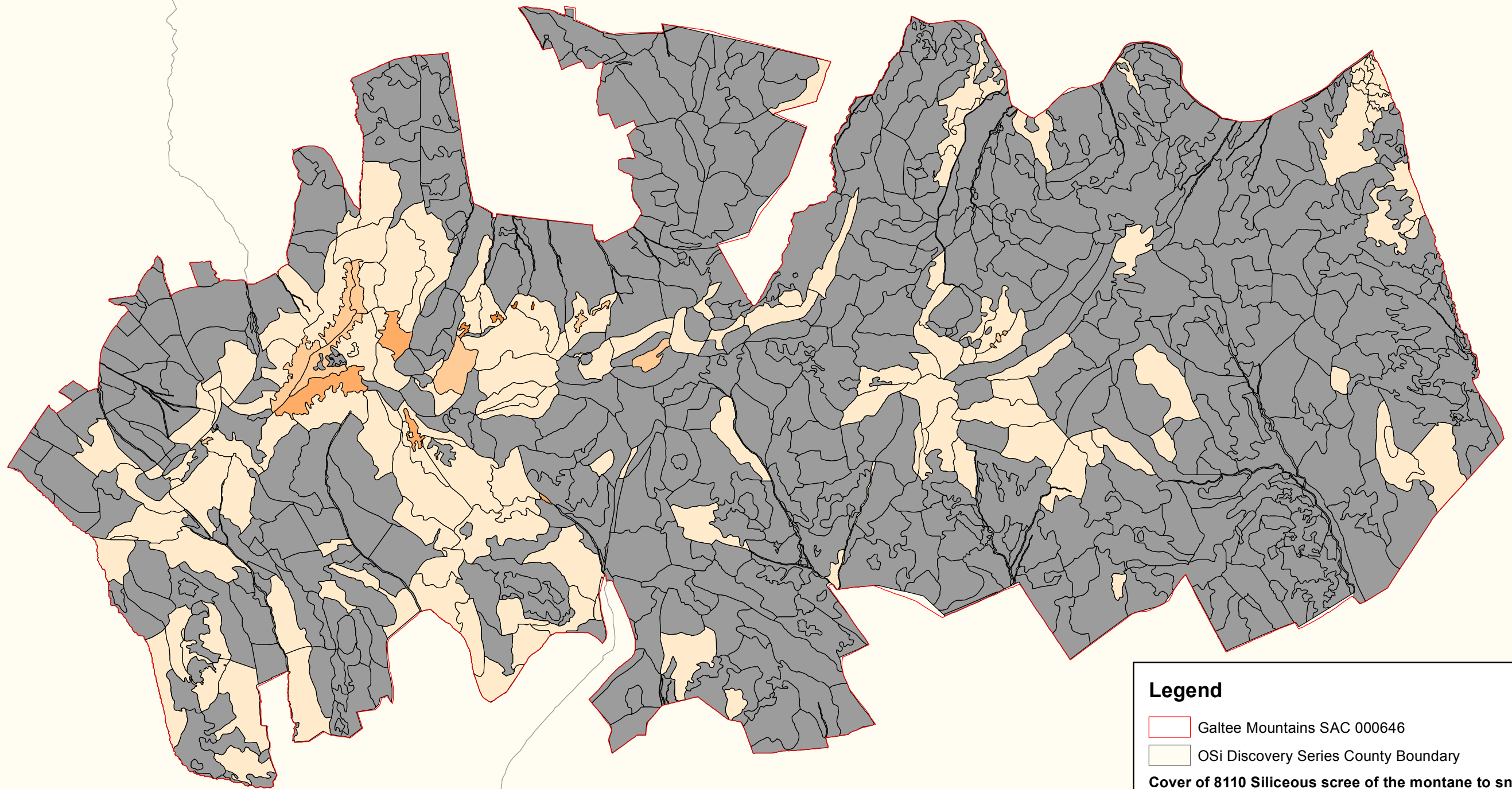
**Map Version 1  
Date: July 2016**





**Legend**

- Galtee Mountains SAC 000646
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundary
- Cover of 7130 Blanket bogs (\* if active bog)**
- 0%
- 0.1% - 20%
- 20.1% - 40%
- 40.1% - 60%
- 60.1% - 80%
- 80.1% - 100%



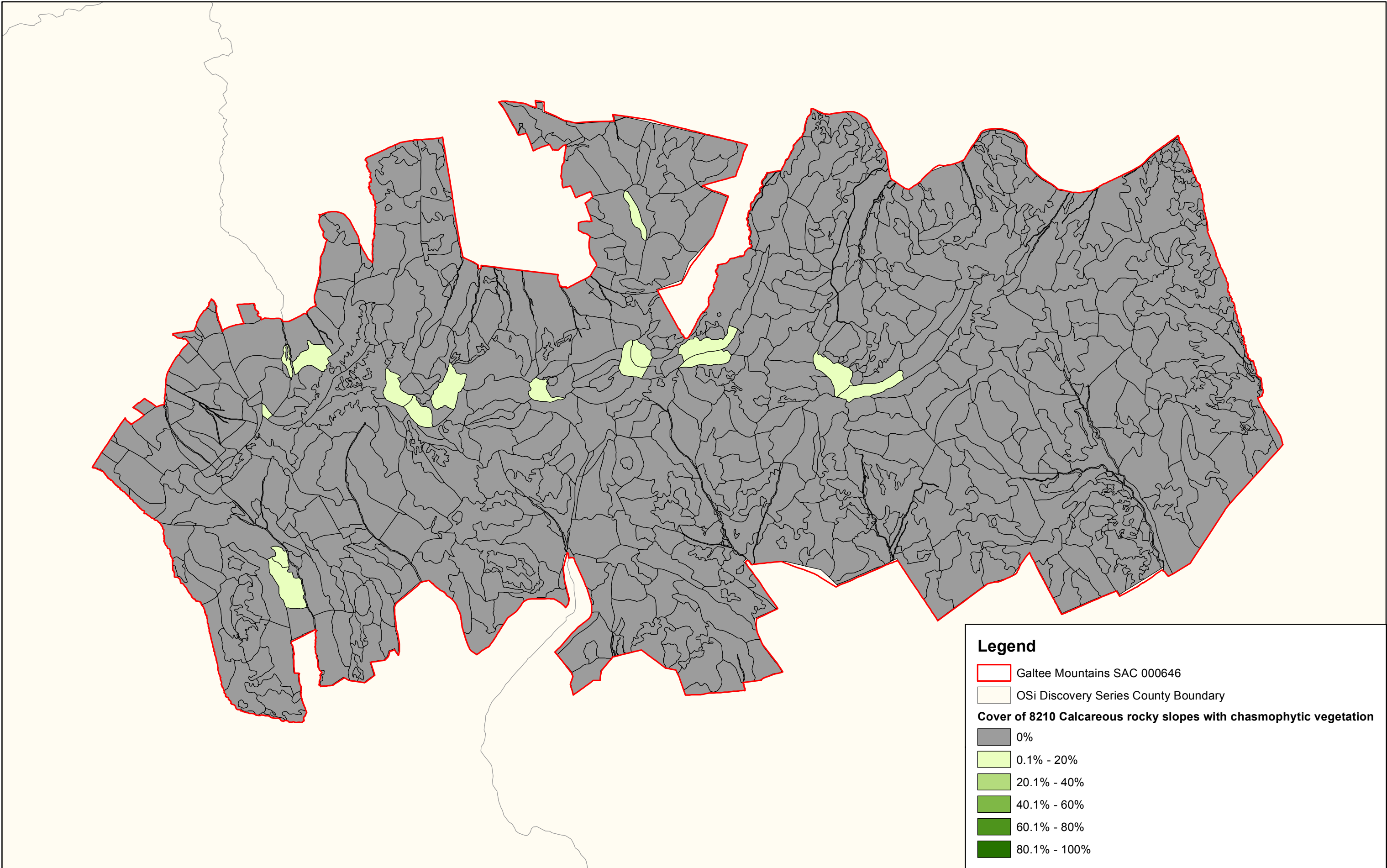
**Legend**

- Galtee Mountains SAC 000646
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundary

**Cover of 8110 Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)**

- 0%
- 0.1% - 20%
- 20.1% - 40%
- 40.1% - 60%
- 60.1% - 80%
- 80.1% - 100%



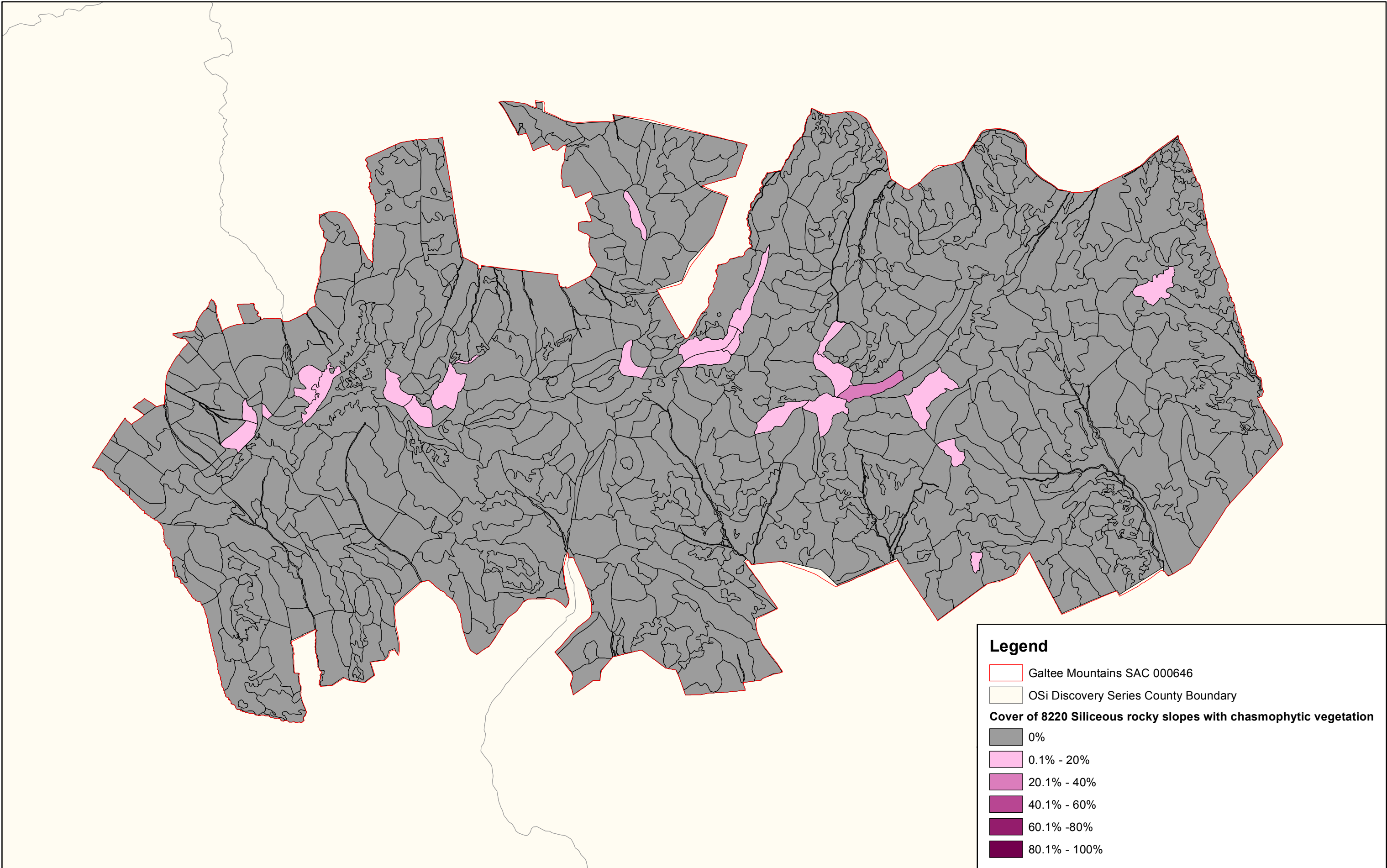


**Legend**

- Galtee Mountains SAC 000646
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundary

**Cover of 8210 Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation**

- 0%
- 0.1% - 20%
- 20.1% - 40%
- 40.1% - 60%
- 60.1% - 80%
- 80.1% - 100%



**Legend**

- Galtee Mountains SAC 000646
- OSi Discovery Series County Boundary
- Cover of 8220 Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation**
- 0%
- 0.1% - 20%
- 20.1% - 40%
- 40.1% - 60%
- 60.1% - 80%
- 80.1% - 100%