

# National Parks and Wildlife Service

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## *Conservation Objectives Series*

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### Ballyseedy Wood SAC 002112



An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage

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## Introduction

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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002112 Ballyseedy Wood SAC

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91E0 Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)\*

## 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>	2008
<b>Title :</b>	National survey of native woodlands 2003-2008
<b>Author :</b>	Perrin, P.M.; Martin, J.; Barron, S.; O'Neill, F.H.; McNutt, K.E.; Delaney, A.
<b>Series :</b>	Unpublished report to NPWS
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<b>Year :</b>	2010
<b>Title :</b>	A provisional inventory of ancient and long-established woodland in Ireland
<b>Author :</b>	Perrin, P.M.; Daly, O.H.
<b>Series :</b>	Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 46
<hr/>	
<b>Year :</b>	2012
<b>Title :</b>	The beetles of decaying wood in Ireland. A provisional annotated checklist of saproxylic Coleoptera
<b>Author :</b>	Alexander, K.N.A.; Anderson, R.
<b>Series :</b>	Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 65
<hr/>	
<b>Year :</b>	2013
<b>Title :</b>	Results of a monitoring survey of old sessile oak woods and alluvial forests
<b>Author :</b>	O'Neill, F.H.; Barron, S.J.
<b>Series :</b>	Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 71
<hr/>	
<b>Year :</b>	in prep.
<b>Title :</b>	The monitoring and assessment of four EU Habitats Directive Annex I woodland habitats
<b>Author :</b>	Daly, O.H.; O'Neill, F.H.; Barron, S.J.
<b>Series :</b>	Irish Wildlife Manuals

### Other References

<b>Year :</b>	2002
<b>Title :</b>	Reversing the habitat fragmentation of British woodlands
<b>Author :</b>	Peterken, G.
<b>Series :</b>	WWF-UK, London
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<b>Year :</b>	2008
<b>Title :</b>	Ballyseedy Wood: a 50 year management plan
<b>Author :</b>	O'Neill, F.; Perrin, P.; Barron, S.
<b>Series :</b>	Report submitted to Kerry County Council
<hr/>	
<b>Year :</b>	2016
<b>Title :</b>	Irish Vegetation Classification: Technical Progress Report No. 2
<b>Author :</b>	Perrin, P.
<b>Series :</b>	Report submitted to National Biodiversity Data Centre

## Spatial data sources

**Year :** 2008

**Title :** Ballyseedy Wood: a 50 year management plan

**GIS Operations :** Dataset clipped to the SAC boundary. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising

**Used For :** 91E0 (map 2)

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## Conservation Objectives for : Ballyseedy Wood SAC [002112]

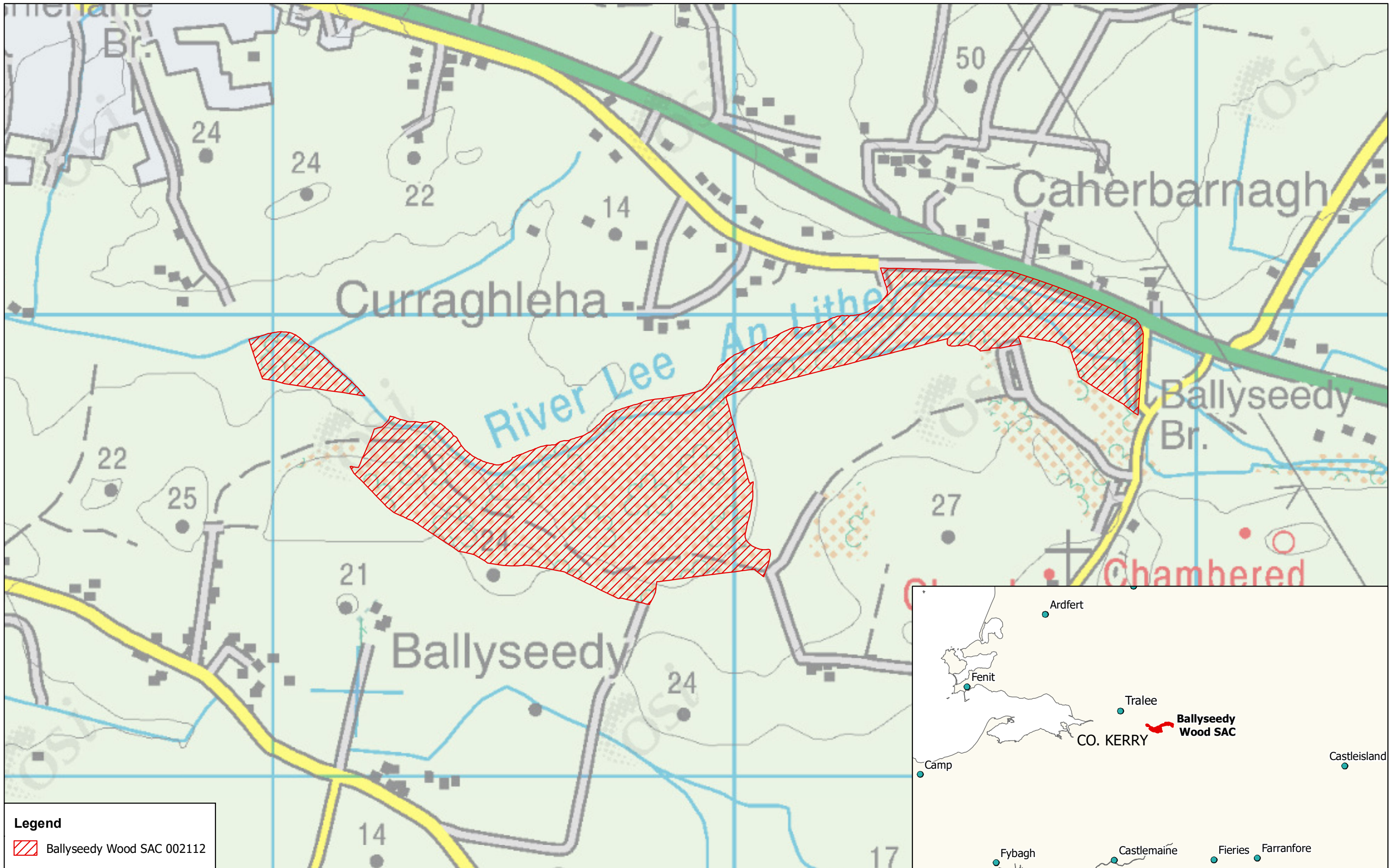
### 91E0 Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)\*

To restore the favourable conservation condition of Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)\* in Ballyseedy Wood 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	Ballyseedy Wood SAC is regarded as an excellent example of Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)* (O'Neill et al., 2008). The River Lee runs along the northern boundary of the SAC. As part of the National Survey of Native Woodlands (NSNW), Ballyseedy Wood (NSNW site code 1711) was surveyed by Perrin et al. (2008); its conservation assessment score was ranked as joint 16th nationally and 2nd in Co. Kerry. Ballyseedy Wood (code 1711) was also included in a national monitoring survey (O'Neill and Barron, 2013; Daly et al., in prep.). Most of the woodland within the SAC is owned by Kerry County Council (KCC) and a management plan was prepared for that area (O'Neill et al., 2008). Map 2 shows only the KCC-owned area, which was surveyed by O'Neill et al. (2008) and included an estimated area of 21.6ha of alluvial forests. It is important to note that further unsurveyed areas are present within the SAC
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline. The area owned by Kerry County Council and surveyed by O'Neill et al. (2008) is shown on map 2	Distribution based on O'Neill et al. (2008). It is important to note that further unsurveyed areas are present within the SAC
Woodland size	Hectares	Area stable or increasing. Where topographically possible, "large" woods at least 25ha in size and "small" woods at least 3ha in size	The target areas for individual woodlands aim to reduce habitat fragmentation and benefit those species requiring 'deep' woodland conditions (Peterken, 2002). In some cases, topographical constraints may restrict expansion
Woodland structure: cover and height	Percentage; metres; centimetres	Total canopy cover at least 30%; median canopy height at least 7m; native shrub layer cover 10-75%; native herb/dwarf shrub layer cover at least 20% and height at least 20cm; bryophyte cover at least 4%	The target aims for a diverse structure with a canopy containing mature trees, shrub layer with semi-mature trees and shrubs, and well-developed field layer (herbs, graminoids and dwarf shrubs) and ground layer (bryophytes). Assessment criteria are described in Daly et al. (in prep.) and O'Neill and Barron (2013)
Woodland structure: community diversity and extent	Hectares	Maintain diversity and extent of community types	Described in O'Neill et al. (2008). See also Perrin et al. (2008) and the Irish Vegetation Classification (Perrin, 2016; <a href="http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/ivc-classification-explorer/">www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/ivc-classification-explorer/</a> )
Woodland structure: natural regeneration	Seedling:sapling:pole ratio	Seedlings, saplings and pole age-classes of target species for 91E0* woodlands and other native tree species occur in adequate proportions to ensure survival of woodland canopy	The target species for 91E0* are alder ( <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> ), ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ) and willows ( <i>Salix</i> spp.). Assessment criteria are described in Daly et al. (in prep.) and O'Neill and Barron (2013)
Hydrological regime: flooding depth/height of water table	Metres	Appropriate hydrological regime necessary for maintenance of alluvial vegetation	Periodic flooding is essential to maintain alluvial woodlands along river and lake floodplains, but not for woodland around springs/seepage areas. The high water table of Ballyseedy Wood is maintained by water draining into the site from the south, as well as by alluvial flooding (NPWS internal files)

Woodland structure: dead wood	Number per hectare	At least 19 stems/ha of dead wood at least 20cm diameter	Dead wood is a valuable resource and an integral part of a healthy, functioning woodland ecosystem. Dead wood comprises old senescent trees, standing dead trees, fallen dead wood (including large branches) and rotten stumps of any tree species. Assessment criteria are described in Daly et al. (in prep.) and O'Neill and Barron (2013)
Woodland structure: veteran trees	Number per hectare	No decline	Veteran trees are important habitats for bryophytes, lichens, saproxylic organisms and some bird species. Their retention is important to ensure continuity of habitats/niches and propagule sources
Woodland structure: indicators of local distinctiveness	Occurrence; population size	No decline in distribution and, in the case of red listed and other rare or localised species, population size	Includes ancient or long-established woodlands (see Perrin and Daly, 2010), archaeological and geological features as well as red listed and other rare or localised species. Most of the woodland within the SAC has been categorised as Long-established Woodland (I), i.e. it appears on the 1830s 1st edition Ordnance Survey maps but no further evidence of antiquity could be found in older documentation (Perrin and Daly, 2010). Notable plant species have been recorded from the habitat, including rough horsetail ( <i>Equisetum hyemale</i> ), thin-spiked wood-sedge ( <i>Carex strigosa</i> ), wood horsetail ( <i>E. sylvaticum</i> ) (Perrin et al., 2008) and dark-leaved willow ( <i>Salix myrsinifolia</i> ) (NPWS internal files). Four notable species of saproxylic beetle have been recorded from Ballyseedy Wood (Alexander and Anderson, 2012). The river is frequented by otter (NPWS internal files)
Woodland structure: indicators of overgrazing	Occurrence	All five indicators of overgrazing absent	There are five indicators of overgrazing within 91E0*: topiary effect on shrubs and young trees, browse line on mature trees, abundant dung, severe recent bark stripping, and trampling (Daly et al., in prep.)
Vegetation composition: native tree cover	Percentage	No decline. Native tree cover at least 90% of canopy; target species cover at least 50% of canopy	The target species for 91E0* are alder ( <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> ), ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ) and willows ( <i>Salix</i> spp.) (Daly et al., in prep.; O'Neill and Barron, 2013)
Vegetation composition: typical species	Occurrence	At least 1 target species for 91E0* woodlands present; at least 6 positive indicator species for 91E0* woodlands present	A variety of typical native species should be present, depending on woodland type. The target species for 91E0* are alder ( <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> ), ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ) and willows ( <i>Salix</i> spp.). Positive indicator species for 91E0* are listed in Daly et al. (in prep.) and O'Neill and Barron (2013)
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Occurrence	Negative indicator species cover not greater than 10%; regeneration of negative indicator species absent	Negative indicator species (i.e. any non-native species, including herbaceous species) should be absent or under control. Mature non-native trees are frequent and locally abundant within the habitat in this SAC, with the main species being sycamore ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> ), beech ( <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> ), hornbeam ( <i>Carpinus betulus</i> ), horse-chestnut ( <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> ), western red cedar ( <i>Thuja plicata</i> ) and European silver-fir ( <i>Abies alba</i> ). Several invasive shrub species have also been recorded, including Rhododendron ( <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> ) and cherry laurel ( <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> ) (O'Neill et al., 2008). Daly et al. (in prep.) recorded an increase in the cover and regeneration of negative indicator species in the 2017-2018 monitoring survey
Vegetation composition: problematic native species	Percentage	Cover of common nettle ( <i>Urtica dioica</i> ) less than 75%	Common nettle ( <i>Urtica dioica</i> ) is a positive indicator species for 91E0* but, in some cases, it may become excessively dominant. Increased light and nutrient enrichment are factors which favour proliferation of common nettle (Daly et al., in prep.)





**Legend**

 Ballyseedy Wood SAC 002112


 **An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht**  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage

**MAP 1:  
BALLYSEEDY WOOD SAC  
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES  
SAC DESIGNATION**

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

**SITE CODE:  
SAC 002112; version 3.01.  
CO. KERRY**


0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Kilometres



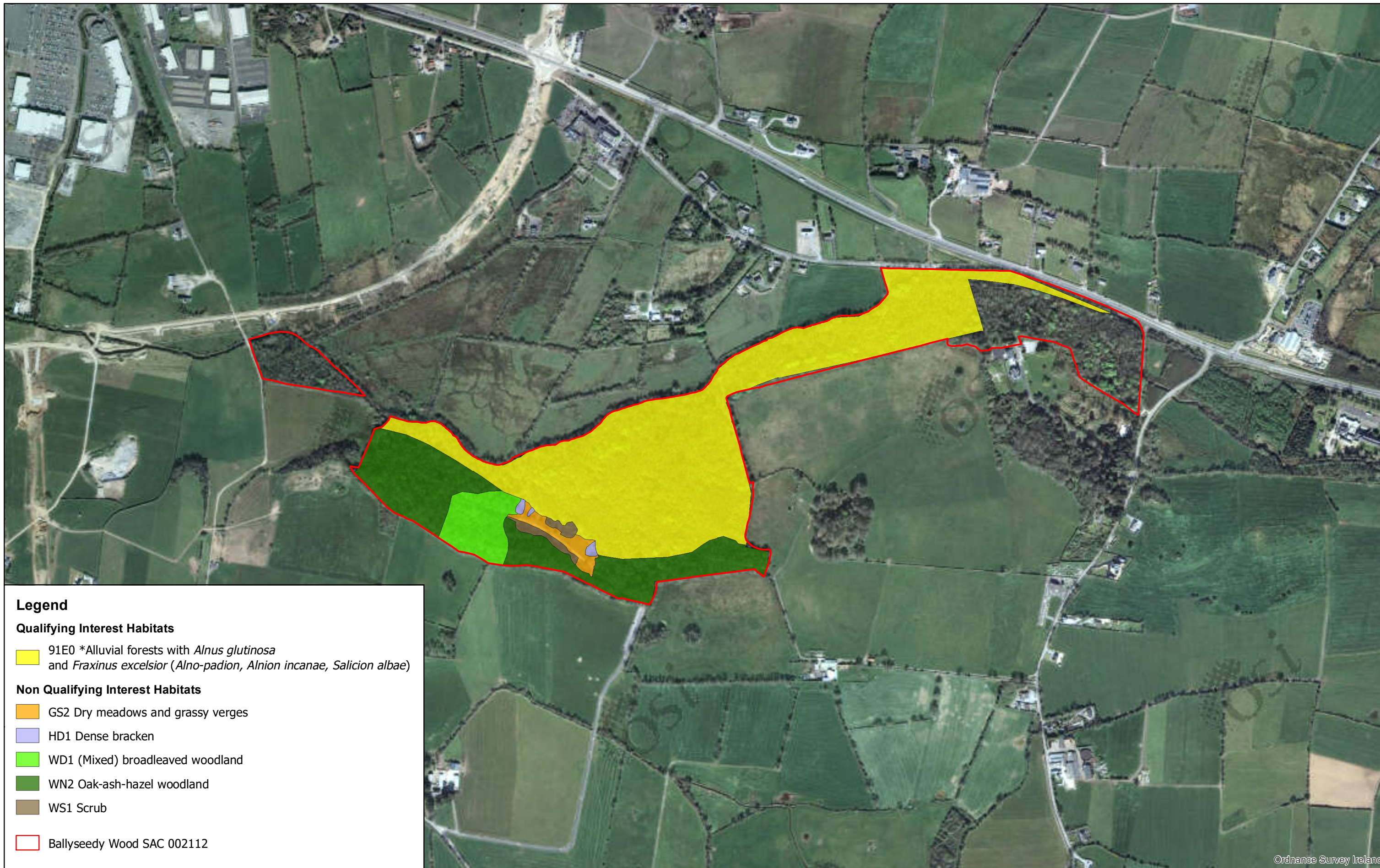
The mapped boundaries are of an indicative and general nature only. Boundaries of designated areas are subject to revision.  
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Níl sna teorainneacha ar na léarscáileanna ach nod garshuíomhach ginearálta. Féadfar athbhreithnithe a déanamh ar theorainneacha na gceantar comharthaíthe. Suirbhéarachta Ordonáis na hÉireann Ceadúnas Uimh OSI-NMA-014. © Suirbhéarachta Ordonáis na hÉireann Rialtas na hÉireann

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**Date: October 2021**



**Legend**

**Qualifying Interest Habitats**

91E0 \*Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*)

**Non Qualifying Interest Habitats**

GS2 Dry meadows and grassy verges

HD1 Dense bracken

WD1 (Mixed) broadleaved woodland

WN2 Oak-ash-hazel woodland

WS1 Scrub

Ballyseedy Wood SAC 002112

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