

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Conservation Objectives Series

Anglesey Road SAC 002125



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
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*

002125 Anglesey Road SAC

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

Supporting documents, relevant reports & publications

Supporting documents, NPWS reports and publications are available for download from: www.npws.ie/Publications

NPWS Documents

Year :	2007
Title :	Grasslands monitoring project 2006
Author :	Dwyer, R.; Crowley, W.; Wilson, F.
Series :	Unpublished report to NPWS
<hr/>	
Year :	2013
Title :	Irish semi-natural grasslands survey 2007-2012
Author :	O'Neill, F.H.; Martin, J.R.; Devaney, F.M.; Perrin, P.M.
Series :	Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 78
<hr/>	
Year :	2013
Title :	The status of EU protected habitats and species in Ireland. Volume 2. Habitats assessments
Author :	NPWS
Series :	Conservation assessments
<hr/>	
Year :	2014
Title :	Guidelines for a national survey and conservation assessment of upland vegetation and habitats in Ireland, Version 2.0
Author :	Perrin, P.M.; Barron, S.J.; Roche, J.R.; O'Hanrahan, B.
Series :	Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 79
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Spatial data sources

Year : 2006
Title : Grassland Monitoring Project 2006
GIS Operations : Dataset clipped to the SAC boundary. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising
Used For : 6230 (map 2)

Year : 2013
Title : Irish Semi-Natural Grassland Survey
GIS Operations : Dataset clipped to the SAC boundary. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising
Used For : 6230 (map 2)

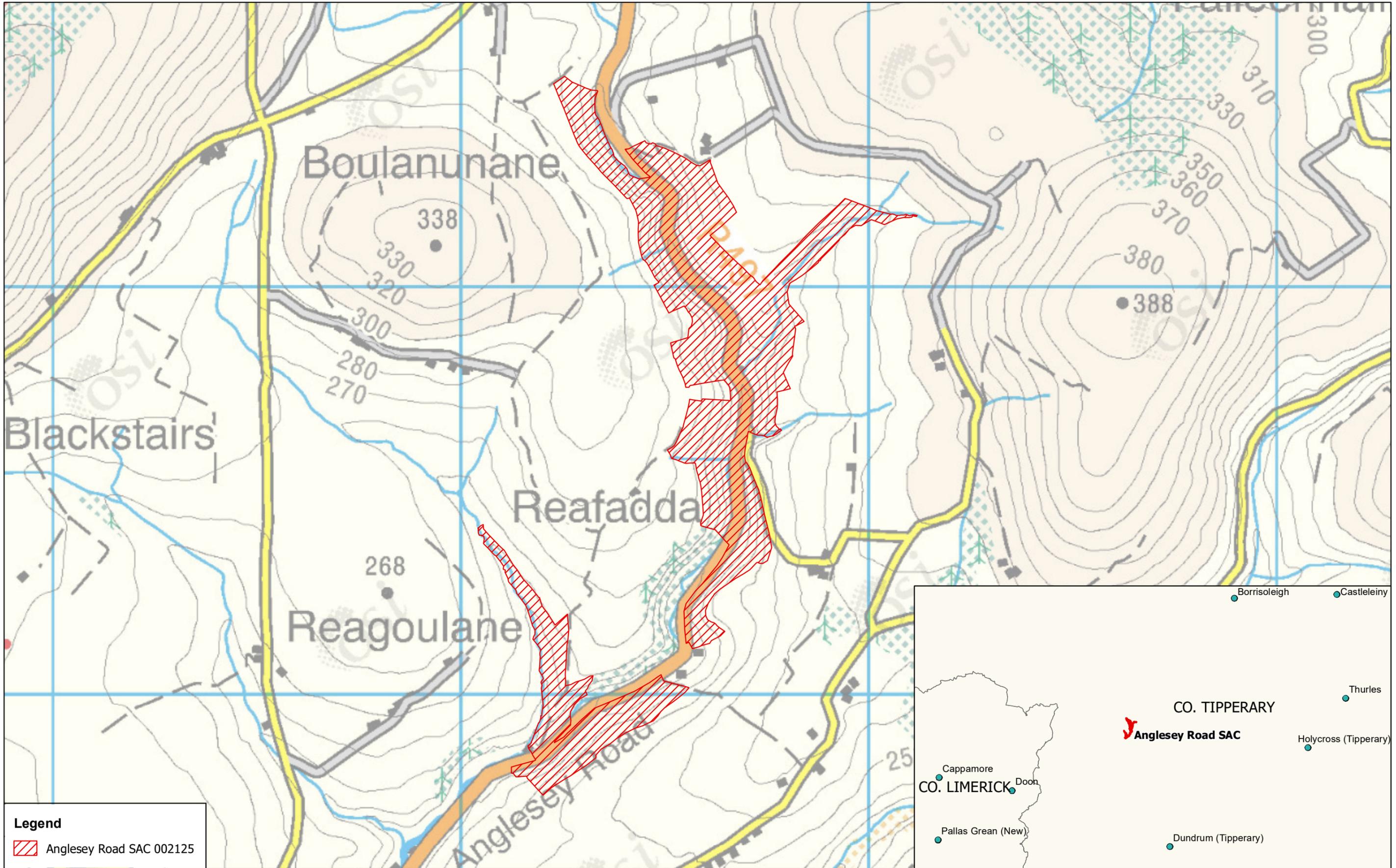
Conservation Objectives for : Anglesey Road SAC [002125]

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 Anglesey Road 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	Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grasslands* (Annex I habitat code 6230) has been surveyed as part of the Irish Semi-natural Grassland Survey (ISGS; O'Neill et al., 2013; site code 2908) and as part of the Grassland Monitoring Project 2006 (Dwyer et al., 2007) in Anglesey Road SAC. The habitat is found on the slopes, and is often in mosaic with bracken, scrub and other habitats in the SAC. The total area of the habitat mapped in the SAC is 3.51ha (see map 2)
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, subject to natural processes	Distribution is based on the Grassland Monitoring Project 2006 (Dwyer et al., 2007) and the ISGS (O'Neill et al., 2013). Note that the habitat is patchy in occurrence, but occurs widely across this SAC
Vegetation composition: positive indicator species	Number of species at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	At least 7 positive indicator species present in each monitoring stop	Attribute and target based on O'Neill et al. (2013) and Perrin et al. (2014), both of which present the list of positive indicator species for this habitat. Dwyer et al. (2007) record "a good range of indicator species" across the SAC, including the orchids greater butterfly-orchid (<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>) and common spotted-orchid (<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>)
Vegetation composition: high quality indicator species	Number of species at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	The list of positive indicators at each monitoring stop to include at least 2 'high quality' indicator species for base-rich examples of the habitat, and at least 1 for base-poor examples	Attribute and target based on O'Neill et al. (2013) and Perrin et al. (2014), both of which present the list of positive indicator species for this habitat
Vegetation composition: species richness	Number of species at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Species richness at each monitoring stop at least 25 species, including bryophytes and lichens	Attribute and target based on O'Neill et al. (2013) and Perrin et al. (2014). Species richness is a key characteristic of 6230 <i>Nardus</i> grasslands* which distinguishes it from species-poor <i>Nardus</i> swards that are very common in the uplands of Ireland and the UK. All vascular plants, bryophytes and terricolous macrolichens are counted
Vegetation composition: non-native species	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of non-native species not more than 1%	Attribute and target based on O'Neill et al. (2013) and Perrin et al. (2014). Non-native species can be invasive and have deleterious effects on native vegetation. A low target is set as non-native species can spread rapidly and are most easily dealt with when still at lower abundances
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Negative indicator species collectively not more than 20% cover, with cover of an individual species not more than 10%	Attribute and target based on O'Neill et al. (2013) and Perrin et al. (2014), both of which present the list of negative indicator species for this habitat
Vegetation composition: <i>Sphagnum</i> cover	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of <i>Sphagnum</i> species not more than 10%	Attribute and target based on O'Neill et al. (2013) and Perrin et al. (2014). High cover of <i>Sphagnum</i> mosses is not characteristic of 6230 <i>Nardus</i> grasslands* and may indicate changes in hydrology or soil nutrients within the habitat, but is more likely to indicate that the community is inherently a marginal example of the habitat

Vegetation composition: <i>Polytrichum</i> cover	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of <i>Polytrichum</i> species not more than 25%	Attribute and target based on O'Neill et al. (2013) and Perrin et al. (2014). High cover of <i>Polytrichum</i> mosses is not characteristic of 6230 <i>Nardus</i> grasslands*. Such levels may indicate changes in hydrology or soil nutrients within the habitat, but are more likely to indicate that the community is inherently a marginal example of the habitat
Vegetation composition: shrubs, bracken and heath cover	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of woody species (shrubs, heathers) and bracken (<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>) collectively not more than 5%	Attribute and target based on O'Neill et al. (2013) and Perrin et al. (2014). High cover of bracken indicates that the habitat may be undergoing succession towards a dense bracken community, and high cover of native trees and shrubs may indicate that the habitat is moving towards scrub or woodland due to lack of grazing. High cover of heather species (above 25%) may indicate transition to a heathland habitat. Bracken is noted by Dwyer et al. (2007) as being a significant issue at this SAC, and this was noted in the ISGS (O'Neill et al., 2013) also
Vegetation structure: forb to graminoid ratio	Percentage at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Forb component of forb:graminoid ratio is 20-90%	Attribute and target based on O'Neill et al. (2013) and Perrin et al. (2014). Forb richness is characteristic of conservation value swards
Vegetation structure: sward height	Percentage at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	At least 25% of sward between 5cm and 50cm tall	Attribute and target based on O'Neill et al. (2013) and Perrin et al. (2014). The lower and upper height limits aim to record overgrazing and undergrazing respectively
Vegetation structure: litter cover	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Cover of litter not more than 20%	Attribute and target based on O'Neill et al. (2013) and Perrin et al. (2014). High levels of leaf litter can be indicative of undergrazing, with a resulting impact on species richness
Physical structure: bare ground	Percentage cover at a representative number of 2m x 2m monitoring stops	Not more than 10% bare ground	Attribute and target based on O'Neill et al. (2013) and Perrin et al. (2014). Notable areas of bare ground can result from overgrazing, use of machinery, human trampling, etc. If excessive, this can result in loss of characteristic species and habitat damage
Physical structure: grazing or disturbance	Area in local vicinity of a representative number of monitoring stops	Area of the habitat showing signs of serious grazing or disturbance less than 20m ²	Attribute and target based on O'Neill et al. (2013) and Perrin et al. (2014). Serious overgrazing or disturbance can impact on species richness, nutrient status, soil stability and habitat integrity. Poaching, terracing and excessive bare ground due to animal trampling was noted in the habitat in this SAC, but it should be noted that undergrazing is also a significant issue (Dwyer et al., 2007; NPWS internal files)
Ecosystem function: soil nutrients	Soil pH and appropriate nutrient levels at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain soil pH and nutrient status within natural ranges	Relevant nutrients and their natural ranges are yet to be defined. However, nitrogen deposition is noted as being relevant to this habitat (NPWS, 2013)



Legend

 Anglesey Road SAC 002125

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 Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

**MAP 1:
 ANGLESEY ROAD SAC
 CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES
 SAC DESIGNATION**

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

**SITE CODE:
 SAC 002125; version 3.01.
 CO. TIPPERARY**

0 100 200 400 Metres

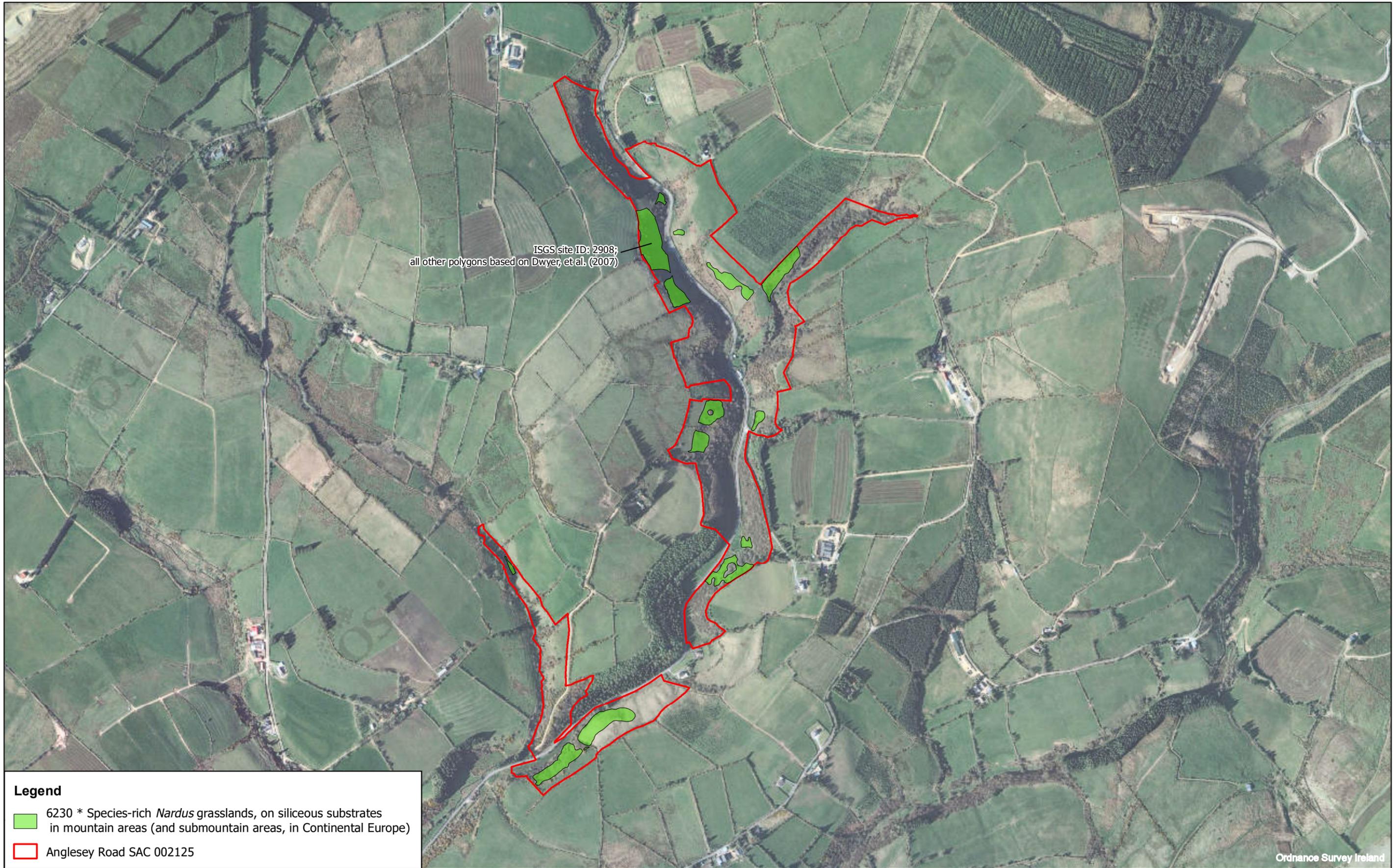
The mapped boundaries are of an indicative and general nature only. Boundaries of designated areas are subject to revision.
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Date: October 2021



Legend

- 6230 * Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)
- Anglesey Road SAC 002125

Ordnance Survey Ireland

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

**MAP 2:
ANGLESEY ROAD SAC
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES
GRASSLAND HABITATS**

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

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0 100 200 400 Metres

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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