

Granamore Commonage

2020 Ecological Survey



Final Report

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Granamore Commonage

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Granamore Commonage

2020 Ecological Survey

1. Introduction

A baseline habitat condition and ecological survey and habitat management plan was prepared for the Granamore Commonage in 2018¹ and the measures within same underwent screening for Appropriate Assessment².

The management prescriptions in the SUAS plan for the commonage set out to address the impacts highlighted in that report so progress is made towards attaining **Favourable status** for the Annex I habitats present on the site – principally **4010 Northern Atlantic Wet Heaths with *Erica tetralix*** , **4030 Dry Heath** and **7130 Blanket Bog**.

The major impacts arise from uncontrolled burning, over grazing (possibly historically from sheep but also from deer), historic turf cutting and associated drainage, lack of active shepherding (which would encourage sheep out of favoured areas) changes in timing of grazing on the hill (less sheep grazing in winter & early summer, which is now based around when grass growth is present so sheep favour these areas), recreational access from horse riding resulting in localised peat erosion near the track, and natural exposure and erosion. Self-seeding of Sitka spruce and encroachment of bracken across the commonage are also being addressed.

The extent of habitats present within the commonage and their affinities to either Fossitt (Level 3) or Annex I habitats on the Granamore Commonage were mapped as presented on **Figures 1** and **2** (see **Appendix 1**) and their conservation status was assessed and mapped as shown on **Figure 3** (see **Appendix 1**). A series of management prescriptions were drawn up for the commonage as detailed in **Table 1** and mapped on **Figure 4** (see **Appendix 1**).

2. SUAS Vegetation Management Measures

The proposed management measures for the Granamore commonage under SUAS are as follows:

Year 1 (2019)

1. Clean up all the box shores and drains along the side of the roads coming in from Corragh and bog road from Granamore. Aim is to divert water off the road to prevent further erosion. Consult with NPWS for advice before commencing work.
2. Cut some of the windblows in Area 3. Use some of these cut trees to block up some of the gullies in the peat on the slopes of area 3 (advice on how to block these gullies to be provided by and in consultation with project ecologist).
3. Cut a number of small sections of heather & gorse in area 20 to encourage sheep to graze in this area. Cut sections up to 0.5ha each and up to a total of 2ha in 2019.
4. Block drain along top of turf banks in area 18 (advice to be given by project ecologist).
5. Control burn a section, up to 1ha in size in area 23 to control strong heather and encourage sheep to graze this area. Fire control lines, at least 2-3m wide shall be cut around each section, either by tractor mounted machine or by hand, to ensure these controlled burning areas are contained. Controlled burning may be carried out either in the spring or the autumn so long as it is within the legal burning season and has the approval of NPWS.

¹ Wilson, F. (2019). Ecological Baseline Survey prepared for Granamore Commonage as part of the Commonage Management Plan for SUAS. 8th February 2019. Unpublished report for SUAS EIP.

² Wilson, F. (2019). Report for Screening for Appropriate Assessment for a Commonage Management Plan at Granamore, Hollywood, Co. Wicklow in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive 11th February 2019. Unpublished report for SUAS EIP.

Year 2 (2020)

1. Control burn gorse on the dry banks in area 10. Ensure that the fire does not extend into the surrounding gorse areas.
2. Cut or control burn a further 1ha in area 23, ensuring to leave some areas of tall heather untouched.
3. Cut more of the windblows on the various areas of the commonage.
4. Cut gorse in area 2 (around the mass rock). This will be cut by hand using either saws or brush cutters as the area is surrounded by bracken and due to the rough terrain and rocky nature, burning would be very difficult to control. Professional contractors will be hired in to trial this work to see if it is feasible.
5. Discuss further road repairs with NPWS.

Year 3 (2021)

1. To be reviewed at the end of year 2.

Year 4 (2022)

1. To be reviewed at the end of year 2.

Shepherding

Average time per shepherding: 6 Hours

No of times sheep are to be shepherded: 2-3 Times per week from 1st May to 30th November.

Identified objective of the shepherding:

- Sheep are to be kept from straying off the commonage onto surrounding areas.
- Move off sheep from other commonages.
- Help new sheep on the commonage to settle onto the commonage and not wander too far or just stay around the mass rock or top of the pastures.
- Sheep to be moved off area 3 regularly to reduce grazing pressure there. Move sheep into the taller vegetation regularly to get them to graze these areas.
- Monitor sheep health for signs of tick diseases.
- Count numbers of deer grazing the commonage and areas they are grazing.

Other works to be carried out for entire commonage

Erect 2-3 grazing enclosures on plot 3 to see what effect deer grazing is having on this area.

Use feed buckets to encourage more sheep grazing the commonage in the Jan/Feb and April/May period.

Use the feed buckets to move grazing pressure away from the grass areas to overgrown areas in Jan/Feb period.

Details of sheep stocking rates proposed

Accurate sheep numbers will be obtained in year 1 and over the remaining 3 years, they will be increased gradually up to GLAS stocking rates.

Ecological Assessment

The commonage was surveyed in November 2020 by Faith Wilson to examine and review the implementation of the proposed measures and make any recommendations regarding same. The observations and recommendations from this visit are set out below.

3. 2020 Walkover Survey

The following observations, comments on same and recommendations on the works completed in 2020 are presented.

3.1 Works to the box shores and drains along the side of the roads coming in from Corragh and bog road from Granamore

Further works have been done on the roadway to divert the water from the track following consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and supervision by them. This work has been done sensitively and has been well executed.



Plate 1. Shores allowing the water to escape off the track.

On several visits during 2020 it was noted that there continues to be surface water coming down the track. This is particularly the case above the old borrow pit (in Area 20) where the track is very wet and dominated by rushes particularly in the centre of the track. In some parts this is further exacerbated by rutting from vehicular access, which is creating a channel for water and exacerbating the situation downslope on the track. The installation of a series of water bars along the track – particularly at the shores should be implemented.

It is understood that the farmers are waiting for the roadway to dry out before they do anymore, and all works will be in consultation with NPWS (NPWS prefer not grading off the roadway if possible following some investigations by themselves). On the area above the borrow pit, there is no foundation under most of this and any work needs to be carefully planned and Ann Fitzpatrick, NPWS is working with the farmers on this.



Plate 2. Tyre tracks have created deep channels for water to flow down on the track above the old borrow pit.



Plate 3. Drainage works associated with the track in Area 1, 23 and 25.



Plate 4. Gravel grit was used to try and reduce peat erosion caused by horses along the track between Areas 1, 23 and 25.

3.2 Vegetation Cutting

Brushcutting of European Gorse near the entrance to the commonage in Area 10 adjacent to the track was carried out on the 7th February 2020.

Other areas of European Gorse, Western Gorse and leggy Ling Heather in Area 2 have been manually cut and cleared by a crew of contractors using brush cutters in the rough and stony areas. Further areas were cut here with brushcutters on the 7th February 2020.

A fire break along the boundary of the commonage adjoining the forestry and along the edge of the track between Areas 22 and 23 was created by brush cutting by hand on the 31st January 2020. Small patches in area 22 and a track along the north boundary of area 24 were also cut in preparation for controlled burning in these areas.



Plate 5. Flailing and cutting of gorse and heather was done manually on the rocky slopes in Areas 10, 2 and 24.



Plate 6. Flailing and cutting of gorse and heather was done manually on the rocky slopes in Areas 10, 2 and 24.



Plate 7. Moss and lichen communities such as these found below heather would be damaged by burning so cutting manually is more appropriate.



Plate 8. Cutting of gorse on the earthen banks which denote old field boundaries within area 2 and 24.



Plate 9. There should be no additional cutting or clearing within area 2 and 24 to allow native woodland to develop here as agreed with NPWS.

3.3 Controlled Burning

The knolls which were burnt in 2019 were re-examined in 2020. Sheep are congregating in this area post burning with extensive dunging and grazing pressure on the grasses underneath. This has resulted in areas of bare soil and poaching. The sheep need to be shepherded regularly out of this area to reduce browsing pressure on same. Patches of heath rush (*Juncus squarrosus*) are present and if browsing pressure remains too high this species will begin to dominate as it is unpalatable to sheep. Although there is some recovery of heather in these areas it is heavily browsed.

The areas in Area 20, which had been identified by the commonage group members as requiring vegetation control, which was an area dominated by western gorse (*Ulex gallii*), have remained unmanaged with no obvious significant interventions made. The ground here was too rocky to allow a machine to work here in 2019. If these areas are to be managed they will need to be done manually.



Plate 10. Bare soil at risk of erosion around knolls burnt in 2019.



Plate 11. Poaching and trampling pressure leading to damage to areas of blanket bog at the base of the knolls burnt in 2019 indicating too much pressure from sheep in this area.



Plate 12. Heaving browsing pressure on the knolls burnt in 2019.



Plate 13. Extensive dunging, bare soil and poaching in the areas burnt in 2019.

If it is deemed necessary the small patches of autumn gorse in parts of Area 20 could be manually flailed with brush cutters or the use of buckets in these areas could be considered to encourage sheep out of the favoured areas and to reduce the vigour of the autumn gorse.

Lessons should be learned from the experience of burning which was conducted in 2019 within the demonstration area on Glasnamullen. The results of this burning was favourable in that not every patch of vegetation within the prepared area had been burnt and some areas of tall standing heather were left which resulted in a nice mosaic of differing vegetation heights and material left to provide seed source for regeneration and ensure stability of the soil.

There was controlled burning conducted in several patches in Area 23 in 2020. This was carried out on the 17th September 2020 and initial assessments indicate that *Molinia* is regenerating in these areas. The results of this activity will be monitored in 2021 when some more vegetation has begun to recover.



Plate 14. Localised burning of tall heather in Area 23.



Plate 15. Regeneration of Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) following burning. There is a risk that heather could be lost following intensive burning events and *Molinia* could dominate.



Plate 16. Track in Area 23 forming a firebreak. The ground between this track and the one visible in the upper part of the photograph and upslope in Area 22 should not be burnt as the bog vegetation here is recovering from previous burns.



Plate 17. Recovering mountain blanket bog habitat in Area 23/22 with Crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*).

3.4 Sitka Spruce Removal

There was no obvious cutting/removal of Sitka spruce from within the commonage which was to be done in 2020.

There are significant numbers of Sitka spruce seedlings and saplings in Areas 1, 22, 23, 24, 25, and on the ridge in Areas 3 and 4.



Plate 18. Sitka spruce regeneration in Area 22.

3.5 Drain Blocking

Drain blocking on the commonage will be completed in 2021.



Plate 19. Areas of turf banks adjoining the cutover bog in Area 1/27 which have been impacted by drainage works associated with the turf cutting. Some of the drains here could be further investigated for their suitability for drain blocking to restore the hydrological function of the areas of cutover bog on the north slopes of Round Hill.



Plate 20. Some drains associated with the former turf cutting could be blocked in these areas.



Plate 21. Drain along northern edge of Area 19 below the track awaits blocking.



Plate 22. Drain along the northern edge of Area 19 above the track on the slopes below Granna Rock awaits blocking.

3.6 Adherence to the SUAS Plan

The areas of the hill which were previously intensively damaged by an uncontrolled burn were examined. Whilst there is some recovery of vegetation here the vegetation would remain in 'unfavourable inadequate condition' and some areas remain 'unfavourable bad' on account of large areas of exposed bare peat dominated mostly by ling.

It is imperative that no further burning occurs on the commonage outside of those agreed areas where a controlled burn can be implemented which needs to be done with the right intensity to ensure that the moss layer is not damaged during the burn.



Plate 23. Burnt slopes of Area 15, 16 and 31 below Granna rock are slow to recover from the burn from Knocknadruc.



Plate 24. Heath rush dominating following burn from Knocknadruc in Area 15 and 31.



Plate 25. Slow recovery of heather with heath rush dominating following burn from Knocknadruce in Area 15 and 31.



Plate 26. Large areas of bare peat are still present in Area 15 and 31.

3.7 Erosion Gullies

There was no noticeable improvement in the condition of erosion gullies in Area 3. This work needs to be prioritised in 2021.



Plate 27. Erosion gullies on the ridge in Area 3.



Plate 28. Algal filled eroding peat needs urgent attention on the ridge.

3.8 Acid Grassland Condition

The condition of the acid grassland on the slopes in Area 16 were further examined in 2020. These are showing no sign of recovery from when they were looked at in 2019.

In many areas the grass has been all but browsed out with the sward dominated by mosses or in other instances by dense mat grass (*Nardus stricta*) which is unpalatable to sheep.

Any small pockets of heather in these areas are under intense browsing pressure.

The ongoing shepherding and movement of stock off the upper portions of the commonage above the track on the Round Hill must be implemented to allow these areas to recover.



Plate 29. Browsing pressure is clearly evident on remnant areas of heather in the acid grassland dominated slopes above the watercourse in Area 16.

3.9 Establishment of Gully Woodland

The establishment of gully woodland along the watercourses in the commonage through a variety of techniques is to be conducted in early 2021.

The eroding nature of the blanket bog on the ridge has developed gullies which will provide shelter for trees from exposure and wind but they will need significant protection from browsing pressure and deer.



Plate 30. The establishment of upland gully woodland needs to be prioritised in early 2021.

3.10 Deer Control

Forty invasive Sitka deer hybrids were recorded during the site visit.

Deer populations on the commonage need to be addressed and culled in a collaborative programme with NPWS, Coillte, the Department of Defence and adjoining commonage shareholders.



Plate 30. Deer culling needs to take place within the commonage to allow the ridge vegetation to recover following sever burning damage and reduce erosion risks.

3.11 Grazing Numbers

Sheep numbers are still too high in the late summer, but they are coming down to recommended levels.

Feed buckets are being used in Dec-Feb period to encourage sheep grazing in the taller heather areas.

3.12 Management for 2021

A review of the works which were proposed for 2020 in the plan, coupled with the outcomes from the 2020 walkover was conducted. Items highlighted in red have not been completed. This has informed the proposed works for 2021.

2020

1. Control burn a section, up to 4ha in size in area 23 (marked A on map), to control strong heather and encourage sheep to graze this area. Fire control lines, at least 2m wide shall be cut around each section along yellow lines on map, either by tractor mounted machine or by hand, to ensure these controlled burning areas are contained. Area marked B on map will not be burned until at least 2022 to give section A, a chance to recover first. Controlled burning may be carried out either in the spring or the autumn so long as it is within the legal burning season and has the approval of NPWS.

2. Control burn small areas of gorse on the dry banks in area 10. Ensure that the fire does not extend into the surrounding areas which may involve cutting some gorse to create firebreaks.
3. Cut gorse in area 2 around the mass rock, (marked C on map). This will be cut by hand using either saws or brush cutters as the area is surrounded by bracken and due to the rough terrain and rocky nature, burning would be very difficult to control. Professional contractors will be hired in to trial this work to see if it is feasible.
4. Complete repairs to both roadways on the commonage under the guidance of NPWS
5. Cut/Pull self-seeded Sitka Spruce on the commonage
6. Block drain over turf banks in area 18
7. Cut gorse and heather in area 20 with a suitable machine. Areas of up to 0.2ha to be cut and avoid joining them up.
8. Area where ground is falling in over an underground river in area 9 is to be fenced off from sheep to prevent them falling in.
9. Trial blocking some of the cracks in the peat on the summit in area 3
10. Fence off at least 2 enclosure sites in area 3 to see how if this will allow vegetation to recover.
11. Use feed buckets to encourage more sheep grazing the commonage in the Jan/Feb and April/May period and to encourage them into the areas of taller vegetation.

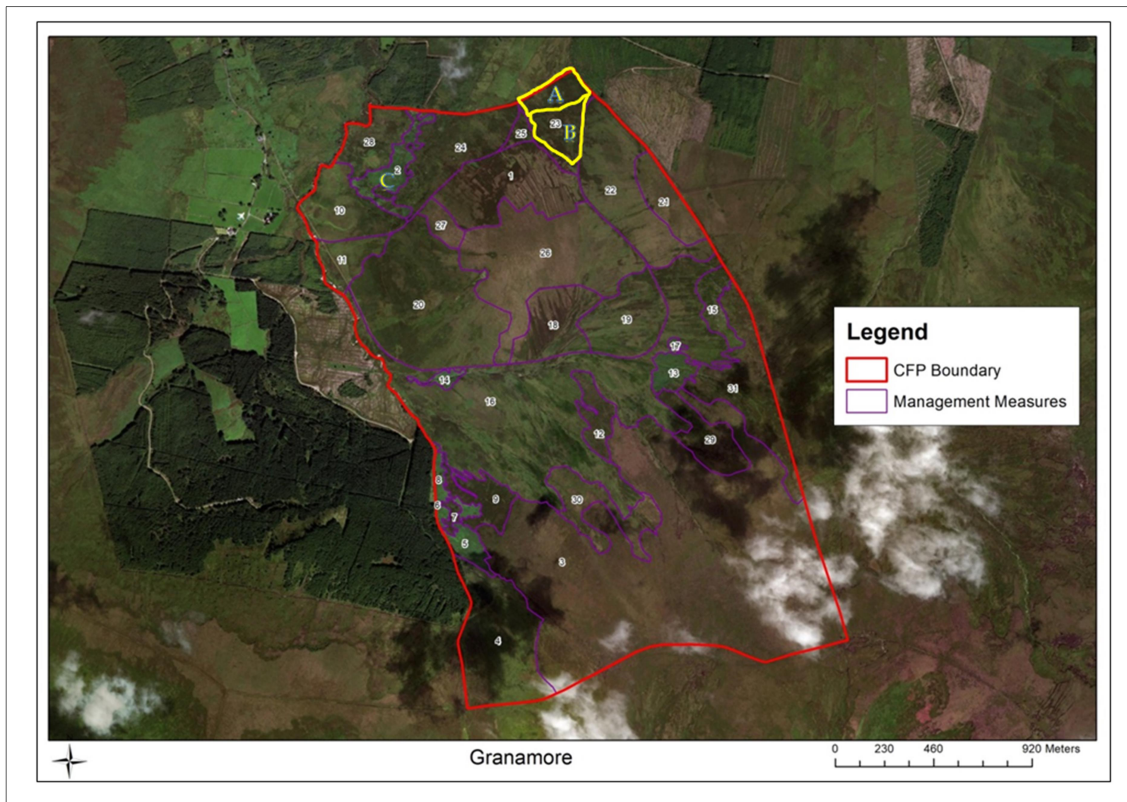
Planned works not completed in red

2021

1. No controlled burning to be carried out in 2021.
2. Complete any further repairs required to the roadways on the commonage under the guidance of NPWS
3. Cut/Pull self-seeded Sitka Spruce on the commonage.
4. Block drains over turf banks in areas 1, 18, 21 and 22, 16 (above the track) & coming from area 19.
5. Cut gorse and heather in area 20 with handheld brush cutters – creating a mosaic of small patches like was done on Glasnamullen but with varying heights as opposed to a uniformly cut sward.
6. Area where ground is falling in over an underground river in area 9 is to be fenced off from sheep to prevent them falling in. No cutting or burning to be carried out in this area. Fence will need to have grouse flight diverters added to it. If this area is to be fenced it could be a good location to establish some trees within the fence.
7. Trial blocking some of the cracks in the peat on the summit in area 3 in consultation with

NPWS & SUAS Ecologist. One day to be used as a trial for what is possible with at least 3 CG members to be present

8. Fence off at least 2 enclosure sites in area 3 to see if this will allow vegetation to recover.
9. Use feed buckets to encourage more sheep grazing the commonage in the Jan/Feb and April/May period and to encourage them into the areas of taller vegetation.
10. Plant 150 native trees along the river gullies in spring 2021.



4. Appendix 1. Maps and Management Recommendations

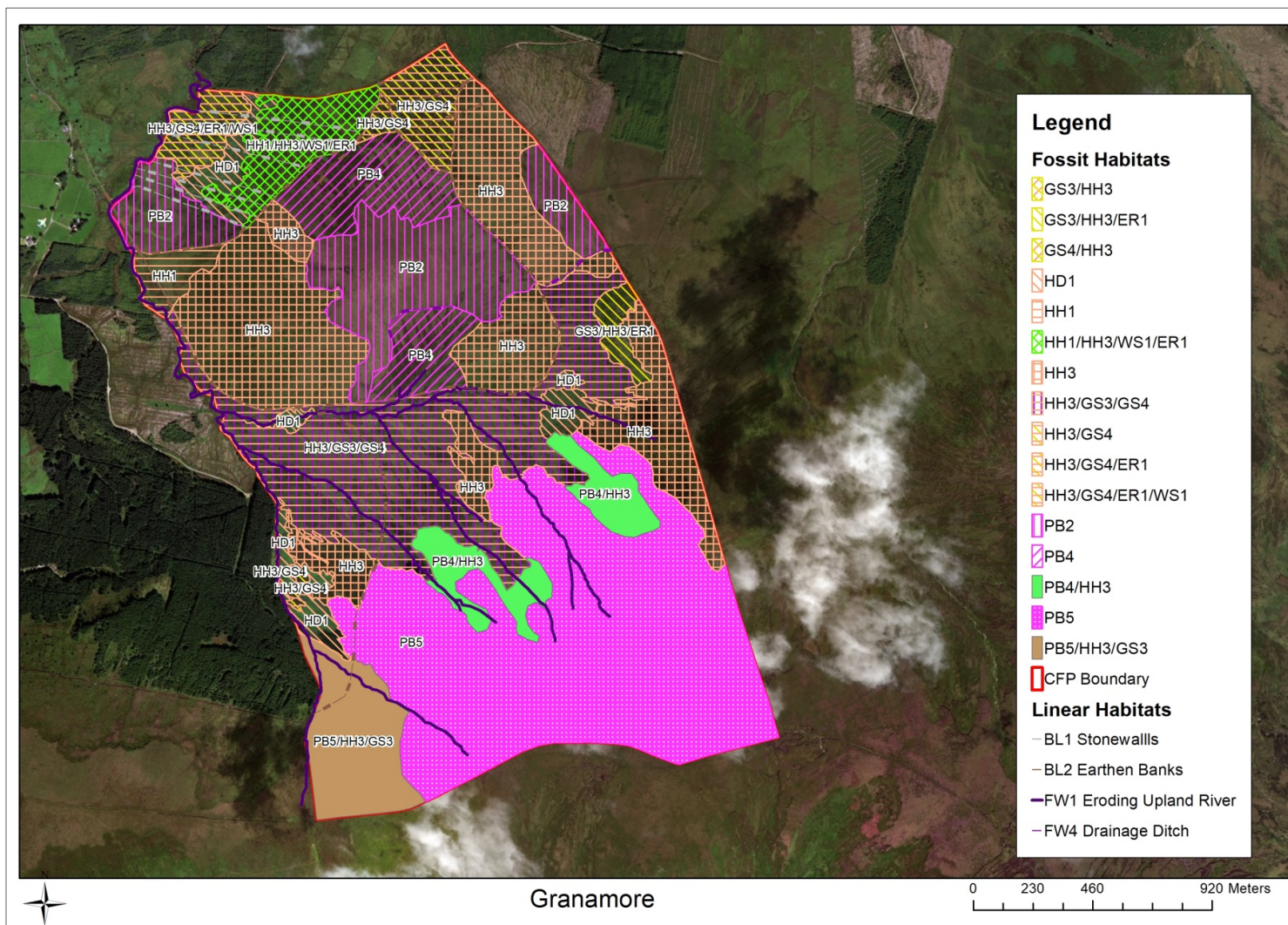


Figure 1. Habitats mapped to Level Three (Fossitt, 2000) within the Granamore commonage.

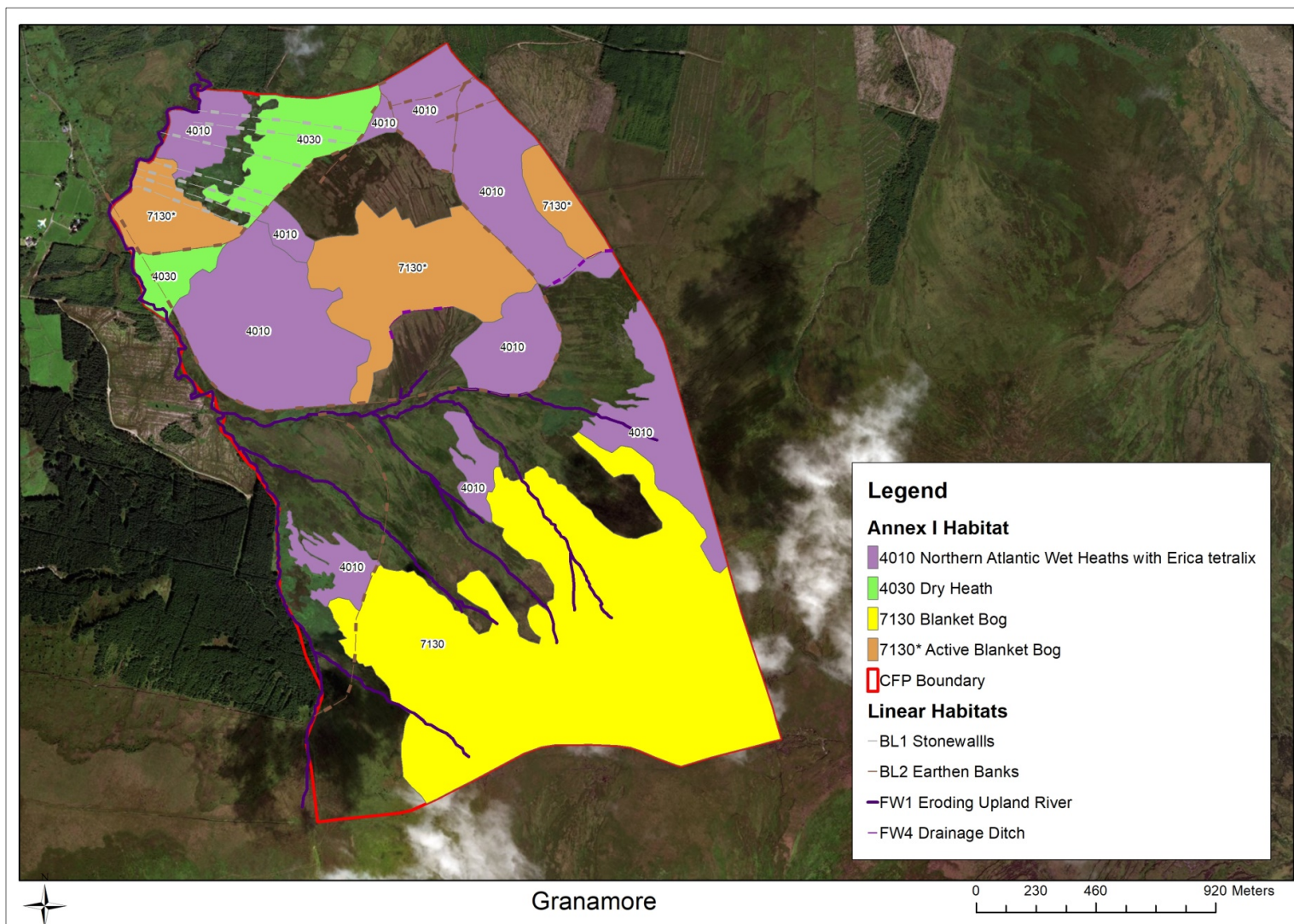


Figure 2. Habitats mapped according to their correspondence with Annex I habitats within the Granamore commonage.

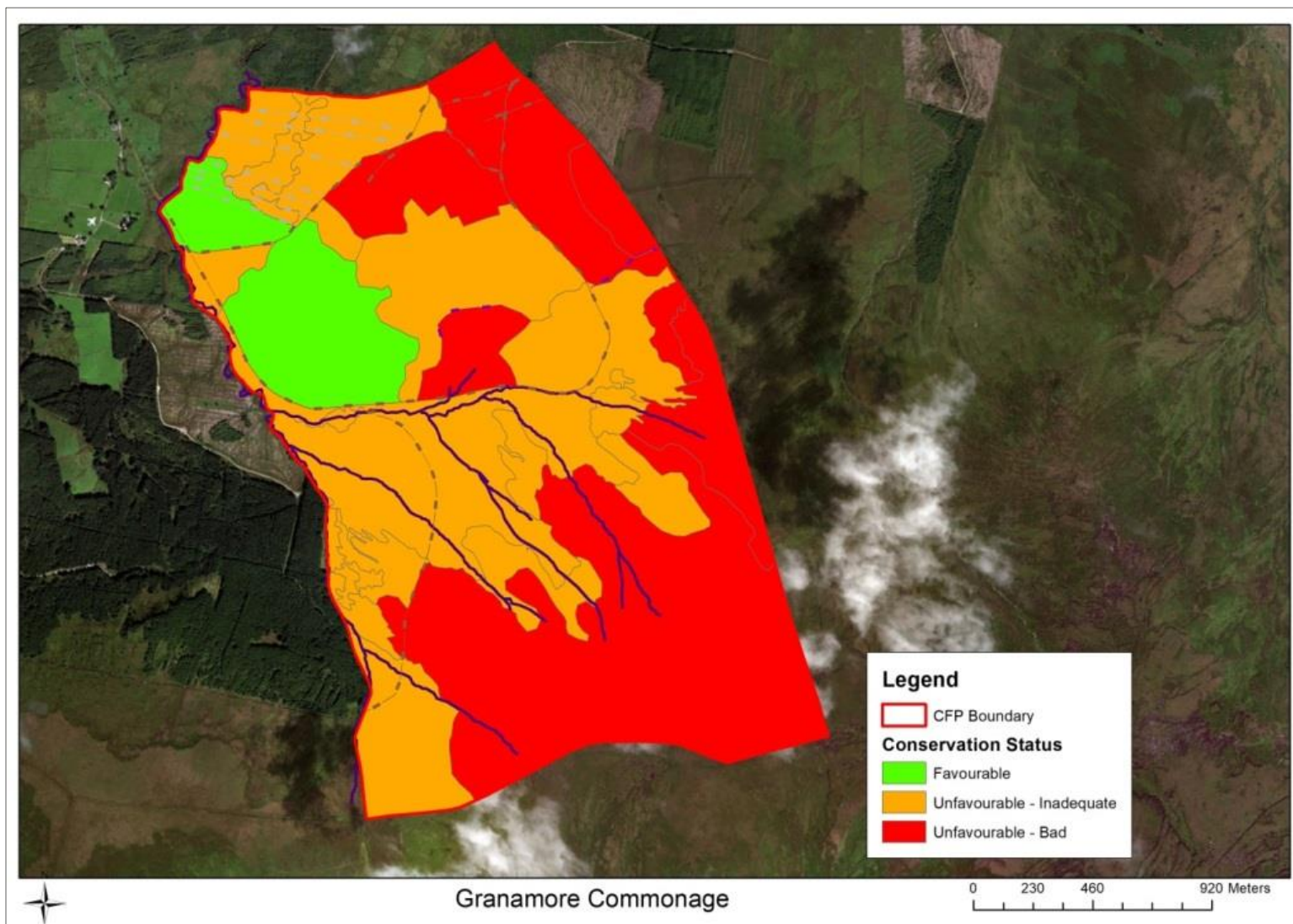


Figure 3. Habitat Condition Assessment for Granamore Commonage.

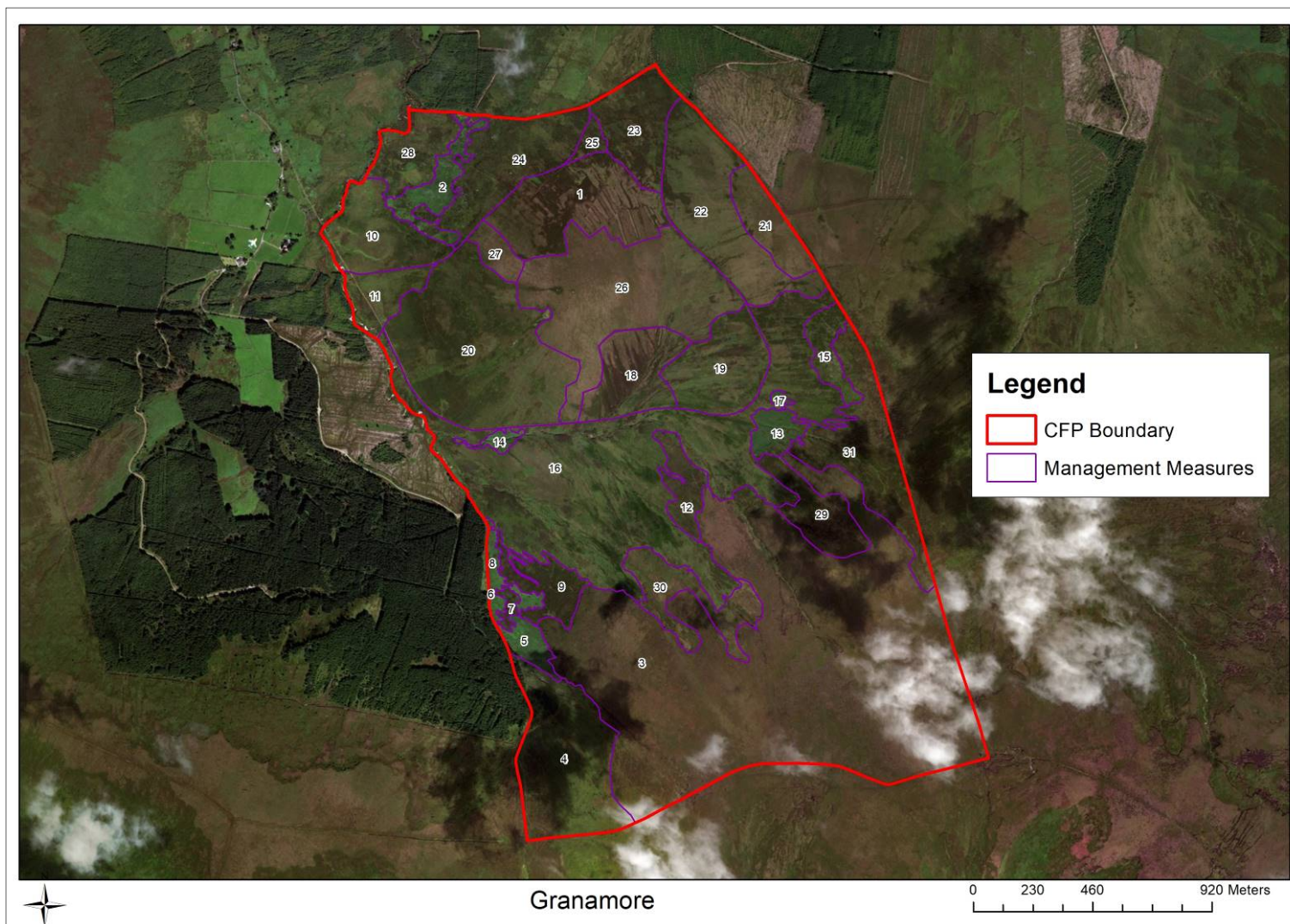


Figure 4. Management measures for Granamore.

Table 1. Habitats present on Granamore Commonage and Management Recommendations.

Id	Annex I Code	Annex I Description	Fossitt Code	Habitat	Area (m)	Area (Ha)	Conservation Status	Management Measure
1			PB4	Cutover Bog	175048	17.50	Unfavourable - Bad	Avoid grazing this area so it can naturally revegetate.
2			HD1	Dense Bracken	54425	5.44	Unfavourable - Inadequate	Control bracken.
3	7130 (I'm not 100% sure on how to classify this as it is so damaged)	Blanket Bog	PB5 FW1	Eroding Blanket Bog Eroding Upland Watercourse	1245790	124.58	Unfavourable - Bad	<p>This area was extremely badly burnt in 2001 and again in March 2003 which has resulted in the loss of vegetation on the ridge and drying out of the peat which is cracking in several locations.</p> <p>Erosion of this area is very severe in places as a result of a number of likely factors including uncontrolled burning, high deer numbers, natural erosion and exposure.</p> <p>Atmospheric ammonia/ nitrogen enriching the peats in this area and contributing to a potential impact on water quality.</p> <p>A number of watercourses now rise on the ridge and have eroded out deep gullies in the peat - they previously rose from springs on the lower slopes (not the ridge).</p> <p>Restoration of the ridge vegetation is required.</p> <p>Destocking and exclusion of grazing is recommended.</p> <p>Erection of deer exclosures to assess deer browsing pressures. Provide grouse flight diverters on fencing if</p>

Id	Annex I Code	Annex I Description	Fossitt Code	Habitat	Area (m)	Area (Ha)	Conservation Status	Management Measure
								erected to reduce collision risk. Consider establishing protective woodland along the watercourse.
4			PB5/HH3/GS3 FW1	Eroding Blanket Bog/Wet Heath/Dry Acid Grassland Eroding Upland Watercourse	208217	20.82	Unfavourable - Inadequate	Control and remove regenerating spruce. Destocking and exclusion of grazing is recommended. Erection of deer exclosures to assess deer browsing pressures. Protect watercourse through establishment of gully woodland.
5			HD1 FW1	Dense Bracken Eroding Upland Watercourse	31815	3.18	Unfavourable - Inadequate	Destocking and exclusion of grazing is recommended. Erection of deer exclosures to assess deer browsing pressures. Provide grouse flight diverters on fencing if erected to reduce collision risk. Control bracken. Protect watercourse through establishment of gully woodland.
6			HH3/GS4 FW1	Wet Heath/Wet Grassland Eroding Upland Watercourse	101	0.01	Unfavourable - Inadequate	Control bracken to prevent invading heath. Protect watercourse through establishment of gully woodland.
7			HH3/GS4 FW1	Wet Heath/Wet Grassland Eroding Upland Watercourse	8583	0.86	Unfavourable - Inadequate	Destocking and exclusion of grazing is recommended. Protect watercourse through establishment of gully woodland.

Id	Annex I Code	Annex I Description	Fossitt Code	Habitat	Area (m)	Area (Ha)	Conservation Status	Management Measure
8			HD1	Dense Bracken	19933	1.99	Unfavourable - Inadequate	Control bracken. Destocking and exclusion of grazing is recommended. Protect watercourse through establishment of gully woodland.
9	4010	Northern Atlantic Wet Heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	HH3	Wet Heath	56010	5.60	Unfavourable - Inadequate	There is some cracking in the peat here and the upper slopes are at risk of slippage. No burning or vegetation control should be proposed for this area as a result. Trespass from cattle was noted here. Destocking and exclusion of grazing is recommended.
10	7130*	Active Blanket Bog	PB2	Upland Blanket Bog	104934	10.49	Favourable	Monitor grazing pressure and sheep movements to ensure no decline.
11	4030	Dry Heath	HH1	Dry Heath	52330	5.23	Favourable	This area was burnt in December 1999 and again in March 2011, which would explain why it is now dominated by dry heath as opposed to wet heath. Consultation will be required with NPWS regarding any burning proposals here. My recommendation would be that no action is required in this area. Monitor grazing pressure and sheep movements to ensure no decline.
12	4010	Northern Atlantic Wet	HH3	Wet Heath	43772	4.38	Unfavourable - Inadequate	Monitor grazing pressure and sheep movements to ensure no further

Id	Annex I Code	Annex I Description	Fossitt Code	Habitat	Area (m)	Area (Ha)	Conservation Status	Management Measure
		Heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	FW1	Eroding Upland Watercourse				<p>decline of wet heath.</p> <p>Destocking and exclusion of grazing is recommended.</p> <p>Consider establishing protective woodland along the watercourse.</p>
13			HD1 FW1	Dense Bracken Eroding Upland Watercourse	30221	3.02	Unfavourable - Inadequate	<p>This area was burnt in March 2003 which would have allowed the bracken to take hold.</p> <p>Control bracken.</p> <p>Destocking and exclusion of grazing is recommended.</p> <p>Consider establishing protective woodland along the watercourse.</p>
14			HD1	Dense Bracken	10346	1.03	Unfavourable - Inadequate	<p>The adjoining area (16) was burnt in March 2011 and this area may also have been burnt. This would have allowed the bracken to take hold in the general area.</p> <p>Control bracken.</p> <p>Destocking and exclusion of grazing is recommended.</p>
15			GS3/HH3/ER1	Dry Grassland/Wet Heath/Exposed Rock	38503	3.85	Unfavourable - Bad	<p>This area was badly burnt in 2001 and has still not yet recovered.</p> <p>No further burning in this area.</p> <p>Shepherd livestock out of here to allow it to recover.</p> <p>Destocking and exclusion of grazing</p>

Id	Annex I Code	Annex I Description	Fossitt Code	Habitat	Area (m)	Area (Ha)	Conservation Status	Management Measure
								is recommended.
16			HH3/GS3/GS4 FW1	Wet Heath/Dry Acid Grassland/Wet Grassland Eroding Upland Watercourse	682910	68.29	Unfavourable - Inadequate	<p>This area was partially badly burnt in the eastern part of the slope in 2001 and has still not yet recovered.</p> <p>The upper slopes of the eastern part of this area (near area 29) were again burnt in March 2003.</p> <p>Part of the area was also burnt again in March 2011.</p> <p>This would have allowed the bracken to take hold in the general area.</p> <p>No further burning in this area.</p> <p>Grazing would appear to be altering wet heath to wet grassland/dry acid grassland.</p> <p>Shepherd livestock out of here to reduce pressure.</p> <p>Remove seeding Sitka spruce.</p> <p>Destocking and exclusion of grazing is recommended.</p> <p>Consider establishing protective woodland along the watercourse.</p>
17			HD1	Dense Bracken	3450	0.35	Unfavourable - Inadequate	Control bracken.
18			PB4	Cutover Bog	99705	9.97	Unfavourable - Bad	<p>Block drain along northern boundary of old cutover at regular intervals.</p> <p>Fence if required to ensure that animals do not get stuck in drain.</p> <p>Provide grouse flight diverters on</p>

Id	Annex I Code	Annex I Description	Fossitt Code	Habitat	Area (m)	Area (Ha)	Conservation Status	Management Measure
								fencing if erected to reduce collision risk.
19	4010	Northern Atlantic Wet Heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	HH3	Wet Heath	113523	11.35	Unfavourable - Inadequate	Hydrologically at risk from old adjoining cutover - monitor grazing pressure and shepherd accordingly.
20	4010	Northern Atlantic Wet Heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	HH3	Wet Heath	338684	33.87	Favourable	<p>This area was previously burnt in March 2011 which may account for the regeneration of gorse in one area. Consultation will be required with NPWS regarding any burning/flailing proposals here.</p> <p>In general the burn must not have been too intense in this area as it was in good condition.</p> <p>This area has been subject to a landslide in the past.</p>
21			PB2	Upland Blanket Bog	62430	6.24	Unfavourable - Bad	<p>This area was badly burnt in 2001 and has still not yet recovered.</p> <p>The lower (northern) slopes of this area appeared to have escaped the burn.</p> <p>Shepherd livestock out of here to reduce pressure and allow vegetation to continue to recover.</p>
22	4010	Northern Atlantic Wet Heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	HH3	Wet Heath	193403	19.34	Unfavourable - Bad	<p>This area was badly burnt in 2001 and has still not yet recovered.</p> <p>The lower (northern) slopes of this area appeared to have escaped the burn.</p> <p>A more recent burn was also noted</p>

Id	Annex I Code	Annex I Description	Fossitt Code	Habitat	Area (m)	Area (Ha)	Conservation Status	Management Measure
								<p>(this is undocumented by NPWS) which extends down to the track.</p> <p>Shepherd livestock out of here to reduce pressure and allow vegetation to continue to recover.</p> <p>Block linear drains on these slopes at appropriate intervals to restore hydrology.</p> <p>Remove seeding spruce.</p>
23	4010	Northern Atlantic Wet Heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	HH3/GS4	Wet Heath/Wet Grassland	95841	9.58	Unfavourable - Bad	<p>Bad erosion in the vicinity of the track.</p> <p>Some minor works by hand may be allowed by NPWS to divert the water away from these areas and prevent further peat erosion.</p> <p>Reseeding of bare peats with heather seed/brash recommended.</p> <p>Remove seeding spruce.</p>
24	4030		HH1/HH3/WS1/ER1	Dry Heath/Wet Heath/Scrub/Exposed Rock	145580	14.56	Unfavourable - Inadequate	Scrub clearance of gorse in this area will need to be discussed with NPWS.
25	4010	Northern Atlantic Wet Heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	HH3/GS4	Wet Heath/Wet Grassland	12858	1.29	Unfavourable - Inadequate	<p>Erosion in the vicinity of the track.</p> <p>Some minor works by hand may be allowed by NPWS to divert the water away from these areas and prevent further peat erosion.</p>
26	7130*	Active Blanket Bog	PB2	Upland Blanket Bog	306297	30.63	Unfavourable - Inadequate	The bog surface has been damaged here by a quad. No further quad/scrambler access to the entire commonage should be allowed – on other commonages this has been

Id	Annex I Code	Annex I Description	Fossitt Code	Habitat	Area (m)	Area (Ha)	Conservation Status	Management Measure
								controlled through locked gates. In general the bog is in good condition but the hydrological impacts of the cutover areas need to be considered.
27	4010	Northern Atlantic Wet Heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	HH3	Wet Heath	25612	2.56	Unfavourable - Inadequate	Monitor condition and sheep grazing impacts.
28	4010	Northern Atlantic Wet Heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	HH3/GS4/ER1/WS1	Wet Heath/Wet Grassland/Exposed Rock/Scrub	70876	7.09	Unfavourable - Inadequate	Some control of gorse in these lower areas was suggested by the group. Consultation will be required with NPWS regarding any clearing of scrub/burning proposals here.
29			PB4/HH3	Cutover Bog/Wet Heath	69252	6.93	Unfavourable - Inadequate	<p>This area was badly burnt in 2001.</p> <p>This area was further damaged by an uncontrolled fire in March 2003 and has not yet recovered.</p> <p>The area was also the site of former peat cutting (now ceased) and this poses a risk to the stability of the areas of deeper peats on the slopes.</p> <p>Destocking and exclusion of grazing is recommended.</p>
30			PB4/HH3 FW1	<p>Cutover Bog/Wet Heath</p> <p>Eroding upland watercourse</p>	88011	8.80	Unfavourable - Inadequate	<p>The area was also the site of former peat cutting (now ceased) and this poses a risk to the stability of the areas of deeper peats on the slopes. Destocking and exclusion of grazing is recommended.</p> <p>Consider establishing protective woodland along the watercourse.</p>
31	4010	Northern Atlantic Wet	HH3	Wet Heath	162076	16.21	Unfavourable - Bad	This area was extremely badly burnt in 2001 and again in March 2003 and

Id	Annex I Code	Annex I Description	Fossitt Code	Habitat	Area (m)	Area (Ha)	Conservation Status	Management Measure
		Heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>						<p>has still not yet recovered.</p> <p>The area was also the site of former peat cutting (now ceased) which has removed a significant depth of peat exposing the rocks below.</p> <p>There is potential significant erosion/landslide risk in this area as a result.</p> <p>Destocking and exclusion of grazing is recommended.</p>