

Chapter 3

Nature Conservation Areas

MAIN SECTIONS IN THIS CHAPTER:

1. **Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs)**
2. **Candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs)**
3. **Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Proposed Special Protection Areas (pSPAs)**
4. **Areas of Geological Interest**
5. **New Areas of Geological Interest**
6. **Maps**

The locations of all Nature Conservation Areas (pNHAs, NHAs, cSACs, pSPAs, SPAs) are shown on the Heritage and Conservation Maps in Volume 3 of this plan.

The overall planning policies for nature conservation in County Cork are set out in Chapter 7 (Environment & Heritage) of Volume 1. The key objectives for protected sites are stated as follows:

ENV 1-5 (a): *It is an objective to provide protection to all natural heritage sites designated or proposed for designation in accordance with National and European legislation. This includes Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas, Statutory Nature Reserves and Ramsar sites.*

ENV 1-11(b): *It is a particular objective to maintain the conservation value of those features or areas of geological interest that are listed in Chapter 3 of Volume 2 of this plan and protect them from inappropriate development.*

The current Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas, candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Proposed Special Protection Areas and areas of Geological Interest are set out in this chapter.

3.1 Natural Heritage Areas

NATURAL HERITAGE

Natural Heritage Areas

The Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) cover nationally important semi-natural and natural habitats, landforms or geomorphological features, wild plant and animal species or a diversity of these natural attributes.

COUNTY CORK NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS <i>Refer also to the Heritage and Conservation Maps in Volume 3</i>	
DoEHLG Site Code	Site Name
NHA - 0105	Sovereign Islands
NHA - 1059	Hungry Hill Bog
NHA – 2105	Derreenatra Bog
NHA - 2371	Trafask Bog
NHA - 2386	Conigar Bog
NHA - 2416	Pulleen Harbour Bog
NHA – 2417	Leahill Bog
NHA – 2447	Boggeragh Mountains
NHA - 2449	Mount Eagle

3.2 Proposed Natural Heritage Areas

COUNTY CORK PROPOSED NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS <i>Refer also to the Heritage and Conservation Maps in Volume 3</i>	
DoEHLG Site Code	Site Name
pNHA-0012	Ballinvonear Pond
pNHA-0072	Blackwater River and Estuary
pNHA-0073	Blackwater River Callows
pNHA-0074	Awbeg Valley (below Doneraile)
pNHA-0075	Awbeg Valley (above Doneraile)
pNHA-0076	Ballycotton, Ballynamona and Shanagarry
pNHA-0077	Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore)
pNHA-0078	Ballyvergan Marsh
pNHA-0079	Bride/Bunaglanna Valley
pNHA-0080	Bull and Cow Rocks
pNHA-0083	Capel Island & Knockadoon Head
pNHA-0084	Castletownshend (Gate Lodge)
pNHA-0085	Glanworth Ponds
pNHA-0086	Durseys Island
pNHA-0087	Garrylucas Marsh
pNHA-0088	Glengarriff (Thatched Shooting Lodge in Forest Park)
pNHA-0090	Glengarriff Harbour & Woodland
pNHA-0091	Clonakilty Bay
pNHA-0092	Kilcolman Bog

NATURAL HERITAGE

Proposed Natural Heritage Areas

The proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) cover nationally important semi-natural and natural habitats, landforms or geomorphological features, wild plant and animal species or a diversity of these natural attributes.

It is important that the conservation value of these areas, which are proposed for designation from time to time by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, be maintained.



pNHA - 0109
Three Castle Head to Mizen Head

COUNTY CORK	
PROPOSED NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS	
<i>Refer also to the Heritage and Conservation Maps in Volume 3</i>	
DoEHLG Site Code	Site Name
pNHA-0093	Caha Mountains
pNHA-0094	Lee Valley
pNHA-0097	Lough Hyne Nature Reserve & Environs
pNHA-0098	Loughavaul
pNHA-0099	Ballynaclashy House, North of Midleton
pNHA-0100	Old Head of Kinsale
pNHA-0101	Roaringwater Bay & Islands
pNHA-0102	Sheep's Head
pNHA-0103	Shournagh Valley
pNHA-0106	St. Gobnets Wood
pNHA-0107	Templebreedy National School, Crosshaven
pNHA-0108	The Gearagh
pNHA-0109	Three Castle Head to Mizen Head
pNHA-0110	Whiddy Island
pNHA-0365	Killarney National Park, Magillicuddy Reeks and Caragh River Catchment
pNHA-0371	Fountainstown Swamp
pNHA-0446	Loughs Aderry & Ballybutler
pNHA-0593	Kilcatherine Heath
pNHA-0899	Ballindangan Marsh
pNHA-1028	Orthon's Island, Adrigole Harbour

COUNTY CORK PROPOSED NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS <i>Refer also to the Heritage and Conservation Maps in Volume 3</i>	
DoEHLG Site Code	Site Name
pNHA-1036	Banteer Ponds
pNHA-1029	Araglin Valley
pNHA-1034	Bandon Valley West of Bandon
pNHA-1035	Bandon Valley South of Dunmanway
pNHA-1036	Banteer Ponds
pNHA-1037	Bateman's Lough
pNHA-1039	Blarney Castle Woods
pNHA-1040	Barley Cove to Ballyrisode Point
pNHA-1042	Carrigshane Hill
pNHA-1043	Cleanderry Wood
pNHA-1044	Cloonties Lough
pNHA-1046	Douglas River Estuary
pNHA-1049	Eagle Lough
pNHA-1050	Eyeries Island
pNHA-1051	Firkeel Gap
pNHA-1052	Gallanes Lough
pNHA-1053	Garrettstown Marsh
pNHA-1054	Glanmire Wood
pNHA-1055	Glashgarriiff River
pNHA-1057	Gouganebarra Lake
pNHA-1058	Great Island Channel



pNHA - 1046
Douglas River Estuary



pNHA - 1547
Castletownsend

COUNTY CORK	
PROPOSED NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS	
<i>Refer also to the Heritage and Conservation Maps in Volume 3</i>	
DoEHLG Site Code	Site Name
pNHA-1060	James Fort
pNHA-1061	Kilkeran Lake & Castlefreke Dunes
pNHA-1062	Killaneer House Glen
pNHA-1064	Leamlara Wood
pNHA-1065	Lough Allua
pNHA-1066	Lough Beg (Cork)
pNHA-1067	Lough Gal
pNHA-1069	Lough Namaddra & Lough West
pNHA-1070	Myross Wood
pNHA-1071	Owen's Island
pNHA-1072	Priory Wood, Lismire
pNHA-1073	Roancarrigbeg & Roancarrigmore
pNHA-1074	Rockfarm Quarry, Little Island
pNHA-1075	Rosscarbery Estuary
pNHA-1076	Rosttellan Lough, Aghada Shore and Puolnabibe Inlet
pNHA-1077	Seven Heads & Dunworly Bay
pNHA-1080	Blackwater Valley (Killavullen)
pNHA-1082	Dunkettle Shore
pNHA-1084	Whitegate Bay
pNHA-1169	Brown's Farm, Togher Cross Roads

COUNTY CORK PROPOSED NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS <i>Refer also to the Heritage and Conservation Maps in Volume 3</i>	
DoEHLG Site Code	Site Name
pNHA-1183	Clasharinka Pond
pNHA-1230	Courtmacsherry Estuary
pNHA-1235	Ballyquirk Pond
pNHA-1248	Prohus Wood
pNHA-1249	Ballincollig Cave
pNHA-1284	Cappul Bridge
pNHA-1408	Carrigacrump Caves
pNHA-1498	Dirk Bay
pNHA-1515	Bandon Valley below Inishannon
pNHA-1537	Rosshahunsoge
pNHA-1547	Castletownsend
pNHA-1561	Awbeg Valley (Castletownroche)
pNHA-1740	Bandon Valley above Inishannon
pNHA-1793	Blackwater Valley (Ballincurrig Wood)
pNHA-1794	Blackwater Valley (Kilcummer)
pNHA-1795	Blackwater Valley (Killathy Wood)
pNHA-1796	Blackwater Valley (Cregg)
pNHA-1797	Blackwater Valley (The Beech Wood)
pNHA-1798	Blarney Lake
pNHA-1799	Ardamadame Wood
pNHA-1826	Currakeel



pNHA - 1547
Castletownsend



pNHA - 1978
Ballycotton Islands

COUNTY CORK PROPOSED NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS <i>Refer also to the Heritage and Conservation Maps in Volume 3</i>	
DoEHLG Site Code	Site Name
pNHA-1829	Ballinaltig Beg Pond
pNHA-1854	Boylegrove Wood
pNHA-1857	Blarney Bog
pNHA-1873	Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog
pNHA-1879	Glanmore Bog
pNHA-1886	Ballagh Bog
pNHA-1890	Mullaghanish Bog
pNHA-1966	Minane Bridge Marsh
pNHA-1977	Sheelane Island
pNHA-1978	Ballycotton Islands
pNHA-1979	Monkstown Creek
pNHA-1985	Kilkinnikin
pNHA-2086	Ballintlea Wood
pNHA-2097	Conavmore, Ballyhooly (near Fermoy)
pNHA-2099	Carriganass Castle, near Kealkill
pNHA-1986	Garinish Point
pNHA-1987	Cuskinny Marsh
pNHA-1990	Owenboy River
pNHA-2036	Ballyhoura Mountains
pNHA-2037	Carrigeenamronety Hill

COUNTY CORK PROPOSED NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS <i>Refer also to the Heritage and Conservation Maps in Volume 3</i>	
DoEHLG Site Code	Site Name
pNHA-2050	Cregg Castle
pNHA-2049	Domestic Dwelling (near Glengarriff)



pNHA - 1990
Owenboy River

3.3 Candidate Special Areas of Conservation

PLANT AND ANIMAL HABITATS

Candidate Special Areas of Conservation

The Candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) have been selected because they support habitats and plant and animal species that are rare or threatened in Europe and require particular measures, including the designation of protected sites, to conserve them.

The sites are called 'candidate sites' because they are currently under consideration by the Commission of the European Union.

Together with the SPAs they form part of the 'Natura 2000' network of sites throughout Europe.

COUNTY CORK	
CANDIDATE SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION	
<i>Refer also to the Heritage and Conservation Maps in Volume 3</i>	
DoEHLG Site Code	Site Name
cSAC-0077	Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore)
cSAC-0090	Glengarriff Harbour & Woodland
cSAC-0091	Clonakilty Bay
cSAC-0093	Caha Mountains
cSAC-0097	Lough Hyne Nature Reserve & Environs
cSAC-0101	Roaringwater Bay & Islands
cSAC-0102	Sheep's Head
cSAC-0106	St. Gobnets Wood
cSAC-0108	The Gearagh
cSAC-0109	Three Castle Head to Mizen Head
cSAC-0365	Killarney National Park, Magillicuddy Reeks and Caragh River Catchment
cSAC-1040	Barley Cove to Ballyrisode Point
cSAC-1043	Cleanderry Wood
cSAC-1058	Great Island Channel
cSAC-1061	Kilkeran Lake & Castlefreke Dunes
cSAC-1070	Myross Wood
cSAC-1230	Courtmacsherry Estuary
cSAC-1547	Castletownshend

COUNTY CORK CANDIDATE SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION <i>Refer also to the Heritage and Conservation Maps in Volume 3</i>	
DoEHLG Site Code	Site Name
cSAC-1873	Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog
cSAC-1879	Glanmore Bog
cSAC-1890	Mullaghanish Bog
cSAC - 2036	Ballyhoura Mountains
cSAC-2037	Carrigeenamronety Hill
cSAC-2158	Kenmare River
CSAC - 2165	Lower River Shannon
cSAC-2170	Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford)
cSAC-2171	Bandon River
cSAC-2189	Farranamanagh Lough
cSAC - 2280	Dunbeacon Shingle
cSAC - 2281	Reen Point Shingle



cSAC - 0101
Roaringwater Bay & Islands

3.4 Special Protection Areas

PROTECTION OF BIRD HABITATS

Special Protection Areas

The Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and proposed Special Protection Areas have been selected because they support populations of birds of particular species that are rare or threatened in Europe and require particular measures, including the designation of protected areas to conserve them.

Together with the cSACs they form part of the 'Natura 2000' network of sites throughout Europe.

COUNTY CORK	
SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS	
<i>Refer also to the Heritage and Conservation Maps in Volume 3</i>	
DoEHLG Site Code	Site Name
SPA - 4021	Old Head of Kinsale
SPA - 4022	Ballycotton Bay
SPA - 4023	Ballymacoda Bay
SPA - 4028	Blackwater Est.
SPA - 4030	Cork Harbour
SPA - 4066	The Bull and the Cow
SPA - 4081	Clonakilty Bay
SPA - 4094	River Blackwater Callows
SPA - 4095	Kilcolman Bog
SPA - 4109	The Gearagh
SPA - 4124	Sovereign Islands
pSPA - 4155	Beara Peninsula
pSPA - 4156	Sheeps Head to Toe Head
pSPA - 4161	Stacks to Mullaghareirk Mountains West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle
pSPA - 4162	Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains
pSPA - 4190	Galley Head to Duneen Point
pSPA - 4191	Seven Heads

3.5 Areas of Geological Interest

AREAS OF GEOLOGICAL INTEREST COUNTY CORK		
<i>Site</i>	<i>Geological Interest</i>	<i>Location</i>
Allihies Dooneen Mine	Economic Geology - unusual minerals through reaction with seawater; Mineralogy - copper secondary minerals	Allihies
Allihies Mountain Mine	Economic geology - vein system mining; Mineralogy - copper secondary minerals	Allihies
Allihies, Ballydonegan Strand	Economic Geology; Coastal Geomorphology - mine waste sand beach and dunes	Ballydonegan
Ardmore	Devonian	Ardmore
Ballinatona, Meelin Spring	Warm spring	Meelin, Newcastle
Ballinglanna	Upper Carboniferous	Ballinglanna
Ballinglanna Cove	Carboniferous foreshore section with rock platform	Ballinglanna, Clonakilty
Ballybeg Quarry	Lower Carboniferous bryozoan reef facies	Buttevant
Ballyclogh Quarry	Lower Carboniferous stratigraphy	Ballyclogh
Ballycotton	Devonian coastal section	Ballycotton
Ballycotton Bay	Quaternary - Glaciomarine mud and sand	Ballycotton
Ballycroneen Bay	Quaternary - Irish Sea Glacier till: type site	Ballycroneen Bay
Ballydesmond Quarry	Quaternary - tundra frost polygons: best example in Ireland	Ballydesmond
Ballygarvan Quarry	Lower Carboniferous	Ballygarvan
Ballygiblin Quarry	Tertiary cave sediments, karst, Carboniferous volcanics	Ballygiblin
Ballyheady	Carboniferous fossil fish	Ballyheady
Ballykenly	Karst spring	Ballykenly
Baltimore Harbour	Coastal Geomorphology	Baltimore Harbour
Baneshane Quarry	Lower Carboniferous - Red Marble	Baneshane



Bantry Drumlins



Barley Lake

AREAS OF GEOLOGICAL INTEREST COUNTY CORK		
<i>Site</i>	<i>Geological Interest</i>	<i>Location</i>
Bantry Drumlins	Quaternary - drumlin swarm (local mountain glaciation)	Bantry
Barley Lake	Quaternary - glacial corrie	Glengarriff
Black Ball Head	Igneous intrusion - unusual megacryst mineralogy	Carriganeen, Bunnadoonroe
Blackball Head - Whiteball Head	Lower Carboniferous	Canalough, Loughanebeg
Blackball Head to Cahermore	Devonian	Cahermore, Loughanebeg, Canalough
Blackrock diamond quarry	Mineralogy	Ballintemple
Boggeragh Mountains	Fluvial/lacustrine - planation surface	Millstreet
Broadstrand - Seven Heads	Upper Carboniferous	Broadstrand, Seven Heads
Buttevant/ Ballybeg Quarry	Lower Carboniferous stratigraphy, fossils: working quarry	Ballybeg West
Carraigcliona (Near Mallow)	Devonian volcanics	Carraigcliona
Castlepook Cave	Karst - maze cave with rich fossil mammal fauna	Castlepook South
Castletownshend, Castlehaven	Devonian	Drishane
Cloyne	Karst - depression; Tertiary - ball clay and lignite	Cloyne
Cloyne Clay Pits	Mid-Jurassic fossil spores in clay depression	Lissanly and Spital
Cod's Head	Devonian	Reentrusk
Cork Harbour	Coastal Geomorphology - structural features, raised beaches; Devonian (ORS),	Cork Harbour
Cork Red Marble:	Economic Geology - Cork Red Marble	Baneshane, Little Island &/or Midleton
Corkbeg Island	Lower Carboniferous	Corkbeg
Courtmacsherry Bay - Old Head of Kinsale	Coastal Geomorphology - raised marine platform across Carboniferous sandstones	Courtmacsherry, Old Head of Kinsale
Courtmacsherry Beach - Raised beach	Quaternary - raised beach and till	Ballinspittle
Crookhaven [Cu] + Brow Head	Economic Geology - copper mines, red beds	Crookhaven

AREAS OF GEOLOGICAL INTEREST COUNTY CORK		
<i>Site</i>	<i>Geological Interest</i>	<i>Location</i>
Dhurode Mine	Mineralogy - copper and other minerals; Economic Geology	Dhurode
Dower Spring, Castlemartyr	Karst spring	Castlemartyr
Dunbeacon Castle-Dunmanus Bay	Lower Carboniferous	Dunbeacon, Bantry
Dunmanus Castle northwards	Devonian	Dunmanus East
East Glengarriff Harbour to Ardnamanna Point	Devonian	Numerous Townlands
East Toe Head	Devonian	Gortacrossig
Foilcoagh Bay	Devonian marine fossils in continental succession	Cape Clear Island
Foley Cave	Quaternary/Karst - cave fauna	Bridgetown Upper, Connaberry
Fountaintown Creek to Ringabella Beach	Lower Carboniferous fossils	Ringabella Tn, Minnane Bridge
Galley Head - Belacoon Cove	Lower Carboniferous	Dundeady, Clonakilty
Glandore (Aughatubrid Mine)	Mineralogy - 'corkite' type locality; unique in Ireland	Glandore
Glandore/Rosscarbery etc	Fluvial/Lacustrine - incisions, drowned valleys	Glandore/Rosscarbery etc
Horse Island [Cu]	Economic Geology - copper mineralisation in old workings	Horse Island
Howe's Strand	Quaternary - subglacial meltwater furrows across marine rock platform; unique to Ireland and GB	Howe's Strand
Killumney Moraine	Quaternary - glacial moraine	Killumney
Kilworth	Victorian pumping station/Springs	Kilworth
Knockadoon Head	Quaternary - glacially striated rock platform	Knockadoon Head
Lady's Well, Mallow	Warm spring	Mallow
Ladyswell/Duneen/Clonakilty [Ba]	Economic Geology - steeply-dipping barite mineral vein.	Duneen
Laharran Quarry, Minane Bridge	Mineralogy - 'wavellite' mineral; Lower Carboniferous stratigraphy	Minane Bridge
Lee and Blackwater Valleys	Quaternary - outwash trains and deltas	Lee and Blackwater Valleys



Inchydoney Beaches



Mount Gabriel

AREAS OF GEOLOGICAL INTEREST COUNTY CORK		
<i>Site</i>	<i>Geological Interest</i>	<i>Location</i>
Little Island	Cork Red Marble fossils	Little Island
Lough Beg Section	Lower Carboniferous coastal section, armour stone	Loughbeg, Curraghbinny
Lough Hyne	Coastal lagoon with solid rock barrier	Lough Hyne
Meenskeha	Quaternary - fossil pingos (ice-lens mounds)	Millstreet
Midleton Distillery Springs	Karst springs	Midleton
Mizen Head - Barley Cove	Coastal Geomorphology	Corran Beg, Corran More, Gannawee, Dough
Modrana	Economic Geology -slate mines	Clonakilty
Mount Gabriel [Cu, Ba]	Economic Geology - Bronze Age copper mines, barite veins	Mount Gabriel
Myrtleville to Ram's Head	Devonian section	Numerous Townlands
NE coast of Cape Clear/Foilcoagh Bay	Devonian coastal section	Firbreaga
Nohaval Cove - Turrets	Lower Carboniferous	Reaniesglen, Dunbogey
Old Head Kinsale (West coast)	Upper Carboniferous	Courtmacsherry, Old Head of Kinsale
Old Head of Kinsale	Devonian and Carboniferous type section for Munster Basin	Ballinspittle, Downmacpatrick, Kinsale
Owentaraglin River	Fluvial meanders	Millstreet
Pass of Keimaneigh	Quaternary - spillway	Derreendonee, Inchi Beg
Pigeonrock Glen in Galtys	Devonian	Knocknascrow, Carrigeen Mtn
Reenydonagan Point	Lower Carboniferous microfauna	Reenydonagan, Bantry
Relane Point	Lower Carboniferous	Relane Point
Ringabella Bay and Point	Quaternary - low drift cliff and striated raised platform	Ringabella
Ringabella Section - Fountainstown - Myrtleville - Rams Head	Lower Carboniferous and Devonian stratigraphy	Ringabella, Kinsale
Ringaskiddy, Golden Rock	Lower Carboniferous	Ringaskiddy

AREAS OF GEOLOGICAL INTEREST COUNTY CORK		
Site	Geological Interest	Location
River Blackwater	Fluvial straths	Rathmore, Millstreet
River Sullane	Fluvial - river channel within bog	Ballymakeery, Macroom
Road cuts near Youghal (Youghal bridge)	Devonian	Youghal
Rock Farm Quarry, Little Island	Lower Carboniferous - type section for Cork Red Marble and younger limestones	Little Island
Rock Forest, Mallow	Mineralogy - 'cotterite' mineral type locality	Mallow
Sandycove to East Toe Head	Devonian	Ballycahane, Scobaun, Farranconnor, Gortacrossig
Shanballymore	Karst spring	Shanballymore
Shot Head	Devonian coastal section	Coosard
Simon's Cove	Quaternary -marine rock platform, subglacial erosion and deposition	Clonakilty Bay
St. Joseph's section on Lee Road (Cork city)	Uppermost Devonian	Cork city
Subulter Quarry	Lower Carboniferous - dolomitised Waulsortian Limestone: working quarry	Subulter
The Gearagh, River Lee	Fluvial - anastomosing channel	Gearagh West
Toe Head	Late Devonian plant fossils	Toe Head
Trinity Well	Warm spring	Newmarket
Tubbrid, Millstreet	Karst spring	Tubbrid
Whiddy Island (N west Coast)	Upper Carboniferous (Namurian) coastal section	Whiddy Island
White Bay - Roche's point - Gyleen	Devonian	White Bay - Roche's point - Gyleen
Youghal (under light-house)	Devonian	Youghal
Youghal Bay	Coastal geomorphology - intertidal zone, sand spit, estuary, cliffs, dunes	Youghal Bay
Kanturk coalfield	Economic Geology - coal measures	Dromagh
Gortnabinna	Devonian trace fossils	Gortnabinna



Rossscarbery Estuary

