

# LM10 - Cornagillagh

## Coillte Biodiversity Area Management Plans 2020 - 2050

**Ecologist : John Conaghan**  
**Forester: Fearghal Kealy**

**Site Area (hectares) 30.14**

### Plan Overview

In 30 years time this site will be a substantial area of developing native woodland (c. 29 hectares) dominated by Oak, Birch and Holly with smaller areas of native Oak-Ash woodland on damper soils. It is anticipated that most of the area to be cleared of conifers will have developed into Oak-birch-holly woodland. The existing areas of tall woodland will be a good source of seed to facilitate natural regeneration in surrounding/adjoining areas cleared of conifers. The Rhododendron which is currently present will be controlled.

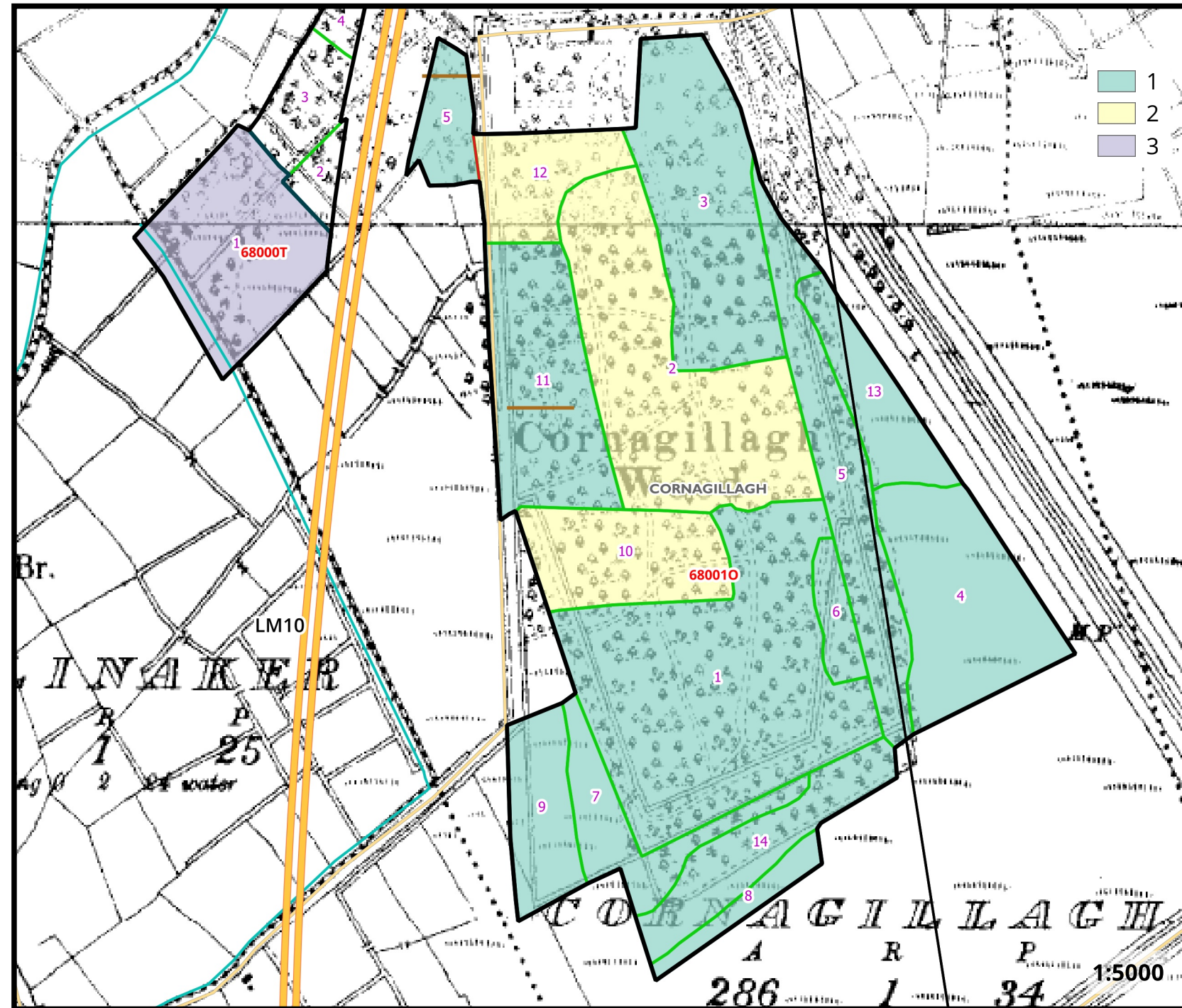
### Notable Flora & Fauna

Smooth-stalked sedge

Zone	Area	Current	Target	Regime
1	21.17	CHF	OAK	CONV-NHF
2	6.66	NHF OAK NHF ASH	NHF OAK NHF ASH	RETAIN
3	2.31	MHF	NHF OAK	CONV-NHF



General view of tall conifer woodland dominated by Norway spruce in the south-west of the site. Ferns such as *Dryopteris dilatata* (Broad buckler-fern) are locally frequent on the woodland floor.



### Ecological Summary

The larger woodland biodiversity area at Cornagillagh occurs along the northern cutaway margins of a relatively intact raised bog area. The main woodland type present (c. 20 hectares) is tall conifer plantation dominated by Sitka spruce with smaller areas dominated by Lodgepole pine. The Sitka spruce has grown well and has been well thinned in the past. These areas of woodland on shallow peat should be converted to native Oak-birch-holly woodland (WN1). The fact that the conifer component of the woodland is tall and well thinned implies that the site is probably not suitable for CCF. An area of native woodland dominated by varying amounts of Ash, Oak and Birch (c. 7 hectares) occurs in the centre of the main woodland block on damp, peaty soil. This woodland is a mixture of Oak-Ash woodland (WN4) on damp soil and Oak-Birch-Holly woodland (WN1) on drier soils. The abundance of wetland ground flora species such as Remote Sedge and Water Avens is noteworthy. These woodland types are both examples of Annex I woodland habitats. Regeneration of ash is well-developed within the native woodland areas and grazing levels appear to be low. The amounts of deadwood throughout the site is generally low. Scattered Rhododendron scrub (c. 1ha) occurs throughout the larger biodiversity area and requires removal. The small biodiversity area to the west of the road is currently dominated by Western Hemlock and Oak with a species-poor ground flora. The area should be converted to native woodland by removing the conifers, planting small areas of Oak and allowing natural regeneration of native species such as Birch, Oak and Holly.

Zone	Description	Objectives	Silvicultural Techniques
1	Tall conifer plantation dominated by Sitka spruce with some Lodgepole pine. Species-poor ground layer present. Dead wood is rare.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convert to native forest dominated by Oak, birch and holly.</li> <li>Control invasive Rhododendron and ensure it does not spread into other areas of woodland.</li> <li>Control invasive conifers in the future.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fell conifers and replant with native species, i.e. Oak.</li> <li>Control Rhododendron.</li> <li>Control non-native regeneration.</li> </ul>
2	Tall native woodland generally dominated by Ash, Oak and Birch with a well-developed ground flora. Frequent ground layer species include Water avens, Remote Sedge and Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus. Dead wood is rare.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain native woodland habitat.</li> <li>Control invasive Rhododendron</li> <li>Increase standing/fallen deadwood to 10m3/ha</li> <li>Control invasive Sycamore and Beech.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Control Rhododendron</li> <li>Fell to waste Sycamore and Beech</li> <li>Retain all deadwood onsite</li> </ul>
3	Tall mixed woodland dominated by Western Hemlock and Oak. Ground layer generally species-poor due to the shade cast by the conifers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase proportion of native trees/shrubs to ≥75% of canopy cover</li> <li>Control natural regeneration of invasive conifers in the future</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fell and remove conifers and replant with native species, i.e. Oak</li> <li>Control non-native conifer regeneration</li> </ul>