

Brookdale

Tucked away on the fringes of Brookdale Plantation, the core of this site is steep, intractable and unspoiled. One of the most notable features of the site is the sharp gradient, with the river merely a series of rapids and waterfalls, giving the site a very humid atmosphere allowing rocks and copious deadwood to rapidly be colonised by moss and vascular plants. Southern Ramsey where wood speedwell and woodruff are found in the main will also explain the presence here of the wash-black slug *Arion niger*. It extends 200m up the valley into upland old growth forest not recorded on the Island since 1909 until its rediscovery here in 2011.

Low down the woodland enters the village of Glen Auld with W10 and W10/11 dominating the valley flanks and W7 in the valley bottom. Smaller Areas of W17 can be found on the fringes of the native woodland in parts here where it is aggressively encroaching into populations of the rare fish hawk's ear. Also notable for the presence of several pure hazel coppice stools. At the bottom of the site where the hazel reappears along the riverbank, woodruff appears to be native to site, but would never be seen by introduced cow parsley. There is the native northern variety *Agrimiscus sylvestris* var. *angustisecta*, seeding themselves widely within the glen. This said the more open footpaths are bounded by hazel, fade away to a presumably secondary woodland with aspen and wood horsetail among these and sycamore be found. The former two species look to be relics of a humid open ravine rather than remote sedge and sandle and oak/hazel woodland however, though will doubtless survive the gradual spread of the woodland upstream.

Closed canopy woodland eventually gives way to scattered willow and rowan and then to open moorland at about 300m where the ravine meets the mountain road.

Location:

Glen Auldyn (SC437727).

Size:

3.58 hectares

Ownership:

IOM Government (DEFA) on south-west bank of stream, private on north-east bank

Altitude:

50-200m

Species Count:

139 species of vascular plants

Gallery:

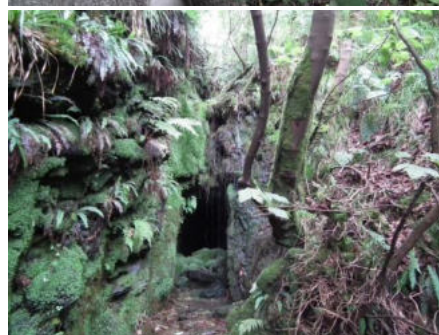
Clockwise from top left:

a) & b) Mature oak woodland; c) Marsh hawksbeard; d) One of many small waterfalls; e) Mine adit; f) Cow parsley (northern form).

Key Species

- Aspen (*Populus tremula*)
- Hairy Woodrush (*Luzula pilosa*)
- Hay-scented Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris aemula*) *
- Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)
- Marsh Hawksbeard (*Crepis paludosa*)*
- Oak (*Quercus x rosacea*)
- Wood horsetail (*Equisetium sylvaticum*)
- Woodruff (*Galium odoratum*)

*Schedule 7 Species



Brookdale: Ecological Map

Stream section with hazel. Woodruff and northern form of cow parsley grow on verge by road. Heavily modified and replanted in areas.

Fuchsia becoming ecological problem.

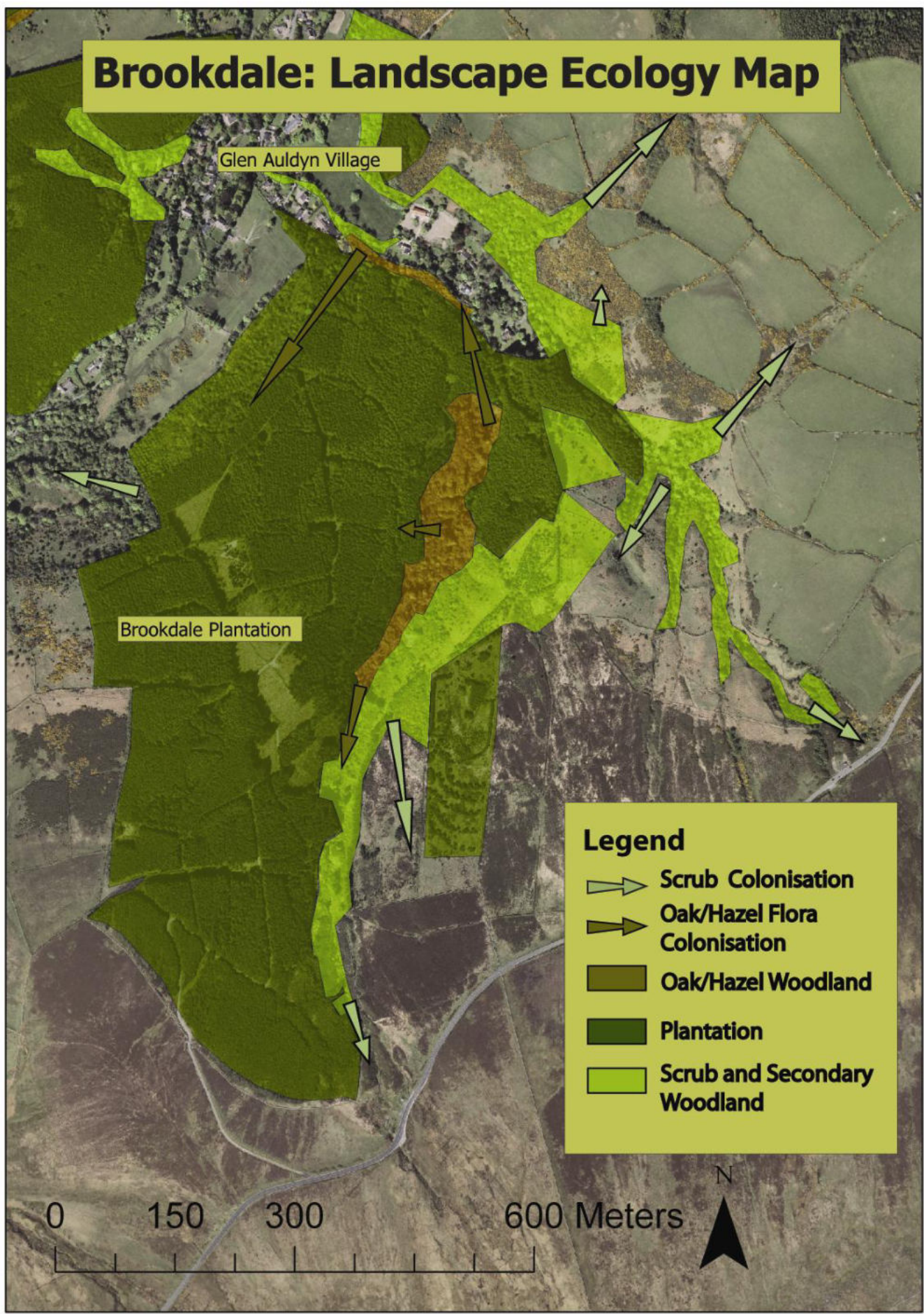
Oak and hazel woodland in steep sided ravine. W11/12, W8/9 and W17 communities. Hay-scented buckler-fern present.

Marsh hawksbeard populations. Ash black slug area.

Mixed broadleaf woodland area with aspen. Oak then hazel absent.








Brookdale: Landscape Ecology Map



Glen Auldyn Village

Brookdale Plantation

Legend

-  Scrub Colonisation
-  Oak/Hazel Flora Colonisation
-  Oak/Hazel Woodland
-  Plantation
-  Scrub and Secondary Woodland

0 150 300 600 Meters



Colby Glen

A small grove of hazel woodland upstream of Colby National Glen.

A small ravine site with a rich W8/9 vegetation. The site adjoins the National Glen that is largely a mature beech plantation. Secondary woodland and scrub are beginning to establish next to the glen and is well established up-stream.

As well as hazel, mixed broadleaves with sycamore, willow and aspen dominate the site.

Remote sedge is an occasional species downstream on the Colby River, but not obviously ecologically linked to this site.

While not the equal of the neighboring Ballure Glen in terms species richness and ecological interest, Elfin Glen extends its influence through the site. The woodlands of Claghbane and Leryg Frissel which contain many native and planted broadleaves beginning to establish next to the glen and can also be found in the leafy suburbs and alleyways of Southern Ramsey where wood speedwell and woodruff are found among mature oak trees. As well as hazel, mixed broadleaves with sycamore, willow and aspen dominate the site. 200m up the valley into upland valley mire as well as into abandoned meadows below the Glen. Most common woodland types are well represented with W8/9 and W10/11 dominating the valley flanks and W7 in the valley bottom. Smaller Areas of W17 can be found on the fringes of the plantation, indeed the mature conifer plantations support a good mixed flora. Elfin Glen is also notable for the presence of several pure pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) coppice stools.

The lower part of the Glen is somewhat impoverished by many mature planted Beech trees, which all but eliminate the ground flora, and are now seeding themselves widely within the glen. This said the more open footpaths are bounded by species rich vegetation with remote sedge and sanicle and may well explain why these species can be found up to 200m from the glen in many directions, doubtless spread by walkers. Remote sedge may one day find

Location:

Colby
(SC230710)

Size:

0.3 hectares

Altitude:

80m

Ownership:

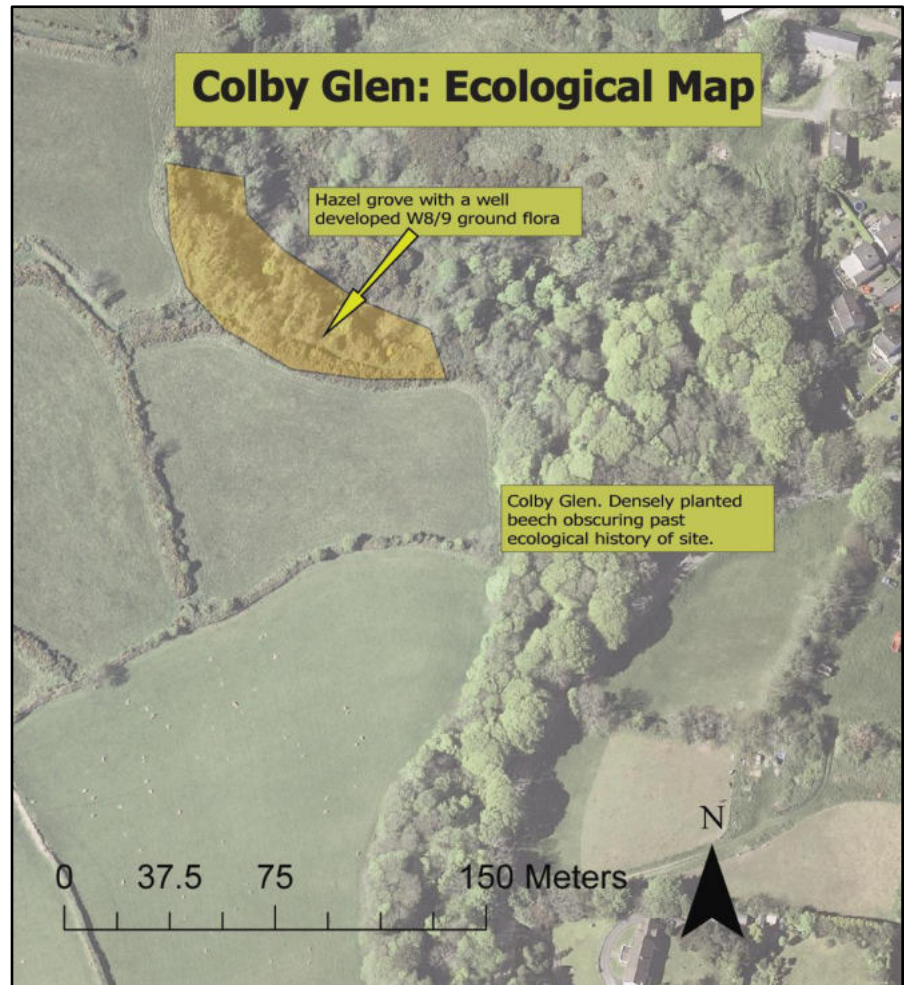
Private

Species Count:

Not surveyed

Key Species

Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)



Crogga Glen

A hazel coppice with some mature oak growing along the Crogga River. While not the equal of the neighboring Ballure Glen in terms of species richness, and ecological interest, Elfin Glen extends its large site and only partially looked over in the preliminary survey, so perhaps with more botanical interest than indicated by the limited key species list, although historical records do not indicate anything exceptional and woodruff are found among mature oak trees. The scattered oak trees may well be of planted origin and extend 200m up the valley into upland valley mire as well as into woodland meadows below the site. It is surprising given that the site is mostly W8/9 with smaller areas of W10/11 and W7 and W10/11 dominating the footprint of the valley bottom. Smaller areas of W17 can be found on the fringes of the plantation, indeed the hazel coppice, which can support a general mixed flora. Elfin Glen is also notable for the presence of several pure hazel stands (e.g. *Ulex europaeus*) and elevated density that would probably occur through a history of coppice management. The site is immediately upstream from Port Soderick National Glen which has a small area of species rich older canopy woodland. The remainder of the national glen would appear to be planted woodland. Remote sedge may one day find its way into the glen.

Location:

Port Soderick
(SC340727)

Size:

5 hectares

Altitude:

30-50m

Ownership:

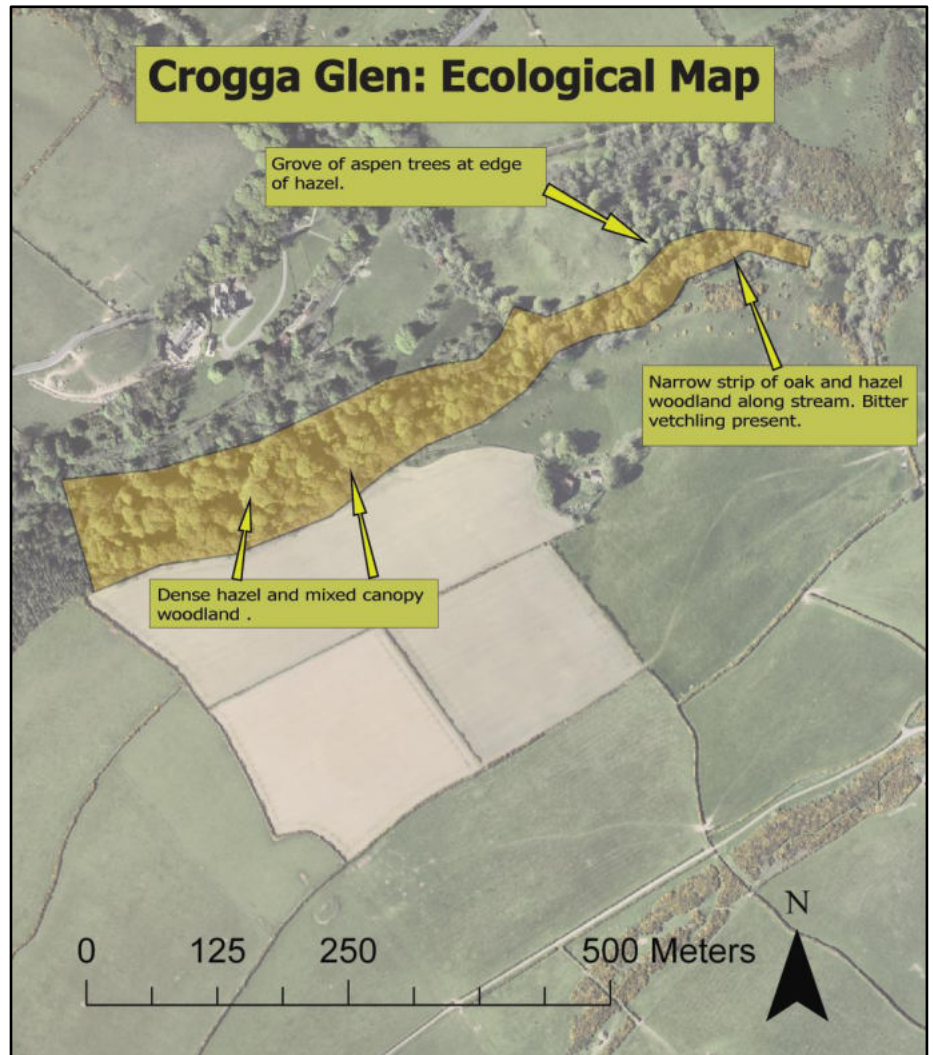
Private

Species Count:

Not surveyed

Key Species

- Aspen (*Populus tremula*)
- Bitter Vetchling (*Lathyrus linifolius*)
- Hairy Woodrush (*Luzula pilosa*)
- Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)
- Oak (*Quercus x rosacea*)



Crogga Glen: Landscape Ecology Map



Legend

- Scrub Colonisation
- Oak/Hazel Flora Colonisation
- Oak/Hazel Woodland
- Plantation
- Scrub and Secondary Woodland

400 Meters

Dhoon Glen

The best known and most ecologically worked of the oak/hazel woodlands; Dhoon is the only recorded Island site for wood fescue and Killarney fern (where this species only occurs as a gametophyte). Dhoon Glen is designated as an Area of Special Scientific Interest.

The oak and hazel part of the Glen is centered upon the waterfall area in the core of a steep and deep ravine, where humidity is constantly high. Hay-scented buckler-fern as well as the wood fescue and Killarney fern are confined to this site, with wood sedge and remote sedge almost as restricted. Parts of the Glen have been replanted with beech trees and conifers, though the majority retains a semi-natural vegetation.

W8/9 is common in the central parts of the glen and in the ravine bottom, often with a direct transition to birch dominated W17 on steep sides of the ravine leaving little scope for a widespread W10/11 bluebell dominated flora. In the upper parts of the glen, below the café, W7 wet carr woodland supports smooth stalked sedge and wood horsetail.

A feature of interest is the reappearance of oak (in this case seemingly pure sessile oak) at Dhoon Bay, both on the cliffs above the bay and dwarfed trees on a rock jutting into the bay.

Common cow-wheat was recorded on site historically but not been seen for many decades, and is likely to have occurred in the site now dominated by mature planted beech trees. Woodruff probably occurred more recently until major storms washed away parts of the ravine.

The Glen is surrounded on most sides by secondary woodland that is still expanding into neighboring bracken and heath vegetation, a process considerably slowed by a large feral goat population.

Location:

2 miles north of Laxey (SC454864).

Size:

4.26 hectares

Altitude:

30-150m

Ownership:

Isle of Man Government (DEFA) and privately owned

Species Count:

146 species of vascular plants

Gallery:

Clockwise from top left:

- The spectacular waterfall, a popular tourist destination;
- The Dhoon cliff relic oak and birch trees;
- Dark green fritillary, a frequent woodland edge species in June;
- Oak showing pure sessile oak features;
- Path below waterfall with frequent wood fescue;
- Planted beech grove.

Key Species

Common Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*)*/**

Hairy Woodrush (*Luzula pilosa*)

Hay-scented Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris aemula*)*

Hard-shield Fern (*Polystichum aculeatum*)

Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)

Killarney Fern (*Trichomanes speciosum*)

Oak (*Quercus x rosacea*)

Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*)

Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*)

Smooth-stalked Sedge (*Carex leavigata*)

Wood Fescue (*Festuca altissima*)*

Wood Horsetail (*Equisetium sylvaticum*)

Wood Sedge (*Carex sylvatica*)

Woodruff (*Galium odoratum*)**

*Schedule 7 Species **Not recorded in this survey



Dhoon Glen: Ecological Map

Wet woodland areas with smooth stalked sedge and wood horsetail.

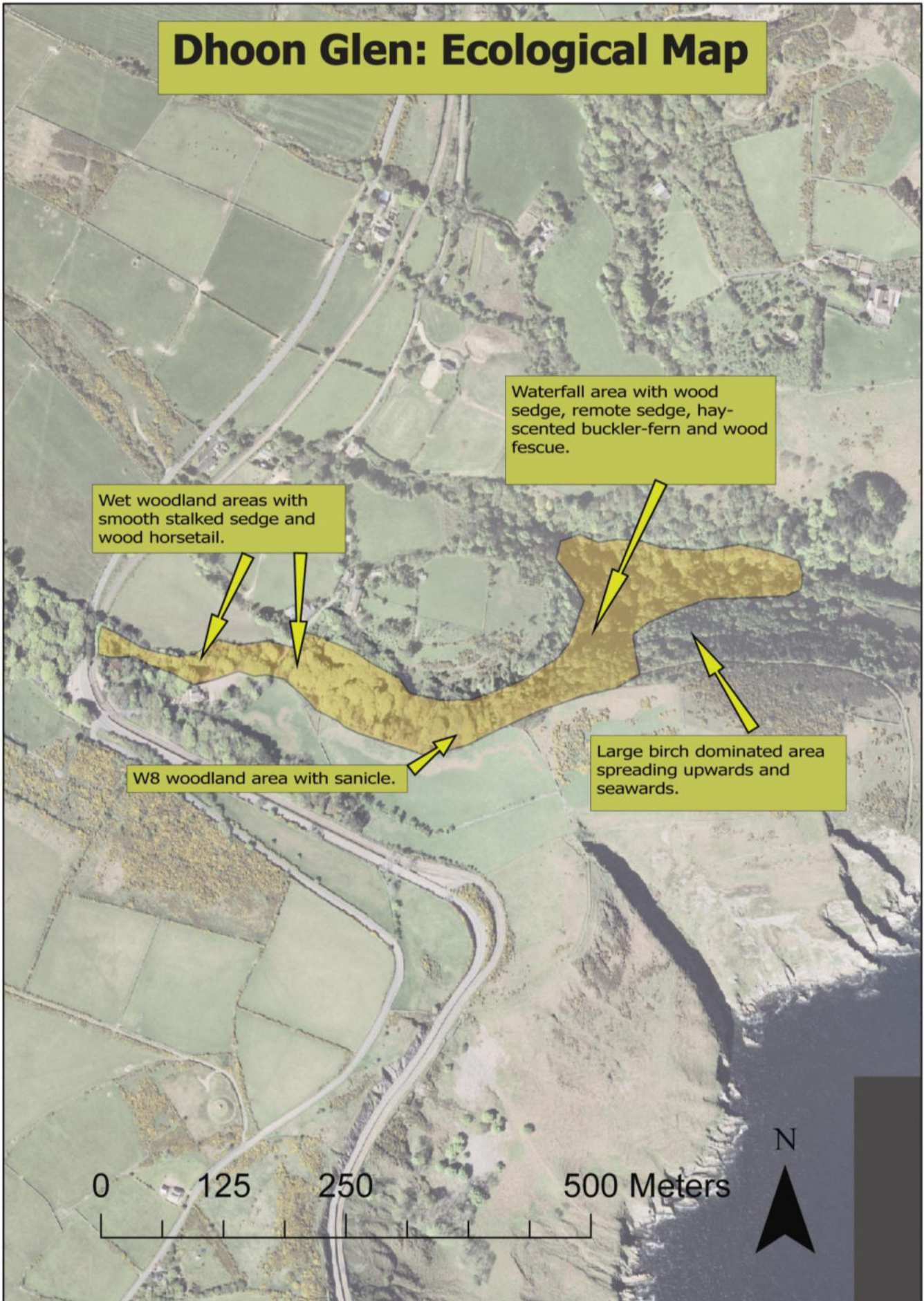
Waterfall area with wood sedge, remote sedge, hay-scented buckler-fern and wood fescue.

W8 woodland area with sanicle.

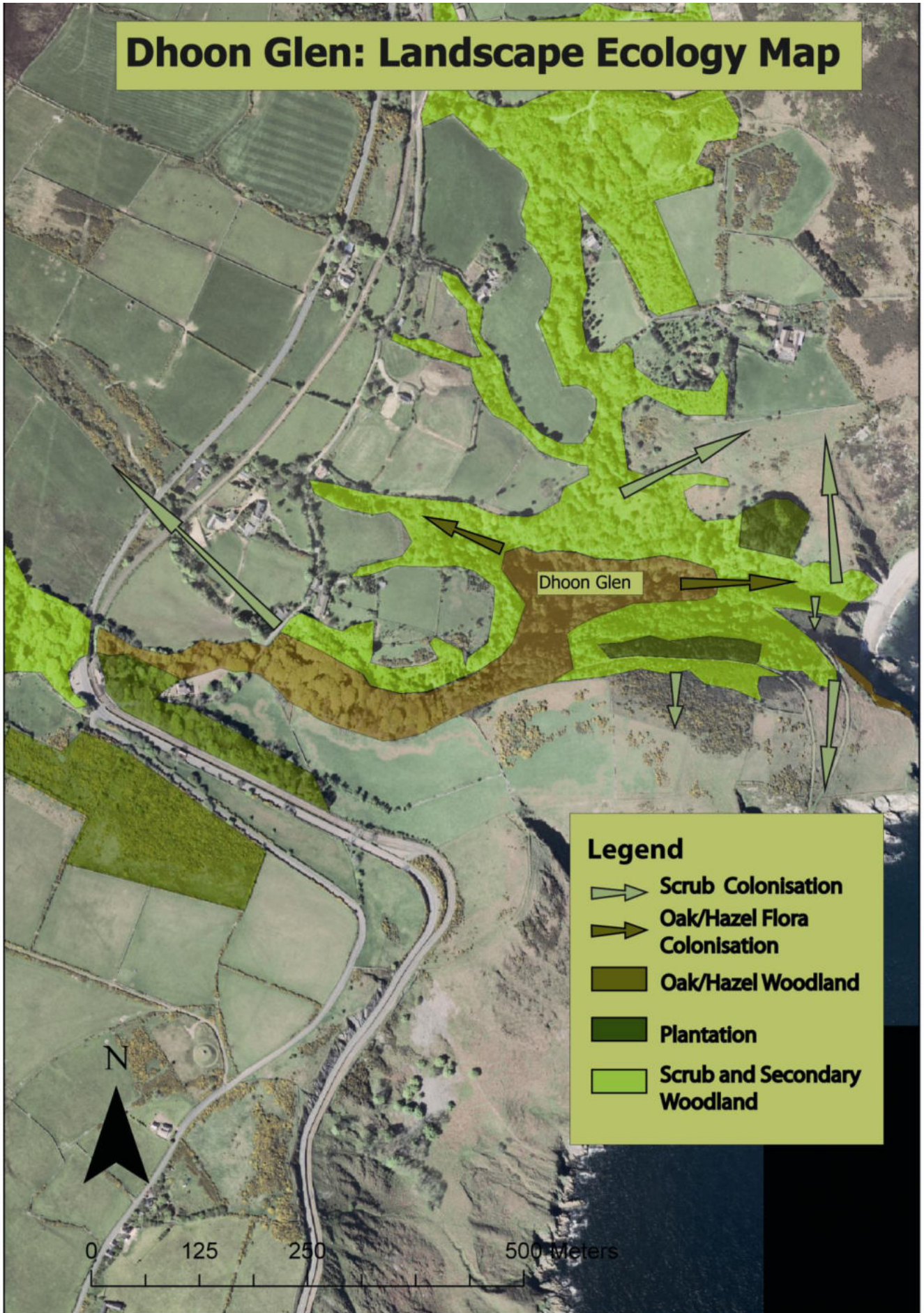
Large birch dominated area spreading upwards and seawards.

0 125 250 500 Meters

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Dhoon Glen: Landscape Ecology Map



Elfin Glen

While not the equal of the neighboring Ballure Glen in terms of species richness and ecological interest, Elfin Glen extends its influence through the neighbouring plantation woodlands of Claghbane and Lhergy Frissel which contain many native and planted broadleaves. Relic oak woodland can also be found in the leafy suburbs and alleyways of southern Ramsey where wood speedwell and woodruff are found among mature oak trees. Expansion is also uphill with secondary woodland extending 200m up the valley into upland valley mire as well as into abandoned meadows below the Glen.

Most common woodland types are well represented with W8/9 and W10/11 dominating the valley flanks and W7 in the valley bottom. Smaller areas of W17 can be found on the fringes of the plantation, indeed the mature mixed plantations support a good mixed flora. Elfin Glen is also notable for the presence of several pure pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) coppice stools.

The lower part of the Glen is somewhat impoverished by many mature planted beech trees, which all but eliminate the ground flora, and are now seeding themselves widely within the Glen. This said, the more open footpaths are bounded by species-rich vegetation with remote sedge and sanicle and may well explain why these species can be found up to 200m from the Glen in many directions, doubtless spread by walkers. Remote sedge may one day find its way to Ballure Glen by this vector.

Location:

South of Ramsey (SC448933).

Size:

5.96 hectares

Altitude:

80-150m

Species count:

113 species vascular plants in Elfin Glen (131 species including the greater Elfin Glen/ Claghbane area)

Gallery:

Clockwise from top left:

- a) Glen entrance; b) Oak trees in suburban lane; c) Species rich ride in Glen; d) Wood speedwell; e) Mature oak in Claghbane Plantation; f) Regenerating ash trees below glen.

Key Species

Oak (*Quercus x rosacea*)

Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)

Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*)

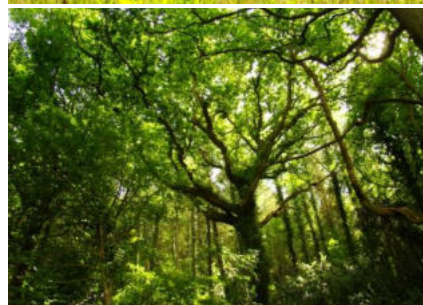
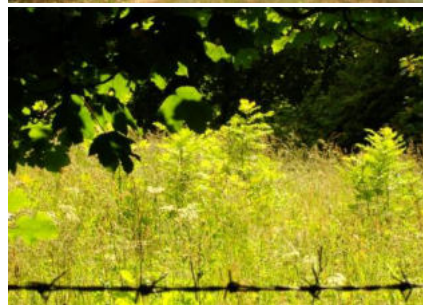
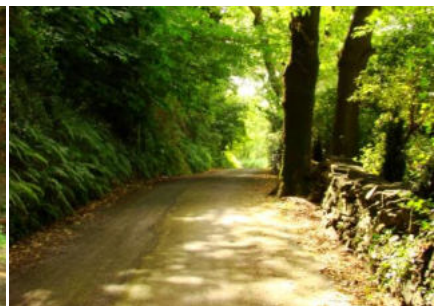
Hairy Woodrush (*Luzula pilosa*)

Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*)

Wood Speedwell (*Veronica Montana*)*

Woodruff (*Galium odoratum*)

*Schedule 7 Species



Elfin Glen: Ecological Map

Veteran oak with remote sedge and wood speedwell in large garden/park.

Woodruff with mature oak in suburban garden.

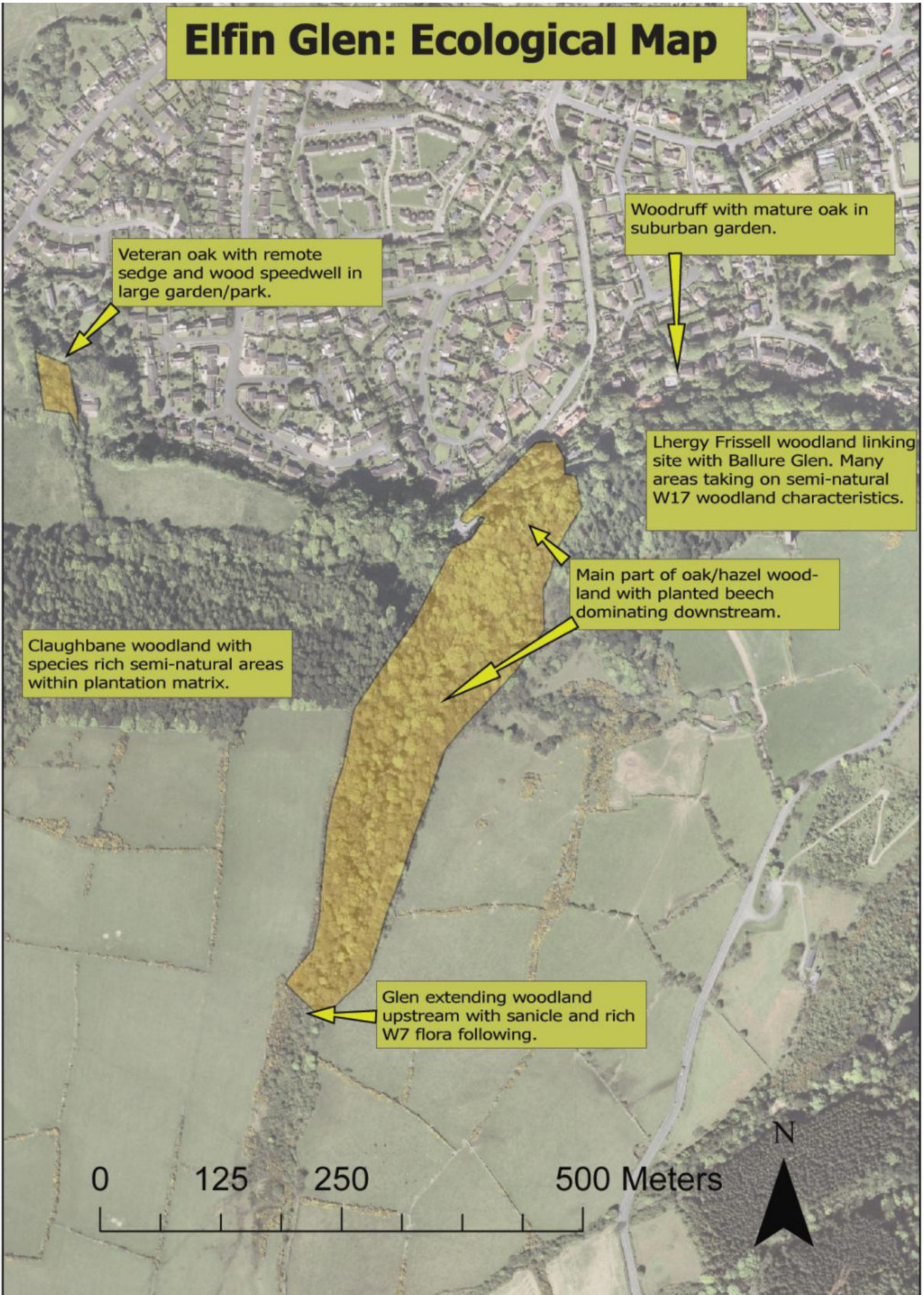
Lhergy Frissell woodland linking site with Ballure Glen. Many areas taking on semi-natural W17 woodland characteristics.

Main part of oak/hazel woodland with planted beech dominating downstream.

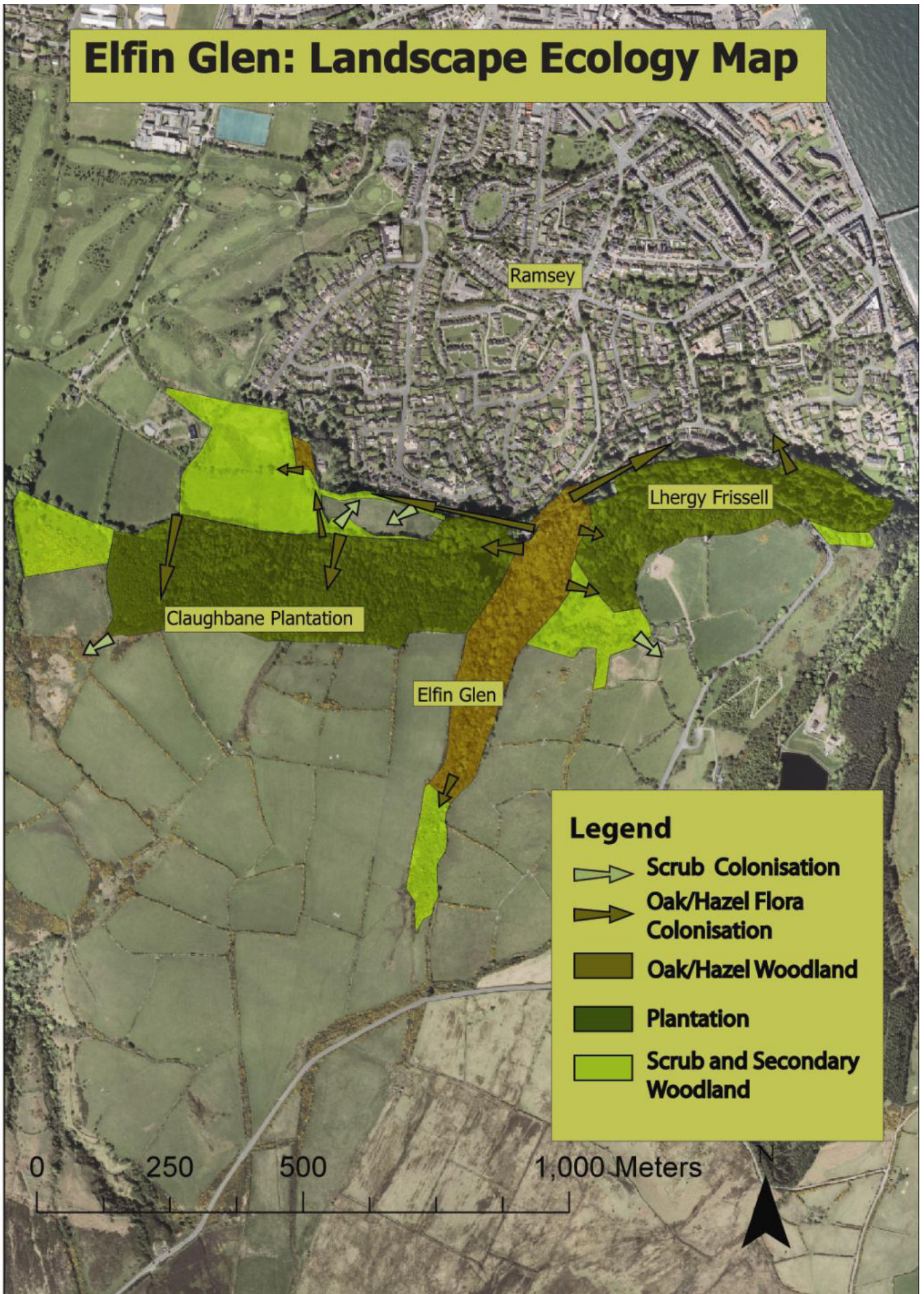
Claghbane woodland with species rich semi-natural areas within plantation matrix.

Glen extending woodland upstream with sanicle and rich W7 flora following.

0 125 250 500 Meters



Elfin Glen: Landscape Ecology Map



Ramsey

Lhergy Frissell

Claughbane Plantation

Elfin Glen

Legend

- Scrub Colonisation
- Oak/Hazel Flora Colonisation
- Oak/Hazel Woodland
- Plantation
- Scrub and Secondary Woodland

0 250 500 1,000 Meters



Garwick Glen

A small ravine woodland with some hazel at its centre and oak at its mouth where the glen opens into the sea.

The semi-natural woodland is set within a larger planted woodland dominated by beech. An old privet maze is an interesting feature in the centre of the woodland.

The hazel woodland is a mixture of W8/9 and 10/11.

The tiny fragments of oak woodland at the mouth of the glen are at the southern end of an intermittent oak woodland that occurs in Laxey Bay and culminates at Lower Ballabeg Farm.

Location:

Baldrine
(SC432813)

Size:

1.2 hectares

Altitude:

0-40m

Ownership:

Private

Species Count:

Not surveyed

Key Species

Oak (*Quercus x rosacea*)

Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)

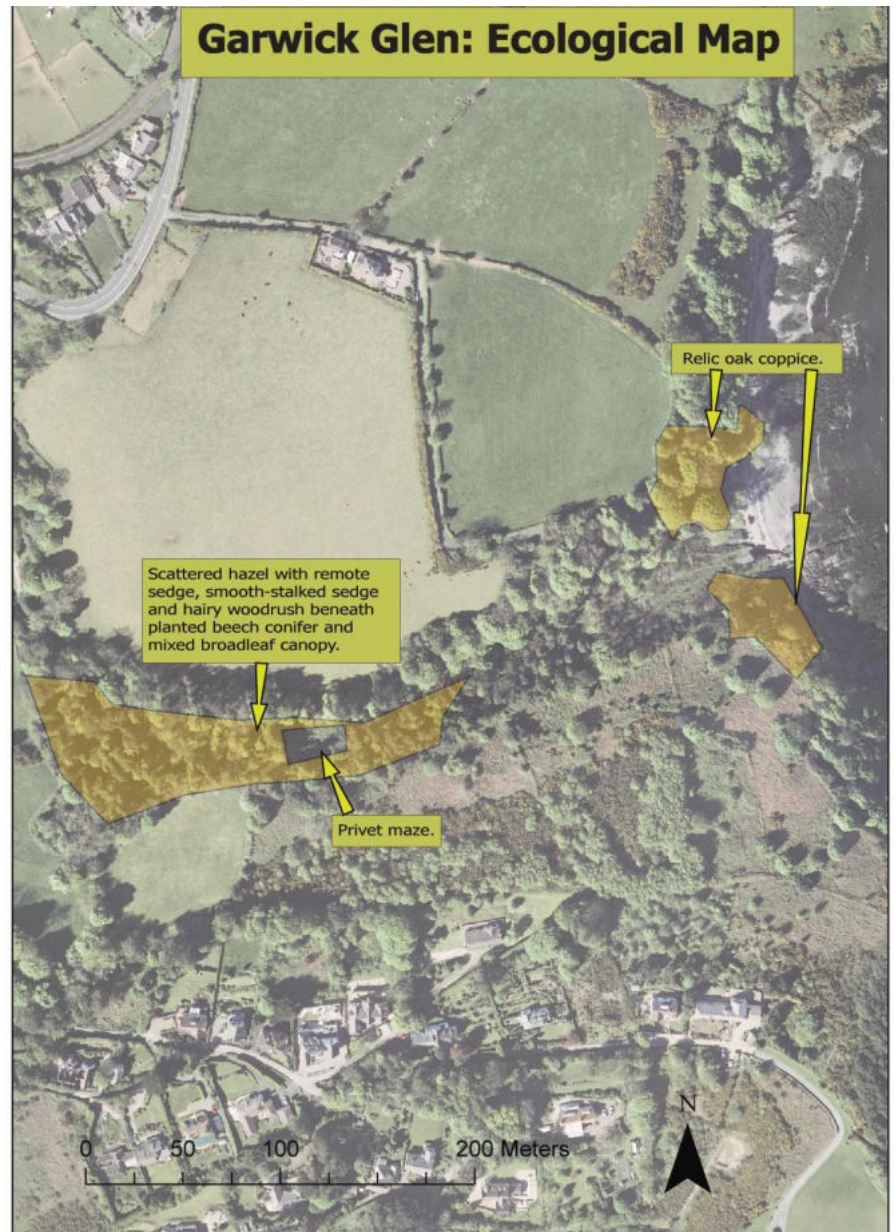
Hairy Woodrush (*Luzula pilosa*)

Smooth-stalked Sedge (*Carex laevigata*)

Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*)

Hard Shield-fern (*Polystichum aculeatum*)**

**Not found during survey



Garwick Glen: Landscape Ecology Map

Legend

-  Scrub Colonisation
-  Oak/Hazel Flora Colonisation
-  Oak/Hazel Woodland
-  Plantation
-  Scrub and Secondary Woodland

