

**Site name: Cullahill Mountain SAC 000831**

**County: Kilkenny**

**Site Specific Conservation Objective (SSCO) Ecological Attributes**  
**[6210] Semi natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous**  
**substrates Festuco Brometalia important orchid sites**

- 1 Habitat area
- 2 Habitat distribution
- 3.1 Vegetation composition: positive indicator species
- 3.2 Vegetation composition: negative indicator species
- 3.3 Vegetation composition: non-native species
- 3.4 Vegetation composition: woody species and bracken
- 4.1 Vegetation structure: broadleaf herb:grass ratio
- 4.2 Vegetation structure: sward height
- 4.3 Vegetation structure: litter
- 5.1 Physical structure: bare soil
- 5.2 Physical structure: grazing or disturbance

Site name: Cullahill Mountain SAC 000831  
Habitat/Species: [6210] Semi-natural dry grasslands  
Site Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCO): To restore the favourable conservation condition of [6210] in SAC 000831

| No. | Ecological Requirements<br>(Attributes as per SSCO)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Pressure /Threat<br>(EU Code 2025)                                       | Pressure/<br>Threat Ranking | EU Conservation Measure Type<br>(EU Code 2019-2024)                                         | Measure<br>Category | Conservation Measure                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Delivery mechanism                                                                                                 | Public Authority with statutory responsibility                                                          | Implementation<br>timeframe | Integration with high level<br>plans/policy:                                 |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | 1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3.1. Vegetation composition: positive indicator species, 3.2. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species, 3.3. Vegetation composition: non-native species, 3.4 Vegetation composition: woody species and bracken, 4.1. Vegetation structure: broadleaf herb:grass ratio, 4.2. Vegetation structure: sward height, 4.3. Vegetation structure: litter, 5.1. Physical structure: bare soil, 5.2. Physical structure: grazing or disturbance. | PA08 Extensive grazing or undergrazing by livestock                      | Low                         | MA05 Adapt mowing, grazing and other equivalent agricultural activities (e.g. burning);     | Statutory           | Consent is required for digging, ploughing, harrowing or otherwise disturbing soil or substrate, if not covered by other regulations. [Consent is not required for these activities on established reseeded grassland or cultivated land provided it is greater than 50m from a river, stream, floodplain, wetland, lake, turlough or pond.]                                                               | <a href="#">European Union Habitats (Cullahill Mountain, Special Area of Conservation 000831) Regulations 2016</a> | Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) | 1997+                       | All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections |
| 2   | 1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3.1. Vegetation composition: positive indicator species, 3.2. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species, 3.3. Vegetation composition: non-native species, 3.4 Vegetation composition: woody species and bracken, 4.1. Vegetation structure: broadleaf herb:grass ratio, 4.2. Vegetation structure: sward height, 4.3. Vegetation structure: litter, 5.1. Physical structure: bare soil, 5.2. Physical structure: grazing or disturbance. | PI02 Other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern)  | Low                         | MI03 Management, control or eradication of other invasive alien species                     | Statutory           | Consent is required for the planting of trees or multi-annual bioenergy crops, if not covered by other regulations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <a href="#">European Union Habitats (Cullahill Mountain, Special Area of Conservation 000831) Regulations 2016</a> | Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) | 1997+                       | All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections |
| 3   | 1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3.1. Vegetation composition: positive indicator species, 3.2. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species, 3.3. Vegetation composition: non-native species, 3.4 Vegetation composition: woody species and bracken, 4.1. Vegetation structure: broadleaf herb:grass ratio, 4.2. Vegetation structure: sward height, 4.3. Vegetation structure: litter, 5.1. Physical structure: bare soil, 5.2. Physical structure: grazing or disturbance. | PA08 Extensive grazing or undergrazing by livestock                      | Low                         | MA05 Adapt mowing, grazing and other equivalent agricultural activities (e.g. burning);     | Statutory           | Consent is required for significant changes in livestock density (including introduction of grazing), changes in livestock type or grazing season, other than on established reseeded grassland, if not covered by other regulations. [Consent is not required for changes of less than 20% in livestock density unless notice has been given that a lower percentage is applicable to a particular site.] | <a href="#">European Union Habitats (Cullahill Mountain, Special Area of Conservation 000831) Regulations 2016</a> | Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) | 1997+                       | All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections |
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| 5   | 1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3.1. Vegetation composition: positive indicator species, 3.2. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species, 3.3. Vegetation composition: non-native species, 3.4 Vegetation composition: woody species and bracken, 4.1. Vegetation structure: broadleaf herb:grass ratio, 4.2. Vegetation structure: sward height, 4.3. Vegetation structure: litter, 5.1. Physical structure: bare soil, 5.2. Physical structure: grazing or disturbance. | All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures                                 | N/A                         | MA - Measures related to agricultural practices and agriculture-related habitats            | Contractual         | 25% uptake of eligible participants (8) in the voluntary Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <a href="#">Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)</a>                                                      | Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)                                                   | 2022                        | <a href="#">CAP Strategic Plan</a>                                           |
| 6   | 1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3.1. Vegetation composition: positive indicator species, 3.2. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species, 3.3. Vegetation composition: non-native species, 3.4 Vegetation composition: woody species and bracken, 4.1. Vegetation structure: broadleaf herb:grass ratio, 4.2. Vegetation structure: sward height, 4.3. Vegetation structure: litter, 5.1. Physical structure: bare soil, 5.2. Physical structure: grazing or disturbance. | All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures                                 | N/A                         | MA03 Maintain existing extensive agricultural practices and agricultural landscape features | Contractual         | Traditional Dry Stone Wall Maintenance (<450 metres) as part of the Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <a href="#">Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)</a>                                                      | Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)                                                   | 2022                        | <a href="#">CAP Strategic Plan</a>                                           |

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| No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Ecological Requirements<br>(Attributes as per SSCO)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Pressure /Threat<br>(EU Code 2025)       | Pressure/<br>Threat Ranking | EU Conservation Measure Type<br>(EU Code 2019-2024)                                     | Measure<br>Category | Conservation Measure                                                                                                                                                                                               | Delivery mechanism                                                                                                         | Public Authority with statutory responsibility                                                          | Implementation<br>timeframe | Integration with high level<br>plans/policy:                                  |
| 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3.1. Vegetation composition: positive indicator species, 3.2. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species, 3.3. Vegetation composition: non-native species, 3.4 Vegetation composition: woody species and bracken, 4.1. Vegetation structure: broadleaf herb:grass ratio, 4.2. Vegetation structure: sward height, 4.3. Vegetation structure: litter, 5.1. Physical structure: bare soil, 5.2. Physical structure: grazing or disturbance. | All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures | N/A                         | MA - Measures related to agricultural practices and agriculture-related habitats        | Contractual         | Production of an accredited Farm Sustainability Plan by 100% of participants in the Agri-Climate Rural Environmental Scheme (ACRES).                                                                               | <a href="#">Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)</a>                                                              | Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)                                                   | 2022                        | <a href="#">CAP Strategic Plan</a>                                            |
| 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3.1. Vegetation composition: positive indicator species, 3.2. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species, 3.3. Vegetation composition: non-native species, 3.4 Vegetation composition: woody species and bracken, 4.1. Vegetation structure: broadleaf herb:grass ratio, 4.2. Vegetation structure: sward height, 4.3. Vegetation structure: litter, 5.1. Physical structure: bare soil, 5.2. Physical structure: grazing or disturbance. | All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures | N/A                         | MA - Measures related to agricultural practices and agriculture-related habitats        | Administrative      | Monitoring and reporting of relevant farm activity at the SAC. Direct inspections for DAFM Conditionality compliance or via other state Authorities (via Cross Reporting) to Integrated Controls Division in DAFM. | <a href="#">DAFM BISS Conditionality Farm inspection's - NPWS Conservation Ranger Site monitoring. (Cross Compliance).</a> | Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)                                                   | 2022+                       | <a href="#">CAP Strategic Plan</a>                                            |
| 9                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3.1. Vegetation composition: positive indicator species, 3.2. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species, 3.3. Vegetation composition: non-native species, 3.4 Vegetation composition: woody species and bracken, 4.1. Vegetation structure: broadleaf herb:grass ratio, 4.2. Vegetation structure: sward height, 4.3. Vegetation structure: litter, 5.1. Physical structure: bare soil, 5.2. Physical structure: grazing or disturbance. | All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures | N/A                         | MA05 Adapt mowing, grazing and other equivalent agricultural activities (e.g. burning); | Administrative      | Development of a Conservation Grazing Programme on the site (2025+) which includes the introduction of Dexter cattle and drinking points throughout site to encourage movement.                                    | <a href="#">NPWS Conservation Measure</a>                                                                                  | Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) | 1997+                       | All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections  |
| 10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3.1. Vegetation composition: positive indicator species, 3.2. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species, 3.3. Vegetation composition: non-native species, 3.4 Vegetation composition: woody species and bracken, 4.1. Vegetation structure: broadleaf herb:grass ratio, 4.2. Vegetation structure: sward height, 4.3. Vegetation structure: litter, 5.1. Physical structure: bare soil, 5.2. Physical structure: grazing or disturbance. | All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures | N/A                         | MA05 Adapt mowing, grazing and other equivalent agricultural activities (e.g. burning)  | Administrative      | Monitoring by regional staff at this SAC between 3/4 times per year. Site is fully fenced and managed by NPWS staff.                                                                                               | <a href="#">NPWS Conservation Measure</a>                                                                                  | Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) | 1997+                       | All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections  |
| 11                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3.1. Vegetation composition: positive indicator species, 3.2. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species, 3.3. Vegetation composition: non-native species, 3.4 Vegetation composition: woody species and bracken, 4.1. Vegetation structure: broadleaf herb:grass ratio, 4.2. Vegetation structure: sward height, 4.3. Vegetation structure: litter, 5.1. Physical structure: bare soil, 5.2. Physical structure: grazing or disturbance. | All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures | N/A                         | MA05 Adapt mowing, grazing and other equivalent agricultural activities (e.g. burning)  | Administrative      | Scrub and bracken encroachment by cattle and mechanical means approx. 2Ha cleared mechanically.                                                                                                                    | <a href="#">NPWS Conservation Measure</a>                                                                                  | Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) | 1997+                       | All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections  |
| 12                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3.1. Vegetation composition: positive indicator species, 3.2. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species, 3.3. Vegetation composition: non-native species, 3.4 Vegetation composition: woody species and bracken, 4.1. Vegetation structure: broadleaf herb:grass ratio, 4.2. Vegetation structure: sward height, 4.3. Vegetation structure: litter, 5.1. Physical structure: bare soil, 5.2. Physical structure: grazing or disturbance. | All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures | N/A                         | MI05 Management of problematic native species                                           | Administrative      | Report into Developing a Sustainable Deer Management Strategy for Ireland.                                                                                                                                         | <a href="#">Deer Management Strategy</a>                                                                                   | Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) | 2023                        | All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections. |

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| 14  | 1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3.1. Vegetation composition: positive indicator species, 3.2. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species, 3.3. Vegetation composition: non-native species, 3.4 Vegetation composition: woody species and bracken, 4.1. Vegetation structure: broadleaf herb:grass ratio, 4.2. Vegetation structure: sward height, 4.3. Vegetation structure: litter, 5.1. Physical structure: bare soil, 5.2. Physical structure: grazing or disturbance. | All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures | N/A                         | MJ01 Implement climate change mitigation measures, MJ02 Implement climate change adaptation measures                                 | Administrative      | A roadmap of actions to assist in the achievement of climate change objectives by no later than the end of the year 2050. | <a href="#">Ireland's Climate Action Plan</a>                                                                      | All Government Departments                                                                              | 2019+                       | <a href="#">Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021</a> |
| 15  | 1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3.1. Vegetation composition: positive indicator species, 3.2. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species, 3.3. Vegetation composition: non-native species, 3.4 Vegetation composition: woody species and bracken, 4.1. Vegetation structure: broadleaf herb:grass ratio, 4.2. Vegetation structure: sward height, 4.3. Vegetation structure: litter, 5.1. Physical structure: bare soil, 5.2. Physical structure: grazing or disturbance. | All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures | N/A                         | MF08 Manage changes in hydrological and coastal systems and regimes for construction and development (incl. restoration of habitats. | Statutory           | Regulation controlling unconsented development at this site.                                                              | <a href="#">Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.</a>                                                     | Local Authority/An Coimisiún Pleanála                                                                   | 2000+                       | All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections   |
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