

Site name: Spahill and Clomantagh Hill SAC 000849

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: Spahill and Clomantagh Hill SAC 000849 Habitat/Species: [6210] Semi-natural dry grasslands (SSCO): To restore the favourable conservation condition of [6210] in SAC 000849										
No.	Ecological Requirements (Attributes as per SSCO)	Pressure /Threat (EU Code 2025)	Pressure/ Threat Ranking	EU Conservation Measure Type (EU Code 2019-2024)	Measure Category	Conservation Measure	Delivery mechanism	Public Authority with statutory responsibility	Implementation timeframe	Integration with high level 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.	PI02 Other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern)	Medium	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.	European Union Habitats (Spahill and Clomantagh Hill Special Area of Conservation 000849). Regulations 2021	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	Regulation relating to Invasive Alien Species.	European Union (Invasive Alien Species). Regulations 2024	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/ National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)/ Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine	2024+	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.	PI02 Other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern)	Low	MI04 Restoration of habitats affected by invasive alien species (incl. of Union concern and others)	Administrative	Target to control and where possible, eradicate Invasive Alien Species within Protected Areas by 2030.	Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan. 2023–2030	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/ National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) & relevant stakeholders	2023	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections.
4	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.	PI03 Problematic native species	Medium	MI05 Management of problematic native species	Administrative	Report into Developing a Sustainable Deer Management Strategy for Ireland.	Deer Management Strategy	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
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.	PA07 Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock	High	MA05 Adapt mowing, grazing and other equivalent agricultural activities (e.g. burning)	Contractual	Mowing restrictions (mowing not permitted between March 15th and July 1st) in lands participating in Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) conservation actions for extensively grazed pasture (6% of terrestrial SAC area).	Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022+	CAP Strategic Plan
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.	PA07 Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock	High	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.]	European Union Habitats (Spahill and Clomantagh Hill Special Area of Conservation 000849). Regulations 2021	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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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.	PA08 Extensive grazing or undergrazing by livestock	High	MA03 Maintain existing extensive agricultural practices and agricultural landscape features	Contractual	Maintenance of a diverse sward with open vegetation by grazing in lands participating in Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) conservation actions for extensively grazed pasture (6% of terrestrial SAC area).	Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022+	CAP Strategic Plan
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.	PA08 Extensive grazing or undergrazing by livestock	High	MA07 Restoration of Annex I agricultural habitats (incl. re-establish and improve)	Contractual	22% of terrestrial habitat in Spahill and Clomantagh Hill SAC is subject to conservation results based scoring of the habitat as part of the Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES).	Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022+	CAP Strategic Plan
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.	PA02 Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning)	High	MA01 Prevent conversion of natural and semi-natural habitats, and habitats of species into agricultural land	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.]	European Union Habitats (Spahill and Clomantagh Hill Special Area of Conservation 000849). Regulations 2021	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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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	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.	DAFM BISS Conditionality Farm inspection's - NPWS Conservation Ranger Site monitoring. (Cross Compliance).	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022+	CAP Strategic Plan

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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	MA - Measures related to agricultural practices and agriculture-related habitats	Contractual	At least four grass species (excluding ryegrasses) or a mosaic of acid grassland and heath with varying levels of grazable woody forage plants required in lands participating in Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) conservation actions for extensively grazed pasture (6% of terrestrial SAC area).	Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022+	CAP Strategic Plan
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	MA03 Maintain existing extensive agricultural practices and agricultural landscape features	Contractual	Prohibition on cutting hedgerows below a height of 1.8 metres in lands participating in in Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) conservation actions for extensively grazed pasture (6% of terrestrial SAC area).	Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022+	CAP Strategic Plan
16	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	MA10 Reduce/eliminate point or diffuse source pollution to surface or ground waters (including marine) from agricultural activities	Contractual	Limited fertiliser application (max of 40kg/ha of nitrogen) in lands participating in Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) conservation actions for extensively grazed pasture (6% of terrestrial SAC area).	Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022+	CAP Strategic Plan
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18	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	MA10 Reduce/eliminate point or diffuse source pollution to surface or ground waters (including marine) from agricultural activities	Contractual	Fencing of watercourses, at least 1.5m from the top of bank if bovines present, in lands participating in Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) conservation actions for extensively grazed pasture (6% of terrestrial SAC area).	Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022	CAP Strategic Plan

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20	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	Protection And Maintenance Of Archaeological Monuments (x1) as part of the Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES).	Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022+	CAP Strategic Plan
21	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 (261 metres) as part of the Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES).	Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022+	CAP Strategic Plan
22	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).	Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022+	CAP Strategic Plan
23	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	MH03 Reduce impact of other specific human activities	Statutory	Control of activities, if not covered by other regulations, which could negatively impact on this SAC.	European Union Habitats (Spahill and Clomantagh Hill Special Area of Conservation 000849) Regulations 2021	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
24	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.	Ireland's Climate Action Plan	All Government Departments	2019+	Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021

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