Site name: **Pilgrim's Road Esker SAC 001776**
County: **Offaly**

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: Pilgrim's Road Esker SAC 001776
Habitat/Species: [6210] Semi-natural dry grasslands
Site Specific Conservation Objectives (SSCO): To maintain the favourable conservation condition of [6210] in SAC 001776

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)	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.	European Union Habitats (Pilgrim's Road Esker Special Area of Conservation 001776) Regulations 2025.	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.	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
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.	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 changing of agricultural use from hay meadow to any other use, if not covered by other regulations.	European Union Habitats (Pilgrim's Road Esker Special Area of Conservation 001776) Regulations 2025.	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
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.	PA02 Conversion from one type of agricultural land use to another (excluding drainage and burning)	High	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.	Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.	Local Authority/An Coimisiún Pleanála	2000+	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.	PA08 Extensive grazing or undergrazing 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 (Pilgrim's Road Esker Special Area of Conservation 001776) Regulations 2025.	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
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.	PC01 Extraction of minerals (e.g. rock, metal ores, gravel, sand, shell)	High	MC01 Adapt/manage extraction of non-energy resources	Statutory	Consent is required for blasting, drilling, dredging or otherwise removing or disturbing fossils, rock, minerals, mud, sand, gravel or other sediment, if not covered by other regulations.	European Union Habitats (Pilgrim's Road Esker Special Area of Conservation 001776) Regulations 2025.	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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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:
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.	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 (Pilgrim's Road Esker Special Area of Conservation 001776) Regulations 2025.	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
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	Contractual	60% uptake of eligible participants (10) in the voluntary Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES).	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.	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
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	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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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	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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13	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.	Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.	Local Authority/An Coimisiún Pleanála	2000+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections