

Site name: Ballyprior Grassland SAC 002256

County: Laois

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

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Habitat/Species: [6210] Semi-natural dry grasslands
(SSCO): To restore the favourable conservation condition of [6210] in SAC 002256

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.	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.
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)	Medium	MI03 Management, control or eradication of other invasive alien species	Statutory	Consent is required for cutting, uprooting or otherwise removing plants, if not covered by other regulations. [Consent is not required for harvesting of cultivated crops, or for grazing or mowing.]	European Union Habitats (Ballyprior Grassland, Special Area of Conservation 002256) Regulations, 2016	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	2000+	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)	Medium	MI03 Management, control or eradication of other invasive alien species	Statutory	Consent is required for burning, topping, clearing scrub or rough vegetation or reseeded, 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 20m from a river, stream or floodplain; or greater than 50m from a wetland, lake, turlough or pond.]	European Union Habitats (Ballyprior Grassland, Special Area of Conservation 002256) Regulations, 2016	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	2000+	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.	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 bio	European Union Habitats (Ballyprior Grassland, Special Area of Conservation 002256) Regulations, 2016	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	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.	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 (Ballyprior Grassland, Special Area of Conservation 002256) Regulations, 2016	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	2000+	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.	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 cutting, uprooting or otherwise removing plants, if not covered by other regulations. [Consent is not required for harvesting of cultivated crops, or for grazing or mowing.]	European Union Habitats (Ballyprior Grassland, Special Area of Conservation 002256) Regulations, 2016	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	2000+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections.
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.	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 (Ballyprior Grassland, Special Area of Conservation 002256) Regulations, 2016	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	2000+	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:
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	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 (Ballyprior Grassland Special Area of Conservation 002256) Regulations, 2016	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	2000+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections.
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.	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 (Ballyprior Grassland Special Area of Conservation 002256) Regulations, 2016	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	2000+	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.	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 (Ballyprior Grassland Special Area of Conservation 002256) Regulations, 2016	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	2000+	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	MH03 Reduce impact of other specific human activities	Statutory	Control of activities, if not covered by other regulations, which could negatively impact on Ballyprior Grassland SAC.	European Union Habitats (Ballyprior Grassland Special Area of Conservation 002256) Regulations, 2016	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	2000+	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	MF08 Manage changes in hydrological and coastal system	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.
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	MJ01 Implement climate change mitigation measures, MJ02	Administrative	A roadmap of actions to assist in the achievement of climate change objectives	Ireland's Climate Action Plan	All Government Departments	2019+	Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021
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 agricultural land	Contractual	Production of an accredited Farm Sustainability Plan by 100%	Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022	CAP Strategic Plan

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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	MC01 Adapt/manage extraction of non-energy resources	Contractual	A semi-natural grasslands survey will be carried out at this site	Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022	CAP Strategic Plan
17	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 agricu	Administrative	Monitoring and reporting of relevant farm activity at the SAC. D	DAFM BJSS Conditionality Farm inspection's – NPWS Conservation Ranger Site monitoring. (Cross Compliance).	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022+	CAP Strategic Plan