BINEVENAGH SAC
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CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

Document Details

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1. INTRODUCTION

EU Member States have a clear responsibility under the Habitats and Birds Directives[1] to ensure that all habitats and species of Community Interest are maintained or restored to Favourable Conservation Status (FCS). Natura 2000 sites have a crucial role to play in achieving this overall objective since they are the most important core sites for these species and habitats. Each site must therefore be managed in a way that ensures it contributes as effectively as possible to helping the species and habitats for which it has been designated reach a favourable conservation status within the EU.

To ensure that each Natura 2000 site contributes fully to reaching this overall target of FCS, it is important to set clear conservation objectives for each individual site. These should define the desired state, within that particular site, of each of the species and habitat types for which the site was designated.

Once a site has been included in the Natura 2000 network, Member States are required to implement, on each site, the necessary conservation measures which correspond to the ecological requirements of the protected habitat types and species of Community Interest present, according to Article 6.1 of the Habitats Directive. They must also prevent any damaging activities that could significantly disturb those species and habitats (Article 6.2) and to protect the site from new potentially damaging plans and projects likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site (Article 6.3, 6.4).

Conservation measures can include both site-specific measures (i.e. management actions and/or management restrictions) and horizontal measures that apply to many Natura 2000 sites over a larger area (e.g. measures to reduce nitrate pollution or to regulate hunting or resource use).

In Northern Ireland, Natura 2000 sites are usually underpinned by the designation of an Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) under the Environment (NI) Order 2002 (as amended).

[1] 92/43/EEC and 2009/147/EC (codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended)

2. ROLE OF CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

Conservation Objectives have a role in

- Conservation Planning and Management – guide management of sites, to maintain or restore the habitats and species in favourable condition

- Assessing Plans and Projects, as required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive - Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRA) are required to assess proposed plans and projects in light of the site's conservation objectives.

- Monitoring and Reporting – Provide the basis for assessing the condition of a feature, the factors that affect it and the actions required.

3. DEFINITION OF FAVOURABLE CONSERVATION STATUS

Favourable Conservation Status is defined in Articles 1(e) and 1(i) of the Habitats Directive:

The conservation status of a natural habitat is the sum of the influences acting on it and its typical species that may affect its long-term natural distribution, structure and functions as well as the long term survival of its typical species. The conservation status of a natural habitat will be taken as favourable when:

- Its natural range and areas it covers within that range are stable or increasing, and
- The specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- The conservation status of its typical species is favourable as defined in Article 1(i).

For species, favourable conservation status is defined in Article 1(i) as when:

- population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and;
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and;
- there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its population on a long term basis.

3.1 DEFINITION OF FAVOURABLE CONDITION

Favourable Condition is defined as "**the target condition for an interest feature in terms of the abundance, distribution and/or quality of that feature within the site**".

The standards for favourable condition (Common Standards) have been developed by JNCC and are applied throughout the UK. Achieving Favourable Condition on individual sites will make an important contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status across the Natura 2000 network.

4. SITE INFORMATION

COUNTY: LONDONDERRY

GRID REFERENCE: IC 686309

AREA: 90.79 ha

5. SUMMARY SITE DESCRIPTION

Binevenagh is an important outcrop of basalt, having contributed to a fuller understanding of development of the Antrim Lava Group as a whole. It exhibits well-defined flow units and pahoehoe surfaces. Mass movement during late or post-glacial times has resulted in large slipped masses of basalt.

The cliffs at Binevenagh have a unique assemblage of arctic alpine plants and bryophytes, including Mountain Avens *Dryas octopetala* and Purple Saxifrage *Saxifraga oppositifolia*. The grasslands below the cliff are typically quite acid and are nationally important for their fungi, particularly waxcaps (*Hygrocybe*). Locally there is slightly calcareous dry grassland, which is rich in sedges and herbs.

Further details of the site are contained in the ASSI Citation and Views About Management statement, which are available on the NIEA website (www.doeni.gov.uk/niea).

5.1 BOUNDARY RATIONALE

The SAC/ASSI boundary has been drawn to include all extents of cliff supporting arctic alpine species. This forms the basis for including the small length of cliff within Forest Service ownership. This area is marked as commercial forestry on FS planting maps but its inclusion was agreed by FS as it is cliff and is unplanted

and likely to remain so. The lands to the south of the NNR boundary contains some cliff with alpine species and also a significant proportion of the species-rich dry calcareous grassland found in the area. The boundary thus takes in lands to the south, which in places is variable in quality back to a definite boundary.

6. SAC SELECTION FEATURES

Feature type	Feature	Global Status	Size/ extent/ pop~
Habitat	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	B	4.7ha
Habitat	Species-rich *Nardus* grassland, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in continental Europe)	C	6.7ha
Habitat	Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (*Thlaspietea rotundifolii*)	C	2.9ha

Table 1. List of SAC selection features. Those with global status A-C will be referred to in ANNEX I.

The global status is an expert judgement of the overall value of the site for the conservation of the relevant Annex I habitat. Sites have been graded A, B or C - in the UK these gradings have been interpreted as follows:

A - Sites holding outstanding examples of the habitat in a European context.

B - Sites holding excellent stands of the habitat, significantly above the threshold for SSSI/ASSI notification but of somewhat lower value than grade A sites.

C - Examples of the habitat which are of at least national interest (i.e. usually above the thresholdfor SSSI/ASSI notification on terrestrial sites) but not significantly above this. These habitats are not the primary reason for SACs being selected.

D - Habitat present but not of sufficient extent or quality to merit listing as SAC feature.

There is therefore a distinction between the principal features for which sites have been selected (those graded A or B) and those which are only of secondary interest (those graded C). This is a useful distinction but it is important to note that all three grades are qualifying SAC interest features.

Click here to go to the Natura 2000 Standard Data Form for Binevenagh SAC.

6.1 ASSI SELECTION FEATURES

Binevenagh ASSI

Feature Type	Feature	Size/ extent/ pop~
Habitat	Inland Rock	7.6 ha
Habitat	Calcareous Grassland	6.7 ha
Species	Higher plant assemblage	
Species	Lower plant assemblage	
Species	Fungi assemblage	
Species	Invertebrate assemblage	
Earth Science	Tertiary igneous	

Table 2. List of ASSI features.

7. CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

The ***Conservation Objective*** for this site is:

To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the

- **Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation**
- **Species-rich *Nardus* grassland, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in continental Europe)**
- **Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (*Thlaspietea rotundifolii*)**

to favourable condition.

For each SAC feature, there are a number of component objectives which are outlined in the table below. These include a series of attributes, measures and targets which form the basis of *Condition Assessment*. The results of this will determine whether the feature is in favourable condition or not. The feature attributes and measures are found in the attached annex.

8. SAC SELECTION FEATURE OBJECTIVE REQUIREMENTS

Feature	Global Status	Component Objective
Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	B	Maintain the existing Arctic Alpine cliff vegetation.
Species-rich *Nardus* grassland, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in continental Europe)	C	Maintain and expand the extent of existing species-rich dry calcareous grasslands (CG10).
		Maintain and enhance species diversity within the CG10 community including the presence of notable species.
		Seek nature conservation management over suitable areas immediately outside the SAC where there is possibility of restoring calcareous grassland.
		Maintain the diversity and quality of habitats associated with the calcareous grassland, e.g. acid grasslands, wet heath, scrub, especially where these exhibit natural transition to calcareous grassland.
Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (*Thlaspietea rotundifolii*)	C	Maintain the existing scree and associated plant communities.

9. ASSI FEATURE OBJECTIVE REQUIREMENTS

Feature	Component Objective
Inland Rock	See SAC Selection Feature Objective Requirements table.
Calcareous Grassland	See SAC Selection Feature Objective Requirements table.
Higher plant assemblage	Maintain viable populations, and enhance where practicable, the species comprising the rare plant assemblage. (Species are *Orobanche alba*, *Juniperus communis*, *Saxifraga oppositifolia*, *Silene acaulis*, *Dryas octopetala*)
Lower plant assemblage.	To be finalised.
Fungi assemblage	Maintain and expand acid grassland communities and their associated mycota (there are areas of Bracken which if controlled could support such species).

Invertebrate assemblage	To be finalised.
Tertiary igneous	Maintain the extent of the site.
	Maintain the extent of the feature.
	Maintain the access of the feature including retaining the potential to expose the full geological series as required.

10. MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Ownership

The greatest proportion of the area is owned by Northern Ireland Environment Agency and is a National Nature Reserve (declared 1987). A small extension to this area in the north-east is in Forest Service ownership and although marked as commercial forestry on their planting maps, only includes the steep cliffs. The area to the south of the NNR boundary is privately owned.

The field units are managed as pasture. Sheep graze the NNR area under a grazing agreement. The area in private ownership is sheep and cattle grazed. The cliffs are unmanaged. Any direct management is likely to be minimal and fraught with difficulty if required.

11. MAIN THREATS, PRESSURES AND ACTIVITIES WITH IMPACTS ON THE SITE

Both on-site and off-site activities can potentially affect SAC/ASSI features. The list below is not exhaustive, but deals with the most likely factors that are either affecting Binevenagh, or could affect it in the future.

Although **Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation, Species-rich *Nardus* grassland, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in continental Europe) and Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (*Thlaspietea rotundifolii*)** are the qualifying SAC features, factors affecting ASSI features are also considered.

NOTE - Carrying out any of the Notifiable Operations listed in the ASSI schedule could affect the site.

Application of fertiliser

There is no information on the current rate of fertiliser application on the site, but HST survey suggests that treatment rates are low or non-existent over much of the site with the exception of the lands to the south where there is some evidence of recent nutrient additions. Research indicates that the application of any inorganic fertiliser to grassland leads to a reduction in species diversity and loss of

important grassland fungi through nutrient enrichment. Therefore the ultimate aim should be to eliminate fertiliser use altogether.

ACTION: Through liaison with owner/occupiers evaluate current use of inorganic fertilisers to eliminate or minimise any applications that may cause enrichment.

Additions of manure/slurry

There was no evidence of any additions of manure/slurry. Whilst additions of farmyard manure are part of traditional meadow management, significant increases in organic nitrogen will lead to a loss in species diversity. Generally, slurry should not be applied.

ACTION: Through liaison with owner/occupiers evaluate current use of organic fertilisers to eliminate or minimise any applications that may cause enrichment.

Grazing

Across the NNR, there is a grazing agreement which allows up to 250 sheep. In general, their numbers range from 100-200 max with the stock being removed for short periods of time e.g. for lambing. HST survey showed that some parts of the area are scrubby, particularly the southern end of the site, where grazing has only been encouraged relatively recently. Under-grazing or cessation of grazing results in fields becoming rank, with a loss in species diversity and ultimately, scrub encroachment. Scrub encroachment is a natural successional development, but results from neglect or under-grazing. Often scrub invades from old hedge-banks, adversely affecting the grasslands by shading out ground flora. On the other hand, over-grazing leads to physical damage through poaching, in addition to reducing species diversity. The correct grazing level should promote the maintenance of a species-rich sward and maintain the presence of grassland fungi on the site.

ACTION: Through liaison with owner/occupiers evaluate current grazing levels and ensure the grazing levels are appropriate to maintain each habitat type.

Supplementary feeding

Supplementary feeding of livestock can lead to severe localised poaching and the risk of soil nutrient enrichment. Hay from an alternative source can lead to alien species colonising the site. Any supplementary feeding at Binevenagh should be restricted to field units outside the boundary of the site, if at all possible. It should be carefully controlled and monitored.

ACTION: Ensure any supplementary feeding at Binevenagh is restricted to field units outside the boundary of the site, if at all possible. If supplementary feeding does take place within the site it should be carefully controlled and monitored.

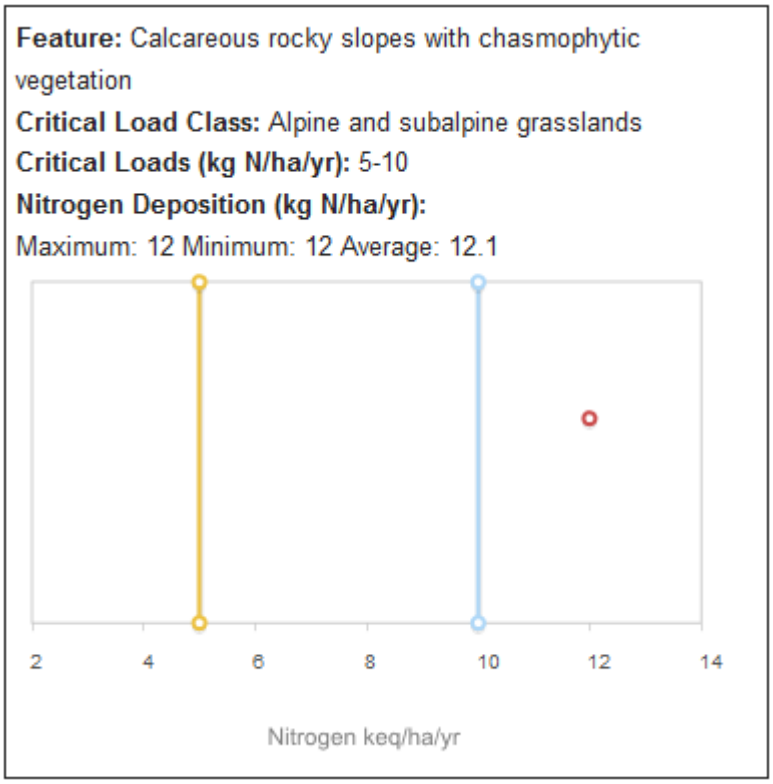
Activities on the cliff

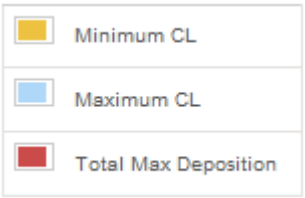
Climbing with its associated "gardening" could have a significant impact on the alpine vegetation. There is no history of climbing, probably due to the friable nature of the basalts. Any significant increase in recreational activities either on the cliff or at its base could have a damaging affect on the calcareous grasslands associated with the thin basalt soils around the base of the cliff.

ACTION: Monitor the impacts of recreational activities on the cliff and restrict any damaging impacts when necessary.

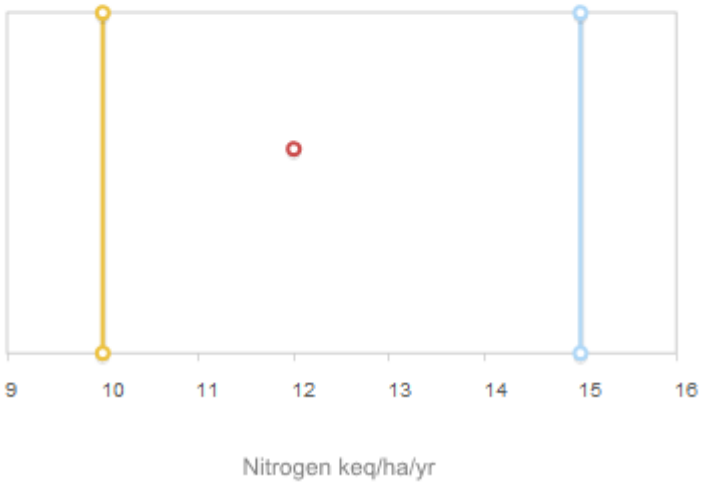
Nitrogen Deposition

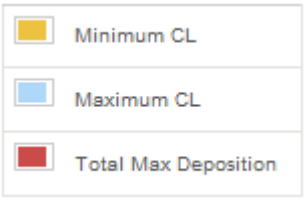
Excess nitrogen deposition can favour the growth of competitive plants and lead to changes in ecosystem structure or function and to a reduction in biodiversity. National scale studies show the potential adverse effects of excess nitrogen on natural and semi-natural habitats to be widespread across the UK. Lower and upper critical loads have been calculated for Binevenagh SAC.

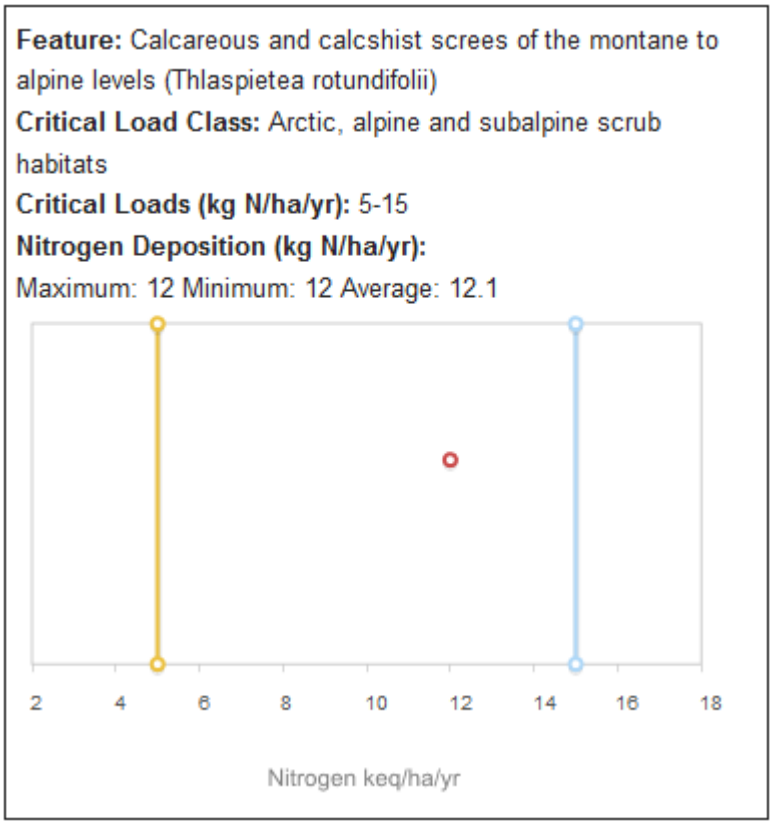


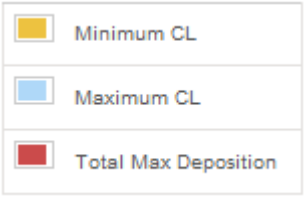


Feature: Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe)
Critical Load Class: Non-mediterranean dry acid and neutral closed grassland
Critical Loads (kg N/ha/yr): 10-15
Nitrogen Deposition (kg N/ha/yr):
Maximum: 12 Minimum: 12 Average: 12.1









(Source: Air Pollution Information System (APIS) website - www.apis.ac.uk)

ACTION: Seek to maintain or where necessary, restore concentrations and deposition of air pollutants to at or below the site-relevant critical load.

Changes to surrounding land use

Any changes in local land-use e.g. agricultural intensification, drainage works and development) may be detrimental to the SAC.

Action: Reduce the risk of surrounding agricultural intensification by encouraging the adjacent owner/occupiers to enter into agri-environment schemes. Use Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRAs), through the planning process, to minimise any development risks adjacent to the SAC.

Climate Change

Northern Ireland faces changes to its climate over the next century. Indications are that we will face hotter, drier summers, warmer winters and more frequent extreme weather events.

ACTION: When developing SAC management plans, the likely future impacts of climate change should be considered and appropriate changes made.

12. MONITORING

Monitoring of SACs takes place using two monitoring techniques.

Site Integrity Monitoring (SIM) is carried out to ensure compliance with the ASSI/ SAC Schedule. The most likely processes of change will either be picked up by SIM (e.g. dumping, burning, turf cutting, grazing etc.) or will be comparatively slow (e.g. gradual degradation of the habitat).

These longer-term changes will be picked up by monitoring of the feature via Site Condition Assessment - this is carried out on a rolling basis to pick up subtle changes in the condition of the feature.

The method for Site Condition Assessment was agreed by the relevant JNCC-led Lead Co-ordination Network although the methodology has been modified to reflect individual site attributes in Northern Ireland.

12.1 MONITORING SUMMARY

1. *Monitor the integrity of the site (SIM or Compliance Monitoring)*
Monitor the integrity of the site, in particular over-grazing of the grassland and ensure compliance with NNR grazing agreement. This SIM should be carried out once a year.

2. Monitor the condition of the site (Condition Assessment)
Monitor the key attributes for each of the SAC selection features. This will detect if the features are in favourable condition or not. See Annex I.

The favourable condition table provided in Annex 1 is intended to supplement the conservation objectives only in relation to management of established and ongoing activities and future reporting requirements on monitoring condition of the site and its features. It does not by itself provide a comprehensive basis on which to assess plans and projects, but it does provide a basis to inform the scope and nature of any Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) that may be needed. It should be noted that completion of a HRA is a separate activity to condition monitoring, requiring consideration of issues specific to individual plans or projects.

13. REFERENCES

Cooper, A., McCann, T. and Rogers, D. (2009). Northern Ireland Countryside Survey 2007: Broad Habitat Change 1998-2007. Northern Ireland Environment Agency Research and Development Series No.09/06

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European Commission (2001). Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

European Commission (2014). Establishing conservation measures for Natura 2000 Sites.

Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) (2013). 3rd UK Habitats Directive Report.

ANNEX I

Feature 1 (SAC) - Calcerous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation (Status B)

* = primary attribute. One failure among primary attribute = unfavourable condition

Attribute	Target	Method of Assessment	Comments
* Extent of community	Maintain the extent of Calcareous rocky slopes at no less than 4.7ha	Visual estimate in 2x2m plots and across the rocky slopes using a combination of aerial photographs, SIM and Condition Assessment structured walk.	
* Frequency of community character species - *Silene acaulis, Saxifraga oppositifolia, Dryas octopetala, Asplenium adiantum nigrum, Asplenium trichomanes, Asplenium ruta-muraria, Armeria maritima, Silene uniflora*	Two at least frequent and two at least occasional in suitable fissures.	Presence recorded in 2x2m plots and then establish frequency in 2x2m plots throughout the entire site by working out % plots that species occurs within.	

* Extent of human or animal disturbance of scree	Man or animal induced/enhanced disturbance of the scree should occupy less than 5% of the total area of scree.	Visual estimate within a 10m radius of plot.	This relates to damage caused at base of cliff, for example climbers gaining access to the rock face.

Frequency -
1-20% = Rare
21-40% = Occasional
41- 60% = Frequent
> 60% = Constant

Feature 2 (SAC) – Species-rich Nardus grassland, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in continental Europe) (Status C)

* = primary attribute. One failure among primary attribute = unfavourable condition

Attribute	Target	Method of Assessment	Comments
*Extent of Calcareous Grassland	Maintain the extent of Calcareous grassland at 6.7ha.	Visual estimate in 2x2m plots and across the calcareous grassland using a combination of aerial photographs, SIM and Condition Assessment structured walk.	In exceptional circumstances, target may be set to accept some loss to other habitat, e.g. if required by specialist taxa or other SAC feature in a mosaic such as rush pasture grassland Threshold areas for assessing 'significant' loss will vary according to site and the quality of available vegetation maps and/or aerial photos.
Presence of associated semi-natural habitats	Maintain existing associated semi-natural habitats.	Visual estimate in 2x2m plots and across the SAC using a combination of aerial photographs, SIM and Condition Assessment structured walk.	Repeat monitoring of plots using GPS should indicate whether mosaics and associated habitats have changed or been lost.
Height of pasture (cm)	Mean vegetation height 2-15cm	Visual estimate in 2x2m plots.	Outside target indicates insufficient grazing or over-grazing. This attribute can contribute to a loss of positive indicator species and herb richness. Note that this figure is for pasture and

			that a late visit to a hay meadow may come out over or under this target
% Cover litter in a more or less continuous layer, distributed either in patches or in one larger area.	Less than 25% mean cover	Visual estimate in 2x2m plots.	Outside of the target indicates insufficient management either by lack of grazing or mowing. This attribute can contribute to a loss of positive indicator species and herb richness.
% Cover bare ground **not rock** extent, noticeable without disturbing the vegetation.	Less than 10% mean cover	Visual estimate in 2x2m plots.	Outside of the target indicates excessive trampling or sward disturbance and can lead to agricultural weed infestation or loss of herb richness and positive indicators.
* Cover of herbs, sedges and wood-rushes	30 - 90% herbs	Visual estimate in 2x2m plots.	Note sedges taken as honorary herbs with small wood rushes
* Frequency of Community character species - *Alchemilla sp, Anthyllis vulnearia, Campanula rotundifolia, Carex caryophyllea, Carex flacca, Carex panicea, Carex pulicaris, Danthonia*	Three at least frequent and four at least occasional throughout the sward. At least frequent is equivalent to greater than 41% occurrence in recorded plots. At least occasional is equivalent to greater than 21% occurrence in recorded plots	Presence recorded in 2x2m plots and then establish frequency in 2x2m plots throughout the entire site by working out % plots that species occurs within.	

decumbens, Euphrasia sp, Galium verum, Koeleria macrantha, Linum catharticum, Lotus corniculatus, Pilosella officinarum, Polygala sp, Potentilla erecta, Primula vulgaris, Ranunculus bulbosus, Succisa pratensis, Thymus polytrichus, Veronica officinalis			
Where a site holds populations of rare species two of the following at least rare. *Saxifraga hypnoides, Gentianella* sp, *Galium sterneri, Minuartia verna, Selaginella selaginoides.*	Two of the rare species at least rare throughout the sward.	Presence recorded in 2x2m plots and then establish frequency in 2x2m plots throughout the entire site by working out % plots that species occurs within.	Confirm with citation and site notes.
* Cover of negative indicators - *Bellis perennis, Holcus lanatus, Ranunculus repens, Lolium perenne,*	No species should be individually at more than 10% cover or combined at more than 15% cover.	Visual estimate in 2x2m plots.	Care should be taken with the setting of these targets as thresholds may vary considerably by site and conservation goals.

Trifolium repens			
* Frequency and cover of negative indicators *Cirsium arvense* *Cirsium vulgare* *Plantago major* *Urtica dioica* *Senecio jacobaea*	No more than one negative more than occasional throughout the sward or individually at more than 5% and combined at more than 10%. *Senecio jacobaea* no more than 10% cover.	Presence recorded within 2x2m plots and frequency worked out throughout the sward.	The majority of the listed agricultural species respond to some form of nutrient enrichment. Therefore high or increasing frequency/cover will generally indicate unfavourable condition. However, *S. jacobaea* often reflects grazing management rather than soil nutrient status, and some horse-grazed pastures with frequent *S. jacobaea* can be potentially favourable, where other agricultural weeds are absent or at very low levels.
* Frequency and cover of rank grasses.	No more than 10% cover and no increases in cover of 20% above baseline.	Presence recorded within 2x2m plots and frequency worked out throughout the sward.	*Arrhenatherum elatius, Dactylis glomerata.*
* Cover of *Juncus effusus*	Cover should not exceed 10%	Visual estimate in 2x2m plots.	
*Cover of scrub/tree species (except *Salix repens, Juniper communis* or ericoids). Where invertebrates are an interest feature a higher cover of scrub may be acceptable.	No more than 5% mean cover within the sward as measured in 10m radius of the plot.	Visual estimate within a 10m radius of plot.	These targets should be used with caution. Scrub and tree cover can form a useful transition habitat across part of a site, but if more than occasional throughout a sward, even at less than 5% cover, scrub can soon become a problem if grazing levels are not sufficient or if control measures are not being carried out. High scrub cover may be required at sites with specialist invertebrate interest.

*Cover of *Pteridium aquilinum*	No more than 10% mean cover within the sward as measured in 10m radius of the plot.	Visual estimate within a 10m radius of plot.	
Rare or scarce species specific to the site or locally distinctive attributes not covered above	Site dependent.		It is recommended that the appropriate size class and extent of scarce taxa be recorded. For plants, recommended size classes are as follows for number of shoots (or ramets): very small 1-10; small 11-100; medium 101-1000, large 1001-10000; very large >10000.

Frequency -
1-20% = Rare
21-40% = Occasional
41- 60% = Frequent
> 60% = Constant

Feature 3 (SAC) – Calcerous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (Status C)

(* = primary attribute. One failure among primary attribute = unfavourable condition

Attribute	Target	Method of Assessment	Comments
* Extent of community	Maintain the extent of Calcareous and calcshist scree at no less than 2.9ha	Visual estimate in 2x2m plots and across the calcareous and calschist scree using a combination of aerial photographs, SIM and Condition Assessment structured walk.	Further research is necessary to establish extent of active scree.
* % Cover bare rock extent, noticeable without disturbing the vegetation.	At least 33% mean cover	Visual estimate in 2x2m plots.	The majority of plants should be growing through gaps between rocks, not forming a mat of vegetation over the rocks.
Frequency of community character species - *Geranium robertianum, Oxalis acetosella, Dryopteris* spp.	At least two species occasional over the scree.	Presence recorded in 2x2m plots and then establish frequency in 2x2m plots throughout the entire site by working out % plots that species occurs within.	

* Cover and frequency of scrub/tree species (except *Juniper communis*)	No more than 25% mean cover across the scree or no more than occasional across scree.	Visual estimate within a 10m radius of plot.	
* Extent of human or animal disturbance of scree	Man or animal induced/enhanced disturbance of the scree should occupy less than 5% of the total area of scree.	Visual estimate within a 10m radius of plot.	

Frequency -
1-20% = Rare
21-40% = Occasional
41- 60% = Frequent
> 60% = Constant