

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Conservation Objectives Series

Mountmellick SAC 002141



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

**National Parks and Wildlife Service,
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage,
90 King Street North, Dublin 7, D07 N7CV, Ireland.
Web: www.npws.ie
E-mail: nature.conservation@chg.gov.ie**

Citation:

**NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Mountmellick SAC 002141. Version 1.
National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government
and Heritage.**

**Series Editor: Rebecca Jeffrey
ISSN 2009-4086**

Introduction

The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. These two designations are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

A site-specific conservation objective aims to define favourable conservation condition for a particular habitat or species at that site.

The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area 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.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved 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 populations on a long-term basis.

Notes/Guidelines:

1. The targets given in these conservation objectives are based on best available information at the time of writing. As more information becomes available, targets for attributes may change. These will be updated periodically, as necessary.
2. An appropriate assessment based on these conservation objectives will remain valid even if the targets are subsequently updated, providing they were the most recent objectives available when the assessment was carried out. It is essential that the date and version are included when objectives are cited.
3. Assessments cannot consider an attribute in isolation from the others listed for that habitat or species, or for other habitats and species listed for that site. A plan or project with an apparently small impact on one attribute may have a significant impact on another.
4. Please note that the maps included in this document do not necessarily show the entire extent of the habitats and species for which the site is listed. This should be borne in mind when appropriate assessments are being carried out.
5. When using these objectives, it is essential that the relevant backing/supporting documents are consulted, particularly where instructed in the targets or notes for a particular attribute.

Qualifying Interests

** indicates a priority habitat under the Habitats Directive*

002141 Mountmellick SAC

1016 Desmoulin's Whorl Snail *Vertigo moulinsiana*

Supporting documents, relevant reports & publications

Supporting documents, NPWS reports and publications are available for download from: www.npws.ie/Publications

NPWS Documents

Year :	2011
Title :	Monitoring and condition assessment of populations of <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> , <i>Vertigo angustior</i> and <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> in Ireland
Author :	Moorkens, E.; Killeen, I.
Series :	Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 55
<hr/>	
Year :	2019
Title :	Monitoring of sites and habitat for three Annex II species of whorl snail (<i>Vertigo</i>)
Author :	Long, M.P.; Brophy, J.T.
Series :	Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 104
<hr/>	
Year :	2019
Title :	Monitoring of sites and habitat for three Annex II species of whorl snail (<i>Vertigo</i>). Appendix VI <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> site reports
Author :	Brophy, J.T.; Long, M.P.
Series :	Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 104
<hr/>	

Spatial data sources

Year : 2021

Title : NPWS rare and threatened species database

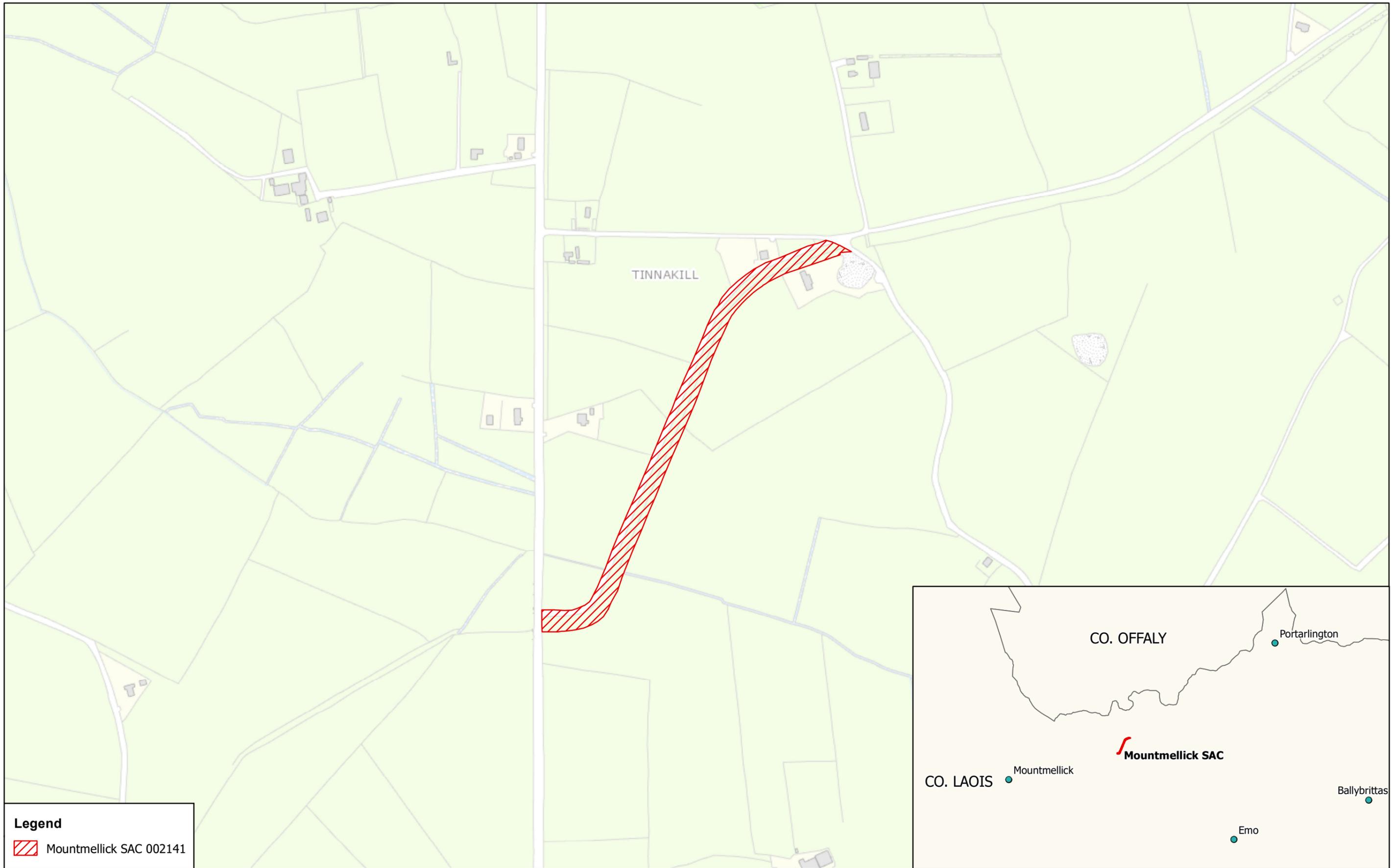
GIS Operations : Dataset created from spatial references in database records. Expert opinion used as necessary to resolve any issues arising

Used For : 1016 (map 2)

1016 Desmoulin's Whorl Snail *Vertigo moulinsiana*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Desmoulin's Whorl Snail in Mountmellick SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Distribution	Number of occupied 1km squares	No decline, subject to natural processes. There is one known site for this species in the SAC within N4908. See map 2	Desmoulin's whorl snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>) is known from one site in Mountmellick SAC, which is in the disused canal feeder, entirely within 1km grid square N4908. See details for the site Mountmellick (site code VmCAM04) in Moorkens and Killeen (2011). See also Brophy and Long (2019)
Length of occupied habitat	Metres	No decline, subject to natural processes	The length of occupied habitat was measured as 170m in 2007 (Moorkens and Killeen, 2011) and this is the baseline figure. See also Brophy and Long (2019)
Occurrence in suitable habitat	Percentage of positive records in a representative number of samples	No decline, subject to natural processes. A baseline figure of 75% positive samples is set	This target is derived from Moorkens and Killeen (2011). This attribute should be assessed following the methodology in Moorkens and Killeen (2011) and Long and Brophy (2019), taking a representative number of samples in suitable habitat across the site. See also Brophy and Long (2019)
Density within habitat	Number of adults per sample	No decline, subject to natural processes. At least 33% of samples should have more than 20 individuals	This target is derived from Moorkens and Killeen (2011). This attribute should be assessed following the methodology in Moorkens and Killeen (2011) and Long and Brophy (2019) taking a representative number of samples in suitable habitat across the site. See also Brophy and Long (2019)
Age structure of population	Percentage of samples with juvenile snails detected	No decline, subject to natural processes	This target is derived from Moorkens and Killeen (2011). This attribute should be assessed following the methodology in Moorkens and Killeen (2011) and Long and Brophy (2019) taking a representative number of samples in suitable habitat across the site. See also Brophy and Long (2019)
Habitat quality	Area of suitable habitat	No decline, subject to natural processes	Habitat of at least suboptimal quality should be present along the entire length of occupied habitat. Habitat quality is defined in Moorkens and Killeen (2011) and Brophy and Long (2019). See also Long and Brophy (2019)



Legend

 Mountmellick SAC 002141



Legend

 1016 Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana* 1km grid square

 Mountmellick SAC 002141

Ordnance Survey Ireland