

**Site Name: Anglesey Road SAC**

**Site Code: 002125**

Anglesey Road is a steep-sided valley which extends approximately 1.8 km along the Multeen River to the north of Hollyford village, Co. Tipperary. Most of the site lies between 210 and 270 m above sea level.

The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (\* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

[6230] Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> Grassland*
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The unimproved, species-rich upland grassland at this site is mainly dominated by grasses such as bents (*Agrostis* spp.), Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*), Sheep's-fescue (*Festuca ovina*) and Wavy Hair-grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*). Herbs present include Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), violets (*Viola* spp.) and speedwells (*Veronica* spp.). Localised patches of heathy grassland contain Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) and Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*). Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) cover is extensive and there are scattered shrubs of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*).

On the steep valley sides and in stream gullies scrub comprised of willow (*Salix* spp.), Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hawthorn and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) has developed.

Agricultural improvement and afforestation are the main threats to the site.

Anglesey Road is a comparatively small site which contains a range of habitat types and species. It is of particular importance for the good quality examples of species-rich, unimproved, upland grassland found. This habitat is becoming increasingly rare in Ireland and Europe, and is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive with priority status.