

Site Name: Carrigeenamronety Hill SAC

Site Code: 002037

Carrigeenamronety Hill (350 m) is an eastern, lower outlier of the Ballyhoura Mountains which straddles the border of counties Cork and Limerick. It is located about 3 km south-east of the village of Ballyorgan. It is underlain by Old Red Sandstone and Silurian rocks, and its summit is crowned by an imposing escarpment of conglomerate rock.

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):

[1421] Killarney Fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>) [4030] Dry Heath
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Heath forms the dominant vegetation at this site, especially in the higher sections, with approximately 60% dry siliceous heath and 10% wet heath. Areas of unimproved Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) grassland and improved grassland are found at lower altitudes. Commercial forestry is present on the west and south of the hill.

The importance of this site lies in the presence of a population of Killarney Fern (*Trichomanes speciosum*), a species listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive, and European Dry Heath, a habitat listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive.

Commercial afforestation with conifer species is the main threat to this site. Such forestry already adjoins the site on its west and north-eastern sides. Although Killarney Fern is protected under the Flora (Protection) Order, 2015, it is nevertheless vulnerable to deliberate collecting at this and its other Irish sites.

Hen Harrier and Peregrine Falcon utilise and forage within the site. Both species are listed on the E.U. Birds Directive.

Carrigeenamronety Hill is an important site because it contains a good population of the rare and protected Killarney Fern, a species listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive, and European Dry Heath, a habitat listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive.