

Site name: Union Wood SAC 000638

County: Sligo

Site Specific Conservation Objective (SSCO) Ecological Attributes
[91A0] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles

- 1 Habitat area
- 2 Habitat distribution
- 3 Woodland size
- 4.1 Woodland structure: cover and height
- 4.2 Woodland structure: community diversity and extent
- 4.3 Woodland structure: natural regeneration
- 4.4 Woodland structure: dead wood
- 4.5 Woodland structure: veteran trees
- 4.6 Woodland structure: indicators of local distinctiveness
- 4.7 Woodland structure: indicators of overgrazing
- 5.1 Vegetation composition: native tree cover
- 5.2 Vegetation composition: typical species
- 5.3 Vegetation composition: negative indicator species

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Habitat/Species: [91A0] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles

(SSCO): To restore the favourable conservation condition of [91A0] in this site

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. Woodland size, 4.1. Woodland structure: cover and height, 4.2 .Woodland structure: community diversity and extent, 4.3. Woodland structure: natural regeneration, 4.4. Woodland structure: dead wood, 4.5. Woodland structure: veteran trees, 4.6. Woodland structure: indicators of local distinctiveness, 4.7. Woodland structure: indicators of overgrazing, 5.1. Vegetation composition: native tree cover, 5.2. Vegetation composition: typical species, 5.3. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species.	PI03 Problematic native species	Medium	MI05 Management of problematic native species	Contractual	Management of deer numbers at the site including the development of Deer Fencing and monitoring.	NPWS Conservation Measure	National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS)	2025+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections.
2	1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3. Woodland size, 4.1. Woodland structure: cover and height, 4.2 .Woodland structure: community diversity and extent, 4.3. Woodland structure: natural regeneration, 4.4. Woodland structure: dead wood, 4.5. Woodland structure: veteran trees, 4.6. Woodland structure: indicators of local distinctiveness, 4.7. Woodland structure: indicators of overgrazing, 5.1. Vegetation composition: native tree cover, 5.2. Vegetation composition: typical species, 5.3. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species.	PI01 Invasive alien species of Union concern	Medium	MI02 Management, control or eradication of established invasive alien species of Union concern	Contractual	Removal of Rhododendron ponticum within 3Ha of this SAC.	NPWS Conservation Measure	National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS)	2023+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections.
3	1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3. Woodland size, 4.1. Woodland structure: cover and height, 4.2 .Woodland structure: community diversity and extent, 4.3. Woodland structure: natural regeneration, 4.4. Woodland structure: dead wood, 4.5. Woodland structure: veteran trees, 4.6. Woodland structure: indicators of local distinctiveness, 4.7. Woodland structure: indicators of overgrazing, 5.1. Vegetation composition: native tree cover, 5.2. Vegetation composition: typical species, 5.3. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species.	PI02 Other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern)	High	MI03 Management, control or eradication of other invasive alien species	Contractual	Removal of 3Ha of Cherry Laurel, Beech and Sycamore with ongoing monitoring and maintenance.	NPWS Conservation Measure	National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS)	2023+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections.
4	1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3. Woodland size, 4.1. Woodland structure: cover and height, 4.2 .Woodland structure: community diversity and extent, 4.3. Woodland structure: natural regeneration, 4.4. Woodland structure: dead wood, 4.5. Woodland structure: veteran trees, 4.6. Woodland structure: indicators of local distinctiveness, 4.7. Woodland structure: indicators of overgrazing, 5.1. Vegetation composition: native tree cover, 5.2. Vegetation composition: typical species, 5.3. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species.	PI02 Other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern)	High	MI03 Management, control or eradication of other invasive alien species	Statutory	Regulation relating to Invasive Alien Species.	European Union (Invasive Alien Species) Regulations 2024	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/ National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)/ Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine	2024+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections.
5	1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3. Woodland size, 4.1. Woodland structure: cover and height, 4.2 .Woodland structure: community diversity and extent, 4.3. Woodland structure: natural regeneration, 4.4. Woodland structure: dead wood, 4.5. Woodland structure: veteran trees, 4.6. Woodland structure: indicators of local distinctiveness, 4.7. Woodland structure: indicators of overgrazing, 5.1. Vegetation composition: native tree cover, 5.2. Vegetation composition: typical species, 5.3. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species.	PI02 Other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern)	High	MI04 Restoration of habitats affected by invasive alien species (incl. of Union concern and others)	Administrative	Target to control and where possible, eradicate Invasive Alien Species within Protected Areas by 2030.	Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023–2030	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/ National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) & relevant stakeholders	2023+	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:
6	1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3. Woodland size, 4.1. Woodland structure: cover and height, 4.2 .Woodland structure: community diversity and extent, 4.3. Woodland structure: natural regeneration, 4.4. Woodland structure: dead wood, 4.5. Woodland structure: veteran trees, 4.6. Woodland structure: indicators of local distinctiveness, 4.7. Woodland structure: indicators of overgrazing, 5.1. Vegetation composition: native tree cover, 5.2. Vegetation composition: typical species, 5.3. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species.	PA07 Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock	High	MA05 Adapt mowing, grazing and other equivalent agricultural activities (e.g. burning)	Statutory	Consent is required for the introduction or re-introduction, of plants or animals not found in the area, if not covered by other regulations. [Consent is not required for the planting of crops on established reseeded grassland or cultivated land.]	European Union Habitats (Union Wood Special Area of Conservation 000638) Regulations 2017	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	1999+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections.
7	1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3. Woodland size, 4.1. Woodland structure: cover and height, 4.2 .Woodland structure: community diversity and extent, 4.3. Woodland structure: natural regeneration, 4.4. Woodland structure: dead wood, 4.5. Woodland structure: veteran trees, 4.6. Woodland structure: indicators of local distinctiveness, 4.7. Woodland structure: indicators of overgrazing, 5.1. Vegetation composition: native tree cover, 5.2. Vegetation composition: typical species, 5.3. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species.	PA07 Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock	High	MA05 Adapt mowing, grazing and other equivalent agricultural activities (e.g. burning)	Statutory	Consent is required prior to applying inorganic or organic fertiliser, including slurry and farmyard manure to the site, 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 (Union Wood Special Area of Conservation 000638) Regulations 2017	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	1999+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections.
8	1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3. Woodland size, 4.1. Woodland structure: cover and height, 4.2 .Woodland structure: community diversity and extent, 4.3. Woodland structure: natural regeneration, 4.4. Woodland structure: dead wood, 4.5. Woodland structure: veteran trees, 4.6. Woodland structure: indicators of local distinctiveness, 4.7. Woodland structure: indicators of overgrazing, 5.1. Vegetation composition: native tree cover, 5.2. Vegetation composition: typical species, 5.3. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species.	PA07 Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock	High	MA06 Stop mowing, grazing and other equivalent agricultural activities e.g. burning (incl. restore or improve habitats) 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 (Union Wood Special Area of Conservation 000638) Regulations 2017	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	1999+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections.
9	1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3. Woodland size, 4.1. Woodland structure: cover and height, 4.2 .Woodland structure: community diversity and extent, 4.3. Woodland structure: natural regeneration, 4.4. Woodland structure: dead wood, 4.5. Woodland structure: veteran trees, 4.6. Woodland structure: indicators of local distinctiveness, 4.7. Woodland structure: indicators of overgrazing, 5.1. Vegetation composition: native tree cover, 5.2. Vegetation composition: typical species, 5.3. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species.	PI03 Problematic native species	Medium	MI05 Management of problematic native species	Administrative	Deer Hunting requires a licence.	Wildlife Act 1976, as amended.	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	1976+	Wildlife Act 1976, as amended.
10	1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3. Woodland size, 4.1. Woodland structure: cover and height, 4.2 .Woodland structure: community diversity and extent, 4.3. Woodland structure: natural regeneration, 4.4. Woodland structure: dead wood, 4.5. Woodland structure: veteran trees, 4.6. Woodland structure: indicators of local distinctiveness, 4.7. Woodland structure: indicators of overgrazing, 5.1. Vegetation composition: native tree cover, 5.2. Vegetation composition: typical species, 5.3. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species.	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.

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11	1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3. Woodland size, 4.1. Woodland structure: cover and height, 4.2 .Woodland structure: community diversity and extent, 4.3. Woodland structure: natural regeneration, 4.4. Woodland structure: dead wood, 4.5. Woodland structure: veteran trees, 4.6. Woodland structure: indicators of local distinctiveness, 4.7. Woodland structure: indicators of overgrazing, 5.1. Vegetation composition: native tree cover, 5.2. Vegetation composition: typical species, 5.3. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species.	All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures	N/A	MC02 Adapt/manage exploitation of energy resources	Statutory	Control of activities, if not covered by other regulations, which could negatively impact on Union Wood SAC.	European Union Habitats (Union Wood Special Area of Conservation 000638) Regulations 2017	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	1999+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections.
12	1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3. Woodland size, 4.1. Woodland structure: cover and height, 4.2 .Woodland structure: community diversity and extent, 4.3. Woodland structure: natural regeneration, 4.4. Woodland structure: dead wood, 4.5. Woodland structure: veteran trees, 4.6. Woodland structure: indicators of local distinctiveness, 4.7. Woodland structure: indicators of overgrazing, 5.1. Vegetation composition: native tree cover, 5.2. Vegetation composition: typical species, 5.3. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species.	All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures	N/A	MJ01 Implement climate change mitigation measures, MJ02 Implement climate change adaptation measures	Administrative	A roadmap of actions to assist in the achievement of climate change objectives by no later than the end of the year 2050.	Ireland's Climate Action Plan	All Government Departments	2019+	Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021
13	1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3. Woodland size, 4.1. Woodland structure: cover and height, 4.2 .Woodland structure: community diversity and extent, 4.3. Woodland structure: natural regeneration, 4.4. Woodland structure: dead wood, 4.5. Woodland structure: veteran trees, 4.6. Woodland structure: indicators of local distinctiveness, 4.7. Woodland structure: indicators of overgrazing, 5.1. Vegetation composition: native tree cover, 5.2. Vegetation composition: typical species, 5.3. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species.	All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures	N/A	MI04 Restoration of habitats affected by invasive alien species (incl. of Union concern and others)	Administrative	This site is managed primarily for nature and conservation.	Coillte Conservation Measures	Coillte	2011+	Strategic Vision for our future forest estate
14	1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3. Woodland size, 4.1. Woodland structure: cover and height, 4.2 .Woodland structure: community diversity and extent, 4.3. Woodland structure: natural regeneration, 4.4. Woodland structure: dead wood, 4.5. Woodland structure: veteran trees, 4.6. Woodland structure: indicators of local distinctiveness, 4.7. Woodland structure: indicators of overgrazing, 5.1. Vegetation composition: native tree cover, 5.2. Vegetation composition: typical species, 5.3. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species.	All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures	N/A	MI04 Restoration of habitats affected by invasive alien species (incl. of Union concern and others)	Administrative	This site is managed primarily for nature	Coillte Conservation Measures	Coillte	2011+	Strategic Vision for our future forest estate
15	1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3. Woodland size, 4.1. Woodland structure: cover and height, 4.2 .Woodland structure: community diversity and extent, 4.3. Woodland structure: natural regeneration, 4.4. Woodland structure: dead wood, 4.5. Woodland structure: veteran trees, 4.6. Woodland structure: indicators of local distinctiveness, 4.7. Woodland structure: indicators of overgrazing, 5.1. Vegetation composition: native tree cover, 5.2. Vegetation composition: typical species, 5.3. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species.	All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures	N/A	MI04 Restoration of habitats affected by invasive alien species (incl. of Union concern and others)	Administrative	Control of rhododendron and laurel at this site.	Coillte Conservation Measures	Coillte	2011+	Strategic Vision for our future forest estate

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17	1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3. Woodland size, 4.1. Woodland structure: cover and height, 4.2 .Woodland structure: community diversity and extent, 4.3. Woodland structure: natural regeneration, 4.4. Woodland structure: dead wood, 4.5. Woodland structure: veteran trees, 4.6. Woodland structure: indicators of local distinctiveness, 4.7. Woodland structure: indicators of overgrazing, 5.1. Vegetation composition: native tree cover, 5.2. Vegetation composition: typical species, 5.3. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species.	All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures	N/A	MB06 Stop forest management and exploitation practices	Administrative	Monitoring at the site by Coillte.	Coillte Conservation Measures	Coillte	2011+	Strategic Vision for our future forest estate
18	1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3. Woodland size, 4.1. Woodland structure: cover and height, 4.2 .Woodland structure: community diversity and extent, 4.3. Woodland structure: natural regeneration, 4.4. Woodland structure: dead wood, 4.5. Woodland structure: veteran trees, 4.6. Woodland structure: indicators of local distinctiveness, 4.7. Woodland structure: indicators of overgrazing, 5.1. Vegetation composition: native tree cover, 5.2. Vegetation composition: typical species, 5.3. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species.	All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures	N/A	MI04 Restoration of habitats affected by invasive alien species (incl. of Union concern and others)	Administrative	Identifying, protecting, and maintaining existing non-forested habitats - including swamps, to enhance overall forest biodiversity.	Coillte Conservation Measures	Coillte	2011+	Strategic Vision for our future forest estate
19	1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3. Woodland size, 4.1. Woodland structure: cover and height, 4.2 .Woodland structure: community diversity and extent, 4.3. Woodland structure: natural regeneration, 4.4. Woodland structure: dead wood, 4.5. Woodland structure: veteran trees, 4.6. Woodland structure: indicators of local distinctiveness, 4.7. Woodland structure: indicators of overgrazing, 5.1. Vegetation composition: native tree cover, 5.2. Vegetation composition: typical species, 5.3. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species.	All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures	N/A	MA - Measures related to agricultural practices and agriculture-related habitats	Administrative	Monitoring and reporting of relevant farm activity at the SAC. Direct inspections for DAFM Conditionality compliance or via other state Authorities (via Cross Reporting) to Integrated Controls Division in DAFM.	DAFM BISS Conditionality Farm inspection's - NPWS Conservation Ranger Site monitoring. (Cross Compliance).	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022+	CAP Strategic Plan
20	1. Habitat area, 2. Habitat distribution, 3. Woodland size, 4.1. Woodland structure: cover and height, 4.2 .Woodland structure: community diversity and extent, 4.3. Woodland structure: natural regeneration, 4.4. Woodland structure: dead wood, 4.5. Woodland structure: veteran trees, 4.6. Woodland structure: indicators of local distinctiveness, 4.7. Woodland structure: indicators of overgrazing, 5.1. Vegetation composition: native tree cover, 5.2. Vegetation composition: typical species, 5.3. Vegetation composition: negative indicator species.	All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures	N/A	MI04 Restoration of habitats affected by invasive alien species (incl. of Union concern and others)	Administrative	Invasive species and non-native species removal, Removal of Rhododendron ponticum and other IAS at Union Wood	NPWS Conservation Measure	National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS)	2025+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections.

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