



Site Name: Drummin Wood SAC

Site Code: 002181

Drummin Wood is situated on sloping ground in the foothills of the Slieve Aughty Mountains in Co. Galway, at an altitude of approximately 50-70 m, some 3 km east of Lough Cutra. The area is drained by the Owendalulleagh River, which occurs to the south. The soils found on the site are sandy clays, with sticky dark clays in wetter areas, and there are many rock outcrops.

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):

[91A0] Old Oak Woodlands

Woodland occupies about 60% of the area of the site. Most of the woodland is referable to a type known as the 'Blechno-Quercetum petraeae association, sub-association coryletosum'. Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) is the dominant species of the canopy, along with Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). The lower canopy and understorey is comprised of Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and willows (*Salix* spp.). Crab Apple (*Malus sylvestris*) and Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*) occur sparsely. The ground flora is mostly well-developed, with species such as Wood-sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Great Wood-rush (*Luzula sylvatica*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) occurring. Of particular note is the occurrence of the Narrow-leaved Helleborine (*Cephalanthera longifolia*), a rare species of woodlands and one that is listed in the Red Data Book and also the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999.

The wood has been managed in the past, but in recent times little woodland management has been carried out. Dead or fallen timber is a feature of the wood, as are, notably, the frequency of established oak saplings. Grazing occurs but is not excessive. The invasive shrub Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) has not been recorded here.

The other main habitats on the site are heath and areas dominated by Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*). The heath is of good quality and includes species such as Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*), Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) and Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*). In places the heath has been invaded by Downy Birch and Sessile Oak. A stream and small lake (Lodgehill Lough) occur within the site, along with some marsh and wet grassland vegetation.

Pine Marten and Badger have been recorded from the site; both species are listed in the Red Data Book.

Drummin Wood is of considerable conservation significance as it conforms to a woodland habitat type that is scarce in Ireland and one that is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The occurrence of Red Data Book plant and animal species adds to the importance of the site.