**LARGALINNY SAC**
UK0030045

# CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

Document Details

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| V1 | June 2013 | Internal working document | PC |
| V2 | Dec 2014 | Complete review | RMK |
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

EU Member States have a clear responsibility under the Habitats and Birds Directives[1] to ensure that all habitats and species of Community Interest are maintained or restored to Favourable Conservation Status (FCS). Natura 2000 sites have a crucial role to play in achieving this overall objective since they are the most important core sites for these species and habitats. Each site must therefore be managed in a way that ensures it contributes as effectively as possible to helping the species and habitats for which it has been designated reach a favourable conservation status within the EU.

To ensure that each Natura 2000 site contributes fully to reaching this overall target of FCS, it is important to set clear conservation objectives for each individual site. These should define the desired state, within that particular site, of each of the species and habitat types for which the site was designated.

Once a site has been included in the Natura 2000 network, Member States are required to implement, on each site, the necessary conservation measures which correspond to the ecological requirements of the protected habitat types and species of Community Interest present, according to Article 6.1 of the Habitats Directive. They must also prevent any damaging activities that could significantly disturb those species and habitats (Article 6.2) and to protect the site from new potentially damaging plans and projects likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site (Article 6.3, 6.4).

Conservation measures can include both site-specific measures (i.e. management actions and/or management restrictions) and horizontal measures that apply to many Natura 2000 sites over a larger area (e.g. measures to reduce nitrate pollution or to regulate hunting or resource use).

In Northern Ireland, Natura 2000 sites are usually underpinned by the designation of an Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) under the Environment (NI) Order 2002 (as amended).

[1] 92/43/EEC and 2009/147/EC (codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended)

## 2. ROLE OF CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

Conservation Objectives have a role in

- Conservation Planning and Management – guide management of sites, to maintain or restore the habitats and species in favourable condition

- Assessing Plans and Projects, as required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive - Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRA) are required to assess proposed plans and projects in light of the site's conservation objectives.

- Monitoring and Reporting – Provide the basis for assessing the condition of a feature, the factors that affect it and the actions required.

## 3. DEFINITION OF FAVOURABLE CONSERVATION STATUS

Favourable Conservation Status is defined in Articles 1(e) and 1(i) of the Habitats Directive:

The conservation status of a natural habitat is the sum of the influences acting on it and its typical species that may affect its long-term natural distribution, structure and functions as well as the long term survival of its typical species. The conservation status of a natural habitat will be taken as favourable when:

- Its natural range and areas 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 as defined in Article 1(i).

For species, favourable conservation status is defined in Article 1(i) as 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 population on a long term basis.

## 3.1 DEFINITION OF FAVOURABLE CONDITION

Favourable Condition is defined as "**the target condition for an interest feature in terms of the abundance, distribution and/or quality of that feature within the site**".

The standards for favourable condition (Common Standards) have been developed by JNCC and are applied throughout the UK. Achieving Favourable Condition on individual sites will make an important contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status across the Natura 2000 network.

## 4. SITE INFORMATION

**COUNTY:** FERMANAGH

**GRID REFERENCE:** H073537

**AREA:** 244.87 ha

## 5. SUMMARY SITE DESCRIPTION

Largalinny is a complex site with a variety of interests. Geological interest relates to the Upper Visean Glenade Sandstone Formations and Upper Visean Limestone Formations with rich silicified fossil fauna (the latter around Carrick Lough). Physiographical interest relates to the scarp and dip control of slope.

Botanical interest relates to the complex mosaic of habitats present, including heathland, oligotrophic and mesotrophic waterbodies and in particular, broad-leaved semi-natural woodland. Rare species include rare higher plants, and notable lichen and bryophyte communities. In addition, there are notable assemblages of Odonata and Lepidoptera.

Further details of the site are contained in the ASSI Citation and Views About Management statement, which are available on the NIEA website (www.doeni.gov.uk/niea).

## 5.1 BOUNDARY RATIONALE

The boundary has been drawn to include all of the oak woodland and adjoining semi natural transitions to heath and lakeshore vegetation (fen, swamp and open water). The site extends eastwards to meet with the adjoining Monawilkin cSAC around Carrick Lough. To the west and south, the boundary is formed by

adjoining coniferous plantation, with the public road forming the boundary to the north.

## 6. SAC SELECTION FEATURES

| Feature Type | Feature | Global Status | Size/ extent/ pop~ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Habitat** | **Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles** | **B** | 39.6 ha |
| Habitat | Blanket bog (active only) | D | 52 ha |
| Habitat | Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* | D | 50 ha |
| Habitat | European dry heaths | D | 39 ha |
| Habitat | Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion alvae*) | D | 4.5 ha |
| Habitat | Bog Woodland | D | 0.5 ha |
| Habitat | Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Caleopsietalia ladani*) | D | 0.1 ha |
| Species | *Austropotamobius pallipes* (Freshwater Crayfish) | D | |

*Table 1. List of SAC selection features. Those with global status A-C will be referred to in ANNEX I.*

The global status is an expert judgement of the overall value of the site for the conservation of the relevant Annex I habitat. Sites have been graded A, B or C - in the UK these gradings have been interpreted as follows:

**A** - Sites holding outstanding examples of the habitat in a European context.

**B** - Sites holding excellent stands of the habitat, significantly above the threshold for SSSI/ASSI notification but of somewhat lower value than grade A sites.

**C** - Examples of the habitat which are of at least national interest (i.e. usually above the thresholdfor SSSI/ASSI notification on terrestrial sites) but not significantly above this. These habitats are not the primary reason for SACs being selected.

**D** - Habitat present but not of sufficient extent or quality to merit listing as SAC feature.

There is therefore a distinction between the principal features for which sites have been selected (those graded A or B) and those which are only of secondary interest (those graded C). This is a useful distinction but it is important to note that all three grades are qualifying SAC interest features.

Click here to go to the Natura 2000 Standard Data Form for Largalinny SAC.

## 6.1 ASSI SELECTION FEATURES

### Largalinny ASSI

| Feature Type | Feature | Size/ extent/ pop~ |
|---|---|---|
| Habitat | Oakwood | 39.6 ha |
| Habitat | Upland mosaic | 141 ha |
| Species | Plant Assemblage – Higher and Lower Plants (Liverworts and Lichens) | A, B, C D species |
| Species | Dragonfly Assemblage | 14 recorded species |
| Species | Lepidoptera Assemblage | Includes Purple Hairstreak, etc. |
| Earth Science | Upper Palaeozoic Palaeontology | |

*Table 2. List of ASSI features.*

## 7. CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

The ***Conservation Objective*** for this site is:

**To maintain (or restore where appropriate) the Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles to favourable condition.**

For each SAC feature, there are a number of component objectives which are outlined in the table below. These include a series of attributes, measures and targets which form the basis of *Condition Assessment*. The results of this will determine whether the feature is in favourable condition or not. The feature attributes and measures are found in the attached annex.

## 8. SAC SELECTION FEATURE OBJECTIVE REQUIREMENTS

| SAC Feature | Global Status | Component Objective |
|---|---|---|
| **Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles** | B | Maintain the extent of existing Oak woodland. |
| | | Maintain and enhance Oak woodland species diversity and structural diversity. |
| | | Maintain the diversity and quality of habitats associated with the Oak woodland, e.g. fen, swamp, grasslands, scrub, especially where these exhibit natural transition to Oak woodland |
| | | Seek nature conservation management over adjacent forested areas outside the ASSI where there may be potential for woodland rehabilitation. |
| | | Seek nature conservation management over suitable areas immediately outside the ASSI where there may be potential for woodland expansion. |

## 9. ASSI FEATURE OBJECTIVE REQUIREMENTS

| ASSI Feature | Component Objective |
|---|---|
| Oakwood | See SAC Selection Feature Objective Requirements table. |
| Upland mosaic | To maintain (and if feasible enhance) the diversity of the habitat assemblage, including dry heath, wet heath and blanket bog. |
| Higher plant assemblage | To maintain (and if feasible enhance) the populations of notable species, including their abundance and distribution:<br>Higher plants (RNP Score 16) - *Neottia nidus-avis*(D)*, Pyrola minor*(C)*, Orthilia secunda*(A)*, Equisetum hyemale*(C)*, Hymenophyllum tunbrigense*(C)*, Scirpus sylvaticus*(C) and *Festuca altissima*(C).<br>The gametophyte form of *Trichomanes speciosum.*<br>The liverworts *Plagiochila punctata, Lepidozia cupressina* and *Leptoscyphus cuneifolius.*<br>The lichens *Lobaria scrobiculata, Sticta fuliginosa, Pannaria rubiginosa* and *Gyalideopsis muscicola.* |
| Lower plant assemblage | To maintain (and if feasible enhance) the populations of notable species, including their abundance and distribution:<br>The gametophyte form of *Trichomanes speciosum.*<br>The liverworts *Plagiochila punctata, Lepidozia cupressina* and *Leptoscyphus cuneifolius.*<br>The lichens *Lobaria scrobiculata, Sticta fuliginosa, Pannaria* |

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| | *rubiginosa* and *Gyalideopsis muscicola.* |
| Invertebrate assemblage | To maintain (and if feasible enhance) the diversity of the Lepidoptera populations, including their abundance and distribution i.e. Holly Blue *Celastrina argiolus*, Purple Hairstreak *Quercusia quercus*, Pale Eggar moth *Trichiura crataegi* and *Biselachista serricornis* (a small micro-moth). |
| Dragonfly Assemblage | To maintain (and if feasible enhance) the diversity of the Dragonfly populations, including their abundance and distribution (14 species recorded). |
| Upper Palaeozoic palaeontology | To be Finalised. |

## 10. MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

### Ownership

Forest Service owns a large part of the area, some of which is jointly managed with NIEA as Correl Glen National Nature Reserve. Much of the remainder (predominantly the heathland) is designated as Forest Nature Reserve. The remaining part of the site is privately owned.

## 11. MAIN THREATS, PRESSURES AND ACTIVITIES WITH IMPACTS ON THE SITE

Both on-site and off-site activities can potentially affect SAC/ASSI features. The list below is not exhaustive, but deals with the most <u>likely</u> factors that are either affecting Largalinny, or could affect it in the future. Although Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* is the qualifying SAC feature, factors affecting ASSI features are also considered.

**NOTE - Carrying out <u>any</u> of the Notifiable Operations listed in the ASSI schedule could affect the site.**

### *Woodland Clearance/Timber Removal*

Clearance should be avoided, with the woodland encouraged to extend its range naturally. From the nature conservation viewpoint, the site does not appear to require the creation of canopy "gaps", as there seems to be sufficient active "edge" for natural regeneration. This is particularly apparent in areas of heath along the upper edges of the scarps, where there is an advancing woodland edge of Birch and to a lesser extent, Rowan. These species appear to act as precursors for Oak. Outside the Nature Reserve, there have been some small pockets of woodland clearance, although none of these are recent.

Dead wood should be left *in situ* unless posing a serious threat to public safety. This provides valuable habitat for fungi, invertebrates, etc. For the same reason, removal of wood for firewood should be discouraged. There is some evidence of timber removal in parts of the wood, although quantities of both standing and dead wood are generally frequent to abundant.

ACTION: There are unlikely to be any major conflicts of interest in this area, except in relation to public safety along existing footpaths.

*Invasion by Exotics*

Exotic species recorded for the wood include Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and conifers, at very low frequency (most of the Sycamore are confined to the vicinity of the river). These invasives do not appear to be posing a serious threat at present, but their presence should be monitored. As far as Sycamore is concerned, it should be removed as soon as possible, particularly any mature trees, which tend to produce large quantities of seed.

For other exotics, the long-term aim should generally be removal, although this will be dependent upon an assessment of other potential nature conservation benefits - e.g. Beech is important for ectomycorrhizal fungi and associated invertebrates.

ACTION: NIEA and Forest Service to agree a programme for the control of exotic species within the NNR as part of the NNR management plan. NIEA to discuss similar arrangements with other landowners as appropriate.

*Grazing/Browsing*

Most recent research indicates very light levels of grazing can be beneficial for woodlands. However, heavy grazing should be avoided as this can prevent regeneration and destroy grazing-sensitive woodland plants. There is evidence of grazing by domestic livestock in the NNR. The privately-owned part of the wood also shows some signs of grazing activity. Some goat damage (barking of tress and shrubs) is apparent throughout the wood, but again appears to be light at present.

ACTION: Grazing needs to be monitored (using the appropriate indicators in Annex 1) to ensure that current grazing levels are not increased. Consideration should be given to fencing off the woodland from the surrounding area outside the ASSI.

*Burning*

Although the heathland is not a feature in its own right, it does make up a large part of the SAC by area and is a fundamental component of the Upland mosaic (selection feature). The functional relationship between the heath and the wood is particularly important, as Largalinny represents one of the few examples of a comparatively natural (i.e. unfenced and comparatively unmanaged) upland oak/heath transition.

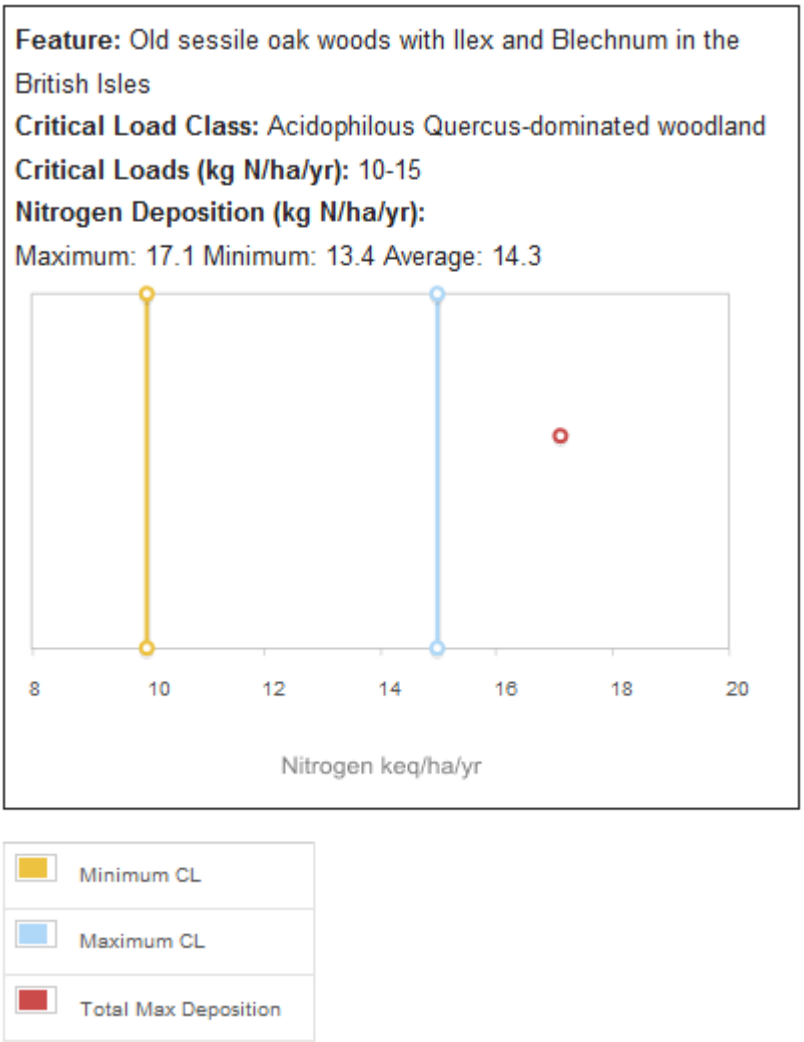
**ACTION: Ensure uncontrolled burning of the heath is avoided, as this could spread to other valuable habitats and cause damage to them and species interests.**

*Drainage and eutrophication of waterbodies*

Unlikely to be a problem, as it is largely an upland area with low intensity agriculture.

*Nitrogen Deposition*

Excess nitrogen deposition can favour the growth of competitive plants and lead to changes in ecosystem structure or function and to a reduction in biodiversity. National scale studies show the potential adverse effects of excess nitrogen on natural and semi-natural habitats to be widespread across the UK. Lower and upper critical loads have been calculated for Largalinny SAC.




(Source: Air Pollution Information System (APIS) website- www.apis.ac.uk)

ACTION: Seek to maintain or where necessary, restore concentrations and deposition of air pollutants to at or below the site-relevant critical load.

*Changes to surrounding land use*
Activities occurring outside the site (e.g. agricultural intensification, drainage works, and development) may be detrimental to the site through remote affects.
Action: Reduce the risk of surrounding agricultural intensification by encouraging the adjacent owner/occupiers to enter into agri-environment schemes. Use Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRAs), through the planning process, to minimise any development risks adjacent to the SAC.

*Climate Change*
Northern Ireland faces changes to its climate over the next century. Indications are that we will face hotter, drier summers, warmer winters and more frequent extreme weather events.
ACTION:When developing SAC management plans, the likely future impacts of climate change should be considered and appropriate changes made.

## 12. MONITORING

Monitoring of SACs takes place on using two monitoring techniques.

Site Integrity Monitoring (SIM) is carried out to ensure compliance with the ASSI/ SAC Schedule. The most likely processes of change will either be picked up by SIM (e.g. woodland clearance, overwintering of stock, dumping etc), or will be comparatively slow. These longer-term changes will be picked up by monitoring of the feature via Site Condition Assessment - this is carried out on a rolling basis to pick up subtle changes in the condition of the feature.

The method for Site Condition Assessment was agreed by the relevant JNCC-led Lead Co-ordination Network although the methodology has been modified to reflect individual site attributes in Northern Ireland.

### 12.1 MONITORING SUMMARY

1. *Monitor the integrity of the site (SIM or Compliance Monitoring)*
   Complete boundary survey to ensure that walls and fences are still intact. Check woodland particularly for felling, heavy grazing (especially overwintering of stock), goat damage and fly-tipping (the latter along the public road). In addition, check heathland for burning. SIM should be carried out once a year.

2. *Monitor the condition of the site (Condition Assessment)*
   Monitor the key attributes for each selection feature. This will detect if the features are in favourable condition or not.

The favourable condition table provided in Annex 1 is intended to supplement the conservation objectives only in relation to management of established and ongoing activities and future reporting requirements on monitoring condition of the site and its features. It does not by itself provide a comprehensive basis on which to assess plans and projects, but it does provide a basis to inform the scope and nature of any Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) that may be needed. It should be noted that completion of a HRA is a separate activity to condition monitoring, requiring consideration of issues specific to individual plans or projects.

## 13. REFERENCES

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ANNEX 1

## Feature 1 (SAC) – **Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles** (Status B)

* = primary attribute. One failure among primary attribute = unfavourable condition

| Attribute | Targets | Method of Assessment | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|
| * Area of Oakwood | Maintain the extent of Oakwood at 39.6ha. | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots and across the extent of the woodland using a combination of aerial photographs, SIM and Condition Assessment structured walk. | Loss due to natural processes (e.g. wind-throw during extreme storm) is acceptable. |
| Oakwood community diversity | Maintain presence of woodland communities, W11, W17, W9 & W7 as established at base line survey. | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots | |
| Presence of associated features and semi-natural habitats | Maintain existing associated features and semi-natural habitats (wet/bog woodland, wet heath, semi-natural grasslands etc.) | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots and across the extent of the ASSI using a combination of aerial photographs, SIM and Condition Assessment | Repeat monitoring of plots using GPS should indicate whether mosaics and associated habitats have changed or been lost.<br>Note: Loss of associated habitats to Oakwood may be desirable in some instances. |

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| | | structured walk. | |
| * Structural variation (% cover) | Mean canopy cover greater than 70% | Estimate within the visual vicinity of the monitoring plots. | A well structured wood should have a well developed canopy and shrub layer. |
| | Mean shrub cover should be maintained between 20 - 50% | Estimate within the visual vicinity of the monitoring plots. | |
| | Maintain current levels of standard variation within reasonable limits for field, herb and moss cover.<br><br>Where present assess cover of *Luzula sylvatica*. | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots. | At least the current level of structural diversity should be maintained for field cover, herb cover and moss cover. Limits to be set for each site after the baseline survey.<br><br>Note: *L. sylvatica* may be dominant in many W11 oakwood communities. The percentage cover of this species may affect Oak regeneration, but more information is required before that assumption can be made. |
| | | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots. | |
| | | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots. | |
| | | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots. | |
| | Mean cover of bare ground should be less than 5%.<br><br>Bare ground does not include boulders or rocks. | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots. | |
| * Age-class variation (DAFOR) | Young trees (5- 20cm diameter) at least occasional in 25% of plots | Estimate within the visual vicinity of the monitoring plots. | Age-class structure should be appropriate to the site, its history and management; however, in general, there should be a spread of different age-classes present, including young and over-mature trees. However, on very steep sided |
| | Mature trees (20 - 75cm | Estimate within the | |

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| | diameter) at least frequent in 75% of plots | visual vicinity of the monitoring plots. | slopes with shallow soils, over-mature trees are unlikely to occur as larger trees are likely to fall over before becoming over –mature.<br>Note, that in many cases achieving the set targets is a long term aim. However, providing the correct management practices are in place, this attribute may be recorded as Unfavourable - recovering. |
| | Over-mature trees (>75cm diameter) at least present in 10% of plots | Estimate within the visual vicinity of the monitoring plots. | |
| * Presence of standing and fallen dead wood (DAFOR) | Standing dead wood at least occasional in 70% of plots and at least frequent in 30% of plots. | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots. | |
| | Fallen dead wood at least occasional in 70% of plots and at least frequent in 30% of plots. | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots. | |
| * Presence of epiphytes and climbers (DAFOR) | Epiphytes and climbers at least occasional in 70% of plots and at least frequent in 30% of plots. | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots. | Epiphytes and climbers are an important component in all woodlands. However, in the extreme south east of Northern Ireland, where the climate is much warmer and drier, the generic limits may be set too high and may need amended for individual sites. |
| * Presence of epiphytic bryophytes and lichens (DAFOR) | Epiphytic bryophytes and lichens at least occasional in 70% of plots and frequent in 30% of plots. | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots. | Epiphytic bryophytes and lichens are an important component in all woodlands. However, in the extreme south east of Northern Ireland, where the climate is much warmer and drier, the generic limits may be set too high and may need |

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| | | | amended for individual sites. |
| * Regeneration potential (DAFOR)<br><br>Maintain current levels of native tree regeneration within reasonable limits for the current structure of the Oak woodland. | Regeneration of Oak seedlings. | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots. | The general aim is for the successful establishment of young stems (i.e. seedlings growing through to saplings to young trees) in gaps or on the edge of a stand at sufficient density to maintain canopy density over a 10 year period.<br><br>Regeneration of Oak in particular is likely to be slow and sporadic; in some stands, there may currently not be sufficient and/or extensive enough gaps in the canopy for oak to regenerate. This does not necessarily indicate unfavourable condition. |
| | Regeneration of Oak saplings | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots. | |
| | Regeneration of other native seedlings. | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots. | |
| | Regeneration of other native saplings. | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots. | |
| * Cover of non-native species (all layers) (presence/absence) | Non–native invasive canopy species should be present in less than 20% of plots, but never frequent. | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots. | The canopy of the Oak woodland should be largely comprised of Oak trees. Non-native species are undesirable in the canopy, particularly invasive species such as Sycamore.<br><br>In addition, non-native invasive species in any one layer is un-desirable.<br>Note that non-invasive species are not viewed as a significant threat, and a low level of occurrence may be acceptable. |
| | Non–native invasive shrub species should be present in less than 20% of plots, but never frequent. | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots. | |
| | Non-native invasive canopy species seedlings/saplings should be present in less than 20% of plots, but never frequent. | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots. | |

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| | Non–native invasive ground flora species should be present in less than 20% of plots, but never frequent. | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots. | |
| *Frequency and cover of eutrophication indicators: (DAFOR) | No one negative species no more than occasional throughout the wood and/or singly or together comprising more than 5% cover. *Galium aparine, Urtica dioica, Heracleum spp, Epilobium spp. Rumex obtusifolius*<br><br>No more than occasional is equivalent to less than 40% occurrence in recorded plots. | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots. | |
| * Cover of *Pteridium* (% cover) | The mean cover of *Pteridium* for the wood should be less than 10%. | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots. | |
| * Cover of grasses (non-woodland species) (% cover) | The mean cover of grass for the wood should be less than 10%. | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots. | A high cover of grasses indicates past and/or present grazing. Where heavy grazing has been a past management practice, the natural woodland ground flora will take a considerable time to re-establish (time limits for restoration currently unknown). However, providing the grazing pressure has been |

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| | | | addressed, and there is evidence that woodland flora is beginning to re-appear, this attribute may be recorded as unfavourable, recovering. |
| Management /Disturbance | | | |
| * Grazing (DAFOR) | Grazing should be recorded as no more than occasional over 80% of plots. | Estimate within the visual vicinity of the monitoring plots. | Grazing by domestic stock, where it occurs should be light resulting in minimal damage to the ground flora through poaching and damage to seedlings and saplings. |
| * Poaching by cattle (DAFOR) | Poaching should be absent, or recorded in less than 20% of plots and frequent in less than 10% of plots. | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots. | |
| *Frequency of recent goat damage (1-2 years) (DAFOR) | Recent goat damage should be absent, or recorded in less than 20% of plots. | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots. | |
| *Frequency of damage to seedlings/saplings (DAFOR) | Damage to seedling/saplings should be absent, or recorded in less than 20% of plots. | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots. | |
| Frequency of felling/coppicing (within 6 year monitoring cycle) (DAFOR) | There should be no felling or coppicing of native trees or shrubs. | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots and across the extent of the ASSI using a combination of aerial photographs, SIM and Condition Assessment structured walk. | Felling non-native species as part of management for conservation is acceptable. |

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| Maintain the diversity of woodland species throughout the wood. | Record the % of plots with each of the acid woodland indicators (W11 & W17 communities) listed below:-<br>*Vaccinium myrtillus,*<br>*Blechnum spicant,*<br>*Dicranum spp.,*<br>*Luzula pilosa,*<br>*Rhytidiadelphus loreus* | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots. | Within any Oak woodland, there may be pockets of base-rich woodland and or flushed woodland within the boundaries of the SAC. The diversity of these woodland communities should be maintained.<br>However, the W11 & W17 communities should dominate the woodland. |
| Maintain the diversity of woodland species throughout the wood. | Record the % of plots with each of the base-rich woodland indicators (W9 community) listed below:-<br>*Sanicla europea,*<br>*Geum urbanum,*<br>*Polystichum setiferum,*<br>*Aneomne nemorosa,*<br>*Primula vulgaris.* | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots. | Within any Oak woodland, there may be pockets of base-rich woodland and or flushed woodland within the boundaries of the SAC. The diversity of these woodland communities should be maintained. |
| Maintain the diversity of woodland species throughout the wood. | Record the % of plots with each of the flushed woodland indicators (W7 community) listed below:-<br>*Carex remota,*<br>*Ranunculus repens,*<br>*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium,*<br>*Filipendula ulmaria,*<br>*Lysimachia nemorum.* | Visual estimate in 10x10m plots. | Within any Oak woodland, there may be pockets of base-rich woodland and or flushed woodland within the boundaries of the SAC. The diversity of these woodland communities should be maintained. |

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| Presence of rare or scarce species specific to the site. | Maintain current levels of standard variation within reasonable limits for rare and notable species.<br>If these species are not recorded on any one visit, it does not automatically make the site unfavourable. | Name the species at least present along the length of the Condition Assessment structured walk. | |

Frequency -
1-20% = Rare
21-40% = Occasional
41- 60% = Frequent
> 60% = Constant