

## CITATION

**DUNDONNELL WOODS SSSI**  
**SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**  
Highland (Wester Ross)

Site code: 567

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NC 120848

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 19  
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 435 and 436

AREA: 337 hectares

## NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

**Biological: Woodlands: Upland mixed ash woodland**

## DESCRIPTION

Dundonnell Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) lies 8km south of Ullapool at the head of Little Loch Broom in Wester Ross. The site includes one of the best examples of deciduous woodland in northwest Scotland. This site has the most northerly substantial stand of ash in Britain and the hillside ash-alder community is unique in Wester Ross.

In the south of the SSSI, birch *Betula pubescens* and rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* grow on the block screes of Creag Dhubh Coille a' Bhun. Heather *Calluna vulgaris* and bilberry *Vaccinium vitis-idaea* dominate the ground flora. Some ledges and crevices are well wooded with birch, rowan, willow *Salix sp*, aspen *Populus tremula* and holly *Ilex aquifolium*. Birch and alder *Alnus glutinosa* cling to the gorge sides along the Dundonnell River.

In the central part of the SSSI the Dundonnell River plunges into a deep gorge 500m upstream of the confluence with the Allt a' Chairn. A rich diversity of trees grow here, including wych elm *Ulmus glabra*, willow, Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris*, birch *Betula pubescens*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, oak *Quercus petraea*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, holly *Ilex aquifolium*, rowan and aspen *Populus*. Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, ivy *Hedera helix*, dog rose *Rosa canina*, wood sage *Teucrium scorodonia* and hairy woodrush *Luzula pilosa* are typical species in the ground flora.

Downstream of the gorge, the strath opens out and woodland grows on the west facing slopes, extending up onto the crags at the north end of the SSSI. The crags and the hill slope below support oak, ash, Scots pine, birch, rowan, aspen, hazel, willow, gean *Prunus avium* and wych elm. There is a diverse ground flora including wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, wild angelica *Angelica sylvestris*, wood avens *Geum urbanum*, sanicle *Sanicula europaea*, Wilson's filmy fern *Hymenophyllum wilsonii* and oak fern *Thelypteris dryopteris*.

## NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1978

Re-notified under the 1981 Act with a 36ha increase in area: 16 May 1985

Notification reviewed under 2004 Act: 11 February 2010

## REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 353 ha).