MORVERN WOODS SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION (SAC)

CONSERVATION ADVICE PACKAGE

Abhainn a' Ghlinne Ghil, Morvern Woods ©NatureScot

Site Details

Site name:	Morvern Woods
Map:	https://sitelink.nature.scot/site/8331
Location:	Highlands and Islands
Site code:	UK0030217
Area (ha):	1,924.86
Date designated:	17 March 2005

Qualifying features

Qualifying feature	SCM assessed condition	SCM visit date	UK overall Conservation Status
Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes [H9180]*	Unfavourable Declining	2 October 2014	Unfavourable-bad
Western acidic oak woodland [H91A0]	Unfavourable Declining	2 October 2014	Unfavourable-bad
Otter (*Lutra lutra*) [S1355]	Favourable Maintained	13 September 2012	Favourable

Notes:
Assessed condition refers to the condition of the SAC feature assessed at a site level as part of NatureScot's Site Condition Monitoring (SCM) programme.
Conservation status is the overall condition of the feature throughout its range within the UK as reported to the European Commission under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive in 2019.
***** Habitats Directive priority habitat

Overlapping Protected Areas

Garbh Shlios Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Drimnin to Killundine Woods SSSI, Inninmore Bay SSSI, Loch Aline SSSI, and Beinn Iadain and Beinn na h-Uamha SSSI. Beinn Iadain and Beinn na H'Uamha SAC lies adjacent to the site.

Key factors affecting the qualifying features

Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes
This habitat typically occurs in association with base-rich rocks in the steep-sided immature river valleys, and is found on nutrient-rich soils that often accumulate in the shady micro-climates towards the bases of slopes and ravines. Such forests are not extensive and important stands are found predominately at Loch Aline, Inninmore

and Drimnin. Hazel dominated woodland, rare in Lochaber, is extensive at Drimnin with only Inninmore woodland exceeding species richness of ground flora.

Key management issues for this habitat include grazing levels, and problematic native and non-native species. The woodland is considered to be in an unfavourable condition at this site primarily due to moderate to high grazing and browsing impacts. This has led to a poorly developed under-storey and a lack of successful recruitment and regeneration of native tree species. Non-native species are also present at the site.

Western acidic oak woodland

This habitat type comprises a range of woodland types dominated by mixtures of oak and birch. It is characteristic of base-poor soils in areas of at least moderately high rainfall. This habitat is found in Garbh Shlios, Gleann Geal and Drimnin. A key feature of importance within this habitat type is the well-developed Atlantic bryophyte communities it can support.

The woodland is considered to be in an unfavourable condition at this site primarily due to herbivore impacts, which are generally moderate to very high across the woodlands. This has led to a poorly developed under-storey, a lack of regeneration of native tree species and a lack of diversity of age classes. Non-native species are also present at the site.

Both western acidic oak woodland and mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes require low but not zero grazing. High levels of grazing can distort the structure and composition of the woodlands, especially leading to an impoverished ground flora, and restricting regeneration of the more palatable tree species such as oak, ash and holly. This eventually results in a woodland dominated by older trees, and by the less palatable species such as birch, and lacking normal representation of intermediate life classes. Too little grazing can result in a lack of structural diversity in the canopy and over shading which can impact negatively on important lichen and bryophyte communities. The presence of non-native species such as Rhododendron can also impact the habitat, shading out ground flora and epiphytes, and preventing natural regeneration of native tree and shrub species. In the future new stresses to the feature, particularly from climate change, chalara ash-dieback and possibly other novel pests and pathogens, are anticipated.

Otter

Otter require continued proximity to unpolluted open water either freshwater or coastal. There should be a plentiful food supply and features for providing shelter for both resting and breeding. They are wide ranging and normally occur at low densities.

Previous population declines in otters across Scotland were primarily due to pollution and persecution.

Further information about the species and habitats listed above can be found on the JNCC website.

Conservation Priorities

Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes is a Habitats Directive priority habitat and therefore management of this feature should have priority over the other features of the site. In practice measures that are beneficial to this habitat are also likely to benefit the western acidic oak wood habitat and there is unlikely to be any conflict in management between the two features.

Conservation management for woodland should also not impact the otter feature of the site. However the impact of any proposed management measure on all the qualifying features should first be considered as part of a Habitats Regulations Appraisal.

Conservation Objectives

Overarching Conservation Objectives for all habitat features

1. To ensure that the qualifying features of Morvern Woods SAC are in favourable condition and make an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status
Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) is considered at a European biogeographic level. When determining whether management measures may be required to ensure that the conservation objectives for this site are achieved, the focus should be on maintaining or restoring the contribution that this site makes to FCS. When carrying out appraisals of plans and projects against these conservation objectives, it is not necessary to understand the status of the feature in other SACs in this biogeographic region. The purpose of the appraisal should be to understand whether the integrity of the site (see objective 2) would be maintained. If this is the case then its contribution to FCS across the Atlantic Biogeographic Region will continue to be met. Further details on how these appraisals should be carried out in relation to maintaining site integrity is provided by objective 2 (including parts a, b and c). If broader information on the feature is available then it should be used to provide context to the site-based appraisal. Note that “appropriate” within this part of the conservation objectives is included to indicate that the contribution to FCS varies from site to site and feature to feature.

2. To ensure that the integrity of Morvern Woods SAC is restored by meeting objectives 2a, 2b and 2c for each qualifying feature
The aim at this SAC is to maintain, or where appropriate restore, the qualifying features in a favourable condition as a contribution to their wider conservation status Therefore any impacts to the objectives shown in 2a, 2b, or 2c below must not persist so that they prevent the achievement of this overall aim. When carrying out appraisals of plans or projects the focus should be on restoring site integrity, specifically by meeting the objectives outlined in 2a, 2b and 2c. If these are met then site integrity will be restored. Note that not all of these will be relevant for every activity being considered. Any impacts on the objectives shown in 2a, 2b or 2c below must not persist so that they prevent the restoration of site integrity. Temporary impacts on these objectives resulting from plans or projects can only be permitted where they do not

prevent the ability of a feature to recover and there is certainty that the features will be able to quickly recover.

This objective recognises that the qualifying habitats are exposed to a wide range of drivers of change. Some of these are natural and are not a direct result of human influences. Such changes in the habitats' extent, distribution or condition within the site which are brought about by natural processes, directly or indirectly, are normally considered compatible with the site's conservation objectives. An assessment of whether a change is natural or anthropogenic, or a combination of both, will need to be looked at on a case by case basis.

Conservation Objectives for mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes (also known as *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines)

2a. Maintain the extent and distribution of the habitat within the site

The extent of the habitat has been taken from the Standard Data Form and has been estimated at 254.08ha. Fundamentally however there should be no measurable net reduction in the extent of the habitat and its distribution throughout the site.

The habitat typically occurs in association with base-rich rocks in the steep-sided immature river valleys, and is found on nutrient-rich soils that often accumulate in the shady micro-climates towards the bases of slopes and ravines. It is particularly found in the more nutrient rich areas of Lochaline, Inninmore bay and parts of Drimnin to Killundine Woods.

Impacts that could lead to a permanent reduction in the extent or distribution of the habitat should be avoided. In particular there should be no habitat loss from within or at the edge of the woodland and no habitat fragmentation. A lack of regeneration by native species, such as could occur through high herbivore impacts, will also lead to a long term decline in woodland extent.

2b. Restore the structure, function and supporting processes of the habitat

This habitat depends on nutrient-rich and base-rich soils and shady micro-climates found towards the bases of slopes, coarse scree, cliffs, steep rocky slopes and ravines. It is characterised by tree cover that:

- Has a mixed forest structure including young, mature, dying and dead trees in dense thickets and open glades with a range of shade cast on the woodland floor. Some western oceanic locations may be of smaller and scrub-dimensions.

- Is made up of diverse broadleaved tree and shrub species, but most consistently and abundantly by species with the characteristics (shade, leaf decay, structure, bark pH and obligate/associated dependent species) of hazel, ash, wych elm and birch species.

- The slopes on which this woodland type develops are often unstable, leading to an element of dynamism in their structure. Whilst this adds to the diversity of the communities present, it also makes the woodland vulnerable to disturbance from human activities. If disturbance is too frequent, or present over too large an area,

it may lead to loss of woodland area and typical species, and recovery might be slow.

The ground flora associated with the habitat is linked to variations in moisture and shade, or 'disturbance communities' associated with scree and cliff-bases. A wide range of other basiphilous herbs and grasses may occur within these stands. Many sites support notable bryophytes, in particular calcicoles associated with base-rich rock outcrops and (in western stands) Atlantic species. Some localities have important assemblages of epiphytic lichens.

These characteristics can be achieved by restoring an abundance of key tree species, particularly hazel, ash, wych elm and birch species, removing invasive species which compromise the critical characteristics of the habitat, and reducing grazing levels to allow all species of trees, shrubs and ground flora to develop naturally and flower, fruit etc.

2c. Restore the distribution and viability of typical species of the habitat

The main NVC types conforming to Tilio-Acerion forests in Morvern Woods SAC are W7 *Alnus glutinosa – Fraxinus excelsior – Lysimachia nemorum* woodland and W9 *Fraxinus excelsior – Sorbus aucuparia – Mercurialis perennis* woodland. The key tree species for this habitat are ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*) and birch (*Betula* species). The ground flora can be very varied and in this site rich, but the following elements are usually present: fern banks (particularly hart's-tongue *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, soft shield-fern *Polystichum setiferum* and buckler-ferns *Dryopteris* species); stands of ramsons *Allium ursinum* in the moister zones; dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* and enchanter's-nightshade *Circaea* species on drier but still base-rich soils; wood avens *Geum urbanum*, and natural 'disturbance communities' comprising common nettle *Urtica dioica*, herb-Robert *Geranium robertianum* and cleavers *Galium aparine* associated with scree and cliff-bases. A wide range of other basiphilous (preferring base-rich soil) herbs and grasses may occur within these stands. Some localities have important assemblages of epiphytic lichens (that grow on the surface of other plants). Where over grazing is an issue the distribution and viability of these typical species is lost.

Morvern woods is made up of five distinct areas, three of which have important stands of the habitat, with differing species composition:

Drimnin:
Hazel dominated stands are extensive in the Drimnin component of the site. With thickets of blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa)* and occasional rowan, birch and holly (*Ilex aquifolium)* trees. The ground flora is rich with upland enchanter's nightshade (*Circaea* species), dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis)*, sanicle (*Sanicula europaea)*, common twayblade (*Listera ovata)* and the rare narrowleaved helleborine.

Inninmore:
Woodland is dominated by ash and wych elm, but includes a wide variety of other tree and shrub species (notably birch, oak *Quercus* species, hazel, rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia)*, holly (*Ilex aquifolium),* blackthorn and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna)*). The ground flora is extremely rich in calcicolous woodland herbs including smooth-stalked sedge (*Carex laevigata)*, hairy-brome (*Bromopsis ramosa)* and great horsetail (E*quisetum telmateia).*

Loch Aline:
Loch Aline has similar tree species and ground flora to the woodland at Inninmore but additionally is notable for bryophyte flora, including *Ulota calvescens, Calypogeia suecica* and *Radula aquilegia.*

Tree Health implications

Many of the characteristics of mature Wych elm are reduced or absent in many locations in Scotland due to Dutch elm disease (DED). However, it usually continues to persist as an 'auto-coppicing' shrub after the loss of the mature trees, so long as grazing impacts are low enough for it to continue to grow. Ash is beginning to show extensive infection from Ash Dieback (ADB). While the end point of the disease is not known, some level of resistance has been found in most populations, and the main threat to this is the prevention of regeneration by high herbivore impacts. Meanwhile, it is likely that a high proportion of the mature ash will be damaged, with a short-term increase in deadwood. Other trees, such as hazel, rowan, willow and aspen, support many of the species associated with ash, although their nutrient cycling properties differ somewhat. Probably the most important management requirement for this habitat is to ensure low enough herbivore impacts to allow all tree and shrub species present to regenerate. This will maximise the opportunity for ash to develop resistance to ash dieback, and allow other species to regenerate as well, to ensure a species-rich tree and shrub layer.

Conservation Objectives for western acidic oak woods (also known as old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles)

2a. Maintain the extent and distribution of the habitat within the site

The extent of the western acidic oak woodland feature, taken from the Standard Data Form, has been estimated at 202.11ha. This should be maintained or allowed to increase through natural regeneration; and there should be no measurable net reduction in the extent of the habitat and its distribution throughout the site. This habitat is mostly found in the following areas across Morvern woods: Garbh Shlios, Loch Arienas, Glen Geall, Drimnin to Killundine and the upper part of Loch Aline.

To avoid any permanent reduction in the extent or distribution of the habitat, no habitat loss should take place from within or at the edge of the woodland, through non-native forestry planting, built development including hydro-electric schemes, agricultural development or dumping of waste. A lack of regeneration by native species, such as could occur through high herbivore impacts, will also lead to a long term decline in woodland extent.

2b. Restore the structure, function and supporting processes of the habitat

This habitat type comprises a range of woodland types dominated by mixtures of oak. It is found in areas of base-poor soils with at least moderately high rainfall, and the key elements that should be in place include:

- Mixed age classes of trees, canopy cover, deadwood/fallen trees, understorey, ground flora & epiphytic plants. At this site there are low levels of native tree species regeneration. A more natural understorey should also be allowed to regenerate.

- Large, long lived trees with the characteristics of existing species, especially the defining species of oak (bark chemistry and structure, shade, leaf litter, fruiting, senescence and deadwood development)

- Low levels of herbivore impacts, to allow all species of trees and shrubs to regenerate, and healthy growth of ground flora, including flowering and fruiting. At this site grazing is contributing to the lack of regeneration by native tree species and affecting the composition of the understorey within the woodland.

- Levels of humidity capable of supporting characteristic bryophyte and lichen assemblages.

- Absence of invasive non-native species, especially Rhododendron.

- Prevention of pathogen arrival, establishment and spread.

The field layer is generally species-poor, characterised by ericoid shrubs, bracken and grasses. In the more oceanic and wetter parts of the range the diversity of ferns and particularly lichens and bryophytes dominates the species interest.

2c. Restore the distribution and viability of typical species of the habitat

The habitat corresponds to NVC types:

- W11 Quercus petraea – Betula pubescens – Oxalis acetosella woodland
- W17 Quercus petraea – Betula pubescens – Dicranum majus woodland

The key tree species found in this habitat are oak (*Q. petraea*) and birch (*B. pubescens*). There is significant variation between individual stands of the habitat in domination by either oak or birch.

Ash, wych elm and hazel are also present where there are more base rich soils, usually but not always in the ravines. A sparse shrub flora includes holly (*Ilex aquifolium)*, aspen (*Populus tremula)* and guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus)*. Woodland glades support bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum)*, purple moor grass (*Molinia caerulea)* and heather (*Calluna vulgaris)* whilst under the canopy a herb-fern field layer predominates.

Western acidic oak woodland supports an important component of Britain's oceanic bryophyte flora and lichen mycota. The distribution and viability of these assemblages should be maintained with particular focus on nationally rare, scarce and/or threatened species and on assemblages that indicate a long period of ecological continuity. They include highly oceanic woodland species such as hay-scented buckler fern (*Dryopteris aemula)* and Tunbridge filmy fern (*Hymenophyllum tunbrigense)*, giving added interest to the woodland.

Conditions needed for lichens include maintaining sheltered but open old-growth conditions where the impact of shade, due to regeneration and climber growth, is balanced at the site scale against the need for continued woodland regeneration.

Grazing levels can impact the typical species of this site. The understorey needs to be restored and measures put in place to ensure mixed age classes of trees are present.

Conservation Objectives for Otter

1. To ensure that the qualifying features of Morvern Woods SAC are in favourable condition and make an appropriate contribution to achieving favourable conservation status

Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) is considered at a European biogeographic level. When determining whether management measures may be required to ensure that the conservation objectives for this site are achieved, the focus should be on maintaining or restoring the contribution that this site makes to FCS.

When carrying out appraisals of plans and projects against these conservation objectives, it is not necessary to understand the status of the feature in other SACs in this

biogeographic region. The purpose of the appraisal should be to understand whether the integrity of the site (see objective 2) would be maintained. If this is the case then its contribution to FCS across the Atlantic Biogeographic Region will continue to be met. Further details on how these appraisals should be carried out in relation to maintaining site integrity is provided by objective 2 (including parts a, b and c). If broader information on the feature is available then it should be used to provide context to the site-based appraisal.

Note that "appropriate" within this part of the conservation objectives is included to indicate that the contribution to FCS varies from site to site and feature to feature.

2. To ensure that the integrity of Morvern Woods SAC is restored by meeting objectives 2a, 2b and 2c for the qualifying feature

The aim at this SAC is to maintain the species in a favourable condition as a contribution to its wider conservation status. Therefore any impacts on the objectives shown in 2a, 2b, or 2c below must not persist so that they prevent the achievement of this overall aim. When carrying out appraisals of plans or projects the focus should be on restoring site integrity, specifically by meeting the objectives outlined in 2a, 2b and 2c. If these are met then site integrity will be restored. Note that not all of these will be relevant for every activity being considered. Any impacts on the objectives shown in 2a, 2b or 2c below must not persist so that they prevent the restoration of site integrity. Temporary impacts on these objectives resulting from plans or projects can only be permitted where they do not prevent the ability of a feature to recover and there is certainty that the features will be able to quickly recover.

This objective recognises that the qualifying species are exposed to a wide range of drivers of change. Some of these are natural (e.g. population fluctuations/ shifts or habitat changes resulting from natural processes) and are not a direct result of human influences. Such changes in the qualifying species' distribution and use of the site, which are brought about by natural processes, directly or indirectly, are normally considered compatible with the site's conservation objectives. An assessment of whether a change is natural or anthropogenic, or a combination of both, will need to be looked at on a case by case basis.

2a. Maintain the population of the species as a viable component of the site

The conditions for the long-term existence of the otter population at Morvern Woods SAC should be maintained.

An estimate of the number of otters occupying the site is not available and therefore there is no numerical baseline that can be given for the site. This conservation objective is considered to be met if the conditions for the species' long-term existence are in place. This includes:

- avoiding effects that could lead to a permanent reduction in the otter population through mortality, injury, or impacts caused by disturbance or displacement. This includes for example the effects caused by development, river engineering, water pollution, roads without adequate crossing provision for otters or suitable culverts, or entanglement in fishing gear.
- maintaining the species' ability to use all areas of importance within the site (to be considered under conservation objective 2b)
- maintaining access to, and availability of, undisturbed resting places
- maintaining access to, and availability of, supporting habitats and prey (to be considered under conservation objective 2c).

Otters are wide-ranging and highly mobile. The population in Morvern Woods SAC is reliant on suitable habitat in the surrounding wider countryside and marine environment and is unlikely be viable (capable of functioning) in isolation. The home range of an otter will vary depending on their sex, habitat quality and food availability. It will also vary between freshwater and coastal environments. In coastal areas otter densities may be as high as 0.5 - 0.7 animals/km. At this SAC otter will predominantly feed in coastal waters that lie outwith the boundary of the site. Males living in rivers and streams can have a linear home range size of around 40km and females living in the same habitat can have a linear range of around 20km. Males have been known to range as far as 80km. When assessing the effects of any plan or project consideration should be given to whether impacts outwith the SAC could affect achievement of this conservation objective.

Otters are a European protected species (EPS) and it is an offence to deliberately or recklessly capture, injure, kill, harass or disturb them in certain circumstances, or to damage or destroy their breeding or resting places anywhere in Scotland unless a licence has been issued to do so. A licence can only be issued for particular purposes which the law allows. Further, there must be no satisfactory alternative and no detrimental impact on the contribution to the maintenance of otter at a favourable conservation status for a licence to be issued. This assessment considers impacts on the otter population at a local and regional level. The licensing requirement is in addition to considering whether a plan or project will result in any impacts (including incidental impacts) to the otter population within the SAC.

2b. Maintain the distribution of the species throughout the site

Otters should be able to use and access all areas of importance within the SAC and their distribution throughout the site should be maintained.

Distribution of otters within the site can be affected by disturbance originating both within and outwith the site. Plans and projects that cause displacement and barrier effects to the species can also affect species distribution. Examples include use of night-time floodlighting of watercourses, road and bridge construction works and general disturbance from human activity (and dogs) by watercourses especially at dusk/night-time.

2c. Maintain the habitats supporting the species within the site and availability of food

The distribution and extent of otter habitat within the site should be maintained, together with the structure, function and supporting processes of the habitat.

Otters require suitable habitat for foraging, breeding and resting. In coastal areas their preferred habitat is rocky shore with abundant boulders, crevices and/or peat, or other cavity-forming features such as tree root systems to provide secure holt sites above high water. Dense scrub is also valuable for providing lie-ups and couches. These features should ideally be close to gently-shelving shallow inshore waters with good habitat for inshore fish species and crustaceans. Otters will primarily forage in adjacent coastal waters however will also feed on freshwater fish and amphibians within the SAC. Ample sources of freshwater nearby are essential to enable animals to remove salt from their fur.

In freshwater environments abundant boulders, crevices and/or peat, or other cavity-forming features such as tree root systems are needed to provide secure holt sites above high water. Dense scrub is also valuable for providing lie-ups and couches. Suitable areas supporting a healthy fish population within a nearby watercourse or still water body are required within each otter's home range, to enable foraging for key prey species such as salmonids and eels. Access to ponds, ditches, reedbeds and wetlands where amphibians may breed is also important.

Conservation Measures

The majority of Morvern Woods is notified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and management changes described on the list of Operations Requiring Consent must have prior consent from SNH (NatureScot). Glen Geall is the only area not underpinned by a SSSI.

Current and recommended management for mixed woodland on base rich soils associated with rocky slopes and western acidic oak woodland

Issue	Measure	Responsible party
Grazing	Ensure herbivore impacts are predominantly low to medium based on the Woodland Grazing Toolkit and do not prevent the regeneration of typical native tree species, or the development of a more natural understorey. Much of the SAC is on Ardtornish Estate, where work is ongoing to reduce herbivore impacts on the SAC woodlands. The Drimnin to Killundine SSSI has multiple smaller owner/occupiers and remedies have been identified for each parcel. Scottish Forestry leads on delivering this work.	Land manager, Morvern Deer Management Group, Scottish Forestry, NatureScot
Trampling (human, stock & wild mammal) and other mammalian plant damage	Management of the site keeps trampling to a minimum. See comments on grazing above.	Land manager, Morvern Deer Management Group, Scottish Forestry, NatureScot
Non-native invasive species	Removal of all non-natives from the site and prevent encroachment. Discuss options available. Work is ongoing over much of the site (Ardtornish Estate, Drimnin Estate) to tackle rhododendron. Other remedies have been identified for Drimnin to Killundine SSSI. Further work will be needed to prevent reinvasion from neighbouring properties, road verges etc.	Land manager, Scottish Forestry, NatureScot
Hydrology	Ensure natural hydrological processes are maintained where they support significant populations of typical wooded ravine bryophytes and lichens.	Landowner
Avoidance of introduction of known pathogens	Discussions on options available to avoid any introduction of known disease organisms	Land manager, NatureScot
Future threats	A coordinated resilience planning process should be developed to respond to anticipated future threats to	NatureScot Land managers

	the habitat. Management actions arising from the resilience planning process, and site-level plans, should be implemented to anticipate future threats to the habitat on the site. This resilience work may also include further research to understand the vulnerabilities of the habitat.	
Research and monitoring	To identify emerging impacts on the habitat and their causes, in order to understand the long term issues, identify refugia, review site-level resilience plans in the light of updated future threat projections and to inform future management of the habitat across Scotland.	NatureScot, Universities, land managers
Climate change	Discussions on options available and participation in available local, national and international initiatives	Land manager, Local authority, Scottish/UK government, NatureScot

Current and recommended management for otters

Issue	Measure	Responsible party
Ongoing species protection	Otter are a European protected species and therefore the species protection provisions of the Habitats Regulations apply.	All
Ongoing site protection for parts of Morvern Woods not underpinned by SSSI	Forest, CAR and agricultural legislation will help protect habitats. Any plan or project that could affect the qualifying features of the SAC will need to be subject to a Habitats Regulations Appraisal.	Scottish Forestry SEPA RPID

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Approved on 14 August 2020 by:

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