SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: RAVENSDALE PLANTATION

SITE CODE: 001805

Ravensdale Plantation is situated approximately 4km north of Ravensdale in Co. Louth, close to the county border with Armagh. The site is a forest in part of which a nature trail has been established.

The trees on site are largely coniferous but Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) also occur. The shrub understorey is composed of Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Ash and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.).

The ground flora is particularly rich for coniferous woodland. Species present include Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*), Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*), Lords-and-ladies (*Arum maculatum*), Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*), Wood-sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Ground-ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*), Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), Common Dog-violet (*Viola riviniana*), Enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), Herb-Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Hard Fern (*Blechnum spicant*).

The flora is typical for deciduous woods in Co. Louth, though not so profuse as where light penetration to the herb layer is impeded. The insect fauna of the wood is typical and Badger, squirrel, Jay and a varied passerine bird fauna occur.

As the site is a nature-trail it is probably safe from alteration or destruction. Rhododendron is manageable in the vicinity of maturing trees and there is evidence that it has been cut back.

10.12.2009