SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: ARDAN WOOD

SITE CODE: 001711

Ardan Wood is a crescent shaped woodland on a steep slope, about 5km west of Kilbeggan, forming the edge to a broader deposit of glacial drift than the normal eskers. It is wooded mostly by large Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) with a mixed and varied ground flora. Shrubs include Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and roses (*Rosa canina* and *R. arvensis*).

Epiphytic mosses and lichens occur frequently and there is also a good fungal flora.

Though these trees were probably planted, the community appears little different from a natural wood.

It is a valuable demonstration of the natural climax forest type that the other esker vegetation is approaching, and forms an important part of the series of woodlands in the east of the country.

Oak trees are renowned for the abundance of the invertebrate and lower plant communities associated with them. They are instructive examples of the complexity and interrelations in the ecosystem and are particularly valuable in this case, of their size.

This wood is likely to house nesting Sparrowhawks, and Long-eared Owls.

25.11.2009