SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: PROHUS WOOD

SITE CODE: 001248

Prohus Wood which is situated 7km west of Macroom consists predominantly of young trees, partly coppiced growing on rocky ground which slopes to the east. Birch (*Betula* spp.), oak (*Querus* spp.) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) are frequent, with some willows (*Salix* spp.) and Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) beside streams. At the lower edge thickets of Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) occur with some Hazel (*Corylus avellana*). The trees are quite closely spaced and in the shade only mosses grow on their trunks. Pockets of clayey soil alternate with mossy boulders and support such plants as Common Dog-violet (*Viola riviniana*), Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*), Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*) and Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*). In wetter places Golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*) and the moss *Rhizomnium punctatum* are characteristic.

The main land use within and surrounding the site is grazing by cattle.

This site is a very young wood derived from widespread clearance about forty years ago (1986). The site has not developed much habitat diversity but is developing quite naturally and is of local importance.

18.11.2009