SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: CORBALLIS HILL

SITE CODE: 001389

Corballis Hill is located about 5km south-west of Castledermot. It is composed of sandstone with drift deposits on its lower slopes. The hill rises to 260m.

The main habitats are woodland and heath. The wood is mostly of oak (*Quercus* spp.), which in places is an almost pure stand. Grey Willow (*Salix cinerea*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) are frequent in places. Some of the Hazel are very old individuals, with diameters of 23cm. On lower slopes the trees are more varied, with Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and Horse-chestnut (*Aesculus hipposcastanum*). The herbaceous layer of the wood contains the following – Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Great Wood-rush (*Luzula sylvatica*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), Herb-Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), Wood-sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*), Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*) and Pignut (*Conopodium majus*).

Mosses include *Polytrichum formosum*, *Dicranum majus* and *Plagiothecium undulatum*.

Heath areas with gorse (*Ulex europaeus*, *U. gallii*), Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Heath-grass (*Danthonia decumbens*) occur in places.

A wide range of passerine bird species were recorded from the site, as well as Sparrowhawk, Kestrel, Woodcock and Stock Dove.

The eastern parts of the site, as identified by An Foras Forbatha, have been planted with conifers and are now of little interest.

This is a good example of fairly intact, deciduous woodland. Similar sites in Co Kildare are rare.

19.11.2009