SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: GLENBOY WOOD

SITE CODE: 000952

Glenboy Wood lies in a deep valley just south of Newcastle on the north-east end of the Knockmealdown Mountains. There has been extensive planting of conifers, most of which are now nearing maturity (2002), but patches of the original woodland and individual trees remain, especially where the planting has failed, and there is a more or less continuous, although narrow, belt of native species beside the main river and its tributaries. These remnants are very species-rich.

Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) and Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) are the dominant trees on the drier, upper parts of the slopes, forming a *Blechno-Quercetum* var. *coryletosum* community. Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and ferns are abundant with patches of Great Wood-rush (*Luzula sylvatica*). The valley sides are very wet with seepage areas in which Enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), ferns and Golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*) are prominent.

The main stream has a narrow valley floor dominated by Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). Seepage areas and runnels, which run parallel to the flow, occur and these are probably permanently wet or moist. In places steep rocky cliffs covered in bryophytes and ferns occur.

Throughout the wood there is much fallen deadwood. There is very little grazing.

9.12.2009