SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: COOLACURRAGH WOOD

SITE CODE: 000862

This woodland site occurs on fen peat over marl and is situated approximately 5.5km east north-east of Rathdowney in Co. Laois.

The vegetation is dominated by native tree species such as Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), willow (*Salix* spp.) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), spruce (*Picea* spp.) and pine (*Pinus* spp.) can also be found adding plant diversity to the site. The occurrence of substantial amounts of dead and decaying wood in the site is an ecological bonus. These serve as microhabitats for various plant, animal and insect life.

Human land use of the wood is of low intensity. Overall, the site appears quite undisturbed and in a semi-natural state.

Coolacurragh Wood is a good example of relatively undisturbed woodland dominated by native tree species. It contains a flora representative of poorly drained areas typical of the central Irish plain before agricultural land reclamation.

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