SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: GARRANNON WOOD

SITE CODE: 001012

This small deciduous wood is located immediately east of Cratloe and less than 10km from Limerick city. It is situated on a rocky knoll and is surrounded mostly by pasture fields.

The main tree species of the wood is oak (*Quercus* spp.), which is mature and forms a closed canopy over much of the site. Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) occur in places. Part of the western section of the site has been clear-felled recently and replanted with Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), larch (*Larix* spp.) and oak. Some Beech has also become established within the woods.

The understorey is rather sparse and mostly of Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) occurs throughout, with Hazel, oak and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) in places. The herb layer and ground flora is mostly absent from the Bramble dominated areas. Elsewhere it is typical for a deciduous wood, with species such as Great Wood-rush (*Luzula sylvatica*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), Wood-sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*) and Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*).

The following ferns have been recorded - Hard Fern (*Blechnum spicant*), Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*) and Hay-scented Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris aemula*).

There were signs of Fox, Badger and Pine Marten in the wood. Some uncommon beetles have been recorded from the site.

The importance of this site is that it is a good example of a fairly intact and mature oak wood. It is likely that the site has been wooded for a long period.

16.11.2009