SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: TRUMPET HILL (LOUTH)

SITE CODE: 001468

This basalt hill stands 6km directly north-east of Dundalk.

The site contains several habitats. The central hill has rocky outcrops, and where it slopes abruptly to the north, various ferns are growing. This slope is covered in mosses and liverworts with Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*), Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), Cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*) and Great Wood-rush (*Luzula sylvatica*) also present.

At the base of the hill is a fringe of scrub trees with a ground flora of Wood-sorrel (*Oxalis aceotsella*) and Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*). In a westerly direction, the hill slopes gradually, upon which grows a mixed forest dominated by Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) interspersed with Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and oak (*Quercus* spp.).

The information contained in the latter two paragraphs was detailed by An Foras Forbartha in 1972, but recent site visits in June/July 1993 indicates that this description still applies.

Human land use of the site primarily involves the felling of mature trees. This practice, if unmanaged, is a threat to the woodland habitat.

The aspect, steep slope and varied plant cover of Trumpet Hill form several habitat types and permit a wide range of microflora to grow there. The association of mixed Beech wood with the basalt outcrop adds diversity of habitat to a small area.

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