SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: HOG'S ISLAND (LOUGH KEY)

SITE CODE: 001638

Hog's Island is a wooded island off the western shore of Lough Key, north of Boyle in Co. Roscommon.

This site is an example of secondary woodland growing over traces of lazy-beds. The dominant tree species is Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). Other tree species occurring here are Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*). The woodland herb layer flora, with Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*) as the most abundant species, is being modified by the presence on the island of three feral goats. These goats have been on the island since 1990 and are likely to lead to significant degradation of the woodland quality in terms of the ground flora and tree regeneration.

The woodland cover on the island provides a good nesting site for several species of warbler and other songbirds. Ground nesting wildfowl are likely to be disturbed by the large presence of mink in the area.

The woodland is a good example of natural regeneration and is significant given the rarity of woodland within the county.

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