SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: GLASHGARRIFF RIVER

SITE CODE: 001055

This site is situated 22km north north-west of Bandon, about 1km south of Bealnamorive Bridge and about 1km east of Lough Gal which is also a Natural Heritage Area.

This site consists of a small stream and wooded river valley. Conifer trees have been planted on both sides of the valley and the main woodland types included within the site are dry broad-leaved woodland, mixed woodland and commercial forest.

In 1986 An Foras Forbartha gave the following description of the site.

The Glashgarriff River has a notable waterfall and several series of rapids. The wooded, humic valley has regions of seepage and exposed rock. Smooth-stalked Sedge (*Carex laevigata*) and Eared Willow (*Salix aurita*) are characteristic of the woodland here while the rocks are generally covered by mosses or, in shady places filmy-ferns (*Hymenophyllum* spp.). The waterfall was once a site for the legally protected Killarney Fern (*Trichomanes speciosum*) in the last century but it has now disappeared.

The ground flora of the woodland is moderately rich for an upland situation. Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and the bulbous form of celandine, Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*) occur.

Otters use this site, a species listed under Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive as it is threatened in the E.U. Badgers also occur here – this species is internationally important and is listed in the Irish Red Data Book.

The main land use within the site is forestry. The woodlands and river are also used for amenity purposes and shooting.

This site includes one of the few waterfalls in the county. The flora of ferns and non-flowering plants in the glen are of interest. The presence of two protected mammal species adds further importance to the site.

17.11.2009