SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: DERRYGAREEN HEATH

SITE CODE: 000931

Situated to the north-west of the Slievefelim Mountains, about 4km south-east of Newport, Derrygareen Heath is a proposed Natural Heritage Area (NHA).

This is a rocky area of shallow peaty soils over Old Red Sandstone geology. The vegetation is that of un-reclaimed heathland, dominated by Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) with Cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*), and grasses such as Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*).

Scrub species are widespread, most notably Eared Willow (*Salix aurita*) and Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), and there are also patches of Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

Apart from the exclusion of a small conifer plantation to the east of the site, the proposed NHA boundary is that of the old ASI boundary. Although the vegetation could be described as typical, it is atypical for such an area as to remain unfertilised, un-reclaimed, and largely unplanted with conifers.

13.11.2009