SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: SKOOLHILL

SITE CODE: 001996

Skool Hill is situated in Grange in Co. Limerick. Two woodlands occur here, with a mixture of native tree species such as Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and oak (*Quercus* spp.) as well as exotics like Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). The ground vegetation in the woods is quite sparse, with Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), ferns and Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*) present.

Rough grassland exists on the hill outside the woods, with quite natural vegetation present around the limestone rock outcrops. Plants such as Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*) are found there.

The outstanding value of this site is as the only known location in Ireland of the grass Various-leaved Fescue (*Festuca heterophylla*). This was discussed here in 1977 and has still not been recorded elsewhere in Ireland.

8.12.2009