SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: KILGARVAN WOOD

SITE CODE: 001787

Kilgarvan Wood is situated on a hillside approximately 1.5km east of Kilgarvan. The following description of the site is largely based upon the one provided by An Foras Forbartha in 1972.

This broadleaved semi-natural woodland is thought to be of recent origin. The dominant tree species is Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*), although Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) regularly occur along with a few large individuals of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). The thin understorey is comprised of Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), with Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) becoming prominent towards the base of the slope.

The wood appears quite healthy with young trees present and regeneration good, though not abundant.

The wood is situated on boulder clay with a moderately rich, characteristic ground flora. The most commonly occurring species are Wood-sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) and Great Wood-rush (*Luzula sylvatica*), with Common Dog-violet (*Viola riviniana*), Barren Strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*), Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*), Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*) and buckler-ferns (*Dryopteris aemula* and *D. dilatata*) also frequent. Among the more occasionally occurring species are Irish Spurge (*Euphorbia hyberna*) and Lady-fern (*Athyrium filix-femmina*), while the bryophyte layer contains a range of mosses (*Plagiothecium undulatum*, *Hookeria lucens*, *Polytrichum formosum* and *Hylocomium brevirostre*).

The recent NHA survey noted that a variety of birds and mammals use the wood, including kestrels, Sparrowhawks, Deer and Badgers.

The main land use within the wood is grazing, although some felling and drainage has taken place relatively recently. It is thought that felling or afforestation poses the greatest threat to the site.

This site is of interest because it is a good example of semi-natural broadleaved woodland.

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