SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: TOOR WOOD

SITE CODE: 001708

Along the flanks of the Glasha River Valley in the gently rolling foothills of the Comeragh Mountains, north County Waterford, Toor Woods occurs as a small area of mixed deciduous woodland largely surrounded by conifer plantations.

These woods contain patches of mature relict oak woodland with a good diversity of native species including oak (*Quercus* spp.), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), Hazel (*Coryllus avellana*) and Holly (I*lex aquifolium*). The northern tract of woodland is more dominated by introduced species such as Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*). There is a rich ground flora in the oak woodlands with several wet areas containing Golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*), Hemlock Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*) and Lady-fern (*Athyrium felix-femina*). The drier areas are comprised of a more typical deciduous woodland flora including Great Wood-rush (*Luzula sylvatica*), Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Hard Fern (*Blechnum spicant*), Ivy (*Hedera helix*) and Wood-sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*).

Toor Woods have been somewhat damaged by the invasion of exotic species such as Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) and Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*). However, in addition to being of ecological interest, they are of high amenity value and are used for pheasant shooting, picnicing and walking.

25.11.2009