SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: CAMCOR WOOD

SITE CODE: 000889

Camcor Wood occupies level ground both sides of the Camcor River valley which cuts through Upper Silurian rocks about 15km east of Birr, Co. Offaly. Glinsk Grove is included in the proposed Natural Heritage Area.

Along the Camcor valley bottom, the woodland has developed over level ground. Here the stream braids to form several 'islands', and there are a number of rather wet marshy areas. The main tree species are the wet woodland species: Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), willow (*Salix* spp.) and birch (*Betula* spp.) with oak (*Quercus* spp.), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Hawthorn (*Crateagus monogyna*) colonising drier areas. The ground flora is diverse with areas of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), and species such as Enchanter's-nightshade (*Circea lutetiana*), Wood-sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) and Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*). Marsh-marigold (*Caltha palustris*) and Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) typify the wetter areas.

This is a particularly fine example of woodland in a fairly natural condition, although unfortunately the Glinsk gully has suffered to a serious degree from conifer plantation. The native woodland has an impressive age structure with much regeneration, and an equally impressive ground layer, notably species-rich, with 42 mosses, 12 ferns, 15 grasses, and 90 other higher plant species recorded.

13.11.2009