SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: GLANLEAM WOOD

SITE CODE: 001353

This site is a 40ha woodland situated 2km west of Knightstown on Valencia Island. The woodland slopes north towards Valencia Harbour on the slopes of Kilbeg Hill. It is reported to be the most westerly semi-natural woodland in Ireland.

In l972 An Foras Forbartha gave the following description of the site.

Glanleam Wood is an example of a semi-natural wood composed of sub-tropical species. These are mostly plants from Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, South America and South Africa but there are some northern species from Japan. Among the naturalised genera *Clethra* and myrtle (*Myrtus* spp.) are very frequent while the Dicksonia tree fern (*Dicksonia* spp.) also spreads freely. The ground cover includes the ferns *Woodwardia* spp. and Hart's-tongue (*Phyllitis* spp.).

The main threat to the site is the spread of Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) in the woodland understorey.

The wood is important for having native species of bryophytes, as well as probably the finest collection of hybrid forms of the Kidney Saxifrage (*Saxifraga hirsuta*) and St. Patrick's-cabbage (*S. spathularis*) complex in Ireland.

18.11.2009