SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: DRIMCONG WOOD

SITE CODE: 001260

Drimcong Wood is situated approximately l.5km north-east of Moycullen, Co. Galway, in a limestone region. It is a mixture of deciduous and coniferous woodland.

The main habitat is deciduous woodland, with Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) common, at least on the fringes. Coniferous woodland, with Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), is also frequent. Two lakes are included in part of the site, Lough Aroraun and Lough Pollalehy, leading to the inclusion of an area of reed swamp in the site. This area is dominated by Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*).

The 1971 AFF County Report notes that part of the site is used as a deer forest.

The main damaging operations and threats within the site are afforestation and mineral extraction. A new road has been built to access a recently purchased area in the south-east of the site. The intention is to resume quarrying. An application has also been made to the Local Planning Authority to develop the area as an amenity park and motor sport facilities complex.

The scarcity of woodland in the west of Ireland in particular, as well as the good range of habitats, justifies the designation of this site as a NHA.

18.11.2009