SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: CROLLY BRIDGE WOODS

SITE CODE: 001102

This woodland site is situated 5km south-east of Bunbeg on the banks of the Gweedore River. The underlying geology of the site is granodiorite (a basic igneous rock) and this is exposed in the river channel and as boulders in the woodland.

The core area of woodland is predominantly Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*). The understorey contains Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), willow (*Salix* spp.) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*). The ground flora of this area is dominated by mosses including *Dicranum majus*, *Mnium hornum*, *Rhytidiadelphus loreus* and *Plagiothecium undulatum*. The woodland adjacent to the river is wetter and is dominated by Grey Willow (*Salix cinerea*) and Silver Birch.

Wet grassland dominated by Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) and Bog-myrtle (*Myrica gale*) occurs on the margins of the woodland. A small plantation of poplar (*Populus* spp.) occurs near the bridge. The dense ground flora of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) and Pignut (*Conopodium majus*) in this area adds further diversity to the site.

A Badger set occurs within the woods. This species is protected under the Berne Convention and is listed in the Irish Red Data Book as it is considered threatened within Europe.

Old Sessile Oak woodland with Holly and Hard Fern (*Blechnun spicant*) is listed as an Annexed Habitat under the E.U. Habitats Directive. This example is ungrazed by domestic stock and the ground flora is mostly undisturbed.

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