SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: KINLOUGH WOOD

SITE CODE: 001415

Kinlough Wood is wet woodland of planted origin located 2km east of Kinlough. This wood has developed on the very wet, clay rich soils which are typical of County Leitrim. It is comprised of Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), willow (*Salix* spp.) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) with abundant Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) in the understorey. Mature Sessile Oak (*Quercus robur*) also occurs along the margins of the wood and is occasional within the drier areas of the wood itself.

The ground flora is rather open with frequent bare muddy and waterlogged patches. There is a good diversity of herb species including Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), Wood-sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*), Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*), Wavy Bitter-cress (*Cardamine flexuosa*), Common Dog-violet (*Viola riviniana*), speedwells (*Veronica chamaedrys* and *V. montana*), occasional Pignut (*Conopodium majus*) and Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*). Ferns and sedges are also locally common including Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Smooth-stalked Sedge (*Carex laevigata*), Hard Fern (*Blechnum spicant*) and Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*).

Several factors have led to the reduction of the scientific interest in this site. Many areas within the site have been clear-felled and planted with spruce (*Picea* spp.) and larch (*Larix* spp.). The ESB also plans to construct a new 220 kV power line through an area in the middle of the site which has been afforested. The wood is also grazed in the central area. Some natural regeneration is occurring on the margins of the site but is minimal in the interior of the site due to pressure from grazing.

However, this wood is still of local importance as one of the best and only remaining examples of this habitat type in the region. It may not be possible to conserve this wood in its entirety but at the very least, the large oaks on the perimeter of the site should be a priority for conservation.

20.11.2009