SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: COGUISH BOG

SITE CODE: 001938

This site is located 3km north-east of Carrick Village, Co. Donegal and lies between the Rivers Crow and Glenaddragh. The site is underlain by the metamorphic rock pelite and this is exposed on the rocky summits of Crockmeenabrade (331m) and Croaghnambradden (278m). This site shows a gradual transition of vegetation types.

Adjacent to the Crow River Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) is dominant, and gradually gives way to Deergrass (*Trichophorum cespitosum*) and Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) dominated bogs. On the flatter areas this becomes most interesting with pools and Sphagnum mosses including *Sphagnum cuspidatum*, *S. capillifolium* and *S. papillosum*. Small cushions of Woolly Fringe-moss (*Racomitrium lanuginosum*) also occur here.

On the steeper slopes leading up to the summits of Crockmeenabrade acid grassland dominated by Mat-grass (*Nardis stricta*) occurs. This gradually gives way to the eroded Heather dominated summits. The blanket bog has many areas of hand cutting. Machine cutting is also occurring and this is potentially very serious.

Despite the encroachment of forestry and machine peat extraction on this site it still contains some areas of deep peat with interesting bog communities. The gradual gradation of vegetation types from the river sides to the summit tops is also of interest. A hare has been seen on the site.

7.12.2009