SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: TAWNYTASKIN WOOD (LOUGH KEY)

SITE CODE: 001651

Tawnytaskin Wood lies on the western shore of Lough Key about 3km north-east of Boyle. The site consists of deciduous woodland with a nucleus of scattered Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) around which other tree species occur. The northern section of the site has a dense cover of tall Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*). Other tree species include Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Grey Willow (*Salix cinerea*). Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) has been planted along wall lines. Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) is a common understory species with some Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*). The ground flora is often poor under the denser areas of woodland.

Towards the lake shore the woodland is dominated by Ash and Hazel. This area has a richer ground flora with species such as Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*), Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*), Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*) and Wood-sedge (Carex sylvatica) occurring there. There are also patches of wet woodland dominated by Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) with a ground layer of Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*), Common Marsh-bedstraw (*Galium palustre*), Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) and occasional Giant Fescue (*Festuca gigantea*) and Hedge Woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica*).

Sherard's Downy-rose (*Rosa sherardii*) occurs in rocky places along the lakeshore. Bog-myrtle (*Myrica gale*) occurs in marsh areas along the shore. The eastern fringe of the site includes areas of reed-beds dominated by Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*).

The woodland is considered of local importance with a varied woodland flora. The wetter woodland along the lake shore seems to be spreading.

24.11.2009