SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: DOONEEN WOOD

SITE CODE: 001349

Dooneen Wood is located 1.5km north of Castleisland and c. 15km west of Tralee, County Kerry. It is situated on clayey soil at the southern end of the Glanaruddery Mountains on an escarpment of coal measures shale. The woodland is growing on the sides of a small, winding valley, whose stream feeds into the Glanshearoon River which flows to the south of this wood.

The following site description was prepared with reference to the An Foras Forbartha report of 1972 and the ranger site return of 1993.

Dooneen Wood is primarily composed of Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) with Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), Grey Willow (*Salix cinerea*), Hazel (*Coryllus avellana*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). Some of the Sessile Oak trees are large and there is some regeneration of Sessile Oak within the wood. The ground flora comprises a variety of herbs characteristic of an oakwood community and the presence of Irish Spurge (*Euphorbia hyberna*), a species common in South Kerry but rare and local elsewhere in Ireland, Early Dog-voilet (*Viola reichenbachiana*) and Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*) are noted. There are also small areas of scrub woodland and many woodland birds. Cattle graze the southern end of the wood but the rest is well fenced and ungrazed. There has also been some small-scale dumping and felling in the woodland, particularly at the southern end.

Possible threats to the woodlands' survival would appear to be overgrazing, felling and afforestation. These should be guarded against and prevented where possible. These are already several large areas of coniferous afforestation near to this woodland.

The woodland is a regionally important site because of its position and substrate. There are few semi-natural woods found on the coal measures formation and it supports the growth of a good variety of plant species and associated animals, particularly woodland birds.

18.11.2009