SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: KNOCKROE FOX COVERT

SITE CODE: 000964

Knockroe Fox Covert, about 4km southwest of Golden in Co. Tipperary, was designated an Area of Scientific Interest (ASI) in 1972, when the woodland area extended to 11ha. Since 1972 much of the former area has been clear felled and the only 3ha of woodland remain to be re-designated as a Natural Heritage Area.

The remnant woodland occupies a north facing, fairly steep slope formed in glacial drift. It is composed of Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) with Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Hawthorn (*Crateagus monogyna*). Typically the ground flora is species-rich which includes Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*) and Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*).

With the dramatic decrease in the area of this woodland there was an attendant decline in the value of the site. The original ASI designation was made largely on the basis of the varied and undisturbed ground flora, but the woodland is now visited by foraging sheep that are damaging the ground flora of the remaining wood. Thus the site is minimally qualified for its NHA status, but it is still thought that if the site were made stock-proof it could still develop into an important woodland fragment.

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