SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: DRUMHIERNY WOOD

SITE CODE: 001412

This site comprises a single area of large woodland on the eastern edge of the Shannon valley and lies less than 1.5km north-west of Leitrim town. The site occurs on a west-facing slope on a fine-textured glacial drift soil. The soil is base-rich but with impeded drainage.

The woodland is dominated by large Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) which may be of planted origin as they are even aged. Some large Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) as well as Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Wych Elm (*Ulmus glabra*) and Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) have also been recorded from this woodland. In a number of places a dense understorey of Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) have been recorded. The ground flora contains such species as Wood-sedge (*Carex sylvatica*), Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*), Male-fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*), Scaly Male-fern (*Dryopteris affinis*), Lady-fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*), Hard Fern (*Blechnum spicant*), Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*).

Wetter areas at the wood margin at the base of the slope contain species such as Great Horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia*), Wood Horsetail (*E. sylvaticum*) and Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*).

This wood is an example of oak woodland on a base-rich soil which is a rare occurrence in Ireland as such areas are usually cleared for agriculture. It is probably one of the best areas of mature oakwood in the county. A number of uncommon bird species have been recorded from the woodlands. Tree clearance and the planting of conifers will continue to threaten the quality of this site.

20.11.2009