SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: DRUMKEEN HOUSE WOODLAND

SITE CODE: 000980

About 3km north of Cavan, flanking the Cavan - Butlersbridge road just to the west of Loreto Convent, are mainly deciduous, planted woodlands. These have been designated a proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA). This pNHA lies just outside the large, and fragmented, Lough Oughter pNHA.

The main tree species is Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), with Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) throughout and occasional young oak (*Quercus* sp.). Beech is a tree species that impedes the development of the ground flora, although the slopes feature extensive stands of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). The level areas support a ground flora in the less shaded areas, featuring Cleavers (*Galium aparine*), Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), Herb-Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), Hedge Woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica*), and in damper areas, Ramsons (*Allium ursinum*).

The site features a small stream, which is fringed by Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), and a small lake. The pNHA boundary follows the old lakeshore, which now includes a small area of wet rushy grassland with Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*) and Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*) with invasive Alder and willow (*Salix* sp.), the open water is fringed by swamp.

This is not extensive woodland, and is not natural in character, however because of the paucity of woodlands in the locality, any deciduous woodland tract of a reasonable size and maturity is of local importance. The small lake, although not in itself significant amongst the many other inter-drumlin lakes and wetlands found nearby, does add diversity to this pNHA.

16.11.2009