SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: MELLIFONT ABBEY WOODS

SITE CODE: 001464

Mellifont Abbey Woods is situated 7km south-west of Dunleer, Co. Louth. The site consists of areas of mixed woodland, wet woodland, conifer plantations, grassland and a lake.

The woodland contains oak (*Quercus* spp.), birch (*Betula* spp.), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), European Larch (*Larix decidua*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) and Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) are also present in places. Parts of the site have been planted with conifers and some tree clearance has occurred in recent years. Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and birch dominate the areas of wet woodland. Herb species identified from the site include Enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysmachia nemorum*), Common Twayblade (*Listera ovata*) and Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*). The Red Data Book plant wintergreen (*Pyrola* spp.) has been recorded from this site. Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*) is common.

The lake is shallow and gradually infilling with sediment. It is fringed with Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), bulrush (*Typha* spp.) and Alder swamp.

A notable invertebrate species, the Pyrenean Snail (*Semilimax pyrenaicus*), has been described from the site. Bird species recorded include winter flocks of Fieldfares and Redwings.

9.12.2009