SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: LOUGHLINSTOWN WOOD

SITE CODE: 001211

This site is located about 4km north of Bray, on the east side of the main Dublin-Bray road. It is on the north bank of the Shanganagh River at Loughlinstown.

The wood was originally planted but following substantial regeneration, has produced woodland of natural character in age structure and form. The western end retains a high canopy of Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and some elm (*Ulmus* spp.), with Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) below. There is little regeneration in this part of the wood. There is a gradation into a dense thicket of bramble (*Rubus* spp.), and trees such as Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) occur here. A stand of Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) occurs at the eastern end of the site.

The valley floor has much Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and some willows (*Salix* spp.). The introduced Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) has spread along the banks of the river.

The site is used for amenity purposes, with signposting and information leaflets available. Dumping and littering is a problem within the site.

This site is a good example of demesne-type mixed woodland. It is now used chiefly for amenity purposes.

18.11.2009