SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: CLONAD WOOD

SITE CODE: 000574

Clonad Wood is an area of deciduous woodland situated on low-lying agricultural land bordering the Clodiagh River, 5km south of Tullamore in Co. Offaly.

The high canopy of the wood is dominated by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) which has been underplanted with Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and conifers. The understorey also contains a rich diversity of native species including Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Wych Elm (*Ulmus glabra*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Spindle (*Eunonymus europaeus*), Guelder-rose (*Viburnum opulus*) and Field-rose (*Rosa arvensis*).

The rare Alder Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*) and Bird Cherry (*Prunus padus*) are found in the woodland, while Irish Whitebeam (*Sorbus hibernica*) is also abundant.

This woodland was described by Praeger in the last century as being one of the few remnants of true original forest. Although much of the original site has by now been planted, resulting in fragmentation into small areas of woodland along the road and adjacent to conifer plantations, there are still tracts of relic broadleaf forest which contain an interesting flora.

11.11.2009