SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: ARDAMINE WOOD

SITE CODE: 001733

Ardamine Wood is situated on the east coast approximately 3 km south of Courtown. The site consists of a woodland area with associated scrub and heath that slopes down to clay sea cliffs and bedrock shores.

The woodland is fairly evenly aged and has a continuous canopy dominated by Oak (*Quercus petraea*). Other species include Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) and occasional Elm (*Ulmus glabra*). The shrub layer is represented by Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and young saplings of Ash, Alder and Oak. The ground flora is carpeted with Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Brambles (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and several ferns, including *Dryopteris dilatata*, *D. filix-mas*, *D. pseudomas*, *Polystichum setiferum* and *Athyrium filix-femina*. A small ravine occurs with a stream, where overhanging vegetation supports lichen communities of *Normandina pulchella* and *Opegrapha sorediifera*.

The woodland grades into scrub on the exposed slopes of Glenbeg Head, where willow (*Salix* spp.), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Hawthorn and Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) occur.

The slopes that abut the rock outcrops near the beach are dominated by dense Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*). Other species which occur there are False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Tufted Vetch (*Vicia cracca*), Burnet Rose (*Rosa pimpinellifolia*) and Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*).

The site is a good example of broadleaved woodland with a representative mixture of species and associated scrub. The site is likely to be under pressure due to the rapid development of this stretch of coastline.

8.4.2009