SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: BALLYEELINAN WOOD

SITE CODE: 001692

This site is situated about 4km north-east of Ardmore. It comprises a small wooded valley running down to the sea.

The major habitat is semi-natural woodland. The northern part is dominated by Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) with occasional elm (*Ulmus* spp.). In the understorey Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and gorse (*Ulex* spp.) predominate. At ground level Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), speedwell (*Veronica* spp.), Wood-sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Golden-saxifrage (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Herb-Robert (*Geranium robertianum*) can be found.

In contrast, the southern end of the wood is dominated by Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) with little understorey vegetation. This adds floral and habitat diversity to the site.

The site, especially the southern section, is frequented by cattle. This has resulted in grazing of the woodland vegetation and some trample damage. This may retard the natural development of the woodland. Otherwise, human-related land use is low.

Ballyfeelinan Wood is of interest as semi-natural woodland containing many native tree species. Its coastal position is unusual and its relatively undisturbed nature makes it a good wildlife refuge.

25.11.2009