SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: WRIGHT'S WOOD

SITE CODE: 001612

Wright's Wood is one of many small woodlands west and south-west of Monaghan. Like most, it crowns a hillock, the top of which lies just above 100m.

In 1972 An Foras Forbartha provided most of the following site description:

The wood contains an interesting mix of very old Goat Willow trees (*Salix caprea*) and younger Ash trees (*Fraxinus excelsior*), the latter of which are regularly coppiced. The coppiced Ash stakes are held within wire-mesh enclosures. The woodland appears to be even-aged and therefore is probably artificial.

The woodland is of a fairly open nature, thus enabling a reasonable ground flora to establish itself. Mosses are abundant on the ground and grow on many of the older trees together with lichens. The main herbaceous species in the ground flora include Herb-Robert (*Geranium robertianum*), Enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*), Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*) and Germander Speedwell (*Veronica chamaedrys*).

Only a small area of woodland remains after a substantial area of it was clear-felled recently and is now used to graze cattle on. The remaining woodland is also grazed which is threatening the development of the ground flora, but not to any serious extent.

The site's interest lies in the different species of trees within the woodland, providing an example of different stages of colonisation. It is also the best woodland site known in Monaghan and is representative of coppiced ash woodland.

24.11.2009