SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: CROMLIN BRIDGE WOOD

SITE CODE: 001409

Above Cromlin Bridge in Co. Leitrim, the Castlerogy stream has cut a deep gorge in calcareous drift deposits so it now cascades on slatey rocks up to 18m below the level of the surrounding land.

On these steep slopes Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) scrub has developed well and some of the trees are of considerable age. A few Wych Elm (*Ulmus glabra*) much cut, occur on the edges while Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Grey Willow (*Salix cinerea*) are scattered throughout. Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) is frequent in the understorey while one or two plants of Guelder-rose (*Viburnum opulus*) are present.

The ground floor vegetation is rich in this wood, including a wide variety of characteristic plant species.

Near to the stream the growth of mosses and ferns is very luxuriant and such species as Maidenhair Spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes*), Polypody (*Polypodium vulgare*), *Rhytidadelphus loreus*, *Hookeria lucens*, *Conocephalum conicum* and *Thamnobryum alopecurum* attaining large size.

At the edges of the area, light demanding species such as Great Horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia*), and Nipplewort (*Lapsana communis*) occur while Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*) and Pendulus Sedge (*Carex pendula*) have been planted.

Although it is very small in extent, this site has a rich and varied flora, and although somewhat altered by planting it is still quite natural. It is some of the only near natural Hazel wood in the area outside Glenade and L. Gill.

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