SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: GLENACURRANE RIVER VALLEY

SITE CODE: 002035

About 5km north of Mitchelstown, just inside Co. Limerick, the Toortaunboy Stream cuts a narrow valley through Old Red Sandstone, Lower Limestone and Shales. From where the main road from Mitchelstown to Ballylanders joins this valley, and for about 1.5km north, the sloping sides are wooded. These woodlands have been designated a Natural Heritage Area (NHA).

The tree cover is reported to be of native species, predominantly Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), oak (*Quercus* spp.) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) on the better drained slopes, and willows (*Salix* spp.) and Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) over the wetter areas. The ground flora includes Wood Horsetail (*Equisetum sylvaticum*).

This woodland is described as undisturbed, and the lack of introduced species suggests that it is one of the more natural of lowland woodlands in the area.

8.12.2009