SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: CLOONAMIRRAN WOOD

SITE CODE: 001686

On the western shore of Lough Derg, 1km east of Mountshannon, County Clare, Cloonamirran Wood occupies an area of raised bog which has been naturally recolonised by woodland species.

On this open wet woodland, Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) have become established as the dominant species with some areas of willow (*Salix* spp.) and Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*). There are also a few oaks (*Quercus* spp.) which are regenerating nicely.

As this site has developed naturally with very little human intervention, it provides a very valuable example of plant succession. It is also a fine example of relatively rare habitat- wet mixed deciduous woodland on raised bog.

The woodland ground flora consists of an interesting mixture of typical blanket bog plants with some woodland species such as Barren Strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*) and Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*). In the clearings a true blanket bog flora occurs with some *Sphagnum* species and several heathers (*Erica cinerea*, *E. tetralix* and *Calluna vulgaris*). Mosses are also widespread.

25.11.2009