SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: DUNNEILL RIVER

SITE CODE: 001664

The Dunneill River is a small site situated approximately 7km south-west of Easky, on the north Sligo coast. The river here has cut down into the surrounding limestone to create a gorge which is now mostly wooded.

The steep limestone cliffs are shaded by a narrow fringe of woodland whose species include Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum capillus-veneris*), a species mostly confined to the Burren and Aran Islands, occurs on the cliffs.

An area of wet woodland and a silted-up mill pool add habitat diversity to the site.

A rare moss undefined in the An Foras Forbartha county report occurs at the site.

The birdlife of the river includes several dippers. The steep ground and cliffs result in the banks being mostly ungrazed by domestic animals.

The steep limestone cliffs and ungrazed slopes result in a shady undisturbed river with some interesting plant communities, particularly for bryophytes.

24.11.2009