SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: HOLLYWOOD GLEN

SITE CODE: 002053

Hollywood Glen is a complex of steep-sided channels, orientated in a north-south direction, and situated approximately 3km south of Hollywood. The glen was formed sub-marginally beneath the ice, as a result of drainage from the ice-dammed Lake Blessington, which was impounded at 360m against the flank of the Wicklow range during the Midlandian glaciation. A road now bisects the valley.

The western side of the glen is a mosaic of upland grassland with substantial rocky outcrops in the upper slopes - there is also an area of Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice at the southern end which continues on the slopes at the opposite side. Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*) dominates the grassland, with fescue (*Festuca* spp.), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), Common Dog-violet (*Viola riviniana*) and dense patches of Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

The area of Hazel has an established and diverse flora, including Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Pignut (*Conopodium majus*), Great Wood-rush (*Luzula sylvatica*), Wood-sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) and Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*). There is also a variety of mosses - *Thuidium tamariscinum*, *Hylocomium splendens*, *Scleropodium purum* and *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*.

The remainder of the eastern slope has young conifers growing on a plantation that has been recently felled. Broadleaved trees have been planted near to the road and include Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*). Other vegetation is representative of woodland flora, such as Great Wood-rush, Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) and Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*).

Peregrine Falcon, an Annex I species in the E.U. Birds Directive, breeds within the site. Kestrel also breeds, along with scrub species such as Whitethroat.

The site has a good example of Hazel coppice with a well developed ground flora. It is also of interest geologically, as typical of a glacial melt-water channel cut in rock.

8.12.2009