SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: FITZSIMON'S WOOD

SITE CODE: 001753

Fitzsimon's Wood occupies an area of approximately 8ha near Lamb's Cross in Sandyford, Co. Dublin. The woodland consists of mature birch (*Betula* spp.) with some oak (*Quercus* spp.), together with a well developed understorey of Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). Natural regeneration is occurring and there is a profuse growth of young birch, Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), oak and other species. Some marshy areas also occur within the woodland. An area of heath, dominated by Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) scrub is also included in the site. The underlying rock of the area is granite and where this outcrops it is often covered with ferns and mosses.

Fitzsimon's Wood is directly adjacent to a housing estate and is subject to significant recreational pressure. Dumping of cars and rubbish is a problem. The sporadic removal of wood, coupled with camp fires, also poses a threat to the site. These activities will need to be controlled if the gradual attrition of the wood is to be prevented.

Nonetheless, the basic woodland structure remains intact and as birch woodland is very rare in Co. Dublin, Fitzsimon's Wood continues to be of ecological importance.

14.12.2009