SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: AUGHNAGLANNY VALLEY

SITE CODE: 000948

Aughnaglanny Valley is a semi-natural woodland in a steep-sided river valley situated 15km north-west of Cashel, Co. Tipperary. The site is approximately 4km long and follows the Aughnaglanny River, a tributary of the Multeen.

The main habitats present in the site are dry and wet broad-leaved woodland, humid grassland and scrub. Patches of marshland with Wood Horsetail (*Equisetum sylvaticum*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Greater Tussock-sedge (*Carex paniculata*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), are also present. The woodland is dominated by Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), birch (*Betula* spp.) and willow (*Salix* spp.); some oak (*Quercus* spp.) also occurs. Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) form the understorey. Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) occurs in places.

Both Red Squirrel and Fox are present in the woodland and the stream provides suitable habitat for the Otter. The site is also of ornithological interest and supports a range of woodland bird species.

Much of the surrounding land is improved or semi-improved pasture and the stream ecosystem is particularly vulnerable to agricultural pollution. The other main threats to the site are scrub clearance and coniferous afforestation.

Aughnaglanny Valley is a good example of semi-natural woodland in a river valley. The site supports elements of ecological, botanical, zoological and ornithological interest.

13.11.2009