SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: STRADBALLY WOODS

SITE CODE: 001707

Both sides of the River Tay valley are wooded in part, for the last 3km before it joins the sea at Stradbally.

The composition of the woodland is varied according to past and present management, some areas are composed of scrub, there are some planted conifer stands and some areas comprise Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). The east facing slope of Stradbally cove is dominated by Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Sycamore, this is probably the most natural area of the wood. Most of the rest of the wood is dominated by oak (*Quercus* spp.) and Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*). There are extensive carpets of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). Abandoned buildings and numerous track-ways are vestiges of the copper mine that once dominated the valley.

In general the woodland is mature, and although it is artificial, probably mainly planted in origin, such extensive mature woodlands are of conservation interest. The ground flora, which is currently being damaged by livestock trampling, would respond well to management.

25.11.2009