



**Site Name: Clare Glen SAC**

**Site Code: 000930**

Clare Glen lies on the Limerick - Tipperary border, in the western foothills of the Slievefelim Mountains, about 10 km north-west of Cappamore. The glen was formed by the action of the Clare River cutting into the Old Red Sandstone. The site comprises the wooded river valley about 2 km above the Clare Bridge.

The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (\* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

[91A0] Old Oak Woodlands [1421] Killarney Fern ( <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> )
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The woodland is of mixed composition, but most of the broadleaved species are native, including oak (*Quercus* sp.), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and willows (*Salix* spp.). The non-native species include Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and several conifer species. In the shrub layer native species include Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), but also the non-native Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) and Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*). The ground vegetation includes species such as Hard Fern (*Blechnum spicant*), Wood-sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) and Ivy (*Hedera helix*).

A rich bryophyte flora is associated with the river and the wet rocks around it, including the rare mosses *Amblystegium fluviatile*, *Fissidens exiguus* and *Pohlia campotrachela*, and the liverworts *Lejeunea holtii*, *Colura calyptrifolia* and *Dumortiera hirsuta*. The site is also notable for the presence of several rare species of Myxomycete fungus, namely *Fuligo muscorum*, *Stemonitopsis hyperopta* and *Licea testudinacea*, the last-named in one of only two known Irish sites.

The site is of further importance for the presence of the rare and legally protected (Flora (Protection) Order, 1999) Killarney Fern (*Trichomanes speciosum*).

The woodland, although planted with many exotic trees, is mature and conforms to a type listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The site is scenic and popular as an amenity area, and the presence of a number of rare and scarce species adds further to its importance.