SITE SYNOPSIS

Site Name: Glenomra Wood SAC

Site Code: 001013

Glenomra Wood is a deciduous woodland located in south-east Co. Clare, about 10 km north of Limerick city.

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

The dominant tree in Glenomra Wood is Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), which attains a height of about 20 m in places. This is mixed with Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) throughout. Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) is abundant and is the main understorey species. Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), regenerating Birch, Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) are other understorey species. Willow (*Salix* spp.) occurs in the wetter areas.

In shaded areas the ground flora is poorly developed, but in more open areas species such as Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), Great Wood-rush (*Luzula sylvatica*), Ivy (*Hedera helix*) and Wood-sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) occur.

Further habitat diversity is created by the presence of streams within the woodland, and also by the presence of a small area with raised bog vegetation. Here bog mosses (*Sphagnum* spp.) and Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), amongst other species, are found.

Three Red Data Book mammals occur in the site: Badger, Pine Marten and Hare. A large population of Common Frog breeds in the south-west of the site. This amphibian is also listed in the Red Data Book. Pheasant, Woodcock and Snipe are also present in the site.

The site is grazed by cattle, especially the northern sector. Parts of the wood clear-felled in recent years are showing fairly rapid natural regeneration.

Glenomra Wood is a good example of a deciduous semi-natural woodland and is of considerable conservation significance as it is of a type listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive.