SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: GREENANE MARSH

SITE CODE: 001984

Greenane Marsh is situated some 4km north-east of Tipperary in glacial drift over lower limestone. In 1974 this site was included in the Annacarty Wetlands Area of Scientific Interest (ASI), a series of small wetland sites concentrated to the north-east of Greenane. As part of the reappraisal of ASIs, aimed at the redesignation of revised sites as Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), it was decided that because of its geographical position Greenane Marsh constitutes an NHA in its own right, although it still complements the revised Annacarty Wetland NHA.

The 1860 OS 1" map (Sheet 154) depicts the site as a small area of open water with a wooded fringe. The contemporary vegetation has developed from then into a freshwater marsh with carr woodland that is continuing to develop. The decline of open water on site may in part be due to improved adjacent field drainage, but it is also a natural succession that has been allowed to occur, if somewhat accelerated. The ground is still very wet with Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) spreading from the margins into the site. Under the tree cover Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) and Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) are all very extensive. The interior of the site is less well known.

Wetland sites in general are not well represented in Co. Tipperary. Greenane Marsh, despite plantings around the edge, has survived in a relatively natural condition and although small, is thus of importance locally. Its companion wetlands in the Annacarty wetlands NHA are examples of similar sites, lower down the successional order and provide an interesting comparison.

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