SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: KILMACANOGE MARSH

SITE CODE: 000724

This site is located off the main Dublin to Wexford road, just south of Kilmacanoge, Co. Wicklow and at the base of the Great Sugarloaf. A small stream links the site to the Great Sugarloaf NHA. The site is a well-developed mosaic of wet woodland surrounded by poor fen and wet grassland.

A stream flows through the site in a northerly direction. The whole area is very wet due to the presence of numerous springs and seepage areas, arising from run-off from the Sugarloaf on the western side of the site and Kilmurry on the eastern side.

The wet woodland is mainly composed of dense Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and Rusty Willow (*Salix cinerea* subsp. *oleifolia*). Plant species of the open areas of wet grassland and poor fen include Purple-loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Common Spotted-orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*), Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*), Sharp-flowered Rush (*J. acutiflorus*) and Great Horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia*). Many small sedges occur within the site including Greater Tussock-sedge (*Carex paniculata*), Carnation Sedge (*C. panacea*), Common Sedge (*C. nigra*), Hairy Sedge (*C. hirta*) and Remote Sedge (*C. remota*). Plants recorded in the wetter areas include Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), Ragged-Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*), Marsh-marigold (*Caltha palustris*) and Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*).

The site is of international importance on account of the fen/fen carr invertebrate communities, which includes two species of fly endangered within the European Union - (*Oxycera falleni* and *Oxycera morrisii*, Order Diptera). Another scarce fly species, *Parhelophilus consimilis*, Order Diptera, has been recorded.

The site is vulnerable to drainage and fen carr clearance from farming activities and to pollution of the stream by up-stream adjacent dwellings. The proposed widening of the Dublin-Wexford road could alter the hydrology of the system.

This site is important in having a diversity of species-rich wetland habitats within a relatively small area, and particularly for the presence of some rare invertebrates.

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