SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: BALLYROE FEN AND LAKE

SITE CODE: 000747

These two small sites are located approximately 3km south-west of Blackwater, Co. Wexford. They comprise a small lake, wet grassland, fen, reed-swamp and arable fields with sandy banks.

The sites contain the legally protected Clustered Clover (*Trifolium glomeratum*) (Flora Protection Order 1987). This species is confined to sandy ground near the sea in south-eastern Ireland. It has been recorded from a total of six sites, but has only been seen at two of these since 1970, apparently declining but erratic in its appearances. Former sites, especially in Wicklow, have been damaged by road widening and reclamation.

Other species of the fen include Fen Bedstraw (*Galium uliginosum*), Slender Spike-rush (*Eleocharis uniglumis*), Small-leaved Elm (*Ulmus minor*), Strawberry Clover (*Trifolium fragiferum*), and marsh-orchids (*Dactylorhiza majalis*, *D. majalis* subsp. *occidentalis*, *D. majalis* subsp. *purpurella*). Species recorded within the lake include Blinks (*Montia fontana*) and Trailing St. John's-wort (*Hypericum humifusum*).

12.11.2009