SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: GARRYLUCAS MARSH

SITE CODE: 000087

Garrylucas Marsh is situated approximately 6km south of Kinsale, Co. Cork behind Garristown beach. It is a coastal, lime-rich and unpolluted site. There are one or two pools of open water but, in many places, a rather open stand of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) exists, beneath which a local species, Marsh Fern (*Thelypteris palustris*), and Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*) commonly occur. More open places are colonised by Great Fen-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*), Blunt-flowered Rush (*Juncus subnodulosus*) or Lesser Pond-Sedge (*Carex acutiformis*). Water Dock (*Rumex hydrolapathum*), Mare's-tail (*Hippuris vulgaris*) and Lesser Water-parsnip (*Berula erecta*) are scatted throughout.

The main recorded zoological interest of the site is Hen Harriers, which feed in the area. Wildfowl are also reported to use the site.

Nearby Garristown is subject to substantial recreational pressures and the marsh could be affected by future tourist developments in the area.

The AFF Report describes the site as being of interest because "this area is of an unusual type for the Cork coast, probably because of the influence of shell sand". More recent reports of feeding Hen Harriers, a legally protected species listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive, add to the interest of the site.

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