SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: DOONOOR MARSH

SITE CODE: 001845

This is a small field-corner marsh in the upper part of the Mulkear catchment north-east of Tipperary. Although the underlying rock is limestone it is thickly covered by glacial till from the Silvermine Mountains to the north. The result is a heavy soil where marshes form easily in depressions.

Doonoor is based on two ditches just below a ruined house. There is standing water at all times in the year in which Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*), Fool's Water-cress (*Apium nodiflorum*) and Lesser Water-parsnip (*Berula erecta*) grow. Floating on the surface is Common Duckweed (*Lemna minor*) and also the liverworts *Riccia fluitans* and *Ricciocarpus natans*, both of which are rare in the south Midlands. Away from this area there are some marsh communities which seem to be based on mineral soil rather than peat. Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Floating Sweet-grass (*Glyceria fluitans*), Square-stalked St. John's-wort (*Hypericum tetrapterum*) and Water Forget-me-not (*Myosotis scorpioides*) are important here along with the previously mentioned species and the mosses *Calliergonella cuspidata* and *Calliergon cordifolium*. Southwards the ground rises into a wet field with Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*).

The value of this site is as a habitat for the two rare liverworts and their occurrence indicates that unusual habitat conditions may prevail.

26.11.2009