SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: KNOCKMULLIN FEN

SITE CODE: 001904

This site is situated 2.5km south of Colloney close to the N17 and railway line. Knockmullen lies in a wide valley that drains east into the Toberscanavan Loughs. The underlying geology is limestone and evidence can be seen by the rich calcareous flushes that occur here. Thin peat covers parts of the valley floor and in places this has been cut away.

On the old peat cutaway areas Wavy Hair-grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*) tussocks are abundant. Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*), Common Cottongrass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*), rushes (*Juncus subnodulosus* and *J. conglomeratus*), Black Bog-rush (*Schoenus nigricans*), sedges (*Carex nigra*, *C. disticha* and *C. lepidocarpa*) and bog mosses (*Sphagnum palustre*, *S. subnitens* and *S. capillifolium*) are all common. The more calcareous flushed areas contain Broad-leaved Cottongrass (*Eriophorum latifolium*), Lesser Clubmoss (*Selaginella selaginoides*) and Few-flowered Spike-rush (*Eleocharis quinqueflora*).

This wetland supports small numbers of Snipe during both summer and winter.

Sheep and cattle graze within the drier areas of the site.

This site is of interest as it contains a wide range of habitats on the acid/basic scale. The vegetation is diverse and contains a large number of orchid species.

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