SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: STEPHENSTOWN POND

SITE CODE: 001803

Stephenstown Demesne, about 6km southwest of Dundalk, boasts two Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), one of which is Stephenstown Pond.

This is a large, artificially excavated, shallow pond with fringing emergent vegetation of Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*) and Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) with associated species such as Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*). The aquatic component of the lake vegetation features prominent stands of water-lilies of both native species, Yellow Water-lily (*Nuphar lutea*) and White Water-lily (*Nymphaea alba*). Oak (*Quercus* spp.) and White Willow (*Salix alba*) stand on the north and south shores.

There is no feature of the natural history of this artificial lake which makes it of outstanding importance. It has been designated an NHA because it is representative of open water bodies in the area, supports a thriving, typical pond wildlife. Although overall it is rather a small site, the stands of aquatic vegetation are relatively extensive and this may account for the rich invertebrate life.

26.11.2009