SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: BALLINALTIG BOG POND

SITE CODE: 001829

Ballinaltig Bog Pond is located c. 1km south-west of Togher Cross roads and some 5.5km due north of Ballyhooly in east County Cork; it is also about 1.25km south-west of the Brown's Farm NHA (001169). Both of these sites contain the rare Red Data Book species Golden Dock (*Rumex maritimus*).

The Ballinaltig Bog pond site comprises agricultural grassland and a small pond. Golden Dock was found on the south-western margin of the pond in association with species such as Marsh Foxtail (*Alopecunus geniculatus*), Jointed Rush (*Juncus articulatus*), Nodding Bur-marigold (*Bidens cernua*), Water-pepper (*Persicaria hydropiper*) and Brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*). This is a new record for Golden Dock in the area.

The fields have already been improved to some extent, but the area is not thought to be heavily polluted. Other possible threats to the survival of this wetland habitat and the rare species would include field drainage and the prevention of cattle from trampling and grazing the area.

Golden Dock has very exacting requirements for its seed germination, which is one of the reasons why its appearance is often fleeting. It is an unusual species, requiring areas of base mud and low/fluctuating water levels for successful seed germination. The population in this location is over 20 juvenile plants but at the time of recording none were in fruit. The area is recommended for conservation. To manage the area and maintain the habitat for Golden Dock, it is therefore suggested that the area be included as an NHA.

26.11.2009