SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: GRANTSTOWN WOOD AND LOUGH

SITE CODE: 000417

This State owned Nature Reserve is situated some 8km northwest of Durrow in Co. Laois.

Grantstown Lough is completely surrounded by woodland and appears to be a classic example of a lake in seral transition through fen to Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*)/ willow (*Salix* spp.) carr. There are Black Bog-rush (*Schoenus nigricans*) fen meadows at the outer edge of the swamp.

Conservation management has focused on the removal of non-native tree species from the woodland, this is now almost complete, and the woodland is being nurtured back to a very natural and undisturbed state with a good age structure and plenty of dead wood. The invertebrate fauna has been studied and includes internationally threatened wetland species and nationally threatened woodland species.

That such systems are now very rare in Ireland makes the Nature Reserve designation and subsequent site management very important.

6.11.2009