SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: KILDEMOCK MARSH

SITE CODE: 001806

Kildemock Marsh Natural Heritage Area (NHA) is a small reed bed lying about 3km southeast of Ardee, developed in poorly draining glacial till over Upper Silurian rocks.

The site is in a pastoral setting and unfenced. The shoreline of a pre-existing lake is discernable, but there is no open water remaining and it is not certain whether the accretion process was accelerated by adjacent drainage but it seems rather likely. The wettest part of the site is now occupied by Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) in a reed bed formation. Beyond this is wet grassland vegetation, dominated by Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*) with prominent Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*) and other wetland herbs such as Marsh-marigold (*Caltha palustris*) and Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*). Willows (*Salix* spp.) fringe, and are beginning to invade, the contemporary wetland.

There is no feature of the natural history of this wetland that makes it of outstanding importance. It has been designated an NHA because it is representative of wetlands in the area, it provides refuge for wildlife and presumably supports a typical lowland wetland invertebrate community. Although overall it is rather a small site, it provides habitat diversity in intensive agricultural surroundings.

26.11.2009