SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: REAGHSTOWN MARSH

SITE CODE: 001828

Reaghstown Marsh consists of two small areas of marsh approximately half way between Kingscourt and Ardee, 9km from each. This previously more extensive and wetter site has been heavily affected by drainage and much of the original site is now under cultivation. The site consists of a small lake and its surrounding wetland and a larger area of willow (*Salix* spp.) scrub with a wet sedge-rich field layer.

The willow scrub is dominated by Eared Willow (*Salix aurita*). There is also a scattering of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). The drier areas are dominated by grasses such as Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) and Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*). Wetter areas are more sedge-rich with Bottle Sedge (*Carex rostrata*). There are several ponds and ditches with Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*), Marsh Cinquefoil (*Potentilla palustris*), Wild Angelica (*Angelica silvestris*) and Marsh arrowgrass (*Triglochin palustris*).

This site is of interest as an example of a freshwater marsh in an area where many of these sites have been destroyed by drainage.

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