SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: CARRIGSHANE HILL

SITE CODE: 001042

This site is situated 4km southeast of Midleton in East Cork. The underlying geology of this hill is limestone and this is frequently outcropping.

In 1986 An Foras Forbartha provided the following description of the site – A rich calcicole flora occurs including Sheep's-fescue (*Festuca ovina*), Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), Thick-leaved Stonecrop (*Sedum dasyphyllum*), Marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*), Shining Crane's-bill (*Geranium lucidum*) and Long-stalked Crane's-bill (*G. columbinum*). Around the walls and cultivated parks Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) and Dwarf Spurge (*Euphorbia exigua*) are found amidst a large group of alien plants.

The main land use within the site boundary is grazing by cattle. The exposed limestone of the area is being quarried away and this is reducing the area of interest.

This area is important as a representative of the herb-rich community found near the exposed limestone, a habitat under threat from quarrying. The presence of Thick-leaved Stonecrop adds further interest to the site as this is one of the few locations for this plant in the county where it appears native.

16.11.2009