SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: ARDRISTAN FEN

SITE CODE: 000788

This site is located about 3km south-west of Tullow in Co. Carlow. It was formerly an extensive area of fen and marsh but the area of interest has been greatly reduced by reclamation since the 1975 An Foras Forbatha survey.

The site has been noted as having an interesting calcareous flora with Broad-leaved Cottongrass (*Eriophorum latifolium*), Great Fen-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*), Black Bog-rush (*Schoenus nigricans*), Lesser Clubmoss (Selaginella selaginoides), Narrow-leaved Marsh-orchid (*Dactylorhiza traunsteineri*), Fragrant Orchid (*Gymnadenia conopsea*) and Autumn Gentian (*Gentianella amarella*). Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) was quite common, while Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) was recorded where the water was deeper. Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*) and Mare's-tail (*Hippuris vulgaris*) were also found. Two species of bladderwort, Greater Baldderwort (*Utricularia vulgaris*) and Lesser Bladderwort (*U. minor*), have been recorded from the site. Part of the remaining area of fen is covered by wet woodland consisting of mostly alder (*Alnus* spp.) and birch (*Betula* spp.).

This site is of interest as it is a remnant of an area that was formerly known for its rich calcareous flora.

12.11.2009