SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: BOG OF THE RING

SITE CODE: 001204

Bog of the Ring is situated approximately 5km south-west of Balbriggan. It is a flat low-lying area with impeded drainage, showing signs of peat development in its upper horizons. The site was drained about thirty years ago, but still contains pockets of wet and damp ground where marsh vegetation occurs.

The greater part of the surface is covered by Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) and Rough Meadow-grass (*Poa trivialis*), with Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*) and Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) being common. Other species which occur in this dryish habitat are Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), Field Horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*), Wild Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Purple-loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and Heath Spotted-orchid (*Dactylorhiza maculata*).

In the wetter areas, such as drainage ditches, species which have been recorded in the past include Frogbit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*), bladderworts (*Utricularia vulgaris* and *U. neglecta*), Lesser Marshwort (*Apium inundatum*), the scarce Blunt-fruited Water-starwort (*Callitriche obtusangula*), Common Water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus aquatilis*), Unbranched Bur-reed (*Sparganium emersum*) and the stonewort *Chara hispida*. Other marshy places allow Great Yellow-cress (*Rorippa amphibia*) to grow, with Early Marsh-orchid (*Dactylorhiza incarnata*), Water-purslane (*Lythrum portula*), Wild Celery (*Apium graveolens*), bur-marigolds (*Bidens cernua* and *B. tripartita*) and Lesser Water-parsnip (*Berula erecta*).

The site is used in winter by Golden Plover, Whooper Swan (occasionally) and Short-eared Owl. Breeding species include Snipe, Skylark, Meadow Pipit, Reed Bunting, Stonechat and Sedge Warbler.

Marshes are few in County Dublin and therefore the site is of interest. Although attempts at drainage have been made in the past, isolated wet areas still exist and the site could be considerably improved by raising the water table.

The construction of Balbriggan by-pass is an immediate threat and may alter the hydrology of the site.

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