SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: CLASHARINKA POND

SITE CODE: 001183

Clasharinka Pond is located c. 1km north-east of Castlemartyr and c. 13km south-west of Youghal on the southern coast of East Cork. The south-east of County Cork comprises narrow alluvial plains between limestone ridges, an area rich in ponds and small lakes, many with fluctuating water levels and exposed mud edges in the summer. This large pond is located just south of the N25 main road and the surrounding fields are used for rough grazing by horses.

The rare species Orange Foxtail (*Alopecurus aequalis*) is found on peaty mud around the pond at the summer water level. Thousands of plants of this species grow here and the population is healthy, in a good habitat whose management is conducive to the growth of this species and unlikely to change under the present owner. There is however, another possible threat to this habitat - that of housing or industrial development of the area because of its proximity to the town of Castlemartyr.

There are very few Irish records for Orange Foxtail and it may in fact be an under-recorded species. It begins its growth and flowering later than other grass species and is relatively inconspicuous, especially in heavily grazed swards. This site was found on a survey of the protected and threatened higher plant species in 1992. It is important to protect this site for conservation and to monitor the rare species' population, which is at present, very healthy. It is therefore recommended that Clashanrinka Pond is designated as an NHA.

17.11.2009