SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: KILGORMAN RIVER MARSH

SITE CODE: 001834

Kilgorman River Marsh is situated on the east coast near Castletown and just south of Carmichael Point. The site comprises the lower reaches of a small river along a stretch of approximately 1.5 km before it enters the sea.

The northern banks of the river are liable to flooding and support a range of wetland habitats. There is a gradation from saltmarsh near the sea to freshwater marsh further inland. The saltmarsh is characterised by Saltmarsh Rush (*Juncus gerardi*), Slender Spike-rush (*Eleocharis uniglumis*) and Sea Arrowgrass (*Triglochin maritima*). There are reedbeds in the wetter areas, which are dominated by Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), with occasional Grey Club-rush (*Scirpus lacustris* subsp. *tabernaemontani*).

As the brackish influence declines saltmarsh is replaced by wet grassland with Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Marsh Foxtail (*Alopecurus geniculatus*), Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*) and Greater Pond-sedge (*Carex riparia*).

Further inland is a freshwater marsh which includes Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*), Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*), Branched Bur-reed (*Sparganium erectum*) and a variety of herbaceous species such as Fool's Water-cress (*Apium nodiflorum*) and Lesser Water-parsnip (*Berula erecta*).

Further back from the river, wet Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) woodland has developed with a ground flora which includes Greater Tussock-sedge (*Carex paniculata*) and Water Dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*).

The site attracts Grey Heron, Mute Swan and Sedge Warbler, and is suitable habitat for Water Rail.

Brown Trout use the river, although the water is rather turbid.

The main interest of this site is the wetland vegetation associated with the river. It is a good example of a gradation from saltmarsh to freshwater marsh.

8.4.2009