SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: ANNACARTY WETLANDS

SITE CODE: 000639

Annacarty wetlands is located 2km south of Annacarty and is just south of the Dundrum - Cappagh White Road (L111) in Co. Tipperary. There are 4 wetlands in an undulating region of drift cover. They occur in hollows where drainage is slight and each wetland had developed independently and therefore differently from each other.

Wetland 1 has open water and is highly calcareous with marl deposits. A calcareous fen occurs at its edge dominated by Blunt-flowered Rush (*Juncus subnodulosus*) and Long-stalked Yellow-sedge (*Carex lepidocarpa*). Great Fen-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) occurs at the water margin.

Wetland 2 also has open water and is calcareous with stonewort (*Chara* spp.) present.

Wetland 3 has a larger pond and is less calcareous, possibly neutral. Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*), Lesser Bulrush (*T. angustifolia*), Yellow Flag (*Iris pseudacorus*) and Water-plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*) occur at the margins.

Wetland 4 (3a) is largely overgrown with some trees present, showing the final succession stage from open water to land.

Interesting plants that occur on this site are Fen Pondweed (*Potamogeton coloratus*), Fen Bedstraw (*Galium uliginosum*), Variegated Horsetail (*Equisetum variegatum*) and Marsh Helleborine (*Epipactis palustris*), a plant listed in the Red Data Book as being previously protected but now considered non-threatened.

A rich insect fauna has been reported for this site, with abundant mosquitoes (Culicidae). Chironomidae were found over open water. Emerald Damselfly (*Lestes sponsa*) and Large Red Damselfly (*Pyrrhosama nymphula*) were also reported.

Applications of fertiliser are spreading into springs feeding the wetlands and so are causing damage. Drainage is not a serious threat to these sites but infilling could be a problem.

These wetlands are interesting as the whole series shows good examples of succession i.e. transition from open water to land. Wetland 1 has been reported (AFF 1974) as being the most interesting wetland in the county and all these sites have high scientific value.

11.11.2009