SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: BLARNEY LAKE

SITE CODE: 001798

This site is situated 1km south west of Blarney, close to Blarney Castle. This site is one of three sites occurring in close proximity to one another and includes Blarney Castle Woods (001039) and Ardamadane Wood (001799). The area is underlain by limestone which produces a rich soil capable of supporting a wide variety of plants and animals.

Blarney Lake is an artificial lake surrounded by a narrow band of woodland predominantly oak (*Quercus* spp.), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and fir (*Abies* spp.). The outflow of the lake is also included within the site.

In 1986 An Foras Forbatha provided the following description of the wetlands near Blarney Castle.

Aquatic communities near the river and lake include beds of sedges e.g. Greater Pond-sedge (*Carex riparia*), Bladder-sedge (*C. vesicaria*), Smooth-stalked Sedge (*C. laevigata*) and Great Fen-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*), tall herb stands of Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulminaria*), Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*) and Hemp-agrimony (*Eupatorium cannabinum*) and river edge groups of Nodding Bur-marigold (*Bidens cernua*), Blue Water-speedwell (*Veronica anagallis-aquatica*) and mints (*Mentha* spp.). Rigid Hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*) grows in Blarney Lake.

A recent survey of the lake noted a good deal of waterfowl on the lake including Tufted Duck, Teal and Mallard.

The main land uses within the site are boating, fishing and shooting.

This site contains an interesting wetland community which is one of three closely situated rich and varied sites.

26.11.2009