SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: DERRYKEEL MEADOWS

SITE CODE: 000897

Several very wet meadows are located at Derrykeel beside the Clareen to Kinnitty road in Co. Offaly. The stream running through the area reveals the gravel base with a crust of calcium carbonate (lime) on the top. Tufts of Black Bog-rush (*Schoenus nigricans*) dominate the meadow and individual plants of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) are scattered throughout. Along with Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) other species include Purple-loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*), Hard Rush (*Juncus inflexus*) and Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*).

In the hollows between the tufts the Common Butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*) is abundant. The Wandering Snail (*Lymnaea peregra*) flourishes in this habitat. Blunt-flowered Rush (*Juncus subnodulosus*) is also common in certain areas.

The calcium-rich substratum of the meadows gives rise to an interesting ecological habitat. Very few areas of this nature exist in the county and although this is only a small area, it is of particular botanical note.

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