SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: DODDER VALLEY

SITE CODE: 000991

This stretch of the River Dodder extends for about 2 km between Firhouse Bridge and Oldbawn Bridge in the south-west of Dublin City.

The vegetation consists of woodland scrub mainly of willows (*Salix* spp.), but up to thirteen species of tree have been recorded. The understorey vegetation contains a good variety of plant species, including Early-purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*) and Bugle (*Ajuga reptans*). Along the banks there are wild flower meadows with a good diversity of plant species. There is also a pond in the river bed at Firville which has flourished greatly since the floods of 1986.

Forty-eight bird species have been recorded recently in the area, including Little Grebe, Kingfisher, Dipper and Grey Wagtail. Part of the river bank supports a Sand Martin colony of up to 100 pairs.

The site represents the last remaining stretch of natural river bank vegetation on the River Dodder in the built-up Greater Dublin Area.

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