SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: KILCATHERINE HEATH

SITE CODE: 000593

This site is situated on the south side of Kenmare River, 6km west of the village of Ardgroom in Co. Cork and comprises a series of rocky ridges.

Although not recently surveyed, a visit to the site in 1991 showed it to be dominated by heath vegetation comprising Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Bell Heather (*Erica cinerea*), Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*), Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Western Gorse (*Ulex gallii*), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), Cat's-ear (*Hypochoeris radicata*), Common Mouse-ear (*Cerastium fontanum*), Heath-grass (*Danthonia decumbens*), Green-ribbed Sedge (*Carex binervis*) and Early Hair-grass (*Aira praecox*). The uncommon species Chaffweed (*Anagallis minima*), Yellow Centaury (*Cicendia filiformis*) and Allseed (*Radiola linoides*) were also recorded at, or adjacent to, the site.

The importance of this site lies in the occurrence of a population of the nationally rare Kerry Lily (*Simethis planifolia*). The population numbers over 700 individuals (recorded in 1991) and occurs on almost bare, thin peat on the top and sides of the rocky ridges within the site. This species was first recorded from the site in 1991, its only station in Co. Cork and, except for a handful of sites near Derrynane in Co. Kerry, the only one in Ireland. Kerry Lily is legally protected in Ireland under the Flora Protection Order (1987).

11.11.2009