SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: BALLINTEMPLE BOG

SITE CODE: 000882

Ballintemple Bog proposed Natural Heritage Area lies about 13km south west of Roscrea and consists of several very wet meadows. Most of the land in the south-west of Co. Offaly is arable or pasture land and areas of bog or marsh are restricted. Even though this is not a large bog, it is of botanical interest. The vegetation is very short with Hare's-tail Cottongrass (*Eriophorum vaginatum*), Cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*), Deergrass (*Trichophorum cespitosum*) and White Beak-sedge (*Rhynchospora alba*) the dominant species.

At the end of the first field are a group of shallow pools, some with little plant life, others filled with sedges (*Carex* spp.) and pondweed (*Potamogeton* spp.).

Behind this wetter area lies a small rise colonised by Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*).

Although a small bog, it is of ecological importance because of the different communities contained there and also because of the scarcity of bog in this region of the county.

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