SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: OAKPARK

SITE CODE: 000810

Oakpark is located approximately 5km north of Carlow. The site is a shallow artificial pond, bounded almost completely by woodlands. There are eight small islands bearing coniferous and deciduous trees within the lake. Much of the open water has been colonised by Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*). A drainage channel was cut through the reed-bed in 1973 to ensure circulation of freshwater.

Marginal vegetation includes Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*) and Reed Sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*). Vegetation along the banks includes Rosebay Willowherb (*Epilobium angustifolium*), Hemp-agrimony (*Eupatorium cannabinum*), Common Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). Bladderwort (*Utricularia* spp.) is found in the water and willow (*Salix* spp.) scrub occurs on the wooded banks.

The scarce Myxomycete fungus, *Licea marginata* has been recorded from woodland in the site.

The site attracts a variety of birds and records have been kept since 1966. Breeding species include Little Grebe, Grey Heron (17 occupied nests in 1993), Mute Swan, Mallard, Water Rail, Coot, and many passerine species. Wintering waterfowl include Mallard (24), Golden Plover (125) and Lapwing (125) (figures are one count during 1984/85-1986/87 period). Many other species occur in winter, such as Wigeon, Teal, Shoveler, Tufted Duck and Pochard.

Oakpark is the largest area of still water in the county and is of regional and local value to birds.

12.11.2009