SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: DULEEK COMMONS

SITE CODE: 001578

Situated *c*. 1km north-west of Duleek, Co. Meath, Duleek Commons occupies a level, drained marsh area associated with the floodplain of a stream rising in Thomastown Bog to the west and running through the undulating drift landscape to the River Nanny.

The centre of the marsh is fairly wet and supports a good variety of wetland plants, including such species as Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*), Water Forget-me-not (*Myosotis scorpioides*), Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) in large stands, Sharp-flowered Rush (*Juncus acutiflorus*) and large sedges (*Carex* spp.). The area has been subject to some drainage activity in the past and areas of cattle-grazed damp pasture with rushes (including *Juncus effusus* and *J. inflexus*) occur around the periphery. The rare, Slender Spike-rush (*Eleocharis uniglumis*), has been recorded from Duleek Commons in one of its very few inland Irish sites.

Whilst many wetlands in the area have entirely disappeared due to drainage, Duleek Commons, probably due to being in multiple ownership, remains in relatively good condition and is thus of importance. Further drainage work here would be inappropriate.

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