SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: TEMPLETNEY QUARRY

SITE CODE: 001982

Templetney Quarry is a disused limestone quarry situated on the southern slopes of Slievenamon Mountain about 10km south-west of Fethard in South Tipperary. It is surrounded by low-lying agricultural land. In addition to supporting a typical undisturbed limestone flora, this quarry contains several plant species that are rare in this area. Of particular interest is the attractive and nationally rare Bee Orchid (*Orphrys apifera*) which is particularly uncommon in this area. There are also several other orchid species present here including Green-winged Orchid (*Orchis morio*), Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*) and Autumn Lady's-tresses (*Spiranthes spiralis*).

Limestone grassland is one of the most species-rich habitats in the country. This site contains a spectacularly rich assemblage of plant species that is very unusual in the intensively farmed landscape of south Tipperary. It is also unusual to find this type of habitat in such an undisturbed state. It is in a phase of development, and could in future become an attractive area for birds and other wildlife as well as providing a refuge area for species rare in the regional flora. A fringe of scrub woodland is encroaching on the site. Although the growth of scrub should be kept in check to protect the flora of the open areas, it currently adds to the habitat diversity of the site.

7.12.2009