SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: WICKLOW TOWN SITES

SITE CODE: 001929

This site comprises two areas, namely a bank of the Leitrim River and Blackcastle.

A gravelly bank of the Leitrim River supports a community of plants typical of disturbed ground and includes clovers (*Trifolium repens, T. dubium*), Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), Common Fumitory (*Fumaria officinalis*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Common Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), Viper's-bugloss (*Echium vulgare*) and Spotted Medick (*Medicago arabica*). The rare Subterranean Clover (*Trifolium subterraneum*) grows among this community.

Blackcastle is a rocky area adjoining cliffs at the edge of Wicklow town and is also the site of a ruined castle. On the landward side of the cliffs is a grassy area used for amenity purposes. The vegetation is dominated by Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*). Other species found growing there include Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), White Clover (*Trifolium repens*), and Curled Dock (*Rumex crispus*). Two rare clovers have been recorded growing in this coastal grassland area – Bird's-foot Clover (*Trifolium ornithopodioides*) and Subterranean Clover.

The site is important because of the rare plants it contains; of particular note is the presence of Subterranean Clover which is unknown from elsewhere in Ireland.

7.12.2009