SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: JOHN'S HILL

SITE CODE: 000808

This small area of bog is located in Co. Carlow, about 2km west of Bunclody.

The main interest of the site is the occurrence of the inconspicuous Bog Orchid (*Hammarbya paludosa*). This species is legally protected under the Flora Protection Order of 1987 and is vulnerable in Europe as a whole, making it one of the most threatened European species found in Ireland.

Bog Orchid grows in wet, acid spongy bogs, usually in tufts of bog moss (*Sphagnum* spp.). It has been recorded in the past from over 50 sites throughout Ireland. Recently it has been seen only in single sites in six counties. This species is easily overlooked and is seldom seen in the same site consecutively. This may partially explain its apparent dramatic decline, but the rapid destruction of Irish peatlands is undoubtedly a major factor in the loss of its habitat.

It occurs in association with other bog species, including Carnation Sedge (*Carex panicea*), Round-leaved Sundew (*Drosera rotundiflora*), Multi-stalked Spike-rush (*Eleocharis multicaulis*), Common Cottongrass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*), Cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*), Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*), Pale Butterwort (*Pinguicula lusitanica*), White Beak-sedge (*Rhynchospora alba*), Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*) and bog mosses.

12.11.2009