SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: BALLYCONNIGAR SAND PITS

SITE CODE: 000741

Ballyconnigar Sand Pits are located *c*. 1km east of the village of Blackwater in east Co. Wexford and within 1km of the coast.

The site is underlain by glacial acid sands and gravels and includes two sand pits that are notable for the vascular plant, bryophyte and lichen communities that they support. These hold an interesting flora of species typical of sandy sites, including Common Cudweed (*Filago vulgaris*), Small-flowered Catchfly (*Silene gallica*), Viper's-bugloss (*Echium vulgare*), Bugloss (*Anchusa arvensis*), Wild Mignonette (*Reseda lutea*), Slender Sandwort (*Arenaria leptoclados*), Stinking Chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*), Pale Flax (*Linum bienne*), White Campion (*Silene alba*) and Trailing St. John's-wort (*Hypericum humifusum*). The lichen flora is well developed and includes several species first recorded for Co. Wexford from the site.

The site is of particular significance for three nationally rare, Red Data Book vascular plant species – Hairy Bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus subbiflorus*), Lesser Snapdragon (*Misopates orontium*) and Bird's-foot (*Ornithopus perpusillus*) which have been recorded from the sand pits in recent years. Both Hairy Bird's-foot-trefoil and Lesser Snapdragon are listed on the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999.

12.11.2009