SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: ULSTER CANAL (AGHALISK)

SITE CODE: 001611

Between White's Bridge and Carson's Bridge approximately 4km west of Monaghan town, the Conawaly River runs parallel to the Ulster Canal, the two stretches being separated only by a few yards of grassy bank. The canal is very dry at the point and is almost entirely colonised by grasses with some Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) beds and Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*). The Conawaly River supports Monkeyflower (*Mimulus guttatus*) an alien plant, along much of this stretch. In areas of more open water, Flowering-rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) a rare species in Ireland and chiefly a northern species, grows in clumps and is locally abundant.

To the south of the waterway is a small area of Beech (*Fagus sylvtica*) woodland with some Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*) is plentiful in the wetter ground here, and Woodruff (*Galium odoratum*) is also to be found.

Only a relatively small section of these two waterways has been included in the Natural Heritage Area. Although the flora is not very diverse, several plant species of note are to be found, and this section is thought to be representative of the habitats developed on this disused canal.

24.11.2009