SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: SPRING PARK WETLANDS

SITE CODE: 000941

This site occurs about 5km north of Borrisokane, in Co. Tipperary. It consists of two small wetlands separated by agricultural land and the Borrisokane to Portumna road.

The westerly area is the largest and has extensive reed beds composed of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*). In a survey by An Foras Forbatha the following plants were recorded – Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*), yellow-cress (*Rorippa* spp.), Tufted Forget-me-not (*Myosotis laxa* subsp. *caespitosa*), Water Forget-me-not (*M. scorpoiodes*), Common Marsh-bedstraw (*Galium palustre*), Silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*), Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*), Jointed Rush (*Juncus articulatus*) and Hard Rush (*J. inflexus*). The eastern part of the site is occupied by a turlough-like water body and there is little or no emergent vegetation. This is a site for Water Germander (*Teucrium scordium*), a species confined to the River Shannon and turloughs in North Tipperary and East Clare.

These small lakes attract waterfowl during winter but there are no recent systematic counts. In February 1993, however, at least 20 Whooper Swans were present, along with some Teal, Mallard, Pochard, Tufted Duck and Gadwall.

This site, although small, is of interest as it represents a semi-natural habitat in an area which is largely agricultural. Previous surveys have shown that the vegetation is well developed on at least the western lake. The site also appears to be of at least local importance for waterfowl.

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