SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: SLUICE RIVER MARSH

SITE CODE: 001763

This site is located about 1 km west of Portmarnock village. The Sluice River flows into Baldoyle Estuary, less than 1 km away. The marsh backs onto the east side of the railway embankment.

The wettest parts of the marsh have Yellow Flag (*Iris pseudacorus*), Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*), Water Horsetail (*Equisitum fluviatile*), Common Club-rush (*Scirpus lacustris*), Starwort (*Callitriche* spp.), Thread-leaved Water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus tricophyllus*), the uncommon Brackish Water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus baudotii*), Lesser Marshwort (*Apium inundatum*) and Duckweed (*Lemna* spp.).

In the somewhat drier marsh areas the typical plant species are Marsh Bedstraw (*Galium palustre*), Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*), Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), Water Plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*) and the sedges *Carex disticha* and *Carex nigra*.

Wet grassland occurs around the marsh, and includes such species as Silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*), Lady's Smock (*Cardamine pratensis*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*), Creeping bent-grass (*Agrostis stolonifera*) and buttercups (*Ranunculus repens* and *R. acris*).

Some wet woodland and scrub occurs on the west side of the site, mostly comprised of willows (*Salix* spp.), Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), as well as some Hazel (*Corylus avellana*).

Mallard, Snipe, Grey Heron, Moorhen and Reed Bunting have been recorded from the marsh. The herons nest nearby. Some waterfowl from Baldoyle Estuary may use the marsh on occasions. Horses graze the site and there is probably some shooting in winter. Malahide golf course is situated on the other side of the Sluice River.

This site is of importance as a relatively intact freshwater marsh, a habitat that is now rare in County Dublin.

31.8.2006