SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: GLANWORTH PONDS

SITE CODE: 000085

This site comprises a few individual fields located c. 1.5km west of the village of Glanworth and 9.5km north-west of Fermoy town, County Cork. The fields are situated to the north of the Glanworth - Shanballymore wood. These fields contain the rare Red Data Book species Golden Dock (*Rumex maritimus*).

One field contains a pond which is kept by the landowner for wildlife, the surrounding land in the field being grazed. The Golden Dock is found on the muddy, duck-trampled margins of the pond between the summer water level and the rushes. It is a healthy population of more than 1000 individuals in all stages of development, from immature juveniles to dehiscent mature plants. In some areas on the mud Golden Dock forms the main cover species together with species such as Lesser Spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*), starworts (*Callitriche* spp.), Celery-leaved Buttercup (*Ranunculus sceleratus*) and Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*). Also found in the area but less commonly are Nodding Bur-marigold (*Bidens cernua*), Marsh Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle vulgaris*) and Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*). This population does not appear to be threatened as the landowner intends to retain the pond. Other smaller populations of Golden Dock are found in 2 fields with wet hollows which are inundated in the winter; here the dock is locally abundant but its survival in these fields may not be so secure with possible drainage of the fields posing a major threat to the habitats survival.

The Glanworth Ponds are new records for the occurrence of the Golden Dock in East Cork. Golden Dock is a Red Data Book species whose occurrence is apparently declining because often its appearance in a place is only fleeting; it depends on low water levels to provide the right conditions and stimulus for seed germination. This site contains healthy and viable populations of the Golden Dock, as well as a good species diversity of other aquatic and wetland plants.

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