SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: SLADE OF SAGGART AND CROOKSLING GLEN

SITE CODE: 000211

This site is located in the south-west of Co. Dublin and stretches from Brittas northwards to approximately 2km south of Saggart. The northern half of the site comprises a river valley with steep tree-covered sides, while the southern side is flatter and contains two small lakes, the Brittas Ponds.

The trees are mostly of planted origin with fine specimens of Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), oak (*Quercu*s spp.) and birch (*Betula* spp.) occurring. The ground flora is well developed with Common Dog-violet (*Viola riviniana*), Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*), Wood-sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and Three-nerved Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*). The marshy edges of the stream have Brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*) and Marsh Speedwell (*Veronica scutellata*). Early Marsh-orchid (*Dactylorhiza incarnata*) occurs in one place.

Higher up the valley, in Crooksling Glen the vegetation becomes more natural and shrubs and trees such as Guelder-rose (*Viburnum opulus*), Whitebeam (*Sorbus hibernica*) and Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*) appear. The herbaceous layer includes Red Campion (*Silene dioica*), Wood Speedwell (*Veronica montana*) and Lady's-mantle (*Alchemilla glabra* and *A. filicaulis* subsp. *vestita*). Yellow Archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdolon*), a Red Data Book species, has been recorded from this site.

The chalcid *Halticoptera patellana* (Hymenoptera) was recorded from the site in 1981, the only Irish record for this species up to at least 1989.

South of Crooksling Glen are Brittas Ponds, a Wildfowl Sanctuary, that supports a variety of wildfowl, including Teal, Mallard, Pochard and Tufted Duck. The ponds themselves are of interest for the aquatic plants they support (including Shoreweed (*Littorella uniflora*), a rare plant in Dublin) and the marginal areas of freshwater marsh and wet grassland vegetation found.

The site includes a good example of a wooded river valley and a small wetland system. The presence of a rare plant, a rare invertebrate and a variety of wildfowl species adds to the interest of the site.

5.11.2009