SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: MANNIN WETLAND

SITE CODE: 000868

The Mannin Wetland proposed Natural Heritage Area (NHA) comprises two small blocks, one to either side of the Durrow road at Mannin cross roads, about 4km west of Borris in Ossory. These blocks are boggy fields developed over poor draining areas of glacial drift deposited over Lower Limestone.

It can be speculated that this area was once a lowland raised bog which is now cutaway, but research has not been undertaken to confirm this. The site now resembles a young, peat-forming fen. The vegetation consists largely of Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) and Bog-myrtle (*Myrica gale*) with areas of Black Bog-rush (*Schoenus nigricans*) suggesting a high calcium content. The area is wet enough for there to be occasional pools, where Great Fen-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*), Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) and Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*) can be found.

The area, although small, is fairly species-rich. Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) bushes and small birch (*Betula* spp.) trees are scattered throughout the site.

Although much of the former fen area has now been reclaimed and a section planted with conifers, the two small blocks that remain, support vegetation that is now becoming rare in this area.

12.11.2009