SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: LIZZY SMYTH'S BOG

SITE CODE: 001980

Lizzy Smyth's Bog is a small area of lowland wet grassland/fen developed on reclaimed bog which is located 9km west of Fethard in Co. Tipperary. The site is of ecological interest because of its rich diversity of plant species, including several local rarities. This type of site is also rare in this region.

As the majority of the site has never been fertilised, it contains a rich assemblage of plants, including a range of notable, locally rare species such as Grass-of-parnassus (*Parnassia palustris*), Marsh Helleborine (*Epipactis palustris*), Marsh Stitchwort (*Stellaria palustris*), Fragrant Orchid (*Gymnadenia conopsea*) and Greater Butterfly-orchid (*Platanthera chlorantha*). Other species present include Common Twayblade (*Listera ovata*), Common Spotted-orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*), Broad-leaved Marsh-orchid (*Dactylorhiza majalis*), Marsh Arrowgrass (*Triglochin palustris*), Marsh Lousewort (*Pedicularis palustris*) and Ragged-Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*).

Part of the site supports scrub woodland and is composed of native trees which include Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), oak (*Quercus* spp.), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*).

Typical wetland birds such as Snipe frequent the site.

Unimproved grassland/fen sites such as Lizzy Smyth's Bog support a good diversity of plant and animal species. Lizzy Smyth's Bog is of particular conservation significance for its wet grassland/fen vegetation, and range of characteristic as well as locally rare plant species. Sites such as this are highly threatened by drainage, reclamation and general agricultural improvement, and are becoming increasingly rare in the region.

7.12.2009