SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: ARKLOW TOWN MARSH

SITE CODE: 001931

This site is now the principal wetland area in Arklow. It is a large marsh located north of the Avoca estuary on the perimeter of Arklow town. A disused roadway bisects the site from east to west.

Much of the site is dominated by Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), with Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*) and Common Valerian (*Valeriana officianalis*) common in places. On the southern side, numerous scattered bushes of willow (*Salix* spp.) are growing among the Common Reed, forming a scrub in places. Drier areas are characterised by large tussocks of Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*). Other plants present include Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*), Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), Skullcap (*Scutellaria galericulata*), Lesser Pond-sedge (*Carex acutiformis*) and several other sedges (*Carex* spp.).

Wet grassy areas with extensive stands of Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*) occur on the north-east margin, with Creeping Bent, Common Spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) and rushes (*Juncus articulatus* and *J. conglomeratus*) present.

The scarce Broad-leaved Cottongrass (*Eriophorum latifolium*) has been recorded growing on this site.

Much of the willow has been defoliated, possibly due to atmospheric pollution from the nearby fertiliser factory.

The importance of this site is that it is a good example of a relatively large wetland, despite the impacts of atmospheric pollution and its proximity to Arklow town. The presence of at least one scarce plant species increases the interest of the site.

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