

**Site Name: Philipston Marsh SAC**

**Site Code: 001847**

Philipston Marsh is a small wetland near Philipston House, south of Cappagh White in Co. Tipperary. It represents one of only two examples of calcareous fen and mire vegetation in the Mulkear River catchment and is thus a rare habitat type in this locality.

The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (\* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

[7140] Transition Mires
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The marsh supports a dense reedbed of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and patches of Rusty Willow (*Salix cinerea* subsp. *oleifolia*) scrub on its northern margins. The southern part is flushed with calcareous groundwater issuing from the base of a gentle slope. This area supports a very species-rich mosaic of fen and transition mire plant communities, amongst which are found several uncommon species, including Broad-leaved Cottongrass (*Eriophorum latifolium*), Marsh Helleborine (*Epipactis palustris*), Fen Bedstraw (*Galium uliginosum*), Lesser Tussock-sedge (*Carex diandra*) and Long-stalked Yellow-sedge (*C. lepidocarpa*). Typical rich fen bryophytes, such as *Campylium stellatum*, *Drepanocladus revolvens*, *Ctenidium molluscum*, *Fissidens adianthoides*, *Philonotis calcarea* and *Palustriella commutate*, are largely confined to Philipston Marsh within the Mulkear River catchment.

This undisturbed fen and mire system supports an unusual and diverse assemblage of plant communities and is particularly important for its transition mire, a habitat listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive.