



Plate 2.6 Wet-willow-alder-ash (WN6) woodland which has recently encroached on to Dry-meadows and grassy verges grassland (GS2) field



Plate 2.7 Immature woodland where the intake structure is proposed

Moving south-east, the proposed scheme footprint will consist of the channel and access road for the rest of its length. The study area encompasses both Cartrongillbert and Mullenmore North townlands in this location and is dominated by species-poor Wet grassland (GS4) and Improved agricultural grassland (GA1) (Plates 2.8 & 2.9). Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) Hedgerows (WL1) demarcate the field boundaries and a small area of hawthorn dominated Scrub (WS1) with gorse (*Ulex*

europaeus), elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) was found along one of the field boundaries. Other small patches of bramble Scrub (WS1) were recorded in scattered locations adjacent to field boundaries. Moving to the east, small man made drainage ditches were recorded running parallel to hedgerows. Stands of the non-native invasive species Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) were recorded on the approach to and adjacent to the R315 (Plate2.10).



Plate 2.8 Wet grassland (GS4) demarcated with hedgerows (WL1) and scrub (WS1) where proposed diversion channel will be constructed.



Plate 2.9 Improved agricultural grassland (GA1) within the final section of the diversion channel footprint



Plate 2.10. Japanese Knotweed adjacent to the R315

Continuing eastward the proposed channel crosses the R315 in the townland of Mullenmore North and turns south-east traversing a local access road (BL3), and fields of Improved agricultural grassland (GA1) and semi-improved Wet grassland (GS4). The proposed channel ends at this location, but a small dry drain, connects this location into a large spring that is described below

Washlands

The washlands comprise a complex of habitats incorporating wet woodland, springs and the associated Mullenmore Stream, Wet Grassland and Marsh habitats. No physical works are proposed in this area but water will be diverted from the bypass channel over these lands to Lough Conn during flood events. Much of the washland area is already flooded regularly by Lough Conn for long periods.

Spring fed ponds (FP1), as evident from upwelling water, provide the sources of the river and are surrounded by wet woodlands. Aquatic vegetation recorded within the springs included duckweed (*Lemna* sp.), broad-leaved pondweed (*Potamogeton natans*), yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) and branched bur-reed (*Sparganium erectum*), horsetails (*Equisetum* spp.), bog bean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*), water mint (*Mentha aquatica*) and sedges (*Carex* spp.) were recorded from the emergent vegetation (Plate 2.11). No tufa formations were observed at these springs.

The upper branches of the river are partially eroding for short sections (Plate 2.12) but they quickly merge to form a watercourse that has been classified as a Lowland depositing river (FW2) with flat gradient, sluggish flow and silty substrate. This channel spends much of its time submerged under flood waters from Lough Conn.

The short eroding sections of the river were devoid of aquatic plants and emergent vegetation with only the aquatic moss *Fontanilis* sp. recorded. The following species were recorded from the lower depositing section of the river: yellow iris, branched bur-reed, horsetails, bog bean, marsh marigold, water mint. Floating bur-reed (*Sparganium emersum*) was recorded in-stream (Plate 2.13).