SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: SUMMERVILLE LOUGH

SITE CODE: 001319

Summerville Lough is a relatively small permanent lake, with an associated raised bog and wet species-rich grassland, situated about 2km west of Moylough, in east Co. Galway.

The lake is quite shallow, with patches of Common Club-rush (*Schoenoplectus lacustris*) near the centre and on the margins. This makes it attractive to a large number (relative to its size) and variety of winter wildfowl. Whooper Swans, an internationally important bird in Ireland, are regularly visitors in small numbers (c.20), and the Otter (a legally-protected mammal in Ireland and Europe) is resident here. A large expanse of wet, species-rich grassland on peat (some of it developed over old 'lazy beds') grades down through marsh to the lake. The raised bog is not typical or of good quality but the transition to lake and marsh makes it necessary to include it.

Summerville Lough is an important wintering site for wildfowl and the unusually large expanse of semi-natural wet grassland on peat adds considerable interest to the area. The undisturbed north and eastern areas are an advantage to the wildfowl population.

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