SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: GALLANES LOUGH

SITE CODE: 001052

Gallanes Lough is situated approximately 1km north-west of Clonakilty, beside the Ballinascarthy road. The following description of the site is based largely upon the 1986 An Foras Forbartha County Report.

Gallanes Lough is a small waterbody occurring in a flat part of a stream valley. Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*), Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*), Marsh Cinquefoil (*Potentilla palustris*) and Bottle Sedge (*Carex rostrata*) fringe the lake. Much of this vegetation is in the form of a floating mat which forms a transition zone between open water and wet grassland. This slightly acid grassland is dominated by rushes (*Juncus* spp.) and Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*) with Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*) and Ragged -Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*) also common. A small amount of Eared Willow (*Salix aurita*) colonisation occurs.

Waterfowl find this lake attractive, with up to 500 wildfowl having been recorded at times including Mallard, Wigeon and sometimes Whooper Swans. The more recent NHA survey noted two additional species, namely Coot and Mute Swans. Waders, including Snipe, Lapwing and Curlew, feed on the marshy areas around the lake with the recent survey noting Snipe as being particularly common.

An invertebrate of interest, a small water boatman (*Microvelia pygmaea*) has been recorded from the site and is thought to have been introduced by visiting waterfowl.

Improved farmland surrounds the site and fertiliser run-off may be leading to some enrichment of the lake waters. Agricultural improvements have taken place recently, while in the past some infilling of the lake margin has taken place close to the road. Further agricultural improvements, especially drainage, are a threat to the site.

This site is of ornithological interest because of the relatively high numbers of birds occurring within a small, easily accessible, site.

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