SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: CARROWMORE LOUGH SHORE

SITE CODE: 001492

Carrowmore Lough is a large deep lake, about 8km east of Castlebar, in gently rolling farmland. It lies in a depression underlain by calcareous rocks covered by a marl substrate. Vegetation has encroached on its former margins to form bogland.

The shoreline is quite varied with an excellent diversity of habitats including areas of cutover bog, limestone outcrops, fen and freshwater marsh. Reed-beds occur along parts of the shore, but the marly substrate does not favour their development.

Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and willow (*Salix* spp.) scrub occur on a limestone ridge on the east side of the lake. The wet grassland on the lake margins is colonised by several plants species of interest, these include Carline Thistle (*Carlina vulgaris*), Autumn Gentian (*Gentianella amarella*) and Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*).

The sections of shoreline that are periodically flooded contain Yellow-wort (*Blackstonia perfoliata*), Mountain Everlasting (*Antennaria dioica*) and Fairy Flax (*Linum catharticum*).

On the cutover peat, Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*) and Field Gentian (*Gentianella campestris*) can be found. Nearer the lake, Grass-of-parnassus (*Parnassia palustris*) is found. Long-stalked Yellow-sedge (*Carex lepidocarpa*) also occurs here.

Common Gulls (270 individuals in 1978), Black Headed Gulls (1350 individuals in 1978) and Great Crested Grebe frequent this site, while the reed-beds provide cover for several species of waterfowl.

The variety of substrates and habitats in this area creates a good diversity of plant communities.

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