SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: DAMBADUFF LOUGH

SITE CODE: 001491

Situated in the rolling drumlin countryside which typifies the western coastal areas near Westport, Dambaduff Lough is a small lake located just north of the larger Islandeady Lough in Co. Mayo.

This small lake contains a number of habitats on its margins which are of ecological interest, and include reed-bed swamp, freshwater marsh, scrub and wet willow (*Salix* spp.) and birch (*Betula* spp.) woodlands. Some of the freshwater marsh areas have vegetation indicative of base enrichment, with Black Bog-rush (*Schoenus nigricans*), Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) and Bog-myrtle (*Myrica gale*) present.

Within the site, there are also several wooded islands on the lake, which are attractive to migratory and breeding birds.

This lake was originally of scientific interest for its breeding population of Common Gulls, which despite their name are not that common. In recent years, however, this species seems to have declined. The site is also of local importance to wintering waterfowl and as a breeding site for Common Sandpiper, Mallard, and Moorhen.

Otters have also been seen at this lake.

23.11.2009