SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: INCHICRONAN LOUGH

SITE CODE: 000038

Inchicronan Lough is a medium sized lake situated approximately 2km south of Crusheen, Co. Clare. Fringing reed beds of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), Common Club-rush (*Schoenoplectus lacustris*) and Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) surround much of the lake verge. There are a number of small scrubby islands located around the western side of lake. Inchicronan Island which lies through the centre of the lake is inhabited and is mainly in use as pasture, although some wooded pockets still remain. A variety of habitats are found around the lake including an area of cut-over bog to the north, Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) woodland along the eastern shore and a complex mosaic of wet grassland, dense scrub and marsh at the southern end. The western side is partially bounded by the Limerick-Sligo railway line (still in use as a cargo line), providing an added habitat of significant interest.

Inchicronan Lough has interesting aquatic and terrestrial land communities. Although disturbance from attempts at agricultural improvement have taken place around all sides of the lake, there is still a good degree of naturalness reflected in the remaining habitats. The lake is of local ornithological interest with the presence of a flock of 30 wild swans, some duck and Cormorants. The whole area is of high scenic value.

4.11.2009