SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: KILCOOLY ABBEY LAKE

SITE CODE: 000958

This small lake lies about 6km south-east of Urlingford in the estate grounds of an old abbey in Co. Tipperary.

The site supports a varied aquatic flora including species of bladderwort (*Utricularia* spp.), stonewort (*Chara* spp.) and Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*). The latter forms a marginal band around the open water. The presence of Lesser Bulrush (*Typha angustifolia*) is noteworthy, as it is quite rare in Ireland, especially in the southern half of the country.

Otters use this site. This species is threatened within the European Union and listed in Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive. Breeding birdlife on the lake include Mallard, Moorhen, Coot and a colony of Herons.

The site is managed as a waterfowl sanctuary with a 'no shooting' policy. Nest boxes have been distributed around the site margins. Some eutrophication of the open water has occurred due to nutrient run off from nearby lands. This could pose a threat to the current ecological balance of the aquatic habitat.

Kilcooly Abbey Lake is of interest due to the varied lake vegetation. The use of the site by Otters and breeding waterfowl gives an added quality dimension. The lake surface is one of the largest areas of open water in a region with a paucity of such.

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