SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: FRIARS LOUGH

SITE CODE: 000933

Friars Lough is a small lake with adjacent woodland, situated near the village of Lorrah in north Tipperary. The lough itself is fringed with dense reed-beds of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) along much of its shore, but the most extensive habitat is broadleaved woodland. A narrow band of dry woodland, mostly of native oak (*Quercus* spp.) occurs east of the lough, but a much more species-rich wet woodland lies to the west of the lough. The most dominant trees here are Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*), Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), various willows (*Salix* spp.), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), but many other species also occur, including exotics such as Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). Scrubby and boggy species such as Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*) occur under the canopy.

Of special importance in this site, however, is the presence of a healthy population of the uncommon shrub Alder Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*). This plant was first recorded here in 1899. This site is a refuge for local wildlife in a highly farmed area.

13.11.2009