SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: LISABUCK LOUGH

SITE CODE: 001835

Situated less than 0.5km south of the Finn River, about 4km south of Clones, Lisabuck Lough Natural Heritage Area includes Lisabuck Lough itself and a narrow corridor to the north-east, including a smaller area of open water.

The lough appears to have escaped the effects of the Finn Lacky drainage project carried out in the 1980s.

The vegetation of the lough seems typical of other small lakes in the area. The aquatic vegetation is dominated by Yellow Water-lily (*Nuphar lutea*) and Canadian Waterweed (*Elodea canadensis*). There are well developed swamps, mainly of Common Club-rush (*Schoenoplectus lacustris*), Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and Bottle Sedge (*Carex rostrata*).

Wet grasslands and freshwater marshes surround much of the lake, and occupy the corridor to the north-east, varying from relatively dry areas of Timothy (*Phleum pratense*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*) and various meadow herbs such as Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), to marsh areas of Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*) with wetland herbs such as Wild Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) and Purple-loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*). There are small areas of wet woodland dominated by Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), and Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*) with various wetland species in the understorey such as Tufted-sedge (*Carex elata*) and Greater Tussock-sedge (*Carex paniculata*).

Attention was originally drawn to this lake because of the presence of Slender Tufted-sedge (*Carex acuta*), a water-side sedge of restricted occurrence in Ireland, but it is also a good site representative of the swarm of small lakes characteristic of the drumlin belt in Co. Monaghan which together represent a substantial wetland asset. Floristic gradients from open water to adjacent dry grasslands are well developed and included within the designated area.

26.11.2009