SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: LOUGH DRUMHARLOW

SITE CODE: 001643

Drumharlow Lough is the lower part of the River Boyle, from Cootehall Bridge, which opens out into a many-armed lake before it joins the River Shannon 5km south of the town of Leitrim. The lake and its surroundings are used by a flock of Greenland White-fronted Geese.

Apart from the open water and aquatic habitats of the lake itself, the main habitats of interest are extensive areas of wet grassland (callow land) which flood in winter, and lakeshore. The lakeshore, in keeping with the other River Shannon lakes, has areas of considerable botanical interest.

Hughestown Wood, situated on the shore of the lake is the site of a rare Myxomycete fungus, *Paradiacheopsis rigida.* There is also a raised bog area of interest which directly borders the flooded callows of the Shannon and grades down to Lough Naseer in the far north of the site.

Several areas of callows, wet rough pasture and improved grassland have been included around the lake as these are used for feeding by a flock of Greenland White-fronted Geese. The flock also uses sites around Lough Allen. Formerly of national importance, the three year mean peak number is 111 (up to 1990/91) and does not now regularly reach the qualifying level.

Drumharlow Lough is a large complex of habitats typical of the Shannon Lakes and the lake and surrounding grasslands are important sites for the internationally important Goose species.

24.11.2009