SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: DRUMREASKE LOUGH

SITE CODE: 001602

This small calcareous lough is situated 3km north-west of Monaghan. With its surrounding pockets of marshland and mixed woodland it forms an interesting ecological area. In 1972 An Foras Forbartha provided the following site description:

The calcareous nature of the lough is evident from the presence of stoneworts (*Chara* spp) which form a narrow shelf all around the lough edge. The calcicole Great Fen-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) is also present amongst the reed-beds that surround most of the lough.

On the lake margins are pockets of wet, marshy ground. These are colonised mainly by Wayfaring-tree (*Viburnum lantana*) which is presumably planted. In between these pockets are open areas dominated by sedges (*Carex* spp.) with the main flowering species consisting of Wild Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), Marsh Lousewort (*Pedicularis palustris*), Common Spotted-orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*) and Greater Spearwort (*Ranunculus lingua*).

To the east of the lough is mixed woodland. This contains conifers, deciduous trees and ornamental introductions such as Barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*), Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) and Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*). It is this combination of planted and natural species which add to the botanical value of the site.

Several fishing stands are to be found around the shoreline. Anglers appear to be the main visitors to the lake and the main cause of litter.

Considering its small size, this site shows a lot of diversity, with a calcareous lake, freshwater marsh and mixed woodland. The presence of a stonewort in the lough and of the Wayfaring-tree round its margins increases the interest of the site.

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