SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: CLAREEN LOUGH

SITE CODE: 000929

This site comprises a system of wetlands to the north of the village of Puckaun in North Tipperary. At its north-west side the site is connected with Lough Derg.

Extensive reed-beds occur across much of the site, there being associated with the five or six lakes present. The main reed-bed plants are Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), Great Fen-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*), canary-grass (*Phalaris* spp.) and Black Bog-rush (*Schoenus nigricans*). Wet grassland and marshy areas occur on the edges of the reed-beds. These areas are usually grazed by cattle, sheep and horses. Rushes (*Juncus* spp.), Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) and other species are common in this habitat.

Scrub communities of willow (*Salix* spp.), Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) are scattered throughout the site, while in a few places quite large blocks of dry broadleaved woodland occur. These woodlands support oak (*Quercus* spp.), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), willow and Downy Birch.

13.11.2009