SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: DROMOLAND LOUGH

SITE CODE: 001008

Dromoland Lough lies about 3km north-west of Newmarket on Fergus. It is set in parkland within Dromoland Castle Estate and golf course.

The lake is fringed with Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and Common Club-rush (*Schoenoplectus lacustris*), behind which a large marshy area spreads to the firmer shore. This contains many marsh species, with sedges (*Carex* spp.) being particularly well represented including Bottle Sedge (*Carex rostrata*), Slender Sedge (*C. lasiocarpa*), Tufted-sedge (*C. elata*), Lesser Tussock-sedge (*C. diandra*), Greater Pond-sedge (*C. riparia*), Fibrous Tussock-sedge (*C. appropinquata*) and Long-stalked Yellow-sedge (*C. lepidocarpa*). Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) is dominant in some areas. Other species include Grass-of-parnassus (*Parnassia palustris*), Marsh Lousewort (*Pedicularis palustris*) and Eyebright (*Euphrasia scottica*).

Other species which have been recorded at this site are Creeping-Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*), Marsh Fern (*Thelypteris palustris*), Yellow Water-lily (*Nuphar lutea*) and pondweeds (*Potamogeton* spp.). Dark-red Helleborine (*Epipactis atrorubens*), a species typical of Burren areas, has been recorded from the site.

Scrub occurs around parts of the lake, mostly willow (*Salix* spp.), birch (*Betula* spp.) and alder (*Alnus* spp.).

Driven Pheasant and rough duck shoots and gun dog trials are held in the area. These activities cause disturbance and damage to vegetation from trampling.

This site is of interest as it contains a diverse flora, particularly of marsh species.

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