SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: LOUGH HACKET

SITE CODE: 001294

Lough Hacket is located 4.5km east-north-east of Headford in Co. Galway. This small lake is situated in an area where the underlying geology is carboniferous limestone.

The main habitat of this site is the lake itself, which is surrounded to the west by reed swamp, areas of fresh water marsh as well as lowland wet grassland. The eastern side of the lake has improved grassland. A small island occurs in the lake.

The site was noted in 1971 as an area of ornithological importance for wintering wildfowl. The site is of regional/local importance with the following species noted in 1993 – Wigeon (40), Pochard (110), Tufted Duck (10), Golden Plover (20), Lapwing (150) and Curlew (150). The lake island has a few pairs of breeding Grey Herons and Cormorants.

This site holds a wintering population of Golden Plover, a species listed in Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive and in the Red Data Book as being threatened in Ireland.

This site is of interest as an important site for wintering wildfowl.

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