SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: DRUMAKILL LOUGH

SITE CODE: 001600

Drumakill Lough is a small lake, located 5km east of Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan and approximately 1km east of Lough Muckno. The topography of the area is best described as undulating lowland, with drumlins in close proximity to the lake.

The open waters of the lake form the main habitat in the site, but there is little vegetation in the lake proper. The major scientific interest of the site is to be found in the vegetation which surrounds the lake. Wet grassland is the main habitat around the periphery of the lake and species such as Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Wild Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*) and Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) are well represented here. Freshwater marsh vegetation merges with wet grassland vegetation in places but there is generally a higher occurrence of species such as Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*), Bottle Sedge (*Carex rostrata*) and Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*) in the freshwater marsh communities.

Other minor habitats in the site include reed swamp and scrub.

The most obvious threat to the integrity of the site is the continued dumping of machinery around the lake edge.

The scientific interest of this site can be primarily attributed to the wet grassland and fresh water marsh vegetation present around the margins of the lake. There is an interesting gradation from wet grassland vegetation to freshwater marsh vegetation, as a result of variables such as the degree of waterlogging and distance from the lake.

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