SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: CORCREEGHY LAKE AND WOODLAND

SITE CODE: 001783

Corcreeghy Lough and Woodland Natural Heritage Area (NHA) lies in drift deposits about 5km south-west of Monaghan.

This is an undisturbed lake with a thin margin of marsh/scraw with the exception of the eastern end which has an extensive wet willow (*Salix* spp.) and Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) stand, and harbours the Marsh Fern (*Thelypteris palustris*) which is a rare plant in County Monaghan.

There is an intact succession from open water, through beds of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), to a drier marsh with Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Wild Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), Meadow sweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Ragged-Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*), Common Cottongrass (*Eriophorum angustifolia*), and on to a woodland with willow and Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*).

This wetland is notable in that it occurs in an area of shale and grits. Amongst the many small lakes in Co. Monaghan this NHA is outstanding for its intact transition from open water to wet woodland, and for its rare species. The Blackwater drainage scheme has not devalued these aspects of the site.

26.11.2009