SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: GLASLOUGH LAKE

SITE CODE: 000559

Glaslough Lake and Woodland Natural Heritage Area (NHA) is based upon the Glaslough Demesne situated about 9km northeast of Monaghan town. The NHA boundary is a revision of the Area of Scientific Interest, which included the entire demesne - much of this area is under improved grassland of little interest and is not included in the new NHA area.

The woodland on the estate is planted in origin. Much is coniferous plantation and has not been included in the NHA area, however much of the remaining mixed woodland around the lakes is of sufficient complementary interest to be included.

The main value of the site lies in the lake and adjacent wetland habitats. It is reportedly rich in Calcium with stoneworts (*Chara* spp.) and White Water-lily (*Nymphaea alba*) which is likely to have been introduced. Most of the shore is fringed by a narrow zone of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) mainly backed by the mixed estate woodland. Botanically the most interesting section seems to be the southern end of Glaslough lake which now forms a separate basin entirely within woodland. Here wooded islands also provide a Heronry site.

In a comparison of 17 lakes in the Blackwater catchment in 1980, Glaslough had by far the greatest variety of species of waterfowl, and also the highest numbers, with 11 species the most common of which were Mallard and Coot. The lake is also used as a roost site for overwintering Greenland White-fronted Geese. In winter the Republic of Ireland supports about 50% of the world population of this race, so the country's international duties to conserve this bird are obvious, and provide the main incentive for the designation of this NHA.

6.11.2009