SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: MULLAGHMORE LAKE (SOUTH)

SITE CODE: 001785

This shallow lake, situated about 6km north-west of Monaghan, is one of the larger lakes in the area. In 1984 An Foras Forbartha provided the following site description.

It is a shallow lake which is rapidly infilling, becoming colonised by floating scraw. The lake surface is colonised by water-lilies (both *Nymphaea alba* and *Nuphar lutea*). The emergent vegetation consists of dense reed beds of Common Club-Rush (*Schoenoplectus lacustris*) and Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*), especially in the south and west.

The reed beds are surrounded by freshwater marsh, containing Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), Yellow Loosetrife (*Lysimachia vulgaris*) and Common Marsh-bedstraw (*Galium palustre*).

On the south-east margin of the lake there is woodland containing Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and willow (*Salix* spp). These trees also form a narrow band around the rest of the lake.

There is a better than average number and variety of waterfowl on the lake including Tufted Duck, Pochard, Mute and Whooper Swan. A small wooded island on the middle of the lake provides a nesting site for a small breeding colony of Grey Heron.

This site is of importance because it provides an excellent example of colonisation of open water by scraw (floating vegetation) as well as providing for a better than average number of wildfowl.

26.11.2009