SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: LOUGH CLEGGAN

SITE CODE: 001331

Lough Cleggan is a small freshwater lake situated east of the larger Ballyallia Lake, approximately 4km north-west of Ennis, Co. Clare. The Poulacorry River connects the two lakes. The lake has a substantial reed fringe of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), which merges with stands of Bottle Sedge (*Carex rostrata*) and Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) in places. A good stand of woodland with Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), willow (*Salix* spp.) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) occurs in the south-west of site. A mosaic of wet grassland and freshwater marsh occurs in places around the lake. Here typical species include rushes (*Juncus* spp.), sedges (*Carex* spp.), Marsh-marigold (*Caltha palustris*) and Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*).

The lake is of local importance for wintering wildfowl, although recent counts are not available. Breeding bird species include Tufted Duck and Coot.

The lake is used widely for fishing and hunting, which probably cause disturbance. There has been some agricultural improvement resulting in loss of scrub and woodland. The lake is likely to be suffering from slight eutrophication from agricultural activities.

The main interest of this site is that it has a good diversity of habitats and plant species. It is also of at least local importance for wintering wildfowl and probably should be considered as part of the Ballyallia complex. The site provides habitat for some breeding species. Further monitoring of bird populations is required.

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