SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: FIN LOUGH (ROSCOMMON)

SITE CODE: 001636

Fin Lough is a shallow lough situated east of Lough Key and north of the N4 between Boyle and Carrick-on-Shannon. The lough is surrounded by extensive reed-beds and marshes which form the largest area of the site.

The species-poor reed-beds are dominated by Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*). The marsh areas which lie landward of the reed-beds are species-rich fens dominated by Black Bog-rush (*Schoenus nigricans*) and various sedge (*Carex* spp.) species. In wetter areas the vegetation frequently contains Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), Marsh Cinquefoil (*Potentilla palustris*), Gipsywort (*Lycopus europaeus*), Purple-loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Jointed Rush (*Juncus articulatus*), Common Cottongrass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*), Least Bur-reed (*Sparganium minimum*), Bottle Sedge (*Carex rostrata*) and Marsh-marigold (*Caltha palustris*). There are also areas where the fen grades into drier grassland with typical plants being Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*), Quaking-grass (*Briza media*), Silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*) and Yellow-rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*). Damage by commercial forestry was noted around the lake margins in areas to the north and south-east of the site.

In spite of the encroachment of forestry this site has considerable ecological interest due to the diversity of habitats and the extent of the fen vegetation within the site. The lake supports populations of nesting wildfowl and Reed Buntings. The site is also important for breeding stock for coarse fishing.

24.11.2009