SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: LOUGH NAHINCH (TIPPERARY)

SITE CODE: 000936

Lough Nahinch lies on the border between Tipperary and Offaly some 9km east of Borrisokane. It is a peaty basin set in mainly cutaway bog.

The lake itself is fringed by sparse Common Club-rush (*Schoenoplectus lacustris*) swamp.

The lower wet areas of adjacent peat support interesting plant communities, including the peatland species Round-leaved Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*), Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*), and other species such as butterfly-orchid (*Platanthera* spp.), Early-purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*), Common Twayblade (*Listera ovata*) and Slender Sedge (*Carex lasiocarpa*).

Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) are colonising some areas, and Buckthorn (*Rhamnus catharticus*), a shrub of much more restricted occurrence, is also recorded as profuse.

An area of mature planted woodland extends to the north and adds diversity to the site.

The site is important for a range of breeding water birds such as Redshank, Snipe and Water Rail, and the bird interest is increased in the winter when migratory species use the site.

Water Germander (*Teucrium scordium*) which is restricted to the Shannon, and loughs in East Clare and Tipperary, is another notable occurrence around Lough Nahinch.

Although this area has been much modified, particularly by drainage and peat extraction, the lake itself remains, and the adjacent land supports, a remarkably diverse flora, despite it being used as an area for dumping rubbish. The site includes several species of note.

13.11.2009