SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: DERRYGEEHA LOUGH

SITE CODE: 000050

Derrygeeha Lough is a small fresh water lake situated approximately 2km inland from Clonderalan Bay on the northern shore of the Shannon Estuary, Co. Clare. The lake is set in a small sheltered valley surrounded by low undulating hills. The soils are a mixture of brown podzols and peats.

The main interest of the site is entomological as it is one of only two stations for the Caddisfly (*Cyrnus insolutus*) in Ireland.

The water surface is dominated by the Yellow Water-lily (*Nuphar lutea*) with Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) merging into a fringe of tall Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) with occasional Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*).

Wet woodland occurs at the southern end with mainly willow (*Salix* spp.), birch (*Betula* spp.), Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*).

To the north-east a large area of cut-over blanket bog is found. Many species including Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*) and Lousewort (*Pedicularis sylvatica*) occur with abundant bog moss (*Sphagnum* spp.) and sundew (*Drosera* spp.) in the wetter zones. A Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) wood cover with a Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) under-shrub occurs over parts of this cut-over bog.

This site is of international importance owing to the presence of the rare Caddisfly. There is a good diversity of habitats over a small area. Otters occur here regularly which are listed as a Red Data species as threatened in Europe.

4.11.2009