SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: TASSAN LOUGH

SITE CODE: 001666

This small lough is situated in an area of Silurian outcrops, about 7km north-west of Castleblaney. Extending up to its boundary on the western site is the remains of a disused lead mine. In 1972 An Foras Forbartha provided the following site description.

Silurian outcrops bound the lough on its southern side, with grassland around its other aspects. Very few species colonise the outcrops – Heath-grass (*Danthonia decumbens*) is the main grass, with Cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*) and Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) the two dominant herbs, and a lichen (*Cladonia* spp).

The lough is fringed with an extensive band of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) with Broad-leaved Pondweed (*Potamogeton natans*) inside the reed.

Between the shoreline and the rock outcrops is an area of wet grassland with patches dominated by *Sphagnum* moss. Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) and Velvet Bent (*Agrostis canina*) are the two dominant grasses. The main herbaceous species are Marsh Cinquefoil (*Potentilla palustris*), Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) and Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*), with Round-leaved Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*) abundant on small hummocks.

The area is ecologically interesting not because of rare species, but as an example of the type of community to be found in Silurian areas.

24.11.2009