SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: BALLINLOUGH (WATERFORD)

SITE CODE: 001691

This site is located approximately 4km east of Ballylaneen in Co. Waterford. The small, attractive lake appears to be very shallow over most of its area. It is eutrophic and contains abundant invertebrate populations.

It is surrounded by a more or less continuous reed swamp in which Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*), Bottle Sedge (*Carex rostrata*) and Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*) are all locally dominant. Further out from the shore and covering most of the lakes area are floating beds of Common Water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus aquatilis*).

Turning over stones at the water's edge revealed a rich and varied invertebrate fauna. flatworms (Turbellaria), leeches (Hirudinea), ramshorn snails (Gastropoda) and the Freshwater Hoglouse (*Asellus aquaticus*) were all common.

The small eutrophic lake is certainly of local scientific importance and, in a part of Ireland where lakes are not common, it may well be that a rating of 'regional importance' could be justified.

25.11.2009