SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: DROMORE LAKES

SITE CODE: 000001

Dromore Lakes proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA) consists of a group of ten main inter-drumlin lakes plus several smaller areas of water stretching along the River Dromore between Cootehill and Ballybay. The site is a revision of the previous Area of Scientific Interest that was based on the Bellamont Demesne and its adjacent lakes. Much of this estate is afforested with conifers and has not been included in the pNHA, although in some cleared areas that have not been replanted, but allowed to regenerate, examples of more natural shrub and grassland vegetation remain.

Some of the lakes feature swamp and marsh development typical of inter-drumlin lakes, and with wet grassland, woodland and recovering felled plantation the site encompasses a diversity of habitats.

The main interest of the site lies in its wintering waterfowl population. The site supports nationally important numbers of Whooper Swan (average maximum 143) and Wigeon (average maximum 1242). Both of these species require grazing in secluded pastures and suitable areas have been accordingly included in the pNHA. Other bird species present in important numbers include Great Crested Grebe, Cormorant, Grey Heron, Mute Swan, Teal, Mallard, Pochard, Tufted Duck, Goldeneye, Lapwing and Curlew.

3.11.2009