SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: BATEMAN'S LOUGH

SITE CODE: 001037

Bateman's Lough is situated less than 1km south of Ballinascarty in west Cork. It is a small fluctuating lake close to Gallanes Lough but very different in character. It has a firm shoreline, mostly of grassland, and little marginal vegetation except for some horsetails (*Equisetum* spp.) and rushes (*Juncus* spp.). Lesser Marshwort (*Apium inundatum*) grows on temporarily flooded ground, however, and this provides a food source either directly or indirectly for wildfowl and invertebrates.

Wildfowl sometimes number 200 here and include Mallard, Wigeon, Teal, Pochard, Tufted Duck and Whooper Swan. Cormorants also sometimes fly in from the coast to fish here. In the fields nearby Curlew, Lapwing and Golden Plover occur regularly and Black-tailed Godwits at certain times of the year.

Due to the absence of marginal cover, the bird life at Bateman's Lough is very susceptible to disturbance. Any increase in the numbers of people or dogs in the area should be avoided. The lake would be more resistant than most to a lowered water level but, in view of its small size, this also should be prevented.

The lake has a surprisingly varied bird fauna in winter and is locally important for this reason. There are few sites inland in Cork with any numbers of wildfowl.

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