SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: LOUGH FAD WEST

SITE CODE: 001161

Lough Fad is a medium sized lake located 4km south-east of the town of Clonmany and 7km west of Carndonagh on the Inishowen peninsula. It lies in a basin surrounded by rocky mountains, heathland and blanket bog which is locally cut for fuel. The lake water is acidic in nature. In addition to being a popular spot for fishing, the lake is also used as a reservoir for the West-Inishowen water scheme.

This lake has been designated as a Natural Heritage Area because is holds a population of Arctic Char (*Salvelinus alpinus*). This fish species is an arctic-alpine element of the Irish fauna which was once widespread but is now rare in most places, being primarily restricted to deep, stony, nutrient-poor lakes in the west. Arctic Char is now considered to be a threatened species (Irish Red Data Book, 1993) and the lakes where it is known to occur in Ireland have been identified for conservation to ensure the survival of this species.

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