SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: LOUGH EGISH

SITE CODE: 001605

Lough Egish is a medium to large lake (134ha) situated approximately 10km south-west of Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan. The lake is located in an area of high commercial and industrial activity and Lakeland Creamery (previously Lough Egish Creamery) owns land on the south-west portion of the lake. The lake is typically bleak and open, abutting onto rough and improved grassland for the majority of the lake's circumference.

The lake is primarily an area of ornithological scientific interest and it is a good over-wintering site for Whooper and Bewick's Swans and Goldeneye. Breeding birds recorded here include Black-headed Gull, Common Sandpiper, Lapwing, Coot, Great Crested Grebe, Little Grebe, Tufted Duck and Pochard.

Botanically the lake is of marginal interest but there are some good examples of wet grassland/semi- terrestrial vegetation fringing the lake margin. Species of note include Greater Spearwort (*Ranunculus lingua*), Hemlock Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*) and occasionally Shoreweed (*Littorella uniflora*). Other habitats encountered include wet and dry grassland, hedge and scrub, swamp, freshwater marsh, lake islands, heath and raised bog. The raised bog community to the north-west of Lakeland Creamery is in particularly good condition.

The waters of the lake do not appear to be polluted but any discharge into the lake should be carefully monitored as this may have an adverse effect on the wildfowl and bird populations encountered here. The lake has definite potential in terms of educational value, especially with regard to bird watching. The lake is easily accessible and there are no physical impediments to walking around the periphery of the lake.

24.11.2009