SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: BLACK & DERRYGOONY LOUGHS

SITE CODE: 001596

Black and Derrygoony Loughs lie in a series of inter-drumlin lakes running east to west about 4km north of Shercock. Black Lough is to the north of Derrygoony, not to be confused with the Black Lough to the east, which is a part of the Loughbawn House Loughs Natural Heritage Area. The adjacent land is mainly semi-improved grassland on glacial till, used as cattle pasture.

Typically, adjacent fields slope down to a linear zone of scrub and trees, mainly of willow (*Salix* spp.). The back of this zone often marks the site boundary and in front there is usually a wetland zone often including marsh and swamp zones dominated by Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*). One particularly interesting wetland area is a floating marsh at the north end of Black Lough, where Marsh Cinquefoil (*Potentilla palustris*), Bottle sedge (*Carex rostrata*), Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) and Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*) form a classic north-western marsh community, with other species such as the rare Lesser Bulrush (*Typha angustifolia*) and Wild Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*).

The secluded reed swamps offer cover and nesting sites for wildfowl. Currently there is little information on the number of birds using the lakes, but it is anticipated that this would be a significant number. Shooting is preserved.

County Monaghan is an important county for lakes and wetlands, Black and Derrygoony Loughs, typical of the area, have been selected for Natural Heritage Area status because they are amongst the best representatives of these habitats in the area, and because they may be important for wildfowl.

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