SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: LOUGH GAL

SITE CODE: 001067

This site is situated 22.5km north-west of Bandon near the small village of Bealnamorive in Co. Cork. The outflow of the lough flows into the Glashgarriff River. A section of the river and its banks about 1km east of the lough is also a Natural Heritage Area for its waterfalls and interesting vegetation.

In 1986, An Foras Forbartha provided the following description of part of the site.

Lough Gal is a little known lake now largely grown over by the fen at Curraghindaveagh. The plant communities include floating fen with some peat development especially in the south-west corner. Lesser Marshwort (*Apium inundatum*) and several pondweeds (*Potamogeton* spp.) occur on the lake.

The present Natural Heritage Area includes an extensive area of freshwater marsh with abundant willow (*Salix* spp.) scrub invasion.

A recent survey of the lake reports it to be a good site for wildfowl, ducks, geese and swans.

The main land uses within the site are grazing by cattle, boating, fishing and shooting on the lake.

This site contains unusual habitats for the area. The flora of the lough and surrounding wetlands also appear to be of interest.

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