SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: LOUGH ROSS

SITE CODE: 001495

Lough Ross is a large, slightly alkaline lake, 90ha in size situated on the border between Co. Monaghan and Co. Armagh. Of this 90ha, only 13 lie in Co. Monaghan.

Most of the lake circumference is colonised by species-poor reed swamp vegetation in which Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), Common Club-rush (*Schoenoplectus lacustris*), Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and Common Spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*) occur. There are also areas of stony lake edge with abundant Shoreweed (*Littorella uniflora*). The lake also supports a very large number of pondweed (*Potamogeton* spp.) species including various-leaved Pondweed (*Potamogeton gramineus*), Red Pondweed (*Potamogeton alpinus*) and Perfoliate Pondweed (*Potamogeton perfoliatus*). An extensive floating marsh lies to the east of the Clarebave River and around the shores are various transitions from aquatic vegetation to meadowland, providing very good examples of successional development.

Although it is very similar to nearby lakes, in terms of species and habitat diversity, Lough Ross is one of the larger and least disturbed lakes in the area.

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