SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: SPRING AND CORCRIN LOUGHS

SITE CODE: 001671

This site consists of two calcareous loughs, situated 2km east of Carrickmacross. Spring Lough is the larger of the two. In 1992 An Foras Forbartha provided much of the following site description.

Both loughs have similar botanical structures with a ring of White Water-lily (*Nymphaea alba*) inside a fringe of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*). There is a narrow shelf of calcareous mud around the lake edge upon which grows a species of stonewort (*Chara* spp). After this shelf the lake floor drops steeply into the deeper central area.

Between the two loughs is an acidic grassland community, through which a drain runs, connecting the loughs. Around the lake shores there is wet grassland, freshwater marsh and scrub adding to the interest of the site.

Some damage to the site has occurred due to wetland infilling, drainage and extensive dumping of clay along the roadside next to Corcrin Lough. In addition, the water level of Spring Lough has fallen due to the extraction of water to supply Carrickmacross.

This sites value lies in its botanical interest with a stonewort present in the loughs, as well as providing a typical example of the many small, calcareous lakes in the region.

24.11.2009