SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: LOUGH NABACK

SITE CODE: 001449

This small site, situated approximately 1.5km south of Moyne, is composed of an oligatrophic lake surrounded by gently to moderately sloping fields in the County Longford uplands.

Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) scrub surrounds the lake and acts as a barrier between semi-improved fields and the lake proper. In many cases, however, the scrub is being actively cleared by farmers to give cattle access to the lake. The main habitats encountered here are semi-terrestrial plant communities on the rocky shore of the lake, adjacent wet grassland habitats, swamp habitats and occasionally exposed rock and acid grassland habitats.

What makes this lake especially interesting is the presence of Acrtic Char (*Salvelinus alpinus*) here. They are thought to spawn on the rocky bed of a submerged stream. This lake was rated Grade A by the Fisheries Department (as it was known in 1973), due to the presence of Arctic Char here. Char were last recorded at Lough Naback in 1973 and could still be present here. The nutrient status of the lake has a part to play in the maintenance of a healthy Arctic Char population and water polluting activities should be discouraged.

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