SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: GORTGLASS LOUGH

SITE CODE: 001015

This site is located about 3km north-west of Killadysert, Co. Clare. The lake has a stoney bottom in which grow quillwort (*Isoetes* spp.), Water Lobelia (*Lobelia dortmanna*), Shoreweed (*Littorella uniflora*), Bulbous Rush (*Juncus bulbosus*) and Amphibious Bistort (*Persicaria amphibia*). In deeper water White Water-lily (*Nymphaea alba*) grows.

Close to the lakeshore the following species have been recorded: Sneezewort (*Achillea ptarmica*), Bottle Sedge (*Carex rostrata*), Nodding Bur-marigold (*Bidens cernua*) and Lesser Water-plantain (*Baldellia ranunculoides*). Where there is seepage and flowing water, Water-cress (*Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*), Tufted Forget-me-not (*Myosotis laxa* subsp. *caespitosa*) and sweet-grass (*Glyceria fluitans*, *G. plicata*) have been found.

Acid grassland and cutaway blanket bog are found in places around the lake. The commonest species of the grasslands were rushes (*Juncus effusus*, *J. acutiflorus*, *J. articulatus*, *J. inflexus*), Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*) and Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*). On the drier acid grassland Adder's-tongue (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*) has been recorded. In places, the blanket bog retains a typical *Sphagnum-Erica tetralix* community. Lesser Bladderwort (*Utricularia minor*) occurs in the bog drains.

The west end of the lake is overhung by alder (*Alnus* spp.) and birch (*Betula* spp.) trees. Several specimens of Arctic Char (*Salvelinus alpinus*) have been taken from this lake.

The lake is much used as a fishing location for Trout. Clare County Council extracts water from the lake.

Although the primary reason for designating this site as an Area of Scientific Interest was the presence of Arctic Char, it is also a fine example of an acid lake with typical surrounding vegetation. The lake is close too another Natural Heritage Area, Cloonsnaghta Lough.

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