SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: CLOONTIES LOUGH

SITE CODE: 001044

This small site is located approximately 1km north-east of Glandore in West Cork. It consists of an upland acid lake, which has a mostly stony bottom and margins.

The following description of the site is based on the one provided by An Foras Forbartha, 1986 –

At one end of the lake a muddy shelf occurs in shallow water, and the aquatic vegetation is probably best developed here. Bottle Sedge (*Carex rostrata*) and Common Spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*) occur as fringing vegetation, with White Water-lily (*Nymphaea alba*) frequent in open water. Bulbous Rush (*Juncus bulbosus*) and Sharp-flowered Rush (*J. acutiflorus*) are frequent, with Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), Marsh Cinquefoil (*Potentilla palustris*), Tufted Forget-me-not (*Myosotis laxa* subsp *caespitosa*) and Bog Stichwort (*Stellaria alsine*) also present. The shallow water also contains water plantains (*Alisma plantago-aquatica* and *Baldellia ranunculoides*) and, when it dries out in summer, provides suitable conditions for the scarce Six-stamened Waterwort (*Elatine hexandra*).

The adjacent acid grassland, with blanket peat at the western end, adds interest to the site.

The lake supports a few Teal and Mallard in winter, with Moorhen and Coot more permanent residents. In addition, the NHA survey noted a pair of Mute Swans on the lake, Golden Plover and Lapwing feeding on adjacent fields and Snipe on the marsh.

The main threat to the site is eutrophication as a result of run-off from the adjacent intensively farmed agricultural land.

The site is of interest as an example of an upland acid lake, with the added distinction of containing Six-stamened Waterwort.

16.11.2009