SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: LOUGH GLINN

SITE CODE: 001644

Lough Glinn is a small meso-eutrophic lake located just north of the town of Loughglinn, north-west of Castlerea in Co. Roscommon.

The lake is relatively shallow with sandy, peaty shores fringed by Common Club-rush (*Schoenoplectus lacustris*). In the south-west it has a large fen area of mostly floating Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) scraw. Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*) and Cowbane (*Cicuta virosa*) occur at the southern end. The dominant submergent species are Delicate Stonewort (*Chara virgata*) and Blunt-leaved Pondweed (*Potamogeton obtusifolius*) in the open water and Ivy-leaved Duckweed (*Lemna trisulca*) in the reed beds. The alga *Nostoc pruniforme* occurs abundantly on the mud bottom of sheltered areas. The lake is surrounded by Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) grassland, pasture and a small area of conifer plantation.

The lake is of ornithological interest for waterfowl and holds nationally important numbers of Mute Swan (108), Whooper Swan (128) and Tufted Duck (200) and regionally/locally important numbers of Wigeon (150), Teal (110), Mallard (69), Pochard (200), Goldeneye (15), Coot (62) and Lapwing (100) (4 counts, 1 season 1984/85-86/87). Recent local observations suggest that waterfowl numbers have declined, possibly due to pollution or disturbance, but the lake remains a useful water body, which is more productive than many in the area.

In summary, Lough Glinn is of interest as an example of a meso-eutrophic lake and is ornithologically important for waterfowl.

24.11.2009