SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: EMY LOUGH

SITE CODE: 000558

This mesotrophic lake lies in an inter-drumlin hollow in the Blackwater catchment area, only 1km east of Emyvale in Co. Monaghan. The lough is of moderate size, being one of the largest lakes in the area. It is a scenic location.

In 1983 An Foras Forbartha provided most of the following site description:-

The north and western shores are stoney and fringed by a narrow band of Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and Rusty Willow (*Salix cinerea* subsp. *oleifolia*). The southern shore has extensive zones of Bladder-sedge (*Carex vesicaria*), Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*) and Amphibious Bistort (*Persicaria amphibia*).

The site is of interest ornithologically, being important for wintering wildfowl. A flock of 50-60 Greylag Geese use it regularly as a night roost. This species of goose has a total Irish wintering population of c. 3800 (mid 1980s), confined to a small number of regular sites.

A daytime count carried out in December 1980 found the following species present: – Little Grebe (2), Cormorant (6), Grey Heron (9), Mallard (11), Tufted Duck (46), Whooper Swan (13), Moorhen (1), and Coot (13).

In addition during the period 1984-87 there were 11 counts made over 3 seasons producing the following results: – Mallard (110), Pochard (30), Tufted Duck (55) and Coot (41). Greenland White-fronted Geese have also been noted on site.

The lake is used regularly by anglers and is stocked with trout.

Due to the presence of the roost of Greylag Geese, this area can be considered to be of regional importance. It is a statutory wildfowl sanctuary.

6.11.2009