



Site Name: Errit Lough SAC

Site Code: 000607

Errit Lough is a hard water lake situated in the upper part of the Boyle River catchment, 10 km south-west of Ballaghderreen, Co. Roscommon.

The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

[3140] Hard Water Lakes

The lake has exposed stony shores on the east side, and some sheltered bays on the west side with emergent species such as Common Club-rush (*Scirpus lacustris*) and Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), and marginal vegetation of Bottle Sedge (*Carex rostrata*) and Common Spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*).

The submerged vegetation of the lake has a typical zonation and is dominated by well-developed beds of stoneworts (*Chara* spp.). Stonewort species recorded from the site include *C. pedunculata*, *C. rudis*, *C. desmacantha* and *C. fragilis*. A sparse floating-leaf zone dominated by Yellow Water-lily (*Nuphar lutea*) occurs in places.

Errit Lough is situated in an area of intensive agriculture and is vulnerable to deterioration in water quality through farm pollution and neighbouring forestry activities.

The site is of considerable conservation significance as an example of a hard water lake, a habitat that is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive.