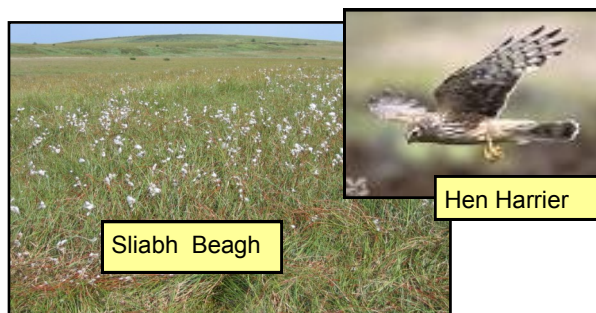


Areas of Special Interest

Some wetlands have been designated a status due to their importance in areas of Wildlife, Birds, Fauna, Biodiversity etc.,

- **Natural Heritage Area (NHAs)** - There are 38 proposed Natural Heritage Areas in County Monaghan. These include Lough Muckno, the Dromore River System and many others. **WEB LINK NEEDED??**
- Sliabh Beagh (Bragan) is being considered as a **Special Protection Areas (SPA)** for birds because of the population of Hen Harriers living there.
- **Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)** - are prime wildlife areas in Ireland that are also considered extremely important in an European context. Kilroosky Lough Cluster, Clones, is the only SAC in the county..



A Global Issue:

RAMSAR is an international treaty which was signed in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran. The treaty allows for national action and international co-operation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. At present 157 countries have signed the treaty. Ireland joined in 1984.

What Are We Doing?

Monaghan Co Council's **Heritage Officer is involved in habitat surveys and biodiversity issues.**

The **Environment Section** of Monaghan Co Council investigates complaints of unauthorised land filling and of water pollution.

Monaghan Co Councils **Planning Section** strives to protect and enhance our natural environment by ensuring sustainable development.

What can You do?

- Do not infill land without a waste permit
- Do dispose of all waste in an environmentally friendly manner and in accordance with Waste Regulations.
- Do consult with environmental advisors prior to drainage of wetland habitats.
- Do report any inappropriate use of wetlands to the relevant authorities.

What's New in Co Monaghan?

Ballybay Wetlands Centre

Scenically located on a 65 acre holding along the Dromore River, the centre is a purposely built outdoor education centre that provides an environment to raise awareness of water quality, biodiversity and natural resource management.

For further information contact:

Ballybay Development Association, Derryvalley Farm, Ballybay. 042 9748022..



**MONAGHAN
COUNTY
COUNCIL**

Wetlands not Wastelands and Pollution Prevention from Construction Sites



For more Information see
www.ramsar.org

www.ipcc.ie

www.npws.ie

www.heritagecouncil.ie

or contact Monaghan Co Council:

Heritage Officer 047 38140

Environment Section 047 30500/ 042 9661240

Nov. 2007

What is a Wetland?

“Wetlands” is the collective term for marshes, swamps, bogs and similar areas.

Wetlands are a vital component of the freshwater cycle.

Types of Wetland Habitats in Monaghan

Monaghan is a landlocked county, characterised by rolling drumlin hills and wetlands. In addition to lakes, the poorly-drained hollows between the drumlins support habitats such as fen, wet woodland, marsh, swamp, raised bog and wet grassland.

Typical Marsh Habitat



Benefits that Wetland areas Provide

- **Flood Control** — Acts as buffers by slowing water movement
- **Water Purification**—Filter nutrients from run-off from land
- **Biodiversity** - Rich in plant and animal species

Drumgallen Bog: important site for the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly (a species of European significance)



The Main Threats to our Wetlands

- **Illegal Dumping** - is unsightly and can give rise to surface and groundwater pollution
- **Unauthorised Infilling** - removes natural flood barriers and wildlife habitats
- **Drainage** - can cause flooding due to reduced water retention capacity
- **Infrastructural Development** - can result in fragmentation or removal of habitats



Infilling with Construction and demolition waste

Infilling with soil



Dumping of domestic and farm waste



FACT: From a survey carried out in 2006 it is estimated that there has been a 10% loss of wetland habitats in County Monaghan since 2000.

How to avoid damage to waters and wetlands from Construction Sites

Construction sites need to be properly managed to prevent environmental damage.

Site development and demolition works produce large quantities of waste material - referred to as construction and demolition waste (C & D waste). This waste material if not reused on site must **ONLY** be disposed of on a site with the appropriate **Waste Permit** issued by a Local Authority.

It is ILLEGAL to infill any land including wetlands with rubble, subsoil or other C&D waste.

Water Pollution

Site run-off and harmful discharges from site works, cement mixer washings and oil spills are the main pollutants associated with site works.



Silt laden runoff from a poorly managed construction site can cause significant damage to fisheries.



Silt laden runoff can escape to waters by via drainage channels on or adjacent site works

For further information on protection of fisheries during construction works contact the Northern or Eastern Regional Fisheries Board.