

Natural Heritage Areas, Special Areas of Conservation & Special Protection Areas

Natural Heritage Areas: Designated

Site Code	Site Name	Description
001603	Eshbrack Bog NHA	An extensive area of upland blanket bog. Eshbrack Bog NHA contains the last remaining relatively intact bog habitat in Co. Monaghan. Although parts of the site have been affected by hand cutting and mechanical peat extraction, much of the cutover areas are now starting to regenerate. This is largely dominated by a combination of Deer Sedge (<i>Scirpus cespitosus</i>), Ling Heather (<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>), Cross-leaved Heath (<i>Erica tetralix</i>), Hare's-tail Cotton grass (<i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>) Common Cottongrass (<i>E. angustifolium</i>), Crowberry (<i>Empetrum nigrum</i>) and a range of mosses such as <i>Sphagnum capillifolium</i> , <i>S. papillosum</i> , <i>S. tenellum</i> and <i>Hypnum cupressiforme</i> . In places Cranberry (<i>Vaccinium oxycoccos</i>) is an abundant component of the vegetation.

Natural Heritage Areas: Proposed

Site Code	Site Name	Description
000001	Dromore Lakes	A group of ten main inter-drumlin lakes plus several smaller areas of water stretching along the River Dromore between Cootehill and Ballybay. Nice areas of wet woodland and reed swamp. Important wintering wildfowl population, including Whooper swans, great crested grebe and lapwings.
000558	Emy Lough	This mesotrophic lake lies in an inter-drumlin hollow in the Blackwater catchment area, only 1 km east of Emyvale. The lough is one of the largest lakes in the area with surrounding sections of Alder and Willow species. It is an important over-wintering sites for birds.
000559	Glaslough Lake	The main value of the site lies in the lake and adjacent wetland habitats. It is reportedly rich in Calcium with Stoneworts (<i>Chara</i> spp.) and White Water-lily (<i>Nymphaea alba</i>) which is likely to have been introduced. Most of the shore is fringed by a narrow zone of Common Reed (<i>Phragmites australis</i>) mainly backed by the mixed estate woodland. Botanically the most interesting section seems to be the southern end of Glaslough lake which now forms a separate basin entirely within woodland. Here wooded islands also provide a Heronry site.
000560	Lough Fea Demesne	Small fields of calcareous grassland which are extremely rich in varieties and numbers of orchids.

		Bordering the grassland is a large mixed woodland yielding several interesting species. A number of interesting turloughs are also found within the demesne.
000561	Lough Naglack	This is a calcareous lough and together with adjoining limestone grassland, calcareous marsh and mixed woodland this area supports a very rich flora.
000562	Monmurray Grassland	
000563	Muckno Lake	
001268	Cordoo Lough	
001495	Lough Ross	Lough Ross is a large, slightly alkaline lake, 90ha in size situated on the border between Co. Monaghan and Co. Armagh, only 13ha lie in Co. Monaghan. Most of the lake circumference is colonised by species-poor reedswamp vegetation. There are also areas of stony lake edge with abundant water plantain (<i>Littorella uniflora</i>). The lake also supports a very large number of Pondweed (<i>Potamogeton</i>) species. An extensive floating marsh lies to the east of the Clarebane river and around the shores are various transitions from aquatic vegetation to meadowland, providing very good examples of successional development.
001594	Ballyhoe Lough	Ballyhoe Lough is located on the Monaghan/Meath border and is a fairly acid, peaty lough. The lough is now divided into two by a narrow strip of land covered by Willow trees, Common Reed and Alders. Around the edge is a fringe of <i>Phragmites communis</i> (Common Reed) with some <i>Scirpus lacustris</i> (Club-rush) and <i>Nymphaea alba</i> (White Water-lily). The islands in the lough are covered with trees and shrubs and like the lakeshore fringed by <i>Phragmites australis</i> (Common Reed). They are believed to be crannogs.
001595	Loughbawn House Loughs	Complex of inter-drumlin lakes immediately surrounded by dense woodland. A sheltered bay at the North-eastern part of the Northern lake has developed a 10-20 metre fringe of reed swamp dominated by Common Reed (<i>Phragmites australis</i>). Floating macrophytes with Yellow Water-lily (<i>Nuphar lutea</i>) are frequent around the lake edge.
001596	Black and Derrygoony Loughs	There are two large lakes within the Black Lough NHA. There is an area of open transition mire to the north of the lake. The floating scragh has typical Transition mire communities although Lesser Tussock Sedge (<i>Carex diandra</i>) is notably absent. The transition mire grades into a dense Reed Canary-grass (<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>) reed swamp which borders the lake.
001599	Creevy	The shoreline is very open and is not fringed with reed

	Lough	as are many of the other lakes in this area. <i>Eleocharis palustris</i> (Common Spike-rush) and the sedges <i>Carex vesicaria</i> and <i>Carex rostrata</i> grow in clumps around the perimeter. The floor of the lough is colonized by <i>Littorella uniflora</i> (Shore-weed) and two rare aquatic plant species were found in shallow water - <i>Elatine hexandra</i> (Waterwort) and <i>Certophyllum demersum</i> (Hornwort).
001600	Drumakill Lough	Drumakill lake is a small lake, located 5 km east of Castleblayney and approximately 1 km east of Lough Muckno. The open waters of the lake form the main habitat in the site. Wet grassland is the main habitat around the periphery of the lake. Freshwater marsh vegetation merges with wet grassland vegetation in places.
001601	Drumgole Lough	One of the most striking features of the lake is the presence of large areas of reedswamp dominated by Common (Phragmites communis). In addition to reedswamp there are small areas of wet grassland dominated by Soft Rush (<i>Juncus effusus</i>) and Creeping Buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>). Although birdlife on the lake is limited, Whooper Swans frequent the site during the winter months.
001602	Drumreask Lough	The calcareous nature of the lough is evident from the presence of Stoneworts (<i>Chara spp</i>) which form a narrow shelf all around the lough edge. The calcicole Great Fen-sedge (<i>Cladium mariscus</i>) is also present amongst the reedbeds that surround most of the lough. On the lake margins are pockets of wet, marshy ground.
001603	Eshbrack Bog NHA	Eshbrack is an extensive upland site of high conservation value located about 8 km north-west of Scotstown, Co. Monaghan. The intact blanket bog areas feature hummock/hollow complexes and flushed slopes. The wide range of associated habitats, which include upland grassland on peaty soil, heath, reed swamp, freshwater marsh, scrub and wet broadleaved woodland, add considerably to the conservation value of the site. Although large parts of the site have been affected by hand cutting and mechanical peat extraction, much of the cutover areas are now regenerating with peat forming communities. The occurrence of Cranberry (<i>Vaccinium oxycoccus</i>), an uncommon species of blanket bog and of restricted distribution in the county, is also of note. Fen communities occur infrequently, and are confined to lake edges, wet flushed basins and valley slopes.
001604	Gibson's Lough	This lake is gradually being invaded by the vegetation and surrounded by floating marshes. Around the

		shoreline grow <i>Crex rostrata</i> (Bottle sedge) with <i>Typha latifolia</i> (Bulrush) and the umbellifer, <i>Cicuta virosa</i> (Cowbane). Behind is a community dominated by <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> (Cotton Grass) with <i>Equisetum fluviatile</i> (Water Horsetail) and the sedges <i>Carex curta</i> and <i>C. rostrata</i> . Further back is a wet grassland with hummocks of <i>Sphagnum</i> moss and the grass <i>Holcus lanatus</i> (Yorkshire fog).
001605	Lough Egish	The lake is primarily an area of ornithological scientific interest and it is a good over-wintering site for Whooper and Bewick's Swans and Goldeneye. Breeding birds recorded here include Black-headed Gull, Common Sandpiper, Lapwing, Coot, Great Crested Grebe, Little Grebe, Tufted Duck and Pochard.
001606	Rafinny Lough	Rafinny Lough is a small oligotrophic Lough, situated at an altitude of c. 175m about 9km south-west of Monaghan Town. It is unusually species rich for an upland lake and the flora exhibits a strong northern element. The floating mat vegetation is very well developed and provides an excellent example of a successional sequence typical in small water bodies.
001607	Lough Smiley	Lough Smiley is a reed fringed lake with an extensive wetland area includes lakes, reed swamp, freshwater marsh, transition mire, remnant raised bog, cutover bog and wet scrub woodland lying in a basin between drumlins. The area to the north of the lake is dominated by cutover bog vegetation, with low lying wet hollows generally filled with quaking transition mire communities.
001608	Monalty Lough	A lot of the lake shore is fringed by a belt of Reeds (<i>Phragmites australis</i>) which is in turn backed by a narrow strip of wet woodland or scrub, often dominated by Willow species (<i>Salix</i> spp.). A tongue of Reeds and Willow dominated woodland has spread from the north to the south shore between two basins dividing the lake into two. Any low lying wet grassland adjacent to the lakeshore is dominated by Creeping bent (<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>) with rushes and wetland herb species.
001611	Ulster Canal (Aghalisk)	The canal is very dry at the point and is almost entirely colonized by grasses with some Iris (<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>) beds and Meadowsweet (<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>).
001612	Wright's Wood	
001666	Tassan Lough	This small site comprises an inter-drumlin lake, reed swamp, transition mire, poor fen and dry heath on rocky substrate. The small lake has a floating macrophyte zone around much of the lake edge. Dense Common Reed (<i>Phragmites australis</i>) reed swamp extends from the lake edge to the north and south-west. Old mine

		<p>spoil heaps with sparse vegetation occur to the west of the lake. To the south of the lake is a small transition mire area and adjacent poor fen. Remnant bog vegetation indicates that the area was curt for peat in the past.</p>
001671	Spring and Corcrin Loughs	<p>Both loughs have similar botanical structures with a ring of White Water Lily (<i>Nymphaea alba</i>) inside a fringe of Common Reed (<i>Phragmites australis</i>). There is a narrow shelf of calcareous mud around the lake edge upon which grows a species of Stonewort (<i>Chara</i> spp). After this shelf the lake floor drops steeply into the deeper central area. Between the two loughs is an acidic grassland community, through which a drain runs, connecting the loughs. Around the lake shores there is wet grassland, freshwater marsh and scrub adding to the interest of the site.</p>
001781	Lisarilly Bog	<p>Lisarilly Bog is a small, fairly remote site situated about 8 km east of Clones. This is an area of poor fen vegetation occurring on a quaking scraw in a hollow surrounded by drumlins. The poor fen has developed on a cutover raised bog and may be in transition to a raised bog. It is oligotrophic in nature and sensitive to nutrient enrichment from the surrounding farmland.</p>
001782	Killyhoman Marsh	<p>Killyhoman Marsh is a small area of wet scraw, supporting a marshy vegetation, which is partially invaded by trees. Wet woodland dominated by Downy Birch (<i>Betula pubescens</i>) is the main habitat type and this grades into a wet marsh vegetation.</p>
001783	Corcreeghy Lake and Woodland	<p>This is an undisturbed lake with a thin margin of marsh/scraw with the exception of the eastern end which has an extensive wet Willow (<i>Salix</i> spp.), Alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>) stand, and harbours the Marsh fern (<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>) which is a rare plant in County Monaghan.</p>
001784	Rosefield Lake and Woodland	<p>This site, 4km west of Monaghan consists of a small calcareous lake surrounded by alder woodland (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>) and reed bed communities. This inter drumlin calcareous Lough, oligotrophic/mesotrophic in character has extensive <i>Chara</i> communities present in the fringing reed zones and out into the open water areas.</p>
001785	Mullaghmore Lake (South)	<p>It is a shallow lake which is rapidly infilling, becoming colonised by floating scraw. The lake surface is colonised by Water Lilies. The emergent vegetation consists of dense reed beds of Common Club-Rush (<i>Schoenoplectus lacustris</i>) and Water Horsetail (<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>), especially in the south and west.</p>
001835	Lisabuck Lough	<p>The site contains a reed fringed lake with small areas of marsh vegetation behind the reed zone among willow</p>

		and birch scrub, in addition to a wet woodland area in the east of the reserve. The confirmed presence of <i>Carex acuta</i> adds to the ecological interest of the site.
001836	Annaghean e Lough	The lake is surrounded by dense woodland dominated by Downy Birch (<i>Betula pubescens</i>) and Purple Moor Grass (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>) which has developed on cutover bog. The open water is fringed by an area of Common Reedmace (<i>Typha latifolia</i>) quaking swamp. At the northern end of the lake the swamp grades into species poor transition mire which subsequently grades into marsh dominated by an almost pure stand of <i>Equisetum fluviatile</i> . The nationally rare plant species, Frogbit (<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>), occurs in the lake.
001837	Mullaglassa n Lough	Mullaglassan Lough is a small scraw fringed lake located 6 miles west of Monaghan Town. On the southern and western shore of which there are reed beds with <i>Schoenoplectus lacustris</i> , <i>Phragmites australis</i> and in one area on the south western shore a species poor <i>Cladium mariscus</i> stand forms a dense community. The open water of the lake supports emergent <i>Nuphar lutea</i> and where reed cover is less dense stands of <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> and <i>Sparganium erectum</i> . The <i>Carex diandra</i> quaking transition mire, which occurs on the land ward side of the reed zone, is the main fen habitat present, and this occurs along much of the southern shore of the lake.
001838	Kilcorran Lough	At about 17ha open water area, Kilcorran Lough is one of the larger of the highly calcareous lakes in the Finn River system. It lies less than 1km from the Monaghan and Fermanagh border at Rosslea. A small catchment in limestone drift ensures a high calcium status, with a substrate of precipitated marl, and a relatively low nutrient status. Swamps are reasonably well developed in a few areas.
001839	Killyvilly Lough	Killyvilly Lough is a small calcareous lake located on the border between Monaghan and Fermanagh, 12 km west of Monaghan town. The southern half of the lake lies in Monaghan and includes an area of open water, alder woodland and <i>Cladium mariscus</i> fen.
		The site, which occurs in two separate sections, in particular the southern section has an excellent and extensive quaking transition mire community developed in the base of a deep inter drumlin valley. In some areas the transition mire community supports an open wet birch scrub. In the center of the southern section is an area of transition mire which appears to be mown on a regular basis and has developed a uniform but species rich transition mire community, similar in many regards to mown sloping fen communities that can

		been seen in Scandinavia.
001841	Drumcor Lough	Drumcor Lough is a small linear lake located 4km east of Redhills on the Cavan-Monaghan border. The NHA consists of a long linear oligo-mesotrophic lake with fringing reed community and Willow scrub.
002077	Nafarty Fen	

Special Areas of Conservation & Special Protection Areas in County Monaghan

Designation Type	Location	Environmental Interest
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	Kilroosky Lough, Clones	White Clawed Crayfish
Special Protection Area (SPA)	Bragan Mountain	Hen Harrier

Note: These designated sites can be viewed on the constraints map.