SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: KILLATURLY TURLOUGH

SITE CODE: 000511

Killaturly Turlough, in Co. Mayo, is a permanent lake set in a hollow between moraines and surrounded by bog. Some of the peat has been cut and gives rise to irregularities on the basin floor.

The main water source for the basin seems to be a swallow hole at the eastern end and a stream which flows from the south-east. There is no evidence of successful drainage although the exit stream in the north-east corner has been deepened.

Although the basin is surrounded by peat, there is only very limited cutting on the northern side of the lake. However, the chief variation in vegetation, west and north of the lake, is dependent on the amount of peat cutting which was done in the past. Where the peat has been largely removed there are Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and sedges (*Carex diandra* and *C. serotina*). Towards the south-west this community merges into a denser reed-bed with Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*) which is surrounded by rushy fields and patches of bog moss (*Sphagnum* spp.). A patch of similar vegetation on the level peat occurs at the opposite end of the lake, but this has not been modified by cutting. This area seems to be regularly flooded by lake water.

Snipe and Water Rail nest in the area, while other water fowl are often present. Despite the small area of strictly turlough vegetation, the site is of value as a composite wetland and therefore warrants NHA status.

6.11.2009