SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: KILTULLAGH TURLOUGH

SITE CODE: 000287

Kiltullagh Turlough lies close to Galway airport, north-east of Galway city. It is a flat linear basin running north-east to south-west, deepening at its southern end. A few boulders occur along the edges, but it has the general appearance of a grassy field.

The majority of the turlough is covered by pasture with Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*) and Sea Plantain (*Plantago maritima*) at the edges. On deeper soil Common Sedge (*Carex nigra*) is present. The lower ground contains Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), while the spring at the south end is partly grown over by Small Sweet-grass (*Glyceria declinata*).

The entire area is grazed closely by cattle and sheep.

Kiltullagh Turlough is at the dry extreme of turloughs, and has a large proportion of dry grassland. The turlough is in the catchment of the Clare River and may therefore be affected by the drainage scheme. This would explain the preponderance of a dry vegetation type and if true, reduces the level of ecological interest at the site. It is possible however that it is a natural phenomenon, in which case the site is quite unusual.

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