SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: BOYOUNAGH TURLOUGH

SITE CODE: 001237

Boyounagh Turlough is situated approximately 4km east of Glennamaddy in Co. Galway. It fills a rectangular hollow below and south of the Dunmore - Glenamaddy road. The surrounding landscape is composed of low glacial hills, but the floor of the turlough is relatively flat except for a rise in the eastern half. The basin is confined by slopes on the north and part of the south but is more open to the west. Water enters the basin from the eastern end via an excavated drain from Lough Nahask. This continues through to a central marshy pond where drainage has resulted in some drying.

The turlough has a uniform vegetation cover with much Common Sedge (*Carex nigra*), from low parts of the site to areas where there is a greater depth of wet peat. At the eastern end there are higher banks of cutover peat, which are occasionally flooded. A rise, east of centre, carries a heath composed of the moss *Climacium* spp., along with Heath Dog-violet (*Viola canina*), Adder's-tongue (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*) and some Tufted Hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*). This is mirrored at the western end by former cultivation ridges now colonised by Mat-grass (*Nardus stricta*), Carnation Sedge (*Carex panicea*) and Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*). The northern shore is more steeply sloping with a good zonation from wet to drier grassland, while wetland herbs predominate in wetter areas. The central marshy area contains Amphibious Bistort (*Persicaria amphibia*), with a temporary pond housing Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*), Floating Sweet-grass (*Glyceria fluitans*) and Lesser Marshwort (*Apium inundatum*).

Boyounagh Turlough has a varied vegetation cover for its size, with patches of ten separate communities around the floor of the basin. The occurrence of abandoned cultivation ridges adds to the habitat diversity and overall scientific interest of the site.

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