SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: CARROWREAGH TURLOUGH

SITE CODE: 001624

Carrowreagh is a long, narrow turlough, south-east of Castleplunket in Co. Roscommon. It lies in a north-west south-east orientated basin, which is crossed by a road. The surrounding land is aligned similarly and consists of a number of low ridges and valleys. It is predominantly drift-covered, but in the turlough itself the soils are quite thin. The floor of the basin is composed of irregular hollows around the centre, and a semi-permanent stream flows into the south-eastern end of the turlough.

Much of the south-eastern limb of the turlough is covered by a mixture of Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) and Tall Fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*), with some sedges (*Carex* spp.). In drier patches, rye-grass (*Lolium* spp.) predominates, while rushes (*Juncus* spp.) are common in the hollows. Around a nearby spring, Floating Sweet-grass (*Glyceria fluitans*) and marshworts (*Apium* spp.) are common.

In the western half of the basin there is a wet grassland habitat which includes sedges, while on slightly higher ground there is a heathy community which is partly overgrazed. The north-eastern and western ends of the turlough bear an area of dry grassland with fescues (*Festuca* spp.), plantains (*Plantago* spp.) and clover (*Trifolium* spp.).

The ungrazed dry grassland at the western extremity is the most notable feature of this site - otherwise the vegetation is typical of turloughs. Despite this, the site is of local scientific value.

The turlough is closely grazed except for the most westerly fields. Silage is made in the large fields to the west with hay on the south and east.

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