SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: ATTISHANE TURLOUGH

SITE CODE: 001618

Attishane Turlough lies in a north-east south-west valley on the border of Roscommon and Mayo, south of Ballyhaunis. On the northern side the ridge rises eventually to 57m above the floor of the turlough, while on the south, the difference is in the order of 20m. The land is mostly drift-covered, with a few outcrops on the main ridge. The floor of the basin is flat but rises slightly at each end. At the south-west there are shallow channels and depressions in the vicinity of the swallow hole. A stream enters the basin at the north-east end, follows the contours of the turlough on the southern side and empties into the basin in the south. There is a permanent pond near the north-east and another in the north-west.

This site gives the impression of a grassy valley largely because of the extensive grassy community. This includes Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), a little Floating Sweet-grass (*Glyceria fluitans*) and a mixture of Common Marsh-bedstraw (*Galium palustre*), Amphibious Bistort (*Persicaira amphibia*), Common Spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*) and Water Forget-me-not (*Myosotis scorpioides*). A drain cut into this area has Fine-leaved Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe aquatica*) and Lesser Marshwort (*Apium inundatum*) amongst a variety of typical wetland species.

The rest of the turlough seems to flood less frequently, and its vegetation is based on sedges (*Carex* spp.). There is a scattering of Amphibious Bistort, Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) and Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*). At the edges, this vegetation runs into grassland with Tall Fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*) and Crested Dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*).

The ponds are distinct from each other; the westerly one is deeply sunken in a depression and consists of open water with the liverwort *Ricciocarpus natans*, along with Common Duckweed (*Lemna minor*) and Unbranched Bur-reed (*Sparganium emersum*). The pond towards the east is more open, with a scraw of Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*), Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) and Mare's-tail (*Hippuris vulgaris*).

The Red Data Book species, Northern Yellow-cress (*Rorippa islandica*) is found at the site.

The turlough is grazed by cattle throughout.

Drainage has had a considerable effect on this turlough and as a result the vegetation has become rather uniform. However, the extensive wet grassland is of interest, while the presence of rare plants adds to its scientific value.

24.11.2009