SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: MOYLOUGH TURLOUGH

SITE CODE: 001677

This turlough is situated south of the Moylough village in hummocky, fluvio-glacial land, approximately 5km north-east of Curry, Co. Sligo. It is surrounded by irregular ridges, some of which have been quarried on a small scale. The turlough is made up of two basins separated by a grassy ridge - the northern part of the main basin is the deepest, while the northern basin includes a shallow but permanent lake at the head of a broad valley.

The two parts of the site differ markedly in their vegetation owing to the presence of permanent water in the northern one. The lake there is an area of open water surrounded by beds of Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*) and Bottle Sedge (*Carex rostrata*), with substantial amounts of Water-plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*) in the shallower parts. On the southern side there is a fluctuating area of Floating Sweet-grass (*Glyceria fluitans*), Small Water-pepper (*Persicaria minor*), Water-pepper (*Persicaria hydropiper*), Lesser Marshwort (*Apium inundatum*) and Marsh Yellow-cress (*Rorippa palustris*), which gives way landwards to Common Sedge (*Carex nigra*), Marsh Ragwort (*Senecio aquaticus*) and Marsh Cinquefoil (*Potentilla palustris*). This continues down the valley to the limit of flooding.

The main basin is dry because of its free-draining floor material - this area is mostly covered with pasture which includes typical associated species. A narrow fringe of limestone grassland on the northern side overlooks the deepest section of the basin which is filled with sedges (*Carex* spp.). This runs into a pond filled with Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Amphibious Bistort (*Persicaria amphibia*), Floating Sweet-grass and Water-plantain.

Cattle are grazed over the whole area but at quite a low density. Occasional gravel extraction takes place in a pit, north centre of the main basin.

The Lake supports Snipe and Moorhen.

The vegetation of Moylough has considerable diversity and despite its limited fauna is of local scientific importance.

25.11.2009