SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: KILLOWER TURLOUGH

SITE CODE: 000282

Killower Turlough is located approximately 5km west of Tuam, Co. Galway. It is part of the River Clare group of turloughs, which also includes Belclare Turlough just to the south of the site. It is situated in an area of carboniferous limestone, with large amounts of Marl underlying thin soils. The main habitats are the turlough itself, as well as lowland grassland, wet, dry and improved heath and reedswamp.

Due to the Corrib Drainage schemes of the 1960's, the total flooding area has decreased, and a large part of the original site is now improved grassland.

The main interest of this site is ornithological. It is part of the North East Galway area identified by Sheppard (1993) and is of local or regional importance for 14 species of waterfowl, including Whooper Swan and Greenland White-fronted Geese. These two species are listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive.

The damage of this site to date has been caused by drainage and the subsequent improvement of land. This continues to be the only apparent threat to the site, since the soil is of such poor quality that a forestry application was turned down. The designation of this site as an NHA rests purely on its regional importance for waterfowl.

5.11.2009