SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: TURLOUGHCOR

SITE CODE: 001788

Turloughcor is located approximately 5km south-east of Headford, Co. Galway in a lowland karstic limestone area. A small lake, Doolough, is the centre of the site, surrounded by a large area which was liable to flooding in the past. Due to extensive drainage, most of the area no longer floods. There are still some small areas to the north-east of the lake which flood, along natural springs. The dominant habitat in the area is improved grassland, with no plant species of importance being noted.

The main secondary habitats at this site are water bodies, rivers, streams and drainage channels. Some inland wet and dry grassland occur, along with small amounts of scrub and limestone pavement.

The main interest of this site is ornithological. In excess of 500 Wigeon graze the grassland around the turlough, with lesser numbers of Teal and Mallard. Greenland White-Fronted Geese do not use the site anymore. Mute Swans (2), Mallard and Lapwing breed at the site.

Drainage is the main damaging operation affecting this site. It has already considerably lowered the scientific value of the turlough. Fertilisation of the surrounding grassland is also a problem. Black River and District Gun Club manage the shooting on the turlough and have had a Mallard-release programme over the last few years.

Turloughcor is a locally important site, which would be of more importance if drainage and fertilisation were controlled.

26.11.2009