SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: MOUNTPLEASANT SCHOOL TURLOUGH

SITE CODE: 001472

Mountpleasant School Turlough is situated slightly north of Ballyglass in Co. Mayo, east of Mountpleasant School. The turlough was formerly part of a wetland complex to the south, which included Ballyglass marsh and turlough, each of which have recently been destroyed by drainage.

Attempts to drain Mountpleasant School Turlough however, were relatively unsuccessful. The site still has a well developed semi-aquatic flora and surrounding freshwater marsh habitat. Species present include stoneworts (*Chara* spp.), Amphibious Bistort (*Persicaria amphibia*), Mare's-tail (*Hippuris vulgaris*), Lesser Marshwort (*Apium inundatum*), Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*), Floating Sweet-grass (Glyceria fluitans) and the moss *Fontinalis antipyretica*. It is one of the most northerly locations for the rare plant Northern Yellow-cress (*Rorippa islandica*) and has some interesting moss species.

The turlough has easy access and its geology and hydrology has specialised educational potential. It has a good diversity of vegetation types. As similar habitats in close proximity have been destroyed, this adds further to its scientific value.

20.11.2009