SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: KNOCKAVANNY TURLOUGH

SITE CODE: 000289

Knockavanny Turlough is a small turlough in the Nanny sub-catchment of the larger Corrib catchment. It is situated about 5km north-east of Tuam.

The site has a range of grazed plant communities typical of turloughs in the region. In addition, a small patch of Great Fen-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) with the carnivorous plant bladderwort (*Utricularia* spp.) is the only such example in this sub-catchment. A small area of species-rich grassland on calcareous soil on a steep south-facing slope is also included. Cowslip (*Primula veris*) is extremely abundant on this slope, and a summer visit to the site would record many more interesting species.

The turlough, under flood, is shallow and hosts a large number of Wigeon (140 were present on 7 February 1994).

Turloughs are a uniquely Irish habitat and are therefore very rare on a European scale. This contributes considerably to their conservation and scientific value.

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