SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: RATHNALULLEAGH TURLOUGH

SITE CODE: 000613

Rathnalulleagh Turlough is the central of three turloughs located on the road from Castleplunket to Ballydooley in Co. Roscommon. The basin follows a north-west/south-east trend, with the ridges on each side being low and drumlinoid. The floor of the basin is relatively flat, but two slight ridges cross the basin carry footpaths. There is a drain at the south-eastern end of the basin, where there are also two ponds.

The vegetation is strikingly uniform in this turlough, partly because the few fields run right across the basin and do not introduce different forms of management to the vegetation. Grassland covers almost the entire rim, being influenced by limestone in the south-eastern corner, by peat at the eastern end and by richer soil in the west. This gives way to a community with some Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), mixed with a variety of grasses and sedges.

At the eastern end there is a patch of Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) and sedges (*Carex* spp.). The ponds in this area contain pondweeds (*Potamogeton* spp.) and duckweeds (*Lemna* spp.). There are rushes (*Juncus* spp.) growing in this area.

Cattle and sheep graze at moderate density but there is no over-grazing.

This is a dry turlough but has a considerable vegetational diversity. In addition it is one of only two turloughs with Greater Duckweed (*Spirodela polyrhiza*). It is one of the better dry turloughs in central Roscommon.

11.11.2009