SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: CASTLEPLUNKET TURLOUGH

SITE CODE: 000598

Castleplunket Turlough, situated 10km east of Castlerea in Co. Roscommon, is a fine example of a large turlough. It occupies a flat, treeless plain which is colonised mainly by wet grassland amongst scattered limestone outcrops.

This turlough contains a good diversity of contrasting vegetation types including the largest area of tall herb communities seen on any other known Irish turlough. A small pool supports two species of interest, Greater Duckweed (*Spirodela polyrhiza*) and Common Water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus aquatilis*) which only occur at one other turlough site.

This site is one of 17 small turloughs which were counted as a unit during the 1984/85 to 1986/87 Wetlands Survey. Average peak counts for the complex during the three winters were: Bewick's Swan 11, Whooper Swan 103, Teal 261, Wigeon 1,258, Mallard 58, Pintail 18, Shoveler 17, Pochard 84, Tufted Duck 16, Golden Plover 703, Lapwing 785 and Curlew 109. The Wigeon population is of national importance.

Castleplunkett Turlough is in a strikingly beautiful setting which is easily viewed from the road. This adds to its overall conservation value.

11.11.2009