SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: CORBALLY TURLOUGH

SITE CODE: 001627

Corbally is one of seven turloughs centred round Tulsk in central Roscommon. It covers a small site beside the main Strokestown road where several fields converge in a small shallow basin. The floor of the turlough is covered in a thin layer of drift but the basin itself is underlain by limestone, making the turlough quite productive in terms of its vegetation.

Large beds of Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) with some Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) occur around the edges of the turlough. There is also a good mixture of other aquatic and floating plants within the main body of water which include Amphibious Bistort (*Persicaria amphibia*), Common Spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*), Marsh Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle vulgaris*), Marsh Foxtail (*Alopecurus geniculatus*), Floating Sweet-grass (*Glyceria fluitans*), Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*) and Marsh Yellow-cress (*Rorippa palustris*).

The ditches which meander through much of this area also contain an interesting flora with Thread-leaved Water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus trichophyllus*), duckweed (*Lemna* spp.), Water-plantain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*) and Fine-leaved Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe aquatica*).

A feature of interest is the three crannógs forming prominent hillocks within the turlough. In addition to being of archaeological interest, they provide roosting and nesting places for several bird species. Corbally is a popular wetland for mobile populations of overwintering wildfowl which move between adjacent turloughs. Some of the species that have been noted there include Bewicks Swans, Whooper Swans, Golden Plover, Wigeon, Teal, Mallard, Pintail, Shoveler, Pochard, Tufted Duck, Grebe, Coot, Lapwing and Curlew.

The vegetation and birdlife make this site interesting on scientific grounds, while the archaeology of the area adds to its overall importance.

24.11.2009