

# ROSCOMMON - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>NAME OF SITE</b>               | Castleplunkett Turlough                          |
| Other names used for site         |  |
| <b>IGH THEME</b>                  | IGH1 Karst, IGH7 Quaternary, IGH16 Hydrogeology  |
| <b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>                | Castleplunkett, Ardeevan                         |
| <b>NEAREST TOWN</b>               | Tulsk  |
| <b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>        | 27   |
| <b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>    | 177824 277700 (centre of turlough)               |
| <b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b> | 40                      1/2 inch Sheet No.    12 |

## Outline Site Description

Castleplunkett Turlough is located immediately southeast of the R367 road, at Castleplunkett Village. It is in a noticeable basin, bordered by a rock outcrop to the northeast and sloping fields underlain by till to the south.

## Geological System/Age and Primary Rock Type

The turlough has been formed by solution of the karstified Lower Carboniferous limestone which probably occurred in Tertiary times, while its current form is a result of the glaciers of the last Ice Age, which acted during the late Quaternary Period.

## Main Geological or Geomorphological Interest

The turlough is one of the best examples of a turlough feature, which are commonplace in mid-Roscommon. A semi-permanent stream enters from the northeast and flows towards ponds and a swallow hole in peat and rock, which occurs at the centre of the feature. The floor of the turlough retains a high water table, with ditches in summer and there has been a significant peat accumulation. Fen vegetation covers this peat and there is little formation of marl at present. The turlough has a very distinctive appearance in summer due to the presence of the black moss *Cinclidotus* on rocks in the basin floor.

## Site Importance – County Geological Site

Castleplunkett is an important turlough because of its semi-natural condition, and its high degree of physical and vegetational diversity. The wetlands support national and wintering bird populations of conservation status.

## Management/promotion issues

The site has been designated as a proposed NHA (site number 000598). Listing it as a County Geological Site gives recognition to the geological foundation of the biodiversity importance.



A view of Castleplunkett Turlough from the village.



A view of Castleplunkett Turlough from the southeast.



