

# ROSCOMMON - COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITE REPORT

<b>NAME OF SITE</b>	<b>Mullygollan Turlough</b>
Other names used for site	Carrownaskeagh Turlough
<b>IGH THEME</b>	<b>IGH1 Karst, IGH7 Quaternary, IGH16 Hydrogeology</b>
<b>TOWNLAND(S)</b>	<b>Mullygollan, Carrownaskeagh, Farranawillin, Slevin</b>
<b>NEAREST TOWN</b>	<b>Tulsk</b>
<b>SIX INCH MAP NUMBER</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE</b>	<b>179900 279430 (centre of turlough)</b>
<b>1:50,000 O.S. SHEET NUMBER</b>	<b>40                      1/2 inch Sheet No.    12</b>

## **Outline Site Description**

Mullygollan Turlough is located immediately northwest of the R367 road, about halfway between Castleplunkett and Tulsk. It is in a noticeable basin, bordered by a rock outcrop to the north 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 west and flows towards ponds and a swallow hole in rock. 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.

## **Site Importance – County Geological Site**

Mullygollan is an important turlough because of its semi-natural condition, and its high degree of physical and vegetational diversity. The occurrence of the scarce Water Sedge (*Carex aquatilis*) and Lesser Water-parsnip (*Berula erecta*), the former in its only known turlough site are of interest. This, coupled with its birdlife, adds to its overall importance ecologically.

## **Management/promotion issues**

The site has been designated an SAC and is a proposed NHA (Site No. 000612). The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. These habitats and species are listed in the Habitats and Birds Directives and Special Areas of Conservation are designated to afford protection to the most vulnerable of them. Listing Mullygollan Turlough as a County Geological Site gives recognition to the geological foundation of the biodiversity importance.



A panorama view of Mullygollan Turlough from higher ground to the southwest.



A panorama view northwest into the turlough from the R367 road.



A view of the centre of Mullygullan Turlough from the southwest.



