

Changes in Land–use Practices at Two Turloughs, on the East Burren Limestones, Co. Galway, with Reference to Nature Conservation

Ní Bhriain B., Gormally M., Sheehy Skeffington M.

Biology & Environment: Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy Volume 103, Number 3 / 2003 pp. 169-176

<http://ria.metapress.com/content/h4k28435m06kgr4k/?p=5b47116edfbe4eac8eafb67d05a1c0bb&pi=6>

Abstract:

Two turloughs on the east Burren limestones in County Galway were the subject of a study of current and recent management practices. Farmers with animals on each turlough were interviewed about stock type, stocking density, time of stocking and fertiliser application. Cattle were and still are the dominant stock, but average densities have increased by over 60% over 40 years. One turlough (Caherglassaun) has a history of fertiliser use, and stocking levels are more intense. There was no standard grazing time or stocking density for either turlough. Farmers often operated quite different regimes for the same turlough. The maximum length of any regime was almost seven months, the period without flooding. These results are discussed in relation to the designation of many turloughs as Candidate Special Areas of Conservation (CSACs). Flexibility in devising management plans for the turloughs is recommended.