SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: CORDONAGHY BOG

SITE CODE: 000978

This is a small area of cutover bog approximately 4km south-east of Arvagh in Co. Cavan.

The old peat cuttings have formed a diverse mosaic of habitats. In some areas Hare's-tail Cottongrass (*Eriophorum vaginatum*) is dominant, whereas Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) covers other patches. Many other areas are also colonised by willow (*Salix* spp.) and Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*).

There are numerous rectangular hollows where the peat has been extracted which are now colonised almost completely by sedges (*Carex* spp.). The raised areas between the hollows are sparsely covered with vegetation, the main species being Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) and Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*).

A virtually stagnant stream crosses the bog and several pools are associated with it, perhaps cut originally for the vetting of flax. They now contain Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), Marsh Violet (*Viola palustris*) and much *Sphagnum* moss (*Sphagnum cuspidatum*). Other species present include Bog-sedge (*Carex limosa*) and Dioecious Sedge (*Carex dioica*), sedges which are both more common in the west, Marsh St. John's-wort (*Hypericum elodes*) and Beech Fern (*Phegopteris connectilis*).

The pools contain a variety of beetle and dragonfly species.

The main value of this site lies in its diversity of species and habitats.

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