SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: DOOLYSTOWN BOG

SITE CODE: 001577

Doolystown Bog is a small remnant of raised bog located 5km west of Rathmoylan. This site is all that remains of a much larger bog which has been largely cut away. The remaining portions, however, are still of scientific interest as the bog supports a good diversity of species and displays several typical bog features.

Despite being burnt and affected by drainage operations, this bog is one of the most interesting in the county, one of its attractive features is a pronounced hummock and hollow topography on its surface. This feature is indicative of active growth on the bog and is atypical for this region.

The hummocks and hollow communities contain bog mosses (*Sphagnum* spp.), White Beak-sedge (*Rhynchospora alba*), cottongrass (*Eriophorum* spp.), Great Sundew (*Drosera anglica*), Bog-rosemary (*Andromeda polifolia*) and Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*).

Over the past 30 years, the southern side of the site has been reduced in size by afforestation. The bog margins have been affected by turbary, drainage and reclamation and many areas are drying out. The drier areas are characterised by Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*) and encroaching birch (*Betula* spp.).

Active raised bogs once characteristic of central Ireland, are now rare and vulnerable, and have been recognised by the European Union as a habitat of international importance. Ireland has a special responsibility to conserve the best of its remaining bogs. Despite the damaging factors which have diminished the size and quality of this site in years, Doolystown Bog supports a full complement of bog species and is of regional importance for its distinctive hummock and hollow topography.

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