

Site Name: Magheradrumman Bog SAC

Site Code: 000168

Magheradrumman Bog contains highland blanket bog, wet heath and includes two upland lakes, Lough Fad and Lough Inn. The site is located approximately 8 km north-west of Moville, on the Inishowen Peninsula in Co. Donegal, and stretches from its highest point, Croaghmore (301 m above sea-level), north-westwards towards Shores Hill. The most low-lying point lies between the Black and Lorghinn Rivers (160 m above sea level).

The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

[4010] Wet Heath [7130] Blanket Bogs (Active)*

The surface of the blanket bog is typically undulating, due to the presence of hummocks and wet hollows formed by bog mosses (*Sphagnum* spp., including *S. imbricatum*). The nationally rare bog moss, *S. teres*, also occurs on the site. A feature of the bog is the well-developed complex of inter-connecting pools. These contain species such as Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), Lesser Bladderwort (*Utricularia minor*) and bog mosses. Around the pools and in wet channels, Common Cottongrass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*) and Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*) are found.

Wet heath vegetation is well developed on the slopes of Travesh Hill, Puckaun Hill and Croaghmore Hill. This is dominated by Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), but also contains species such as Cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*), Deergrass (*Scirpus cespitosus*), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*) and Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*).

The site has important ornithological interests, with breeding Golden Plover (8 pairs in 1997), Dunlin (5 pairs in 1998) and Red Grouse. Golden Plover is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive and, along with Dunlin, is listed as threatened in the Red Data Book. The rare Arctic Char (*Salvelinus alpinus*) occurs in Lough Fad. It is the only salmonid in the lake, a unique situation in Ireland. The site also provides habitat for the Irish Hare. Both of these species are listed as threatened in the Irish Red Data Book.

Blanket bogs are threatened by turf-cutting, afforestation and over-grazing. These three factors have led to the reduction of this habitat in Ireland. Magheradrumman Bog is important as one of the most northerly examples of blanket bog in Ireland. The

presence of good quality wet heath and of rare species adds to its scientific and conservation value of the site as a whole.