

SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: FUNSHIN BOG NHA

SITE CODE: 000267

Funshin Bog NHA is located 9 km east of Glenamaddy mainly in the townlands Clooncullaun, Leaha, Funshin and Gortnadeeve West in County Galway. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. The site is bounded in the south-west by a local road.

There are areas of well developed hummocks that are most prominent on the eastern side of the bog. There is one area of flush in the south-west of the site. Cutover is found all around the site.

This bog has been classified as a Western Raised Bog with Ling Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Carnation Sedge (*Carex panicea*), cottongrasses (*Eriophorum* sp.), Deergrass (*Scirpus cespitosus*), Cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*) and the moss *Racomitrium lanuginosum*. Bog mosses recorded on the site include the hummock forming *Sphagnum fuscum* and *S. imbricatum*. The bog moss *S. magellanicum* has also been recorded. Although the bog has well formed hummocks there are no pools and the only hollows are algal and of poor quality. Where the site has not been burnt for a long time, such as the northern region, the lichens *Cladonia portentosa* and *C. uncialis* are common. The moss *Racomitrium lanuginosum* is also common on top of hummocks in areas of the bog that have not been burnt. On the western side of the bog, where the effects of burning have been most severe Deergrass, Cross-leaved Heath and Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*) were recorded with patchy carpets of regenerating bog mosses. There is a Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) dominated flush in the south-west of the site with Heath Milkwort (*Polygala serpyllifolia*), Cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccos*), Bog-myrtle (*Myrica gale*) and some willows (*Salix* sp.). A small area of wet Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) woodland is present on the cutover in the north-east of the site.

The rare bird species Red Grouse has been recorded at the site.

Except at the western edges of the site there is active peat-cutting carried out all around the high bog. Mechanical peat-cutting is most noticeable in the north, south-west and west of the site. Damaging activities associated with this landuse include drainage throughout the site and extensive burning of the high bog. The western side of the bog has also been recently damaged by burning. These activities have all resulted in the loss of habitat, damage to the hydrological status of the site, and pose a continuing threat to its viability.

Funshin Bog NHA is a site of considerable conservation significance comprising as it does a raised bog, a rare habitat in the E.U. and one that is becoming increasingly scarce and under threat in Ireland. This site supports a good diversity of raised bog microhabitats, including hummocks and flushes. Ireland has a high proportion of the

total E.U. resource of raised bog (over 50%) and so has a special responsibility for its conservation at an international level.