

Site Name: Rosroe Bog SAC

Site Code: 000324

Rosroe Bog is situated in the north-western corner of the largest peninsula in Bertraghboy Bay, Connemara, Co. Galway. The site overlies a bedrock of granite. It is bounded on both the northern and western sides by the waters of the bay and on the southern and eastern sides by granitic ridges rising to about 50 m above sea level. The site is characterised by gently undulating areas of blanket bog interrupted by scattered rocky ridges, often with heath, and contains two small lakes, Rosroe Lough and White Lough.

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):

[7130] Blanket Bogs (Active)* [7150] Rhynchosporion Vegetation

The wettest and least disturbed areas of the bog at Rosroe Bog SAC have well-developed bog moss (*Sphagnum* spp.) lawns, though no natural pool systems occur. Plant species typical of active blanket bogs and Rhynchosporion vegetation occur in these areas, including Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*), Black Bog-rush (*Schoenus nigricans*), White Beak-sedge (*Rhynchospora alba*) and the mosses *Sphagnum magellanicum* and *Campylopus atrovirens*. Hummocks of the bog mosses *S. imbricatum* and *S. fuscum* occur occasionally. There is a fringe of cut-away bog along the seaward margin of the site.

The bog vegetation grades into dry heath, which is found mostly in the southern and western parts of the site. Heath species present include Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), Bell Heather (*Erica cinerea*) and St. Dabeoc's Heath (*Daboecia cantabrica*). In some areas heath vegetation occurs on old cut-away bog.

A dense swamp of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) occurs in a wet channel near White Lough. Here is also found an assemblage of poor fen species, including Lesser Spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*), Marsh Violet (*Viola palustris*), Bog Pimpernel (*Anagallis tenella*) and Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*).

White Lough supports several aquatic plant species, including Bog Pondweed (*Potamogeton polygonifolius*) and Pipewort (*Eriocaulon aquaticum*). Common Reed and Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*) occur on a small island in the lake. Rosroe Lough also has Pipewort, as well as some Water Lobelia (*Lobelia dortmanna*).

The main threats to the site are turf-cutting and over-grazing - these can cause significant damage to blanket bog and heath. Fire also poses a threat as it causes damage to vegetation and dessication of the peat surface.

Rosroe Bog is of considerable conservation significance, particularly for the example of lowland western blanket bog that it supports. Blanket bog is listed with priority status on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. A further habitat listed on Annex I of the Directive, and which is well-represented at the site, is Rhynchosporion vegetation. The presence of areas of dry heath with species characteristic of the region adds further to the significance of the site.