

## SITE SYNOPSIS

**SITE NAME: ANNA MORE BOG NHA**

**SITE CODE: 000333**

Anna More Bog NHA is situated approximately 4 km south of Castleisland, mainly in the townlands of Anna More and Ballybeg in County Kerry. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. The site is bounded on all sides by agricultural wet grassland and old cutover.

The raised bog consists of one flat, broadly oval-shaped lobe. While the bog lacks well-developed pools and hummocks/hollows, it does have low hummocks, wet depressions and bog moss lawns. There are large areas of abandoned cutover around the bog. This raised bog is of particular interest as it is one of the most south-western remaining raised bogs in the country.

Much of the high bog vegetation is typical of raised bogs in Ireland, with species such as Ling Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*) and bog mosses (*Sphagnum* spp.). The eastern half of the bog has good bog moss cover, mostly consisting of *S. papillosum* and *S. subnitens* occurring in spongy lawns. This area is occasionally quaking, and although there are no well-developed pools, there are occasional pools filled with *S. cuspidatum* and Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*). Common Cottongrass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*), White Beak-sedge (*Rhynchospora alba*) and Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*) are also quite common here. The western half of the high bog is drier, with more well-developed hummocks and a prevalence of higher plants. Hare's-tail Cottongrass (*Eriophorum vaginatum*) occurs in greater abundance than Common Cottongrass. Ling Heather, Bog Asphodel and Carnation Sedge (*Carex panicea*) all occur commonly. Bog-myrtle (*Myrica gale*) occurs over the whole site.

Current landuse on the site consists of peat-cutting along parts of the edge of the high bog, and the drainage associated with this, and with old areas of peat-cutting. Large portions of the bog have been burnt repeatedly in the past. Some areas of old cutover have been reclaimed for agriculture. These activities have resulted in loss of habitat and damage to the hydrological status of the site, and pose a continuing threat to its viability.

Anna More 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. Its south-western location makes it especially important. 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.

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