



Site Name: Lisbigney Bog SAC

Site Code: 000869

Lisbigney Bog is situated about 5 km north-east of Durrow in Co. Laois. Although referred to as a bog, this site is actually a wetland dominated by fen vegetation. It is a former lake basin, and is now criss-crossed by streams.

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):

[7210] <i>Cladium</i> Fens* [1016] Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>)
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At Lisbigney Bog areas of sedge-dominated communities with Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Lesser Spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*) and Bog-myrtle (*Myrica gale*) divide dense stands of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) in the south-west from areas of Great Fen-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) towards the north-east. In the centre of the stand of reeds is a small area of standing water with an abundance of Marsh Cinquefoil (*Potentilla palustris*), accompanied by a variety of bryophyte species, including *Marchantia polymorpha*, *Calliergon giganteum* and *Bryum pseudotriquetrum*. Scrub and areas of grassland dominated by Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) surround the fen.

The rare snail *Vertigo moulinsiana* was recorded at the site in 1998. This species is a glacial relict with a disjunct European population. It is considered to be vulnerable due to loss of habitat, particularly drainage of wetlands. In Ireland, the species is sparsely distributed in the central lowlands, where it mostly occurs in calcareous wetlands/fens.

Birds recorded at the site includes Jay, Blackcap and Snipe.

Lisbigney Bog is of considerable conservation significance for the good example of *Cladium* fen, a priority-listed habitat on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive, and for the population of *Vertigo moulinsiana* that it supports.