

## SITE SYNOPSIS

**SITE NAME: SCOHABOY BOG NHA**

**SITE CODE: 000937**

Scohaboy Bog NHA is a large raised bog situated 4 km south-east of Borrisokane, in County Tipperary. It lies almost entirely within the townlands of Middletown, Drumnamahane, Drumnamahaneisland, Killurane and Loughaun. The site comprises a relatively large raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover. The site is bounded by agricultural land on all margins, apart from the north where coniferous plantation occur.

The site comprises a large relatively flat raised bog with slopes associated with the nearby forestry. Overall the high bog appears to be quite dry with limited areas of wet hummock/hollows. A number of tear pools occur to the north and centre of the site. Cutover bog occurs around much of the bog margins. An area of coniferous plantation is present on the high bog to the north of the site.

Much of the high bog has vegetation typical of Midland Raised Bog type, consisting of Ling Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Cottongrass (*Eriophorum* spp.), abundant Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*) and White Beak-sedge (*Rhynchospora alba*). Other more locally occurring plants include Bog Rosemary (*Andromeda polifolia*) and Cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccos*). Bog moss (*Sphagnum* spp.) cover is generally low with scattered tear pools in the north of the high bog which are beginning to infill with *Sphagnum papillosum*, *S. capillifolium* and *S. cuspidatum*. However, the scarce bog moss (*S. imbricatum*) is present in patches. These pools are quite large with Bog Bean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) and Great Sundew (*Drosera anglica*) in some. In places in the north of the bog, lichen cover is high with abundant *Cladonia portentosa*.

Much of the cutaway is dominated by Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) and scattered Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) scrub. There is some scattered Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) scrub in places and in the west there is a small area of flooded cutaway with Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*). The southern cutaway has old peat banks remaining and is dominated by Ling Heather with dense Gorse.

The Irish Red Data Book species Bird Cherry (*Prunus padus*) has been recorded from the site (in the past).

Current landuse on the site consists of peat-cutting along the northern margins, with some limited peat-cutting in the east. Afforestation has occurred on the high bog to the north of the site. Damaging activities associated with this landuse include drainage and burning. Recent drainage activities (late 90s) have been recorded to the south-west of the site. Fire damage has been recorded in the 1980s and more recently in the west of the site and there is evidence of regular burning throughout the area. These are all activities that have resulted in loss of habitat and damage to the hydrological status of the site, and pose a continuing threat to its viability.

Scohaboy Bog NHA is a site of considerable conservation significance comprising 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 some hummock/hollow complexes and cutover which add to the diversity and scientific value of the site. The Red Data Book species Bird Cherry has been recorded from this site. This raised bog is one of the more southerly raised bogs in the country, adding significantly to its ecological importance. 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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