

**Site Name: Ballyteige (Clare) SAC**

**Site Code: 000994**

This site is located 2 km west of Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare. It lies over shales of Upper Carboniferous age and adjoins the boundary of these geological strata with the Lower Carboniferous limestone series which constitute the bulk of the Burren region. The soils are of the gley type and are poor-draining.

The site consists of wet meadow and heath which have been managed in a traditional way for hay-making. *Molinia* meadows, a habitat listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive, is well represented at the site. The lands along the eastern perimeter contain associations of plants typical of wet meadows and are very rich in species. Wet flushes occur throughout the area. The heath is confined to the western edge of the site. The northern boundary runs alongside a stream and here scrub is well developed.

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):

[6410] <i>Molinia</i> Meadows
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The main vegetation type found at the site is wet grassland. The dominant species are Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Marsh-marigold (*Caltha palustris*), Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*) and there is an abundance of the Marsh Orchid, *Dactylorhiza majalis*. The flushes are dominated by Marsh-marigold and Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*), whilst the heath areas on the upper, western slopes are dominated by Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*), Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) and Lousewort (*Pedicularis sylvatica*). The scrub on the northern edge is mostly of willows (*Salix* spp.), principally Eared Willow (*S. aurita*).

This site is State-owned and managed as a Nature Reserve. It is of considerable conservation significance for the presence of a wet grassland type listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive, *Molinia* meadows.