



Site Name: Coolvoy Bog SAC

Site Code: 001107

Coolvoy Bog is situated in the lower north-facing slopes of Croaghleheen Mountain (383 m) approximately 2 km south-east of the village of Doocharry in Co. Donegal. The site comprises two domed areas of deep peat separated by a small stream, the Coolvoy Stream, and higher land that incorporates the catchment area of this stream. The site is underlain by granite.

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)*

The lower sections of the site comprise blanket bog, and the vegetation is dominated by species such as Common Cottongrass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*), Black Bog-rush (*Schoenus nigricans*), bog mosses (*Sphagnum* spp.) and Hare's-tail Cottongrass (*E. vaginatum*). Well-developed hummock/hollow systems occur in some areas; of note is the presence of large hummocks of the scarce bog mosses, *S. fuscum* and *S. imbricatum*. Flushes dominated by Black Bog-rush and lawns of bog mosses are found by Coolvoy Stream and its tributaries.

The higher, sloping sections of the site are generally drier. Here the vegetation is dominated by Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*), with bog mosses, Black bog-rush, Hare's-tail Cottongrass and Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) also found. Stands of dense Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) also occur in this area. Under the Bracken the vegetation comprises a grassy sward of Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) and Purple Moor-grass, with mosses (e.g. *Pseudoscleropodium purum*, *Thuidium tamariscinum* and *Sphagnum* species) occurring abundantly.

Most of the site is subject to some degree of sheep grazing and in some areas this has resulted in damage to the vegetation cover and peat surface. Mechanised peat-cutting occurs in some parts, but is presently confined to small areas. A section of the site, east of Coolvoy Stream, has recently been afforested. The site is particularly vulnerable to, and threatened by, afforestation, turbary and over-grazing.

Coolvoy Bog is a small, discrete site which represents a good example of a relatively undisturbed, somewhat dome-shaped blanket bog, whose structural and hydrological integrity has remained largely intact. Blanket bog is threatened in Ireland and Europe, and is listed as a priority habitat on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive.