

SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: JAMESTOWN BOG NHA

SITE CODE: 001324

Jamestown Bog NHA is situated approximately 8 km west of Navan, mainly in the townlands of Tullaghanstown, Herbertstown and Jamestown in County Meath. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. The site is bounded on all sides by coniferous forestry and old cutover.

The raised bog consists of two flat, elongated lobes, separated by areas of cutover bog and coniferous forestry. The eastern lobe is the largest and contains areas which are quaking, with small, infilling pools and also some dry hummocks. There are large areas of both abandoned and active cutting around the high bog, along with areas of coniferous forestry. There are a number of tracks in the site. This raised bog is of particular interest as it is one of the most north-eastern of the remaining raised bogs in the country, and one of only two raised bogs in County Meath.

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*), Cottongrasses (*Eriophorum* spp.) and bog mosses (including *Sphagnum capillifolium*, *S. magellanicum*, *S. cuspidatum* and *S. papillosum*). In addition, Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*) and White Beak-sedge (*Rhynchospora alba*) are commonly found. There is quite high lichen (*Cladonia* spp.) cover in parts of the high bog, and there are a number of young Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) plants scattered over the surface of the high bog.

The Irish Hare, a Red Data Book species, has been recorded at the site.

Current landuse on the site consists of intensive peat-cutting around the edge of the high bog, and the drainage associated with this. There are large areas of coniferous forestry all around the margins of the site. These areas have also been significantly drained. Large portions of the bog have been burned in the past. 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.

Jamestown 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 location makes it especially important as it is representative of the north-eastern extreme of the geographic range of raised bogs in Ireland. 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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