

SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: BUNARUDDEE BOG

SITE CODE: 001352

Bunaruddee Bog NHA is situated approximately 4 km west of Moyvane in the townlands of Bunaruddee, Leitrim West and Lamore, Co. Kerry. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. The site is surrounded by streams to the east and west and a river to the south.

The site consists of a Western Raised Bog, which has developed on a floodplain of the Galey River. It supports a range of characteristic species of bogs including western indicator species and lichens. The southern section of the bog is the most intact. There was a small central quaking area, with hummock/hollow complexes but no pools, which has been more actively cut and drained since the last survey. The bog had a good compliment of *Sphagnum* species.

Much of the high bog has vegetation typical of a Western Raised Bog. The high bog is dominated by Ling Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Cottongrass (*Eriophorum angustifolium* and *Eriophorum vaginatum*) with abundant Bog Myrtle (*Myrica gale*). There is a good layer of bog moss growing underneath the Ling Heather. Bunaruddee Bog also supports a good cover of Lichen (*Cladonia* spp.) as it has not been burnt in a while. Western indicators present on the bog include Carnation Sedge (*Carex panicea*), Lousewort (*Pedicularis sylvatica*), the moss *Racomitrium lanuginosum* and the liverwort *Pleurozia purpurea*. The wet central area with quaking bog and hummock/hollow complexes prior to being developed for peat cutting supported *Sphagnum cuspidatum* in the hollows with frequent *Sphagnum imbricatum* hummocks. Other species of interest recorded on the high bog include Great Sundew (*Drosera anglica*), Cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccos*) and seven species of *Sphagnum* including *Sphagnum subnitens* and *S. tenellum*.

The cutover supports a range of habitats including humid grasslands, improved grassland, forestry, old peat-cutting and active peat-cutting. There are extensive areas of humid grassland with Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) to the north, west and north-east. In places, cutover supports Ling Heather.

Current landuse on the site comprise active peat-cutting on all margins. Areas of cutover have been reclaimed for agricultural purposes to the south, east, west and north of the site. There is a small conifer plantation on the eastern margin of the high bog. Damaging activities associated with these landuses include drainage and burning of the high bog. 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.

Bunaruddee 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. This site supports a diversity of raised bog microhabitats, including hummock/hollow complexes, as well as a number of scarce plant species. The bog is located in Kerry in the south-west extreme of the

geographical range of raised bog habitat in Ireland. Ireland has a high proportion of the total E.U. resource of this habitat type (over 50%) and so has a special responsibility for its conservation at an international level.

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