

## SITE SYNOPSIS

**SITE NAME: CORRACRAMPH BOG NHA**

**SITE CODE: 001420**

Corracramph Bog NHA is located approximately 1.5 km east of Dromod, mainly in the townlands of Corracramph South, Rinnagowna, Meelragh and Clooneagh in Co. Leitrim. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. The site is bounded in the north by a local road running from Dromod to Lough Rinn and in the south by a local road running from Roosky towards Lough Rinn.

This site is the remnant of a larger bog that is now cutover and reclaimed for agriculture, the original bog has also been split up by a network of roads. This bog is split by a mineral ridge, which is a general feature of the local landscape with long mineral ridges running between areas of raised bog. Another interesting feature of the locality is that the bedrock under the peat is sandstone and shale. There are areas of hummocks throughout the high bog and pools in the centre and north of the site. There is an in-filling lake in the north of the site and a flush just south of the lake. Cutover is found mostly in the north and south-east of this site.

Much of the high bog has vegetation typical of a Northern Midland Raised Bog, consisting of Ling Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Hare's-tail Cottongrass (*Eriophorum vaginatum*), Cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccos*), the moss *Racomitrium lanuginosum* and the liverwort *Pleurozia purpurea*. The hummock forming bog moss *Sphagnum capillifolium* is common in the centre of the high bog and the liverwort *Pleurozia purpurea* was also recorded here. The hummock forming bog moss *S. imbricatum* has also been recorded on the bog. Bog mosses (*Sphagnum* sp.) form a spongy mat in places but due to past damage from drying out and burning they are rarely present as carpets or large hummocks. There are pools in the centre of the high bog containing the aquatic bog moss *S. cuspidatum*, Great Sundew (*Drosera anglica*) and Brown Beak-sedge (*Rhynchospora fusca*). Ling Heather, Cottongrass (*Eriophorum* sp.) and Deergrass (*Scirpus cespitosus*) are abundant between the pools. The presence of dead bog moss hummocks and dried pools provide evidence of recent burning in the centre and north-east of the bog; Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*) is abundant in some areas that have been burnt.

Gubagraffy Lough in the north of the site is infilling, with Common Club-rush (*Scirpus lacustris*), Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) and Pondweed (*Potamogeton* sp.) found around the lake. Most of the lake is infilled with Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*), Lesser Water-parsnip (*Berula erecta*) and Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*). To the south of the lake is a Purple Moor-grass dominated flush with Bog-myrtle (*Myrica gale*) and Early-purple Orchid (*Orchis masculata*). There are tracks running through the high bog which are covered in Gorse (*Ulex* sp.) and Birch (*Betula* sp.) scrub. On the south-west tip of the high bog there is conifer encroachment on a dry burnt area. A small birch wood is present in the west of the site on an area of old cutover and on

old cutover in the south of the site there is a dense area of Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*). Most of the cutover on the east of the site has been reclaimed for agriculture and is now improved grassland.

The internationally important species Greenland White-fronted Goose has been recorded on this site.

Current landuses on the site include peat-cutting and agriculture. Mechanised peat-cutting is taking place in the south-east and north of the site. Cutover on the eastern side of the site has been reclaimed for agriculture with many fields of improved grassland. Damaging activities associated with these landuses include drainage throughout the site and burning of the high bog. Regular burning on the high bog has caused the most damage to this bog. All these activities have resulted in the loss of habitat, damage to the hydrological status of the site, and pose a continuing threat to its viability. Dumping is taking place along the tracks on this site.

Corracramph 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 good diversity of raised bog microhabitats, including hummocks, pools and a flush. The bog is also at the northern extreme for a Midland Raised Bog. 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.