

**Site Name: Liskeenan Fen SAC**

**Site Code: 001683**

Liskeenan Fen is a small turlough-like fen situated about 10 km north-west of Borrisokane and just 1 km from the village of Aglish, in north Co. Tipperary. The site floods in winter via a swallow hole in the far north-west corner. The eastern part of the site consists of a small, dry, inactive raised bog on which mixed woodland is developing, as well as an extensive and unusual area of flooded cut-away.

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):

[7210] <i>Cladium</i> Fens*
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The main habitat at this site consists of calcareous fen. This is dominated by Black Bog-rush (*Schoenus nigricans*) and covers a wide area. Common Butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*) also occurs here. Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and Great Fen-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) are present in addition, and in places become dominant. The *Cladium* fen in the wettest parts of the centre also includes Blunt-flowered Rush (*Juncus subnodulosus*), as well as Long-stalked Yellow-sedge (*Carex lepidocarpa*).

A secondary habitat which is also of interest is the regenerating flooded cut-away bog east of the fen. Wide flat expanses of bog mosses (particularly *Sphagnum cuspidatum*) and numerous large actively growing bog moss hummocks (with species such as *S. capillifolium*, *S. papillosum* and others) grow over an area of about 5 ha, surrounded by old turf banks. This acidic community contrasts sharply to the calcareous fen adjacent to it.

Also included in the site is a small field of species-rich dry grassland, which contains the rare species Green-winged Orchid (*Orchis morio*) and the decreasing species Cowslip (*Primula veris*). There is also a wet grassland area within the site, and a mixed woodland is developing on the bog in the east. All of these habitats add diversity to the site.

In summer the fen is grazed, but few cattle venture into the wettest centre. Any alteration of the swallow-hole could threaten the water levels at the site.

Liskeenan Fen is of conservation importance as it contains a good example of a *Cladium* fen, a habitat listed with priority status on the E.U. Habitats Directive. It is one of the only such fens remaining in the area, most of the rest having been drained

in the past. The presence of a range of other habitat types in the site, along with some rare and scarce vascular plants, adds further to the value of the area.