

SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: LORRHA BOG NHA

SITE CODE: 001684

Lorrha Bog NHA is located approximately 1 km north-east of Lorrha, mainly in the townlands of Curraghglass and Clonmacaun in Co. Tipperary. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog.

This site is the remnant of a larger bog that is now cutover and reclaimed for agriculture. There are areas of hummocks throughout the high bog but no pools. There is a small flush in the centre of the bog. Cutover is found all around the site and is forested in the south and west.

Much of the high bog has vegetation typical of a Midland Raised Bog, consisting of Ling Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccos*) and Bog-rosemary (*Andromeda polifolia*). Ling Heather is common all over the bog as is Carnation Sedge (*Carex panicea*). In addition to the commoner hummock forming bog mosses, such as *Sphagnum capillifolium* and *S. papillosum*, some hummocks of *S. imbricatum* and the moss *Leucobryum glaucum* are also found. Bog mosses indicative of wetter conditions, such as *S. magellanicum* and *S. cuspidatum* occur in places. There is a small Bog-myrtle (*Myrica gale*) flush in the centre of the bog and the bog moss *S. recurvum* occurs here. Seedlings of Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) extend on to the bog surface. The moss *Campylopus introflexus* is common on much of the cutover around the edges of the high bog. In the south of the site there is coniferous forestry on the cutover and in the west there are large areas of Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) woodland.

Current landuses on the site include peat-cutting, forestry and agriculture. Mechanised peat-cutting is mostly taking place in the south of the site. Coniferous forestry is on the cutover in the south of site. Except for in the south, the cutover around much of the site has been reclaimed for agriculture with fields of semi-improved grassland. Damaging activities associated with these landuses include drainage throughout the site and burning of the high 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.

Lorrha 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 and a flush. 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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