



Site Name: Holdenstown Bog SAC

Site Code: 001757

Holdenstown Bog is situated about 3 km south-east of Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow. It is a small raised bog surrounded by transition mire which has developed in a kettle hole.

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):

[7140] Transition Mires

At this site the whole bog is very wet and the surface has a hummock-hollow topography. The hummocks are dominated by Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), while the hollows have a range of bog mosses (*Sphagnum* spp.). In addition, there is a good diversity of sedges (*Carex* spp.), including the scarce Bog Sedge (*Carex limosa*), the only known locality for this species in Co. Wicklow. Other typical bog plants found here include Cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccos*) and Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*).

The margins of the bog support wet scrub vegetation in which Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and Rusty Willow (*Salix cinerea* subsp. *oleifolia*) are prevalent. The rest of the bog perimeter is rich in sedges (*Carex nigra*, *C. otrubae*, *C. hirta*), rushes (*Juncus articulatus* and *J. subnodulosus*), as well as a range of wetland herbaceous plants such as Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*), Marsh-marigold (*Caltha palustris*) and Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*).

Holdenstown Bog is of conservation importance as an intact example of transition mire, a habitat listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive, and for a range of plant species typical of incipient raised bog development.