

**Site Name: Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog SAC**

**Site Code: 001873**

Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog SAC is situated under the summit of Knockboy Mountain (707 m) in Co. Cork. The western boundary is marked by the ridge which runs from the summit northwards to a subsidiary summit (695 m) and a further ridge which runs westwards to Lough Boy (578 m). These ridges run along the county border. The extreme southern point of the site falls to 240 m while the extreme eastern point falls sharply to less than 150 m.

The Cummeendarrig River rises on the eastern flank of the Knockboy ridge as a series of parallel streams which coalesce and flow southwards to the head of Bantry Bay as the Coomhola River. The southern part of the site contains the headwaters of the Derryduff River. Two medium sized lakes occur, Lough Nambrackderg and Curramore Lough, as well as several small loughs.

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):

[7130] Blanket Bogs (Active)*
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The areas of active mountain blanket bog occur as a complex mosaic with other upland habitats, namely grassland, heath, stream flushes and exposed rock. The bogs are mostly small (1-2 ha) but they occur with regularity on a series of gently sloping shelves across the mountainside. The largest expanses of bog are beneath the two lakes. Slope appears locally to define the composition of the bog vegetation, with the flattest areas being the wettest. The vegetation is dominated by Deergrass (*Scirpus cespitosus*), Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*), cottongrasses (*Eriophorum angustifolium* and *E. vaginatum*) and a good diversity of mosses including *Campylopus atrovirens*, *Racomitrium lanuginosum*, and a variety of bog mosses (*Sphagnum* spp.). The *Racomitrium* forms hummocks in the drier places. Some linear pools occur, with *Sphagnum cuspidatum* and *S. tenellum*, and White Beak-sedge (*Rhynchospora alba*) around the margins.

The more nutrient-rich areas which surround the bogs are dominated by Purple Moor-grass, often with *Sphagnum palustre*, Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*), Star Sedge (*Carex echinata*) and the moss *Polytrichum commune*. *Sphagnum auriculatum* and *S. recurvum* are a feature of many of the flushed areas, with Bulbous Rush (*Juncus bulbosus*), Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) and White Beak-sedge, particularly at the lower levels. Nearer the stream banks species such as Sharp-flowered Rush (*Juncus acutiflorus*), Common Sedge (*Carex nigra*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum*

*odoratum*) and Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*) occur, with Blinks (*Montia fontana*), Bog Pimpernel (*Anagallis tenella*) and the moss *Campylium stellatum* close to springs. The Large-flowered Butterwort (*Pinguicula grandiflora*) occurs locally.

Although sheep grazing occurs throughout, it is at low density and has only caused some localised damage to an area south of Curramore Lough. The site has not been burnt in the recent past. Some afforestation occurs outside of the site boundary and this is probably the main threat to the site.

This site is of conservation interest for its blanket bog habitat (a type listed with priority status on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive), which shows gradations to heath, grassland and stream flushes.