

Site Name: Glanmore Bog SAC

Site Code: 001879

Glanmore Bog is situated 3 km north-west of Hungry Hill, Co. Cork and 8 km south-west of the village of Lauragh, Co. Kerry. The site is underlain by Old Red Sandstone and rises in altitude from sea level near Cappul Bridge to 602 m at Eskatarriff at the north of the site.

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):

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| <p>[3110] Oligotrophic Waters containing very few minerals</p> <p>[3260] Floating River Vegetation</p> <p>[4010] Wet Heath</p> <p>[6230] Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> Grassland*</p> <p>[7130] Blanket Bogs (Active)*</p>
<p>[1029] Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>)</p> <p>[1421] Killarney Fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>)</p> |
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One of the most important habitat areas within Glanmore Bog SAC is a small hanging valley bog situated between the meanders of a mountain stream. Its vegetation is relatively uniform in character, dominated by Common Cottongrass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*), with Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Black Bog-rush (*Schoenus nigricans*) and an abundance of the moss *Racomitrium lanuginosum*. The bog is somewhat flushed and there are small, localized quaking areas which support Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), Greater Tussock-sedge (*Carex paniculata*) and Star Sedge (*Carex echinata*). *Campylopus* moss species are also abundant and the rare *C. shawii*, an endemic species to Britain and Ireland, has been recorded from the site. Other areas of blanket bog occur along the ridge near Eskatarriff and in mosaic with heath and exposed rocks on the southern side of the Glanmore River, and these bogs tend to be more Heather-dominated.

Wet heath is the dominant habitat at the site and often occurs in association with upland grassland, exposed rock, bog and dry heath. The heath is dominated by Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*), with ericoid species, such as Heather and Cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*), being relatively scarce. Other heath species present include Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), Mat-grass (*Nardus stricta*), Heath Rush (*Juncus squarrosus*) and Sharp-flowered Rush (*Juncus acutiflorus*).

Glenbeg Lough is an example of an oligotrophic (nutrient-poor) lake. The vegetation of this lake includes Quillwort (*Isoetes lacustris*), Shoreweed (*Littorella uniflora*), Water Lobelia (*Lobelia dortmanna*), Floating Bur-reed (*Sparganium angustifolium*) and Six-stamened Waterwort (*Elatine hexandra*). Other species recorded include the stonewort *Nitella flexilis*, the pondweeds *Potamogeton natans* and *P. perfoliatus*, and Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*). The steep slopes surrounding the lough support a mosaic of heath, upland grassland, siliceous rocks and gully streams. Gorse (*Ulex* sp.) occurs at the base near the lake edge, while St. Patrick's-cabbage (*Saxifraga spathularis*), Hard Fern (*Blechnum spicant*) and a range of relatively rare mosses, including such species as *Radula holtii*, *R. carringtonii*, *R. voluta*, *Acrobolus wilsonii*, *Daltonia splachnoides*, *Lejeunea hibernica*, *Antitrichia curtispindula*, *Dumorteria hirsuta* and *Leptodontium recurvifolium*, occur on the slopes.

Species-rich *Nardus* Grassland, a priority habitat on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive, has been reported from the site according to the Irish Semi-natural Grasslands Survey, 2008.

The two main rivers within the site, the Ownagappul and the Glanmore, have examples of floating river vegetation, a habitat that is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The Ownagappul River runs from Glenbeg Lough to the sea at Cappul Bridge. This fast flowing, acidic river has a stone/gravel bottom and supports plant species typical of such oligotrophic waters, such as Bulbous Rush (*Juncus bulbosus*), Alternate Water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum alterniflorum*), Lesser Spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*) and the moss *Fontinalis antipyretica*. The headwater streams of the Glanmore River occur in the eastern section of the site and this river system has pondweeds (*Potamogeton* spp.) and *Ranunculus* species.

Killarney Fern (*Trichomanes speciosum*), an Annex II species under the E.U. Habitats Directive, and a legally protected species under the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999, occurs within the site.

The site includes a population of Freshwater Pearl Mussel, a species listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive.

Chough, a species listed under Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive, is regularly found within the site and two pairs probably breed. Other birds noted are Dipper, Stonechat, Snipe and Raven.

Land use is confined to sheep grazing on the uplands and steeper slopes. Cattle graze some of the lower slopes at Glenbeg Lough and around Ardgroom. Fishing is carried out on the lake. Outside the site some afforestation has taken place, but little occurs within the catchment of Glenbeg Lough or the Ownagappul River.

Overall, this site is of considerable conservation significance, not least because of the presence of five habitats and two species which are listed on the E.U. Habitats Directive (two habitat types with priority status).