

**Site Name: Maulagowna Bog SAC**

**Site Code: 001881**

Maulagowna Bog is located in Co. Kerry on the north-western slopes of the Caha Mountains, overlooking the Kenmare River inlet. The underlying geology of the area is Old Red Sandstone. The site consists of a blanket bog located on a flat ridge north of Knocknagoravela mountain, and a corrie lake, Cummer Lough, located in an amphitheatre of high cliffs

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 blanket bog is largely intact. The surface is fairly uniform and there are no pools. The vegetation is dominated by Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*), Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) and Deergrass (*Scirpus cespitosus*). The Purple Moor-grass does not form large tussocks. A number of hummocks of the moss *Leucobryum glaucum* occur, and where the vegetation is more open, *Campylopus atrovirens* is found. Some bog mosses (*Sphagnum* spp.) occur.

Cummer Lough is an oligotrophic lake, also a habitat type which is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The lake is at an altitude of 140-150 m, while the cliffs to the south and west of the lake rise to over 350 m. The lake supports a typical flora of Pipewort (*Eriocaulon aquaticum*), Shoreweed (*Littorella uniflora*), Water Lobelia (*Lobelia dortmanna*) and Bulbous Rush (*Juncus bulbosus*). The outflow stream from the lake is fast flowing with a series of small waterfalls.

A number of other upland habitats add to the diversity of the site, including acid grassland, wet heath, flushes and near vertical cliffs.

Fauna of particular interest within the site includes Chough, a bird species listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive.

The main land use within the site is sheep grazing, and signs of over-grazing are evident through most of the site. Overall, however, this is a good example of a small headwater bog, a type of blanket bog which is scarce in the south-west. The presence of a range of other upland habitats, including an oligotrophic corrie lake, adds to the diversity and interest of the site.