



**Site Name: Mullaghanish Bog SAC**

**Site Code: 001890**

Mullaghanish Bog is located approximately 5 km north-east of the village of Ballyvourney, and is centred around the summit of Mullaghanish Mountain on the Cork/Kerry border. The summit of the mountain itself is the location of a television transmitter station. The site is underlain by Old Red Sandstone and is at an altitude of 575-650 m.

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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Mullaghanish Bog comprises a small area of mountain blanket bog which extends towards a col in the north-east and a small way down the north-west slope of Mullaghanish Mountain. Despite its small size the site is particularly interesting because of its intact surface. The summit itself is typically ombrotrophic, but lower down some flushing occurs.

About the summit of the mountain there is a very uniform blanket peat cover, with vegetation dominated by Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Common Cottongrass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*), Hare's-tail Cottongrass (*E. vaginatum*) and Crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*). Bog mosses, largely *Sphagnum capillifolium*, form an even, spongy understorey. The north-west facing slopes of the site have a tussocky vegetation dominated by Heather, Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), Hare's-tail Cottongrass, Common Cottongrass and the moss *Polytrichum commune*. Occasional flushing occurs in this area, as indicated by the presence of several other species, such as the bog moss *Sphagnum recurvum* and Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*).

The ridge running north-east from Mullaghanish is well vegetated and includes a number of interesting stream headwater flushes which contain uncommon species such as Large-flowered Butterwort (*Pinguicula grandiflora*) and the moss, *Calliergon sarmentosum*, as well as the more common moss, *Drepanocladus revolvens*. A species of liverwort, *Barbilophozia atlantica*, which occurs on the site is otherwise known only from Co. Donegal.

There appears to be only minimal disturbance caused by sheep, fire or erosion at the site.

Mullaghanish Bog is a good quality, small, mountain blanket bog, a habitat type which is listed with priority status on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive. It is remarkable for its intactness, and is one of the few such sites in the country where the vegetation has not been damaged by over-grazing or erosion. The presence of some uncommon plant species adds further to the interest of the site.