

## SITE SYNOPSIS

**SITE NAME: LISNANARRIAGH BOG**

**SITE CODE: 002072**

Lisnarrigh Bog NHA is situated about 6 km west of Lanesborough in the townlands of Cloontimullan, Coolshaghtena, Lisnarrigh and Derrycarbry, Co. Roscommon. The site comprises a relatively small raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutaway. The site margins are bounded by agricultural land, and the site lies just 1km from the boundary to Lough Ree cSAC (440) at the Clooneigh River.

The high bog consists of a small dome divided in two by a track running north-west, south-east. Mature Birch woodland occurs on cutover around much of the southern lobe. Cutover bog surrounds the majority of the northern lobe and some reclaimed grassland also occurs. A small area of commercial forestry is found to the south-west.

Much of the high bog has vegetation typical of the Western Raised Bog type, consisting of Ling Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Cottongrass (*Eriophorum* spp.), Carnation Sedge (*Carex panicea*) and the liverwort (*Pleurozia purpurea*). Other common species include Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*). Overall the high bog surface is firm, but there is good bog moss (*Sphagnum* spp.) growth in places where the ground is soft and wet. A small area of pools occur close to the trackway (possibly tear pools). There are some well developed hummocks of *Sphagnum imbricatum*. The scarce species Brown Beak-sedge (*Rhynchospora fusca*) occurs around pool edges.

Old cutaway surrounding the south-west part of the dome is dominated by an extensive area of mature wet woodland with Birch (*Betula pubescens*). Other species present include Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Smooth Meadow-grass (*Poa pratensis*)

Current landuse on the site consists of peat-cutting along much of the margins of the northern lobe. A small area of afforestation has occurred on cutaway to the south. Some land reclamation to fields has occurred on old cutaway to the east. Damaging activities associated with these landuses include drainage and burning. Fire damage has been recorded in the 1980s and there is evidence of more recent burning on the high bog. These are all activities that have resulted in loss of habitat and damage to the hydrological status of the site, and pose a continuing threat to its viability.

Lisnarrigh Bog NHA is a site of considerable conservation significance comprising as it does a raised bog, a rare habitat in the E.U. and one that is becoming increasingly scarce and under threat in Ireland. This site supports a good diversity of raised bog microhabitats including hummock/hollow complexes, and there are some some pools present that add to the diversity and scientific value of the site. Ireland

has a high proportion of the total E.U. resource of raised bog (over 50%) and so has a special responsibility for the conservation of this habitat at an international level.

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