



Site Name: Lough Dahybaun SAC

Site Code: 002177

Lough Dahybaun is located just north of the N59 and approximately 14 km west of Crossmolina in Co. Mayo. It is situated within an extensive area of blanket bog and is one of the largest of the many small lakes which dot the bog surface.

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):

[1833] Slender Naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>)
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Lough Dahybaun is an oligotrophic lake surrounded by blanket bog, much of which has been cut or planted with coniferous trees. The main conservation interest of the site is the occurrence of the plant Slender Naiad (*Najas flexilis*). This rare aquatic species is legally protected under the Flora (Protection) Order, 1999 and is listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive.

Slender Naiad occurs in association with a range of other aquatic and emergent species, including Common Club-rush (*Scirpus lacustris*), Bristle Club-rush (*S. setaceus*), Bulbous Rush (*Juncus bulbous*), Horned Pondweed (*Zannichellia palustris*), Bottle Sedge (*Carex rostrata*), Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*), Yellow Water-lily (*Nuphar lutea*), Curled Pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*), Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*) and species of stonewort (*Chara* spp.).

Much of the blanket bog surrounding the lake has been severely damaged by peat cutting and afforestation, although some relatively intact bog still exists, mostly at the south-eastern side of the lake. In 1995 it was noted that milled peat had been dumped on the north-eastern shore of the lake and peat dust had washed into the lake. Because of these damaging activities, the general environmental quality of the site is considered low.

In summary, this site is of scientific interest due to the presence of the rare Slender Naiad. However, the long-term survival of the plant in the lake may be dependent on suitable management and restoration programmes.