

SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: CLOONLOUM MORE BOG NHA

SITE CODE: 002307

Cloonloun More Bog NHA is situated approximately 5 km south-west of Tulla, mainly in the townlands of Cloonloun More and Clooncool in Co. Clare. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. The north-western margin of the site is bounded by a road, while the other margins are bounded by areas of cutover and grassland.

The raised bog consists of one crescent-shaped lobe. There is an absence of permanent pools and hummocks/hollows on the high bog and there are large areas of cutover. This raised bog is of particular interest as it is one of the few remaining raised bogs in the county. A small lake, Lough Gara, is included at the south of the site.

Much of the high bog vegetation is typical of raised bogs in Ireland, consisting of Ling Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*), White Beak-sedge (*Rhynchospora alba*) and Deergrass (*Scirpus cespitosus*). Bog-rosemary (*Andromeda polifolia*) is found on this bog, although not in abundance. The bog moss (*Sphagnum* spp.) cover is quite variable, with species such as *S. capillifolium*, *S. magellanicum* and *S. fuscum*. The cutover areas surrounding the bog have become dominated by Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) and Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*). The lake at the south of the bog is surrounded by the Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and the Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*).

Current landuse on the site consists of peat-cutting around the edge of the high bog, and the drainage associated with this. Large portions of the bog have been burnt in the past. These activities have resulted in loss of habitat and damage to the hydrological status of the site, and pose a continuing threat to its viability. There is an area of dumping at the south of the site.

Cloonloun More 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. Its location in county Clare is important because it is one of only a few remaining raised bogs in that area. Ireland has a high proportion of the total E.U. resource of raised bog (over 50%) and so has a special responsibility for its conservation at an international level.

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