

**Site Name: Corbo Bog SAC**

**Site Code: 002349**

Corbo Bog is located 7 km west of Lanesborough, mainly in the townlands Corbo, Cloonageeragh, Clooncashel Beg and Coolshagtena, in Co. Roscommon. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. The site is bounded on the south by the Lanesborough to Roscommon road, and a road from this one to Kilroosky forms part of the western boundary.

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):

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|----------------------------------|
| [7110] Raised Bog (Active)*      |
| [7120] Degraded Raised Bog       |
| [7150] Rhynchosporion Vegetation |

Active raised bog comprises areas of high bog that are wet and actively peat-forming, where the percentage cover of bog mosses (*Sphagnum* spp.) is high, and where some or all of the following features occur: hummocks, pools, wet flats, *Sphagnum* lawns, flushes and soaks. Degraded raised bog corresponds to those areas of high bog whose hydrology has been adversely affected by peat cutting, drainage and other land use activities, but which are capable of regeneration. The Rhynchosporion habitat occurs in wet depressions, pool edges and erosion channels where the vegetation includes White Beak-sedge (*Rhynchospora alba*) and/or Brown Beak-sedge (*R. fusca*), and at least some of the following associated species, Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*), sundews (*Drosera* spp.), Deergrass (*Scirpus cespitosus*) and Carnation Sedge (*Carex panicea*).

This bog is a remnant of a much larger bog that has now been mostly cutover. A long, relatively thin section of the high bog remains. There is an extensive pool-hummock system and overall moss cover is high. Much of the high bog surface, especially in the vicinity of the flushes, is very wet and quaking. There are five areas of flush found in the eastern side of the site.

The high bog has vegetation typical of a raised bog including Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) and Cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*). Low hummocks of the bog moss *Sphagnum papillosum* are common, with small patches of *S. imbricatum* hummocks. In the centre of the site there are many inter-connecting pools containing Great Sundew (*Drosera anglica*), the bog moss *Sphagnum cuspidatum*, and Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*). The bog moss *S. magellanicum*, Hare's-tail Cottongrass (*Eriophorum vaginatum*) and Common Cottongrass (*E. angustifolium*) are found around the edges

of the pools. There are some hummocks of the moss *Racomitrium lanuginosum* found as islands in the pools in the north-east of the site. Bog-rosemary (*Andromeda polifolia*) has been recorded as occurring throughout the site. The relatively rare Brown Beak-sedge is found in areas of the high bog. Carnation Sedge dominates disturbed and burnt margins of the bog. In the north of the site there is an area of high lichen cover, with species such as *Cladonia furcata*, *C. portentosa* and *C. uncialis* recorded. In the west of the site Black Bog-rush (*Schoenus nigricans*), which indicates a groundwater influence, has been recorded. There are indications of habitat disturbance in the northern section of the site where Bog Asphodel is dominant and in the southern end where Deergrass is common. The five flushes in the site have similar vegetation and they are almost completely infilled with Hare's-tail Cottongrass and the bog mosses *Sphagnum cuspidatum* and *S. recurvum*. The large flush in the east of the site is dominated by extensive carpets of *S. cuspidatum*, with Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) and Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*) occurring at the margins. A narrow margin of old cutover dominated by Heather surrounds much of the site. Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) is also found on much of the older areas of cutover and there is an area of birch woodland on the western margin of the site.

Except at the far western and southern edges of the site, active peat-cutting is carried out all around the high bog. There are two areas in particular where mechanised peat-cutting is affecting the high bog: in the north of the site the cut face is less than 50 m from the pool systems and in the east the peat is being cut near to a flush. Damaging activities associated with these land uses include drainage and burning of the high bog. Two areas of the site in the north and north-east have recently been damaged by burning. Drains in the east of the site are also having a damaging effect. These are all activities that have resulted in the loss of habitat, damage the hydrological status of the site, and pose a continuing threat to its viability. Finally, in the north and east of the site dumping of old cars has occurred

Corbo Bog is a site of considerable conservation significance as it consists of 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, pools and flushes. Active raised bog is listed as a priority habitat on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. Priority status is given to habitats and species that are threatened throughout the E.U. Ireland has a high proportion of the total E.U. resource of this habitat type (over 60%) and so has a special responsibility for its conservation at an international level.