

Site Name: Redwood Bog SAC

Site Code: 002353

Redwood Bog is located 7 km south west of Banagher, mainly in the townland of Redwood, Co. Tipperary. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. The site is bounded by the Middle Shannon Callows Special Protection Area (SPA) to the north and the River Little Brosna SPA to the north-east.

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):

[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*).

Redwood Bog has developed on the margins of the River Shannon and Little Brosna floodplains. The site can be divided into two sections, a cutover and drained western side and the eastern side that contains intact high bog. This eastern part of the site consists of two domes, which are separated to some extent by a stream that runs south to north. Hummocks and pools occur in the northern dome of the bog. The flushes in the site are found along the length of the stream.

Much of the high bog has vegetation typical of the Western Raised Bog type consisting of Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), the moss *Racomitrium lanuginosum* and the liverwort *Pleurozia purpurea*. There are some hummocks of the bog moss *Sphagnum imbricatum*. A few of the pools in the north-west of the site support Great Sundew (*Drosera anglica*), *Sphagnum cuspidatum* and Bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*). West of this section there is an area of high bog with tear pools. In this area *Sphagnum* cover

is high and there are small amounts of the bog mosses *S. imbricatum* and *S. magellanicum*. Hummocks of the moss *Leucobryum glaucum* are also found here. In the north-west of the site lichen cover is high with *Cladonia portentosa*, *C. uncialis* and *C. subcervicornis*. In the west of the site Deergrass, White Beak-sedge and the moss *Campylopus introflexus* are common in an area that was previously burnt. In the hollows throughout much of the high bog Bog Asphodel dominates. Both the northern and southern areas of flush contain Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*), Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) and Heather. The southern section of flush is dryer, with Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) found there. The central section of flush is the wettest and there is a *S. cuspidatum*-dominated pool surrounded by Purple Moor-grass and Hare's-tail Cottongrass (*Eriophorum vaginatum*). Patches of Carnation Sedge have been recorded along the western edge of this flush. The cutover to the north and west of the high bog is colonised by mixed deciduous woodland that contains large amounts of Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*).

Greenland White-fronted Goose, a species that is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive and that frequents the adjacent SPAs, has been recorded on the site. However, numbers of birds using the site in recent years are not known.

There has been extensive peat-cutting in the western half of the site but active cutting is minimal and has only been recorded in the north and north-west of this area. Damaging activities associated with this land use include drainage throughout the site (both old and recent) and extensive burning of the high bog. There are many indications that this site has been burnt on a regular basis. These are all activities that have resulted in loss of habitat and damage to the hydrological status of the site, and that pose a continuing threat to its viability.

Redwood Bog is a site of considerable conservation significance as it comprises 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. This bog has developed on the margins of a floodplain and is one of the few remaining floodplain bogs in the country. 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. Part of the site is already a State-owned nature reserve and supports Greenland White-fronted Goose, a bird species listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive.