

SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: GLENTURK MORE BOG NHA

SITE CODE: 002419

Glenturk More Bog NHA is an area of lowland blanket bog situated approximately 4.5 km south-west of Glenamoy and 3.5 km north of Bangor Erris, in north Co. Mayo. It lies entirely within the townland of Glenturk More. The northern and eastern margins are bounded by forestry and the western margin by a public road. The site is dissected by a stream flowing east - west towards Carrowmore Lake. The bedrock geology of the area is sandstone and granite overlain by sandstone glacial till.

The site is situated in a low-lying, gently sloping depression with an altitude between 20 m and 55 m. While blanket bog dominates the site, fields on the south-western side include wet grassland bounded by a stream channel and there are also some areas of re-vegetating, cutover bog. A number of small streams and flushed areas occur throughout the bog and some drains are present.

Blanket bog vegetation occurring on the site includes Ling Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Deergrass (*Scirpus cespitosus*), Bog-myrtle (*Myrica gale*), Cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*), Black Bog-rush (*Schoenus nigricans*), Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*) and White Beak-sedge (*Rhynchospora alba*). A variety of bog mosses (*Sphagnum* species) and the lichens *Cladonia portentosa* and *C. uncialis* are also present. The moss *Leucobryum glaucum* occurs on re-vegetated cutover bog. The drains on the site contain species such as Branched Bur-reed (*Sparganium erectum*) and dense stands of Mare's Tail (*Hippuris vulgaris*).

Current landuse within the site consists of peat-cutting and grazing by cattle. A new drain is being excavated in the northern part of the site. These activities have resulted in loss of habitat and damage to the hydrological integrity of the site and are potential threat to its conservation. Another potential threat is a proposed gas pipeline route through the western section of the bog.

Glenturk More Bog NHA is a site of considerable conservation significance. It includes a good example of a relatively extensive, lowland blanket bog with occasional flush areas. Blanket bog habitat is a globally scarce resource. It is largely confined to coastal regions with cool, wet, oceanic climates at temperate latitudes. North-west Europe contains some of the best-developed areas of blanket bog in the world. Lowland blanket bog comprises less than 3% of the world's peatlands. In Europe this type of blanket bog is restricted to Ireland, Britain, Norway and Iceland. The lowland blanket bog that occurs in Ireland is considered to be an extreme hyperoceanic variant of the habitat type, found nowhere else in the world except on the coastal fringes of north-west Scotland.

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