

SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: CARBURY BOG NHA

SITE CODE: 001388

Carbury Bog NHA is situated 4 km north of Carbury, almost entirely within the townlands of Ardkill, Carbury and Knockcor, County Kildare. Carbury Hill, which rises to 142 m, lies directly south of the bog. This site originally consisted of two lobes but much of the large north-west lobe is actively cutover and has been excluded from the site.

The site consists of four sections separated by the old Edenderry railway line and the Carbury-Broadford road. Overall the southern section is quite wet with good hummock/hollow development. There is some marginal scrub woodland along the margins of the small western section. A narrow strip of deciduous woodland cuts through the main section in line with the old railway.

Much of the high bog has vegetation typical of a Midland Raised Bog with Ling Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) and Cottongrass (*Eriophorum* spp.). Other species present include Bog-rosemary (*Andromeda polifolia*) and Cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccos*). Overall the high bog is relatively wet with good bog moss (*Sphagnum* spp.) cover with hummocks of *Sphagnum capillifolium* and *S. magellanicum* present. Although occasional, the scarce bog moss *Sphagnum imbricatum* is present. The Red Data Book species Round-leaved Wintergreen (*Pyrola rotundifolia*) has been recorded from the woodland area along the abandoned railway line. Deciduous woodland with Downy Birch (*Betula pubescens*) and Willow (*Salix* spp.) occurs around the western bog margins. The old cutaway is mainly dominated by scrub with Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), Downy Birch and Willow.

Current landuse on the site consists of limited peat-cutting along the western margins. This activity has resulted in loss of habitat and damage to the hydrological status of the site, and poses a continuing threat to its viability.

Carbury Bog NHA is a site of considerable conservation significance comprising of 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 some hummock/hollow complexes, scrub and marginal deciduous woodland which add to the diversity and scientific value of the site. The Red Data Book species, Round-leaved Wintergreen has been recorded on this site. This site is only one of a few remaining raised bog habitats in Co Kildare. Ireland has a high proportion of the total E.U. resource of this habitat type (over 50%) and so has a special responsibility for its conservation at an international level.

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