

SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: TULLAGHAN BOG NHA

SITE CODE: 001652

Tullaghan Bog NHA is located approximately 4.5 km north-east of Frenchpark, mainly in the townlands of Carrownagappul, Granny, Tonroe (also known as Creen) and Tullaghan in Co. Roscommon. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. The site is bounded in the south by the local road between Breedoge and Ballybaun cross roads.

This site is the remnant of a larger bog that has now been cutover and reclaimed for agriculture. The site was formerly linked with Bella Bridge Bog NHA (591) and Cornaveagh Bog NHA (603) but both are now separated by approximately 1 km of cutover. Mineral ridges are found in the west and north-east of the site and mineral ridges border most of the site. There are small hummocks on the bog and only tear pools are present. A small flush has been recorded in the east of the site. Cutover is found mostly in the south and north-west of the site.

This is a North-Western Raised Bog, but due to extensive fire damage when it was last surveyed the bog did not have the vegetation typical of this type of raised bog. However, it is hoped that the bog has recovered from the fire damage in recent years. Deergrass (*Scirpus cespitosus*) and Carnation Sedge (*Carex panicea*) are very common on the high bog. Of the hummock-forming bog mosses *Sphagnum capillifolium* and *S. papillosum* have been recorded on the site, as have the more scarce *S. imbricatum* and *S. fuscum*. Only tear pools are still present on the bog but the aquatic bog moss *Sphagnum cuspidatum* has been recorded on the site. A small flush occurs on the eastern edge of the bog and the bog moss *S. recurvum* is found here. Three sections of old cutover in the west, south and south-east support areas of scrub woodland.

Current landuses on the site include peat-cutting and agriculture. Mechanised peat-cutting is taking place mostly in the north-west and south-east of the site. Areas of cutover all around the site have been reclaimed for agriculture. Most of the fields within the site that contain improved grassland are on mineral soil. Damaging activities associated with these landuses include drainage throughout the site and burning of the high bog. There has been extensive burning on the site in the 1980s and 1990s that has damaged the bog. All these activities have resulted in the loss of habitat, damage to the hydrological status of the site, and pose a continuing threat to its viability.

Tullaghan 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. This site supports a good diversity of raised bog microhabitats, including hummocks and a flush and is at the north-western extreme of the range for this habitat in the country. 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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