

Dunragh Loughs/ Pettigo Plateau SAC



There is a rich variety of Sphagnum bog mosses present within the site. Many sedges occur on site, including the very local White-beaked Sedge (*Rynchosporion alba*). The active blanket bog comprises many intact hummock-hollow systems, interconnecting pools, wet vegetation, raised bog type domes as well as several small flushes and lakes. Deer-grass, Hare's-tail Cotton Sedge, Purple Moor-grass and Bog Mosses dominate much of the bog.



Rhododendron seeding in to the SAC



Blanket Bog where grasses are not dominant



As part of CABB, BirdWatch Ireland is replacing the perimeter fence of the nature reserve in 2018-9. Baseline surveys of the vegetation structure & composition and effects of grazing prior to the replacement will allow for changes in the habitat to be monitored once a sustainable grazing plan is enacted by NPWS.

Dunragh Loughs/Pettigo Plateau SAC, Co. Donegal
Situated between Donegal Town and N. Ireland, this site is a prime example of relatively undisturbed upland habitat, covering a large area (over 2,000 ha). It is designated for active **Blanket Bogs [7130*]** & **North Atlantic Wet Heath with *Erica tetralix*** in a complex of hills, basins, loughs and smaller pools. Part of the site is also designated as a Nature Reserve (900 ha) for a wintering White-fronted Goose flock, which have tended to only use the site intermittently in recent times.

Main conservation issues: Grazing, Peat Extraction, Rhododendron infestation, Draining of the bog, Commercial forestry plantations



Nature reserve boundary fence in disrepair

In contrast to many upland areas, where sheep grazing can damage the habitat, the vegetation within the Nature Reserve is largely undergrazed with occasional. The perimeter fence has deteriorated, preventing the implementation of a sustainable grazing management plan to control the rank grasses. The diverse mix of sphagnum bog mosses, heathers & sedges has become dominated in many areas by Purple Moor Grass (*Molinia caerulea*), creating rank grassland.

Undergrazed Purple Moor Grass



Nature Reserve boundary