

Wetlands designated, pursuant to Article 2 (5) of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat by Ireland, to be included in the List of Wetlands of International Importance, established under the terms of the Convention.

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Clara Bog, Mongan Bog and Raheenmore Bog all located in Co. Offaly which were recently established as statutory nature reserves under Section 15 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 and shown outlined in black on attached maps are hereby designated by Ireland for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance under Article 2.5 of the Convention. Clara Bog and Raheenmore Bog are state owned, Mongan Bog is privately owned. This brings to 14 the total number of sites designated by Ireland.

Clara Bog, comprising 480 hectares is situated about 2Km south of the town of Clara in north County Offaly. It is the largest, reasonably intact raised bog remaining east of the Shannon, and one of the largest remaining in the the country. It is divided into two, roughly equal parts by a road running NNE- SSW. The bog contains all the characteristic features of a raised bog: hummocks and hollows, Sphagnum lawns, pools and a typical flora. The outstanding feature of the bog is the series of soaks or flushes where mineral- rich water influences the surface of the bog resulting in the development of a distinctive flora characterised by species typical of poor fens. Most of the soaks are marked by the presence of birch, Betula pubescens. At Lough Roe, on the eastern side, the very rare Scheuchzeria palustris was transplanted from Pollagh Bog in the 1950's. It may still be present although it has not been seen in recent years. If present it would be the only station for it in Ireland.

Mongan Bog comprising 119 hectares is situated near Clonmacnoise. It is a classic example of a midland raised bog lying in a basin surrounded by esker ridges.

Compared to other raised bogs, Mongan has features of special value. It is unusually wet and has a particularly pronounced pattern of pools, lawns and hummocks. Hydrological studies suggest that the central part of the bog is still growing and that peripheral drainage and cutting has only affected the water table at the margins. The bog contains plant and animal species of some rarity or restricted distribution in Ireland, including Rhynchospora fusca which is now the northern limit of its European distribution. It also contains the first Irish record of Gongylidiellum latebricola, Biselachista serricornis, Aristotelia ercinella, Coenonymphatullia and Saturniapauonia.

Mongan Bog is also a feeding and roosting area in winter for one of the few remaining bogland flocks of Greenland White-fronted Geese Anser albifrons flavirostris which is listed in Annex 1 of the EEC Council Directive 79/409 of 2nd April 1979 on the conservation of wildbirds as a species whose habitat requires special conservation measures.

Raheenmore Bog comprising 162 hectares is a classic example of a well developed and exceptionally deep midland raised bog. It has a typical flora and plant communities associated with raised bogs but without pool systems. There has been relatively little disturbance from cutting but in recent years drainage has occurred around the margins.