



Scientific name	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Eriophorum</i> spp. bog
Common name	Heather – Cottongrass bog
Community code	BG2E

Vegetation

This is quite a heathy bog community with a dwarf shrub layer dominated by *Calluna vulgaris* alongside which grow some stems of *Erica tetralix*. Tussocks of *Eriophorum vaginatum* are a constant feature, as are tufts of *Eriophorum angustifolium* and *Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum*. Frequent companions are *Potentilla erecta* and *Molinia caerulea*. Beneath all this, in the bryophyte layer, hummocks of *Sphagnum capillifolium* are found together with pale green patches of *Hypnum jutlandicum*. *Sphagnum papillosum* and threads of *Odontoschisma sphagni* are frequent.

Ecology

This is a community of deep, ombrogenous, oligotrophic, wet and acidic peat soils in the uplands (mean altitude = 371 m, $n = 58$).

Sub-communities

No sub-communities have been described for this community.

Similar communities

The *Calluna vulgaris* – *Eriophorum* spp. bog may be viewed as intermediate between two other upland blanket bog communities, the HE3F *Calluna vulgaris* – *Eriophorum vaginatum* heathy bog and the BG2F *Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum* – *Eriophorum angustifolium* bog/heath. *Trichophorum* is less frequent in HE3F and pleurocarpous mosses are much more prevalent, whilst in BG2F, *Eriophorum vaginatum* is only occasional.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	143
Transitional:	37
Total:	180

Number of records (mapped)

2001-2015:	128
1986-2000:	38
1971-1985:	3
Pre-1971:	5
Total:	174

Number of hectads (most recent records)

2001-2015:	33
1986-2000:	12
1971-1985:	2
Pre-1971:	3
Total:	50

Number of hectads (all mapped records)

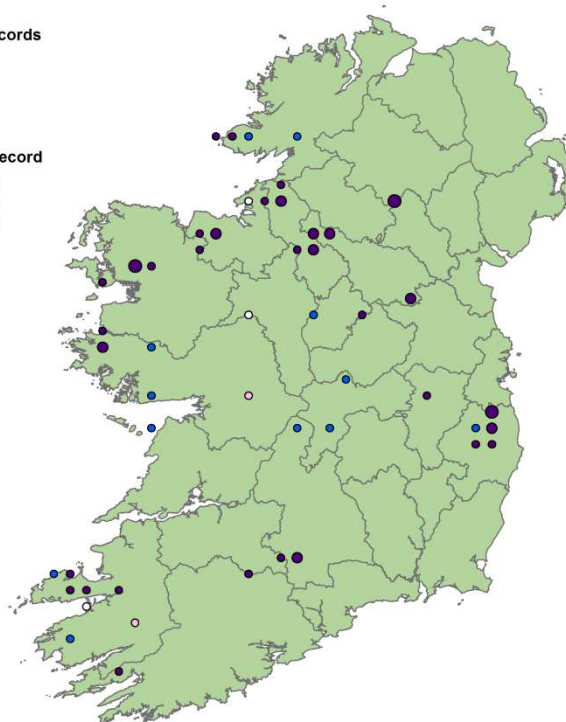
2001-2015:	33
1986-2000:	16
1971-1985:	2
Pre-1971:	5

Number of records

- 1-3
- 4-10
- 11-25
- 26+

Most recent record

- 2001-2015
- 1986-2000
- 1971-1985
- pre-1971



Synoptic table (n = 107)

Species	Frequency	Cover	Species	Frequency	Cover
	(from I-V)	min (med) max		(from I-V)	min (med) max
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	V	2-(6)-10	<i>Pleurozia purpurea</i>	II	+-(2)-5
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	V	1-(4)-8	<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	II	+-(2)-8
<i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>	V	3-(5)-8	<i>Sphagnum cuspidatum</i>	II	+-(3)-6
<i>Sphagnum capillifolium</i>	V	2-(5)-9	<i>Hylocomium splendens</i>	II	+-(1)-4
<i>Erica tetralix</i>	V	1-(3)-5	<i>Dicranum scoparium</i>	I	+-(1)-4
<i>Hypnum jutlandicum</i>	IV	+-(3)-8	<i>Calypogeia muelleriana</i>	I	+-(+)-4
<i>Trichophorum cesp./germanicum</i>	IV	+-(5)-9	<i>Juncus squarrosus</i>	I	+-(3)-6
<i>Sphagnum papillosum</i>	III	+-(4)-8	<i>Cladonia uncialis</i>	I	+-(2)-3
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	III	+-(2)-5	<i>Plagiothecium undulatum</i>	I	+-(1)-3
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	III	+-(3)-5	<i>Polytrichum commune</i>	I	+-(2)-6
<i>Odontoschisma sphagni</i>	III	+-(1)-3	<i>Sphagnum palustre</i>	I	1-(3)-7
<i>Sphagnum tenellum</i>	II	+-(2)-4	<i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	I	+-(3)-5
<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	II	+-(3)-8	<i>Carex panicea</i>	I	+-(1)-5
<i>Rhytidiadelphus loreus</i>	II	+-(2)-7	<i>Breutelia chrysocoma</i>	I	+-(2)-4
<i>Cladonia portentosa</i>	II	+-(2)-8	<i>Scapania gracilis</i>	I	+-(1)-3
<i>Diplophyllum albicans</i>	II	+-(2)-5	<i>Polygala serpyllifolia</i>	I	+-(1)-3
<i>Racomitrium lanuginosum</i>	II	+-(2)-5	<i>Campylopus flexuosus</i>	I	+-(+)-4
<i>Sphagnum subnitens</i>	II	+-(4)-7	<i>Campylopus introflexus</i>	I	+-(1)-4
<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	II	+-(1)-3	<i>Lophozia ventricosa</i>	I	+-(+)-3
<i>Pleurozium schreberi</i>	II	+-(1)-3	<i>Sphagnum subsecundum</i> agg.	I	+-(2)-4

Affinities

GHI: PB2 Upland blanket bog

ZM: OXY-01B Oxycocco – *Erica tetralix* Nordhagen et. Tx 1937

EUNIS: D1.221 Hiberno-Brittanic *Eriophorum-Calluna* blanket bogs

NVC: M17 *Scirpus cespitosus* – *Eriophorum vaginatum* blanket mire (68.9%) [also, M19a *Calluna vulgaris* – *Eriophorum vaginatum* blanket mire *Erica tetralix* sub-community (67.4%)]

Annex I:7130 Blanket bog (active)*

Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.4 Reaction: 2.2 Wetness: 7.3 Fertility: 1.4 Salinity: 0.0

Conservation value

Almost all examples of this habitat will qualify as EU HD Annex I habitat 7130 Blanket bog (active)*. This is on average a moderately species-poor grassland community (species/4 m² = 17.8, n = 79).

Management

These bogs are used as rough grazing land, typically for sheep, and often occur within commonages. The main threats are overgrazing, erosion, burning and afforestation. Turf-cutting and drainage may also occur on deeper peats.

Key references

Perrin, P.M., Barron, S.J., Roche, J.R. & O’Hanrahan, B. (2014) Guidelines for a national survey and conservation assessment of upland vegetation and habitats in Ireland. *Irish Wildlife Manuals*, No. 79. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Synopsis version: V1.0

Synopsis date: November 2017

Synopsis author(s): P.M. Perrin



Photo 1. BG2E *Calluna vulgaris* – *Eriophorum* spp. bog, Rossadrehid, Galtee Mountains, Tipperary
(J. Denyer/E. Joyce, September 2011)



Photo 2. BG2E *Calluna vulgaris* – *Eriophorum* spp. bog, Bellavally Lower, Cuilcagh, Cavan
(E. O'Sullivan, September 2012)