

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 mainly a community of deep, ombrogenous, oligotrophic, wet and acidic peat soils in the uplands although there are a few records from raised bogs. Mean altitude = 396 m, $n = 66$; mean slope = 4.3° , $n = 63$; mean extent of bare peat = 3.3%, $n = 75$.

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* bog and the BG2F *Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum* – *Eriophorum angustifolium* peatland. *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:	161
Transitional:	27
Total:	188

Number of records (mapped)

2001-2020:	137
1986-2000:	38
1971-1985:	4
Pre-1971:	4
Total:	183

Number of hectads (by most recent time period)

2001-2020:	38
1986-2000:	12
1971-1985:	3
Pre-1971:	2
Total:	55

Number of hectads (records in each time period)

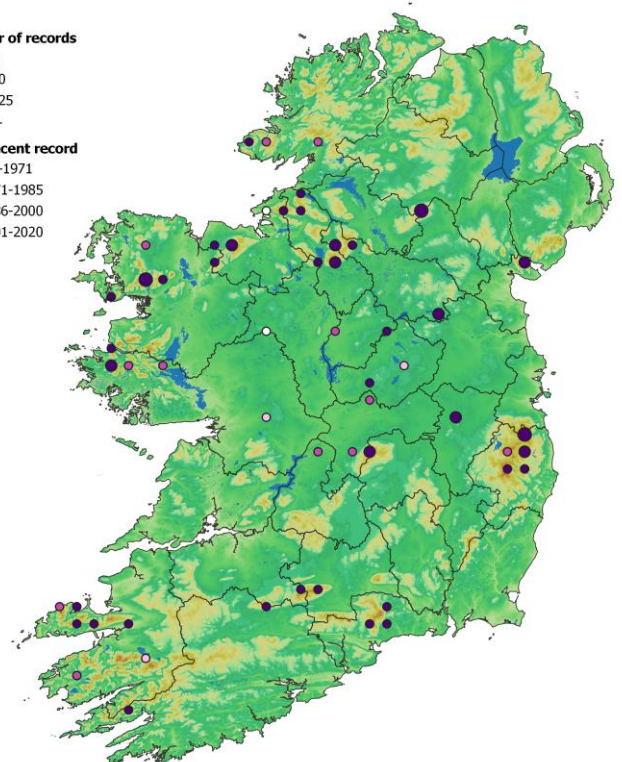
2001-2020:	38
1986-2000:	16
1971-1985:	3
Pre-1971:	4

Number of records

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

Most recent record

- pre-1971
- 1971-1985
- 1986-2000
- 2001-2020



Synoptic table (n = 120)

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

Affinities

GHI: PB1 Raised bog / PB2 Upland blanket bog

ZM: PB01B Oxycocco-Ericion tetralicis Nordhagen ex Tx. 1937

EUNIS: D1.11 Active, relatively undamaged raised bogs / D1.221 Hiberno-Brittanian Eriophorum-Calluna blanket bogs

NVC: M17 *Scirpus cespitosus-Eriophorum vaginatum* blanket mire (71.1%), but also

M19a *Calluna vulgaris-Eriophorum vaginatum* blanket mire *Erica tetralix* sub-community (70.3%)

Annex I: 7110 Raised bog (active)* / 7130 Blanket bog (active)*

Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.4 Reaction: 2.3 Wetness: 7.4 Fertility: 1.4 Salinity: 0.0

Conservation value

Most examples of this habitat will qualify as EU HD Annex I habitat 7130 Blanket bog (active)*, a few may correspond with habitat 7110 Raised bog (active)*. This is on average a moderately species-rich bog community (species/4 m² = 17.1, n = 85).

Management

In the uplands, these bogs are typically used as rough grazing land 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, Dublin.

Wolfe-Murphy, S. A., Murphy, C. (2002). Ecological survey of the Slieve Beagh/Eshbrack Bog area, County Monaghan. (unpublished). Truagh Development Association, Co. Monaghan.

Synopsis version: V2.1

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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)