



Scientific name	<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i> – <i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> mire
Common name	Water Horsetail – Bogbean mire
Community code	FE2A

Vegetation

This species-poor mire community is distinguished by the presence of a usually abundant layer of *Menyanthes trifoliata*. Between the broad bogbean leaves typically grow the upright shoots of *Equisetum fluviatile*. *Mentha aquatica* is the only frequent species growing alongside these constants. Occasionally, there are some taller swamp species such as *Carex rostrata*, *Phragmites australis* or *Typha latifolia*.

Ecology

This is mire or swamp community of mildly acidic and slightly nutrient poor conditions. It is found in the context of lowland fens and margins of mesotrophic lakes and lagoons.

Sub-communities

No sub-communities are currently described.

Similar communities

The community is more aligned with swamps than the others in the FE2 *Menyanthes trifoliata* – *Potentilla palustris* group, and is much less diverse, with the relative importance of *Equisetum fluviatile* being a key indicator. The FW3G *Equisetum fluviatile* – *Eleocharis palustris* swamp, differs from the current assemblage in the absence of *Menyanthes* and the frequent presence of *Eleocharis palustris*.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	158
Transitional:	35
Total:	193

Number of records (mapped)

2001-2015:	48
1986-2000:	65
1971-1985:	76
Pre-1971:	12
Total:	191

Number of hectads (most recent records)

2001-2015:	11
1986-2000:	17
1971-1985:	12
Pre-1971:	1
Total:	41

Number of hectads (all mapped records)

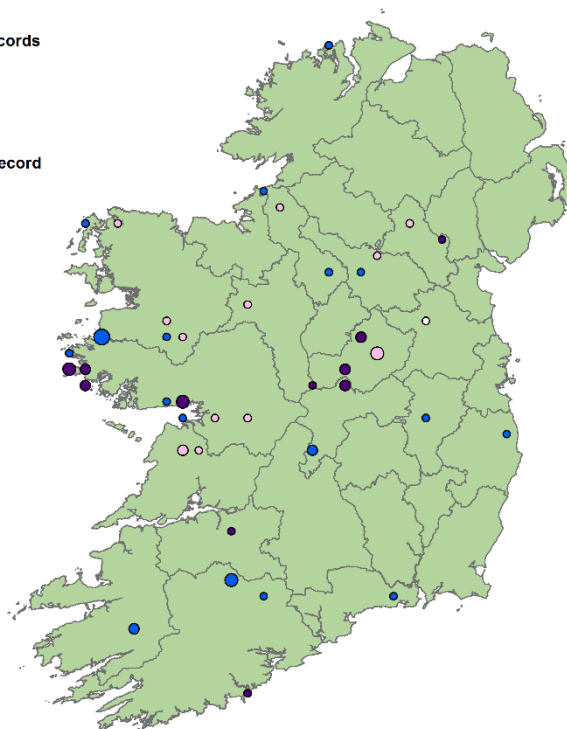
2001-2015:	11
1986-2000:	20
1971-1985:	16
Pre-1971:	2

Number of records

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

Most recent record

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



Synopsis table (n = 126)

Species	Frequency		Cover		Species	Frequency		Cover	
	(from I-V)		min	(med) max		(from I-V)		min	(med) max
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	V		3-	(7)-9	<i>Potamogeton coloratus</i>	I		2-	(3)-8
<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	IV		2-	(3)-7	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	I		2-	(2)-4
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	III		2-	(3)-8	<i>Utricularia australis/vulgaris</i>	I		2-	(4)-7
<i>Carex rostrata</i>	II		+	(3)-5	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	I		+	(2)-9
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	II		2-	(3)-8	<i>Hippuris vulgaris</i>	I		1-	(2)-4
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	II		1-	(3)-7	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	I		2-	(2)-4
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	II		2-	(3)-4	<i>Juncus subnodulosus</i>	I		2-	(5)-9
<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>	II		2-	(2)-8	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	I		+	(2)-5
<i>Galium palustre</i>	II		+	(3)-5	<i>Lemna trisulca</i>	I		2-	(3)-7
<i>Lemna minor</i>	II		+	(3)-8	<i>Juncus bulbosus</i>	I		2-	(3)-4
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	II		2-	(3)-8	<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	I		+	(2)-5
<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i>	I		2-	(5)-8	<i>Potamogeton polygonifolius</i>	I		2-	(3)-8
<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	I		+	(3)-8	<i>Baldellia ranunculoides</i>	I		2-	(3)-5
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	I		2-	(3)-5	<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i> agg.	I		2-	(2)-4
<i>Sparganium erectum</i>	I		1-	(3)-9	<i>Persicaria amphibia</i>	I		2-	(2)-8
<i>Epilobium palustre</i>	I		1-	(2)-6	<i>Berula erecta</i>	I		2-	(3)-7
<i>Carex nigra</i>	I		1-	(3)-8	<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	I		2-	(2)-5
<i>Potentilla palustris</i>	I		+	(3)-5	<i>Potamogeton natans</i>	I		2-	(3)-5
<i>Schoenoplectus lacustris</i>	I		2-	(2)-5	<i>Leptodictyum riparium</i>	I		2-	(3)-5
<i>Calliergon giganteum</i>	I		2-	(4)-9	<i>Calliergonella cuspidata</i>	I		2-	(3)-5

Affinities

GHI: FS1 Reed and tall sedge swamp

ZM: PHR-01A Phragmiton communis Koch 1926

EUNIS: C3.247 Water horsetail beds

NVC: S12 *Typha latifolia* swamp (54.9%) (but also, S10 *Equisetum fluviatile* swamp (50.9%))

Annex I: No significant correspondence

Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.7 Reaction: 5.0 Wetness: 9.9 Fertility: 3.6 Salinity: 0.1

Conservation value

This a species-poor community of relatively low conservation value.

Management

Typically, this is an unmanaged community. The main threats include drainage, reclamation and eutrophication.

Key references

Brock, T., Frigge, P., van der Ster, H. (1979) A vegetation study of the pools and surrounding wetlands in the Dooaghtry area, Co. Mayo (unpublished). National Parks & Wildlife Service, Dublin, Ireland.

O'Connell, M. (1981) The phytosociology and ecology of Scragh Bog, Co. Westmeath. *New Phytologist* 87, 139-187.

van Groenendael, J., Hochstenbach, S.M.H., van Mansfeld, M., Roozen, A.J.M., Westhoff, V. (1982) The influence of the sea on the vegetation of lakes in southwest Connemara. *Journal of Life Science of the Royal Dublin Society* 3, 221-242.

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Photo 1. FE2A *Equisetum fluviatile* – *Menyanthes trifoliata* mire, River Corrib, Menlough, Galway (F. O'Neill, August 2014)