



Scientific name	<i>Cladium mariscus</i> – <i>Phragmites australis</i> swamp
Common name	Great Fen-sedge – Common Reed swamp
Community code	FW3H

Vegetation

This community comprises typically rather species-poor, dense stands of *Cladium mariscus*. *Phragmites australis* is also a constant species here but is usually clearly subordinate to *Cladium*. No other species is frequent, but careful searching between the saw-toothed leaves may occasionally reveal some plants of *Equisetum fluviatile*, *Menyanthes trifoliata* or *Mentha aquatica*. Infrequently, tussocks of *Molinia caerulea* and *Schoenus nigricans* may occur. There is usually very little in the way of a bryophyte layer.

Ecology

These stands occur in rather nutrient-poor but strongly alkaline conditions, in a variety of habitats, including lake margins, fens and flushed areas of bog.

Sub-communities

No sub-communities are currently described.

Similar communities

This is a distinct community which should be easily recognised.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	125
Transitional:	2
Total:	127

Number of records (mapped)

2001-2015:	51
1986-2000:	23
1971-1985:	30
Pre-1971:	20
Total:	124

Number of hectads (most recent records)

2001-2015:	10
1986-2000:	6
1971-1985:	7
Pre-1971:	1
Total:	24

Number of hectads (all mapped records)

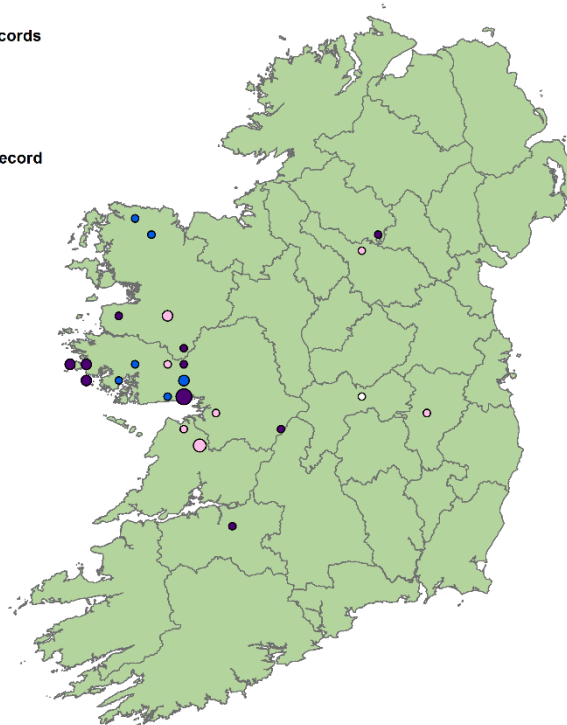
2001-2015:	10
1986-2000:	9
1971-1985:	12
Pre-1971:	5

Number of records

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

Most recent record

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



Synoptic table (n = 116)

Species	Frequency	Cover	Species	Frequency	Cover
	(from I-V)	min (med) max		(from I-V)	min (med) max
<i>Cladium mariscus</i>	5-(9)-10	V	<i>Nymphaea alba</i>	2-(3)-7	I
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	1-(3)-8	V	<i>Carex viridula</i>	1-(2)-4	I
<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	+(3)-7	II	<i>Eleocharis multicaulis</i>	1-(3)-5	I
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	1-(3)-5	II	<i>Utricularia minor</i>	1-(2)-5	I
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	+(2)-5	II	<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	2-(2)-4	I
<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>	2-(3)-7	I	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	1-(2)-3	I
<i>Galium palustre</i>	+(2)-4	I	<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	+(1)-2	I
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	+(3)-8	I	<i>Eriocaulon aquaticum</i>	3-(3)-7	I
<i>Potentilla palustris</i>	+(2)-4	I	<i>Kindbergia praelonga</i>	1-(2)-4	I
<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>	+(3)-5	I	<i>Typha latifolia</i>	1-(1)-4	I
<i>Juncus subnodulosus</i>	2-(3)-3	I	<i>Carex rostrata</i>	1-(2)-5	I
<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i>	1-(3)-5	I	<i>Carex elata</i>	1-(4)-5	I
<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>	1-(3)-7	I	<i>Carex disticha</i>	1-(3)-3	I
<i>Myrica gale</i>	2-(3)-5	I	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	2-(2)-3	I
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	1-(2)-5	I	<i>Scorpidium scorpioides</i>	2-(2)-5	I
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	1-(2)-3	I	<i>Sparganium erectum</i>	2-(3)-4	I
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	+(1)-7	I	<i>Lemna trisulca</i>	1-(3)-5	I
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	1-(2)-3	I	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	+(2)-5	I
<i>Calliergonella cuspidata</i>	+(2)-5	I	<i>Epilobium palustre</i>	+(2)-3	I
<i>Utricularia intermedia</i>	2-(3)-5	I	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	2-(2)-3	I

Affinities

GHI: FS1 Reed and large sedge swamps
 ZM: PHR-01A Phragmiton communis Koch 1926
 EUNIS: C3.28 Riparian *Cladium mariscus* beds / D5.24 Fen *Cladium mariscus* beds
 NVC: S2 *Cladium mariscus* swamp (68.3%)
 Annex I:7210 *Cladium fen**

Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.8 Reaction: 7.4 Wetness: 9.8 Fertility: 4.0 Salinity: 0.2

Conservation value

Open, diverse stands of *Cladium mariscus* swamp and denser stands occurring adjacent to other types of alkaline fen, correspond in Ireland with the priority EU HD Annex I habitat 7210 *Cladium fen**. Low diversity, closed stands occurring in isolation are not deemed to correspond.

Management

These stands typically unmanaged. The main threats are from peat extraction, infilling, drainage and reclamation.

Key references

Ivimey-Cook, R.B., Proctor, M.C.F., 1964. The plant communities of the Burren, Co. Clare. *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy. Section B: Biological, Geological, and Chemical Science* 64, 211–302.
 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.



Photo 1. FW3H *Cladium mariscus* – *Phragmites australis* swamp, River Corrib, Newcastle, Galway
(J. Martin, September 2014)



Photo 2. FW3H *Cladium mariscus* – *Phragmites australis* swamp, Coolagh, Galway (J. Martin, September 2014)