

Appendix 6-5

IPCC Survey

Name: Timahoe Cutaway

Site Code: BOA 11

County: Kildare

Grid Reference: N 754 364

Area: 3000 ha

Site Description:

This industrial cutaway of Timahoe bog stretches from Kilmurry (N 752 376) in the north to Allenwood North (N 750 275) in the south. It supports a variety of habitats including raised bog remnants (Drumachon bog, and Ballynakill Lower), bog woodland, scrub, wet heath, open water lakes and bog cotton communities. A network of Bord na Móna railway tracks occur on the cutaway, raised above the level of the cutaway. It is bisected by the road between Timahoe crossroads and Drehid crossroads into a north (see photo inset) and south section. The north section of this cutaway is referred to as Mulgeeth Cutaway and the south section is referred to as Drumachon Cutaway.

Habitat Description:

PB4 - Cutover Bog - Bog Cotton community
Mulgeeth cutaway has been extensively colonised by bog cotton and bog cotton fields have formed in between the raised ridges of the old railway in areas of both the north and south section of the cutaway. The peat is soft and wet in these areas with *Sphagnum* mosses (*Sphagnum cuspidatum* and *S. papillosum*) recolonising the wetter areas and pools and drains. The water table is at the surface in the bog cotton fields.

HH3 -Wet Heath

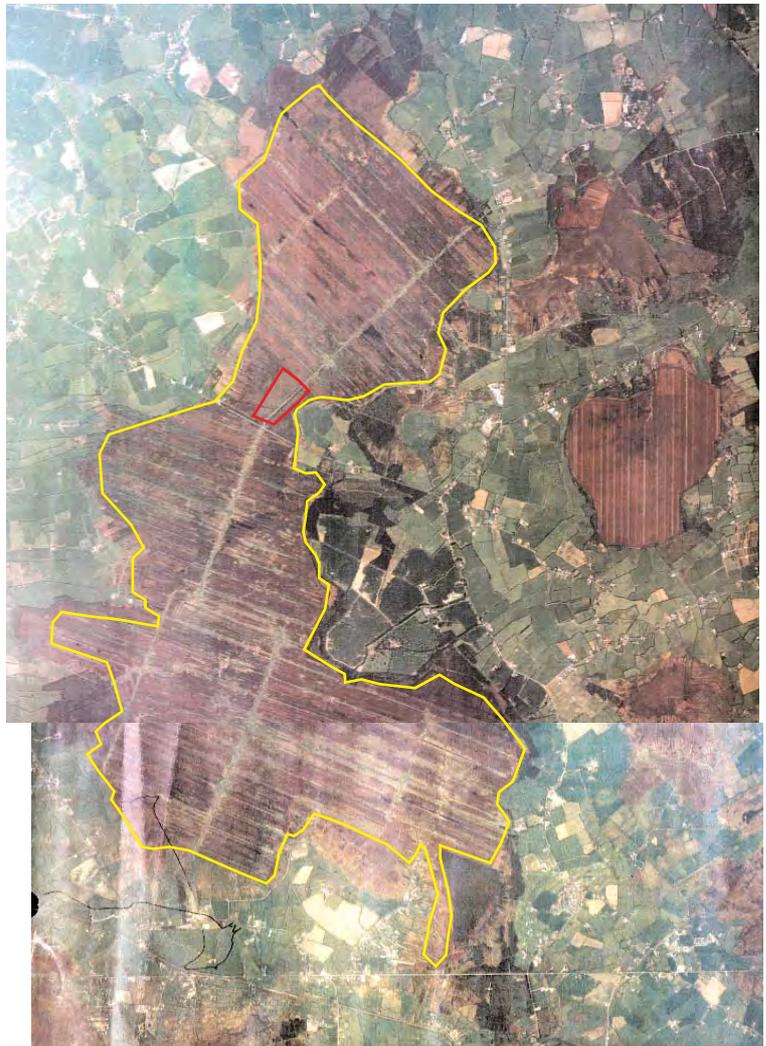
Heathland occurs on the raised ridges of the railway tracks where *Calluna vulgaris* dominates vegetation. On the north-east edge of the cutaway where it borders agricultural land wet heath is the dominant habitat and it also occurs on the south section of Timahoe cutaway. The heathland areas are dominated by *Calluna vulgaris* and *Eriophorum vaginatum* and the water table depth is less than 10cm. Some parts of it have abundant cover of *Cladonia portentosa* but damaged areas of exposed bare peat are also common.

WN7 - Bog Woodland

This habitat occurs extensively on both the north and south sections of the cutaway. It is interspersed with heathland and scrub. The dominant species are birch and willow. The bird assemblages recorded in the bog woodland on this cutaway include starlings, black-cap, long-tailed tits, woodcock, and sparrowhawk. This semi-natural native woodland scarce habitat, deserves more attention.

WS1 - Scrub

Birch and willow scrub occurs at the edges of the bog woodland on both the north and south sections of Timahoe cutaway. If left undisturbed, this habitat will develop naturally into bog woodland. Bird species observed at



Top: Timahoe cutaway, outlined in yellow, is visible as the industrial cutaway in the centre of the aerial photograph. The area outlined in red represents the raised bog site, BOA 36, Drumachon Bog.

Bottom: Bog cotton fields in the north of Timahoe Cutaway.

represents native Irish woodland, and, as this is a nationally

Drumachon include robin, wren, song thrush, blackbird, blue tit, coal tit, great tit, whitethroat, chaffinch, linnet.

FL1 - Dystrophic Lake

To the north-east of the wet heath is a narrow lake which has formed on part of the cutaway. It is approximately 15 metres at its widest point and contains a couple of small vegetated islands. Mallard and coot were observed on the lake.

WD4 - Conifer Plantation

Coniferous plantations occur on the north western border and almost continuously along the eastern border of the cutaway. In these areas, the bog has been drained and planted and in some parts, felled and replanted with norway spruce. However, in some of these replanted areas the conifers are not well established and the vegetation is dominated by birch trees or Rosebay Willowherb.

Water table depth: between 5cm and surface

Annex I Priority Habitat present:

Annex I Habitat code(s): 7120

Threats: Afforestation - Private

Conservation Evaluation: 10 - Regional

Conservation Recommendations:

1. Remove coniferous trees invading on the cutaway.
2. Encourage a wildlife refuge as an after-use plan for this cutaway.
3. Replant native trees in future felled areas of coniferous forest and develop woodland trails.