

Ballyallia Lake (000014) is a relatively small, shallow lake that is naturally eutrophic, a habitat listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. It is base-rich, with relatively clear water, with a low-lying flood plain of wet grassland and rough grazing to the west. Lough Girroga, about 1 km to the south of Ballyallia, is included in the site.

Lough Cleggan (001331) is a small freshwater lake situated east of the larger Ballyallia Lake. The Poulacorry River connects the two lakes. A mosaic of wet grassland and freshwater marsh occurs in places around the lake.

Ballyogan Lough (000019) is a pavement/scrub, lake and fen complex, with some peatland developed on a marl lake. "Any alteration to the local hydrology (e.g. drainage) would be detrimental" to the variety of acid and base-loving species supported by the peat.

The East Burren Complex (001926) incorporates all of the high ground in the east Burren, and extends south-eastwards to include a complex of calcareous wetlands. The area encompasses a complete range of limestone habitats that include limestone pavement and associated calcareous grasslands and heath, scrub and woodland together with a network of calcareous lakes and turloughs. The site exhibits some of the best and most extensive areas of oligotrophic limestone wetlands to be found in the Burren and in Europe. Many fine examples of turloughs occur within the site; Carran Turlough is an oligotrophic turlough par excellence with many interesting features in its flora and vegetation. It is rated as of international importance. Lough Atedaun is a good example of Burren wetland habitat. The aquatic plant communities are well developed and the rare, Red Data Book species, Mudwort (*Limosella aquatica*), occurs here.

Ballyeigher Loughs complex to the east is a large network of calcareous lakes and turloughs with associated fen, cut-away bog and calcareous marsh habitats. The complex contains many species of plant and animal that are found in areas of fluctuating water levels. The fen flora is well developed and large areas of Great Fen-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) and Black Bog-rush (*Schoenus nigricans*), with a diverse complement of associated species occur. Some of the best and most extensive calcareous swamp fen communities in the country occur within this complex and further north-east around the shores of Lough Bunny. Between this lake and the Coole-Garryland turlough complex to the north east of the site, another area of oligotrophic limestone wetlands occurs. This type of ecosystem is now very rare in Europe and many of the habitats found are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.

The East Burren Complex is of international scientific interest owing to the presence of fine examples of typical Burren habitats together with an oligotrophic wetland complex of lakes, turloughs, fen, cut-over bog and calcareous marsh. The Ballyeigher complex represents an excellent example of a nutrient-poor calcareous lake and fen system, of European significance. The only remaining woodland habitats to be found in the Burren occur within the site. The site contains twelve habitats that are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive and four species of plant and animal listed on Annex II of this Directive and, as such, is of major conservation significance. The occurrence of many rare plants and several rare mammals within the site adds considerably to its scientific and conservation value. The site is of high ornithological interest for the internationally and nationally important numbers of waterfowl that use it.

Ballycar Lough (000015) is a small calcareous lake surrounded by reedswamp and grazing land. The main interest of this site is its ecological value which stems from the transitional state of the fen vegetation on the northern limb. Here incipient bog vegetation e.g. *Myrica* gold and *Molinia caerulea* has invaded a fen community so that conditions are finely balanced between the two.

Ballycullinan Lake (000016) is a small calcareous lake

Fergus Estuary and Inner Shannon, North Shore (002048) is a very large estuarine complex consisting of the River Fergus estuary from where it becomes tidal at Clarecastle Co. Clare, to where it meets the Shannon Estuary and sweeps inland in an easterly direction as far as Limerick City. It is an extensive area of intertidal mudflats with fringing reedbeds, swamps, salt marsh and wet marsh habitats.

Termon Lough (001321) is a particularly wet turlough that seldom dries out.

Pouladatig Cave (000037) consists of a small entrance where a stream disappears into a bedding plane.

Cahircalla Wood (001001) is a mainly dry wood, with a small area of wet woodland that increases habit diversity.

The Moyree River (000057) contains good examples of three habitats listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive, including alkaline fen. The soil in the valley may be broadly classed as gley type with alluvial soils, fen peat and marl present. The river flows in a south-westerly direction and ultimately disappears underground. After the Caher River in the north-west Burren, the Moyree River is the best example of a karstic river in the country.

Dromore Woods and Loughs (000032) includes several lakes which are mostly linked by the River Fergus. The lakes on the site are naturally eutrophic, a habitat listed on Annex I EU Habitats Directive, and contain some fringing reed beds. The site is very diverse and contains a mosaic of different habitats, including lakes, rivers, cutaway bog, fen, freshwater marsh and reedbeds.