

Index of Plants found at the Lagoon

By Catriona Brady



Broad Leaved Marsh Orchid © John N Murphy

The following is a list of plants particular to the habitats found within the lagoon. This area of 17 differently recognised habitats is important in itself. The purity of these habitats is due to the lack of grazing within the site. It has been ten years since the last comprehensive survey of plants was carried out. At this time the following were plants listed.

Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
Common Bent	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>
Creeping Bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>
Water-plantain	<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
Pyramidal Orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>
Scarlet Pimpernel	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>
Wild Angelica	<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>
Sweet Vernal-grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>
Fool's Water-cress	<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>
False Oat-grass	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>
Lords-and-Ladies	<i>Arum maculatum</i>
Lady-fern	<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>
Spear-leaved Orache	<i>Atriplex prostrata sens.str.</i>
Soft-brome	<i>B.hordeaceus</i>
Lesser Water-plantain	<i>Baldellia ranunculoides</i>
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>
Lesser Water-parsnip	<i>Berula erecta</i>
Downy Birch	<i>Betula pubescens</i>
Yellow-wort	<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>
Hard Fern	<i>Blechnum spicant</i>
Sea Club-rush	<i>Bolboschoenus maritus</i>
False Brome	<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>
Wild Turnip	<i>Brassica rapa</i>
Quaking-grass	<i>Briza media</i>
Common Water-starwort	<i>Callitriche stagnalis</i>
Heather	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>
Marsh-marigold	<i>Caltha palustcis</i>
Hedge Bindweed	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>
Shepherd's-purse	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>
Wavy Bitter-cress	<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>
Cuckooflower	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>
Lesser Pond-sedge	<i>Carex acutiformis</i>
Distant Sedge	<i>Carex distans</i>
Common Yellow-sedge	<i>Carex viridula oedocarpa</i>
Brown Sedge	<i>Carex disticha</i>
Long-bracted Sedge	<i>Carex extensa</i>
Glaucous Sedge	<i>Carex flacca</i>
Common Sedge	<i>Carex nigra</i>
False Fox-sedge	<i>Carex otrubae</i>
Carnation Sedge	<i>Carex panicea</i>
Greater Pond-sedge	<i>Carex riparia</i>
Bottle Sedge	<i>Carex rostrata</i>

Wood-sedge	<i>Carex sylvatica</i>
Long-stalked Yellow-sedge	<i>Carex viridula brachyrrhyncha</i>
Common Knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>
Common Centaury	<i>Centaureum erythraea</i>
Common Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>
Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage	<i>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium</i>
Enchanter's-nightshade	<i>Circaea lutetiana</i>
Creeping Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Meadow Thistle	<i>Cirsium dissectum</i>
Marsh Thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>
Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
Great Fen-sedge	<i>Cladium mariscus</i>
Field Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>
Common Scurvygrass	<i>Cochlearia officinalis</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Smooth Hawk's-beard	<i>Crepis capillaris</i>
Beaked Hawk's-beard	<i>Crepis vesicaria</i>
Crested Dog's-tail	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>
Scaly Male-fern	<i>Dryopteris affinis</i>
Cock's-foot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Common Spotted-orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>
Heath Spotted-orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>
Heath-grass	<i>Danthonia decumbens</i>
Wild Carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>
Teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>
Broad Buckler-fern	<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>
Male-fern	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>
Common Spike-rush	<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>
Slender Spike-rush	<i>Eleocharis uniglumis</i>
Canadian Waterweed	<i>Elodea canadensis</i>
Common Couch	<i>Elytrigia repens</i>
Great Willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>
Broad-leaved Willowherb	<i>Epilobium montanum</i>
Short-fruited Willowherb	<i>Epilobium obscurum</i>
Water Willowherb	<i>Epilobium palustre</i>
Hoary Willowherb	<i>Epilobium parviflorum</i>
Marsh Helleborine	<i>Epipactis palustris</i>
Field Horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>
Water Horsetail	<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>
Marsh Horsetail	<i>Equisetum palustre</i>
Common Cottongrass	<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>
Hemp-agrimony	<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>

Arctic Eyebright	<i>Euphrasia arctica borealis</i>
Eyebright	<i>Euphrasia officinalis agg</i>
Tall Fescue	<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>
Giant Fescue	<i>Festuca gigantea</i>
Red Fescue	<i>Festuca rubra agg</i>
Meadowsweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>
Wild Strawberry	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Common Marsh-bedstraw	<i>Galium palustre</i>
Lady's Bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>
Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>
Shining Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium lucidum</i>
Herb-Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Wood Avens	<i>Geum urbanum</i>
Sea-milkwort	<i>Glaux maritima</i>
Marsh Cudweed	<i>Gnaphalium uliginosum</i>
Fragrant Orchid	<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Mare's-tail	<i>Hippuris vulgaris</i>
Yorkshire-fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>
Marsh Pennywort	<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>
Tutsan	<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>
Slender St. John's-wort	<i>Hypericum pulchrum</i>
Square-stalked St. John's-wort	<i>Hypericum tetrapterum</i>
Cat's-ear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Yellow Iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>
Sharp-flowered Rush	<i>Juncus acutiflorus</i>
Jointed Rush	<i>Juncus articulatus</i>
Toad Rush	<i>Juncus bufonius sens.str.</i>
Soft Rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>
Saltmarsh Rush	<i>Juncus gerardii</i>
Hard Rush	<i>Juncus inflexus</i>
Sea Rush	<i>Juncus maritimus</i>
Blunt-flowered Rush	<i>Juncus subnodulosus</i>
Nipplewort	<i>Lapsana communis</i>
Meadow Vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>
Common Duckweed	<i>Lemna minor</i>
Ivy-leaved Duckweed	<i>Lemna trisuica</i>
Lesser Hawkbit	<i>Leontodon saxatilis</i>
Oxeye Daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>
Fairy Flax	<i>Linum catharticum</i>
Common Twayblade	<i>Listera ovata</i>

Perennial Rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>
Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil	<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>
Heath Wood-rush	<i>Luzula multiflora</i>
Ragged-Robin	<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>
Gipsywort	<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>
Yellow Pimpernel	<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>
Yellow Loosetrife	<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>
Purple Loosetrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
Apple	<i>Malus domestica</i>
Crab Apple	<i>Malus sylvestris sens.lat.</i>
Pineappleweed	<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>
Black Medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>
Water Mint	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>
Purple Moor-grass	<i>Molinia caerulea</i>
Wall Lettuce	<i>Mycelis muralis</i>
Tufted Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis laxa</i>
Water Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>
Red Bartsia	<i>Odontites vernus</i>
Hemlock Water-dropwort	<i>Oenanthe crocata</i>
Parsley Water-dropwort	<i>Oenanthe lachenalii</i>
Bee Orchid	<i>Ophrys apifera</i>
Grass-of-Pamassus	<i>Parnassia palustris</i>
Marsh Lousewort	<i>Pedicularis palustris</i>
Redshank	<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>
Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense sens.str.</i>
Common Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>
Hart's-tongue	<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>
Bristly Oxtongue	<i>Picris echioides</i>
Mouse-ear Hawkweed	<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>
Scots Pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Greater Plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
Sea Plantain	<i>Plantago maritima</i>
Annual Meadow-grass	<i>Poa annua</i>
Smooth Meadow-grass	<i>Poa pratensis sens.lat</i>
Rough Meadow-grass	<i>Poa trivialis</i>
Common Milkwort	<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>
Knotgrass	<i>Polygonum aviculare sens.str.</i>
Fennel Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton pectinatus</i>
Trailing Tormentil	<i>Potentilla anglica</i>
Silverweed	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>

Tormentil	Potentilla erecta
Marsh Cinquefoil	Potentilla palustris
Creeping Cinquefoil	Potentilla reptans
Selfheal	Prunella vulgaris
Cherry Laurel	Prunus laurocerasus
Bracken	Pteridium aquilinum
Common Saltmarsh-grass	Puccinellia maritima
Common Fleabane	Pulicaria dysenterica
Pedunculate Oak	Quercus robur
Common Water-crowfoot	Ranunculus aquatilis
Meadow Buttercup	Ranunculus acris
Lesser Spearwort	Ranunculus flammula
Greater Spearwort	Ranunculus lingua
Creeping Buttercup	Ranunculus repens
Celery-leaved Buttercup	Ranunculus sceleratus
Yellow-rattle	Rhinanthus minor
Rhododendron	Rhododendron ponticum
Water-cress	Rorippa nast.-aquat. sens.str
Dog-rose	Rosa canina agg.
Bramble	Rubus fruticosus agg.
Raspberry	Rubus idaeus
Stone Bramble	Rubus saxatilis
Rubus ulmifolius	Rubus ulmifolius
Clustered Dock	Rumex conglomeratus
Curled Dock	Rumex crispus
Broad-leaved Dock	Rumex obtusifolius
Wood Dock	Rumex sanguineus
Knotted Pearlwort	Sagina nodosa
White Willow	Salix alba
Eared Willow	Salix aurita
Goat Willow	Salix caprea
Rusty Willow	Satix cinerea subsp.oleifolia
Osier	Salix viminalis
Brookweed	Samolus valerandi
Grey Club-rush	Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani
Black Bog-rush	Schoenus nigricans
Water Figwort	Scrophularia auriculata
Common Figwort	Scrophularia nodosa
Skullcap	Scutellaria galericulata
English Stonecrop	Sedum anglicum
Marsh Ragwort	Senecio aquaticus
Common Ragwort	Senecio jacobaea
Groundsel	Senecio vulgaris

Charlock	<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>
Perennial Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>
Prickly Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus asper</i>
Smooth Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
Branched Bur-reed	<i>Sparganium erectum</i>
Marsh Woundwort	<i>Stachys palustris</i>
Hedge Woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>
Devil's-bit Scabious	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum agg.</i>
Wild Thyme	<i>Thymus polytrichus</i>
Lime	<i>Tilia cordata</i> x <i>platyphyllos</i> (T. ' x vulgaris)
Upright Hedge-parsley	<i>Torilis japonica</i>
Hop Trefoil	<i>Trifolium campestre</i>
Lesser Trefoil	<i>Trifolium dubium</i>
Red Clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
Sea Arrowgrass	<i>Triglochin maritimum</i>
Marsh Arrowgrass	<i>Triglochin patustre</i>
Sea Mayweed	<i>Tripleurospermum maritimum sens.str.</i>
Coifs-foot	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>
Bulrush	<i>Typha latifolia</i>
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
Common Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Bilberry	<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>
Common Valerian	<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>
Brooklime	<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>
Germander Speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>
Heath Speedwell	<i>Veronica officinalis</i>
Common Field-speedwell	<i>Veronica persica</i>
Marsh Speedwell	<i>Veronica scutellata</i>
Thyme-leaved Speedwell	<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>
Tufted Vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>
Common Vetch	<i>Vicia sativa subsp.sativa</i>
Bush Vetch	<i>Vicia sepium</i>
Common Dog-violet	<i>Viola riviniana</i>

Gliding Ahead

Despite its proximity to a busy International Airport, a wealth of wildlife has colonised the Shannon Airport Lagoon since its creation. Nature lovers in the know regard the Lagoon as the hidden treasure of the Mid-West. All interested conservation bodies concerned with its preservation, as an amenity for future generations must work hand in hand with the Shannon Airport Authorities. They must endeavour to minimise any further disturbance or environmental changes in this unique Irish habitat.

Heightened awareness of the importance of our natural heritage, among the public in general, should be the driving force in ensuring the preservation of the site. The importance of the Lagoon as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Special Protection Area (SPA), within the county cannot be over emphasised.

This publication begins the process of making the Shannon Airport Lagoon a place to be enjoyed and cherished by all who visit and as a resource for educational research-a habitat to be sustained and nurtured.



Mute Swan © John N Murphy

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