Survey of the Grassland Fungi of the Vice County of West Donegal

David Mitchel

October – November 2009

This project has received support from the Heritage Council under the 2009 Wildlife Grant Scheme
Grant Reference No. 16761
Hygrocybe coccinea

Hygrocybe chlorophana

Hygrocybe punicea
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</table>
Background

Waxcaps (the genus *Hygrocybe*) have been described as the orchids of the fungi world (Marren, 1998). They are often startling in colour from reds, oranges and yellows to whites and browns. They can smell of honey or cedar wood or, less pleasantly, oily or nitrous. They are usually found in grasslands in Northern Europe although they can also be found in woods. They are one of the groups of grassland fungi that are now recognised as excellent indicators of unfertilised grassland or “waxcap grasslands” (Arnolds, 1980). “Waxcap grasslands” can be rich in other grassland fungi and usually include the *Entolomaceae* (pink spored gill fungi), the Clavarioids (fairy clubs), *Geoglossaceae* or earth tongues and species from the smaller genera of *Camarophyllopsis*, *Dermoloma* and *Porpoloma*. Photographs of most of the key species are available at www.nifg.org.uk.

Waxcap grassland can be found in a range of grassland types from dunes to uplands, from lowlands to gardens or churchyards. Indeed gardens and churchyards have now often become the last refuge of these species, isolated areas that have been spared the addition of fertilisers and which give us a glimpse on what our natural grasslands once would have looked like. Many species are on national red lists across Europe and *Hygrocybe calyptriformis* was on the list of fungal species proposed for inclusion onto the Berne Convention in 2003 (Dahlberg and Croneborg, 2003) but which did not progress for various political reasons nothing to do with the need to protect fungi.

Grassland fungi provide 9 of the 15 fungal species in Northern Ireland’s list of species of conservation concern. These are the waxcaps, *Hygrocybe calyptriformis*, *H.lacmus* and *H.ovina*, the earth tongues, *Geoglossum atropurpureum*, *Microglossum olivaceum* and *Trichoglossum walteri* along with *Clavaria zollingeri*, *Entoloma bloxamii* and *Porpoloma metapodium* (see http://www.habitas.org.uk/priority/splist.asp?Type=Fungi)

These species are sensitive to the application of artificial fertilisers and it is for this reason that they are such a good indicator of “natural” grasslands. It was estimated in Northern Ireland that the cumulative surplus of phosphorus in the soil was 500,000t (Bailey, 1994) meaning that most of the lowland rural Northern Ireland landscape is eutrophicated. There have been various attempts to discover how long it might take before sites may take to recover after intensive fertilization. Studies in England looking at the improvement in the soil fungal:bacterial biomass ratio due to the cessation of fertiliser application found no improvement after 6 years (Bardgett and McAlister, 1999). Three sites in the Netherlands that had been intensively managed for agriculture but that were now managed for nature conservation had only up to three species of *Hygrocybe* after 20 years (Arnolds, 1994) but the lack of suitable surrounding habitat may have influenced this very slow recovery. Experimental plots also in the Netherlands showed that species of *Hygrocybe* could colonise the plots in a much shorter time period if they were low on phosphorus (Arnolds, 1994). Hence recovery is probably more related to the nutrient status of the soils rather than the age of the site with factors like suitable surrounding habitat also playing a role.

There is now greater interest in managing grasslands sustainably without high fertiliser input. Naturally sustainable grasslands have soils dominated by fungal pathways of decomposition rather than bacterial and a high microbial biomass (Bardgett and McAlister, 1999). Given their visual prominence in autumn, waxcaps are an indicator group for “natural” grasslands that offer a means of rapid site assessment. Their presence indicates a wider nature conservation value beyond mycology. It was noticeable that when comparing waxcap distribution with the fields found to be most favoured by chough feeding on leatherjackets (Anon, 2004) that they were completely coincident.
Waxcap grasslands however are often not particularly good for higher plants which can mean that they are missed when designating sites for nature conservation. Statistical studies in Sweden have shown that there is a low congruence between the diversity of *Hygrocybe* spp. and higher plants (Öster, 2008) indicating that reliance on higher plants when protecting sites could well miss sites of high mycological value.

The great unknown however is just what these species are actually doing in the soil. One study (Griffith et al., 2002) points to some possible answers based on stable isotope analysis. Stable isotopes of Carbon ($^{13}$C) and Nitrogen ($^{15}$N) occur naturally and work looking at the patterns of $^{13}$C and $^{15}$N enrichment in ectomycorrhizal and saprophytic fungi have shown quite different enrichment patterns. Waxcaps, however, appear different to normal saprophytic fungi as they are more depleted in $^{13}$C and more enriched in $^{15}$N. Clavarioids and *Geoglossaceae* are even more extreme in this trend, but Entolomas are more typical of saprophytic fungi. This could mean that *Hygrocybe* spp., Clavarioids and *Geoglossaceae* could be deep humic decayers rather than normal surface litter decayers adapted to N poor conditions.

**Assessing site quality from fungal data**

The first recognition of grassland fungi in Ireland was a paper by (Feehan and McHugh, 1992) on the Curragh and since the early 1990s, interest has been growing in this group as it has been recognised that this unique community is seriously threatened across Europe.

Various systems have been proposed to rank sites for grassland sites for their fungal conservation value. (Rald, 1985) in Denmark proposed a system based on the number of species of *Hygrocybe*, (Nitare, 1988) looked at systems in Sweden, (Jordal, 1997) in Norway and the British Mycological Society instigated a survey giving the surveyed sites a CHEG score (*Clavariaceae, Hygrocybe, Entoloma* and *Geoglossaceae*) (Rotheroe et al., 1996). Rotheroe then proposed a system that included a weighted score for rarer species that are restricted to species rich sites (Rotheroe, 1999). This was further developed by McHugh et al (2002) when we proposed a weighted scoring system for Ireland. One of the main drivers for this was due the lack of mycological recording in Ireland, we wanted to highlight sites for further visits that had species thought to be rarer or more valuable indicator species. Weighting species is controversial as in reality the data is not available to weight them with confidence (Griffith et al., In Press) but the point was to use this in conjunction with standard CHEG scores and highlight possible interesting sites (McHugh et al., 2001).

Most of the scoring systems above base their score on species and do not include varieties in the calculation (Rald, 1985), (Nitare, 1988), (Boertmann, 1995), (Vesterholt et al., 1999) and (McHugh et al., 2001). However, some surveys have counted varieties (Rotheroe, 1999) and (Newton et al., 2002) so it is very important to be clear about the basis of the system used when comparing data across regions. For this purpose, the definition of species used in all the Irish surveys follows the Checklist of the Basidiomycetes of the British Isles (Legon and Henrici, 2005) and Spooner’s key for *Geoglossaceae* (Spoon, 1998) with three exceptions to remain consistent with the continental surveys.

- *Hygrocybe pratensis var. pallida* is the only variety included in the scoring following Vesterholt 1999
- Although the Checklist of the Basidiomycetes of the British Isles (Legon 2005) did list *Hygrocybe conicoides* as a species rather than *Hygrocybe conica* var. *conicoides*, Boertmann’s book and his recent interpretation of *Hygrocybe* in Funga Nordica (Knudsen and Vesterholt, 2008) both still list it as a variety so it is not counted separately in this study.
- *Hygrocybe marchii* is considered a synonym of *H.coccinea* following Funga Nordica.
Despite this, any good database can take these differing definitions into account and a Microsoft Access database is in use for scoring and ranking grassland sites in Ireland.

These site ranking systems primarily look at the genus *Hygrocybe* when ranking sites. Inevitably there will be sites that are particularly good for the other target groups and this is where the value of the CHEG scores is obvious. Some studies (Griffith et al., In Press) have added the different CHEG scores together but this has to be viewed with caution. *Entolomataceae* are particularly difficult to identify and being honest even very good mycologists will often not get every *Entoloma* identified. Hence the *Entolomataceae* are not well recorded and often only partially. Added to this, there are many more species of *Entoloma* than in the other groups so adding CHEG scores together can just end up highlighting sites where mycologists who can identify *Entoloma* have visited.

Table 1 shows the total numbers of CHEG and related species as occurring in grasslands in the British Isles according to the Checklist of the Basidiomycetes of Britain and Ireland (Legon and Henrici, 2005) and (Ridge, 1997):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Total Grassland Species</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Clavariaceae</em></td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Hygrocybe</em></td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Entolomataceae</em></td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Geoglossaceae</em></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Dermoloma</em></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Camarophyllopsis</em></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Porpoloma</em></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Numbers of grassland CHEG and related species occurring in the British Isles

**Aims of this project**

The main aim of this survey was to provide a baseline of information for the vice county of West Donegal. This project proposal was to locate and survey waxcap grasslands in as many different 10km squares as possible over a two week period between 24/10/08 and 07/11/08. From experience, the fortnight around the end of October and start of November is usually the best period for fruiting for grassland fungi in Ireland as this group always fruits later than woodland fungi. The target group of species were the Waxcaps (genus *Hygrocybe*), the non-woodland Fairy Clubs (*Clavariaceae*), the Pink gills (*Entolomataceae*), the earth tongues (*Geoglossaceae*) and the genera *Camarophyllopsis, Dermoloma* and *Porpoloma*. These species would be thoroughly searched for. Records would be made of other species but the maps generated may not necessarily be complete for these groups.

The data collected was to be compared with other Irish data as well as GB data to provide a British Isles context for the West Donegal sites. This data and interpretation would also feed into the National Biodiversity Information Centre. All images collected during this survey are available for unlimited usage for the Heritage Council or the National Biodiversity Information Centre.

In addition, the recent Biodiversity Species List for County Donegal was re-evaluated in terms of additional datasets and the results from this survey and also in terms of the latest taxonomic revisions. Recommendations are also made on possible fungal Priority species for Donegal.
The Vice County of West Donegal

Vice counties were defined so that biological recording had fixed regional boundaries, independent of political changes, to allocate records to allowing comparisons of records over time. The boundary of the vice county of West Mayo (H27) was first defined by Babbington in 1856 and refined by Praeger in 1896 (Webb 1980). The county of Donegal is divided into two vice counties – East and West. The main upland areas of Donegal are in West Donegal with only part of the Blue Stacks and the Inishowen peninsula being in East Donegal. Blanket Bog dominates large areas and the key aspect in looking for waxcap grassland sites was to search for the thin mineral soils often found on steep slopes. West Donegal is also very rich in coastal dune systems and machair and these provide an important proportion of semi-natural grassland within the vice county.

History of mycological recording and the Biodiversity Species List for County Donegal

Fungi are very poorly recorded in West Donegal. The Fungus Records Database for the British Isles (http://www.fieldmycology.net/FRDBI/FRDBI.asp) is the primary source of fungal records and this database holds a mere 358 records of 224 different species for the vice county. Compare this to 1521 species recorded for Down, 1164 for Antrim, 1077 for Wicklow and 1032 for Fermanagh. These records mainly consist of a small batch of records made by the British Mycological Society in 1931 on a visit to Dunfanaghy after the first ever BMS foray to Northern Ireland, a few visits to Glenveagh National Park and Ards Forest Park by the Northern Ireland Fungus Group in 1998 and 2004 and records from Roland McHugh and Stuart Dunlop.

The other source of records comes from the various volumes of the Catalogue of Irish Fungi by Muskett and Malone published between 1976 and 1984. Many of the datasets from which the catalogue was derived are not digitised so much of this data is not readily accessible. This makes interpretation difficult due to the old names that were used in the Catalogue.

The Biodiversity Species List for County Donegal (Sheppard, 2009) pulled together data from both these sources and listed 470 names for the whole county. The problem is that many of the names used in Muskett and Malone are now synonyms of names used by the FRDBI and in reality, when all the names are queried against their modern preferred name, this list contained 418 unique species names. One species listed (Peniophora ilex) does not actually exist as it is not listed in Index Fungorum (http://www.indexfungorum.org). The Biodiversity List was reviewed and commented on in Appendix 3 with the current name, common name and a comment added for each entry. The FRDBI was further checked for new records and a further 30 names were added to the list from this source. This list has been sent to the Heritage Officer in Donegal County Council in Excel format for ease of use.

Methodology

Mycologists and local conservation rangers were contacted before the survey asking if they knew of any good or possible sites for survey. Thanks must go to Roland McHugh of Dublin Institute of Technology for ideas and providing additional species lists.

The 1:50,000 OSI maps were studied as were aerial photographs available on Google Earth and (even better) the OSI SmartMaps Viewer available at http://shop.osi.ie/shop/. Another key dataset examined in advance was the Environmental Protection Agency’s National Soils database (https://maps.epa.ie). This has allowed an analysis of the three recent waxcap
surveys funded by the Heritage Council against soil type. Table 2 shows the different soil types mapped against number of grassland fungi records.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IFS SOIL type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>No Records</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AminSRPT</td>
<td>Podzols – Peaty</td>
<td>423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AminDW</td>
<td>Acid Brown Earths – Brown Podzolics</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BminSW</td>
<td>Renzinas / Lithosols Basic</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AminSW</td>
<td>Lithosols / Regosols Acidic</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MarSands</td>
<td>Beach sands and gravels</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AminSW</td>
<td>Surface Water Gleys, ground water Gleys, Acidic</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Made</td>
<td>Man made soils</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AeoUND</td>
<td>Aeolian undifferentiated</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AminPDPT</td>
<td>Peaty gleys, acidic</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BkPt</td>
<td>Blanket peat</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BminDW</td>
<td>Grey Brown Podzolic Brown Earths, Basic</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AminSP</td>
<td>Shallow Surface or Ground water Gleys Acidic</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BminPD</td>
<td>Surface Water Gleys, ground water Gleys, Basic</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BminSP</td>
<td>Shallow Surface or Ground water Gleys Basic</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AlluMIN</td>
<td>Mineral Alluvium</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: National Soil Database soil categories and number of grassland fungi records from the Co.Clare (2006), West Cork (2007) and West Mayo (2008) surveys

From this, the preference for better drained mineral soils compared to the wetter gleys or blanket peats is marked. National soil datasets are however relatively broad scale and do take the local complexities of soils into account and this is the scale at which fungal mycelia operate. However, with the limitations in mind and if taken at a broad scale, such maps can help target possible new sites and the identification of possible sites using the soils map helped significantly in finding new sites as I was able to target areas of interest and ignore some wide areas of countryside. In such a time limited rapid survey, this ability is significant.

Other useful datasets used were Geology available from the GSI website and the Gardens dataset of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (http://www.buildingsofireland.ie). The latter dataset allowed possible large estate lawns to be identified and brought into the site search planning.

Using all these datasets, the most likely sites within each 10km square were identified and driving routes for each survey day were planned in advance. Each site was visited for as long as was necessary. Whilst the target groups were searched for as priority, all species of fungi encountered were recorded. However many of these latter records were of a casual nature and many of the species maps produced for these species are very unrepresentative as they were only recorded if seen and were often not searched for.

When notable species were found, specimens were taken for microscopical examination. Herbarium specimens were dried on a continental fruit drier and are being passed to the National Botanic Gardens in Glasnevin as well as the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew. The target species are listed in the Species Reports.

The literature used to identify the grassland target groups were as follows:

• Vesterholt, J. (2002) Contribution to the knowledge of species of *Entoloma* subgenus *Leptonia*. Edizioni Candusso

**Results**

**Weather and Fungal Fruiting**

The fruiting of fungi is particularly affected by weather. Fruiting is often best after warm summers which are followed by a damp autumn. Generalising, during the warm summer, the underground mycelia extend and then during the damp autumn, fruiting occurs and uses up a considerable amount of moisture. However, if there is too much rain and the top soil layers become waterlogged, the anaerobic conditions hinder the production of fruiting bodies (Rotheroe 1999). Containing so much moisture, fungi can be hit badly by frosts but on the other hand, early frosts in October and early November seem to quickly initiate a new batch of fruiting of waxcaps as long as the frosts do not continue for a long period of time. Although some species of waxcaps can fruit in July (even as early as May), the main flush is usually in late October and early November. In coastal areas in Ireland, the fruiting period can continue through December even into January due to the infrequency of frosts.

Met Éireann provide summary weather statistics for various parts of the country and the following statistics are for Malin Head, the nearest station, and are quoted from [http://www.met.ie/climate/monthly-data.asp?Num=545](http://www.met.ie/climate/monthly-data.asp?Num=545).

**Total Rainfall in millimetres for Malin Head**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Annual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>98.8</td>
<td>40.4</td>
<td>87.6</td>
<td>94.7</td>
<td>95.2</td>
<td>47.7</td>
<td>72.2</td>
<td>170.9</td>
<td>71.0</td>
<td>108.6</td>
<td>224.8</td>
<td>1111.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>188.8</td>
<td>89.0</td>
<td>140.5</td>
<td>49.4</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>74.6</td>
<td>126.0</td>
<td>123.2</td>
<td>87.8</td>
<td>146.9</td>
<td>115.6</td>
<td>85.7</td>
<td>1242.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean</td>
<td>114.2</td>
<td>76.6</td>
<td>86.5</td>
<td>57.5</td>
<td>58.9</td>
<td>65.0</td>
<td>71.8</td>
<td>91.6</td>
<td>102.1</td>
<td>118.7</td>
<td>114.7</td>
<td>102.9</td>
<td>1060.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mean Temperature in degrees Celsius for Malin Head**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Annual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>12.7</td>
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<td>14.8</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>8.2</td>
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<tr>
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<td>5.4</td>
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<td>7.6</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The key points of note from these figures are prior to the survey, July and especially August were very wet indeed (Stuart Dunlop noted on his Donegal Wildlife Blog - [http://donegal-wildlife.blogspot.com](http://donegal-wildlife.blogspot.com) – on 8th September that rain had fallen every day since 15th June). This was followed by a very dry spell through September to half way through October and this was then followed by an exceedingly wet survey period with November’s rainfall almost double the monthly mean. Temperatures were higher than normal and there was no frost at all during the survey period. Winds were also a key feature of the survey period being almost constantly strong during the fortnight. This does not affect fruiting but it does affect surveying and the ability to get out to islands. Hence Tory Island, Gola Island and Inishbofin were not visited.
The high rainfall through the summer will have meant good fruiting early in the season but the dry September / half October will have delayed the main autumn flush and actually meant that fruiting was very good during the study period.

**Summary Results**

There are 49 x 10km squares in West Donegal although some of these have very small amounts of lands within them. 64 sites in 36 x 10km squares were visited and a distance of 931 miles was covered in the process. Many of these sites were small churchyards but others were large and took most of the day to survey. Due to time restrictions as I was trying to cover as large an area as possible, sites were not visited that involved long walk ins or if it was difficult to organise permissions onto the land.

Table 3 compares number of species found the other Heritage Council surveys. The figures quoted do not include the varieties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>West Donegal 2009</th>
<th>West Mayo 2008</th>
<th>West Cork 2007</th>
<th>Clare 2006</th>
<th>All Ireland to date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waxcaps (<em>Hygrocybe</em>)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clavarioid (Fairy Clubs)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>Entolomaceae</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geoglossaceae (Earth tongues)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Other grassland target species</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total species</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>155</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total records</td>
<td>943</td>
<td>774</td>
<td>959</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>No sites with 10+ <em>Hygrocybe</em></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Camarophyllopsis, Dermoloma, Porpoloma*

Table 3 Number of Species found in the Heritage Council surveys

This table shows that West Donegal was as rich as the West Cork survey in terms of species diversity but notably out of all the surveys, this was the most successful in finding sites with 10+ species of *Hygrocybe*. This could have been helped by the preparation being more efficient as described above and/or, this being a particularly rich area. Certainly the indications would be that the survey period coincided with a good fruiting spell for grassland fungi.

The standout site was Arran More with a CHEG score of 5: 19: 6:1 which keeps the themes of these surveys of the best sites being islands. The area searched started at the end of the road going out to the south western point on Arran More at Rannagh. The first sheep grazed fields past the end of the road were some of the best with abundant fruiting. The fields are steep with patches of heath within the acid grassland grading into wetter areas where it is less steep. The interest continued all around the head at Cronagarn and along the western cliffs. The best sites were found at B64271517, B64441572, B64901706, B65011754 and B65461746. The notable species were *Hygrocybe nitrata, Clavulinopsis umbrinella* and *Entoloma prunuloideas*.

The small area of grassland at Teelin Point near Carrick (G59177508) was surprisingly good with 14 species but the whole cliff line up to Sliave League is probably very good and worth further exploration. Other good sites were Tramore Dunes / Marfagh Head near Dunfanaghy with 14 species, Lough Salt north of Kilcrennan with 14, Melmore Head on Rosguill with 14, the cliffs at Pollet on Fanad with 14 and a set of fields near Muckros Head also with 14. This site is of particular note due to the number of notable species recorded there. *Hygrocybe calyptriformis, Clavaria zollingeri, Clavaria fragilis, Clavulinopsis umbrinella* and *Microglossum olivaceum* are all special finds with this being the only site for *Clavaria zollingeri* and
Microglossum olivaceum in this survey. Indeed this is the first time I personally have found Clavaria zollingeri in Ireland.

It was again notable that coastal dunes and machair sites were poor for grassland fungi. This is not often the case elsewhere in Europe but in Ireland, this is often the case. Fruiting can be good but diversity is usually low with better sites often being marked by a varied habitats within them with rock outcrops, acid grassland or even heath. This was the case with Sheskinmore Dunes and Carrick Machair at Derrybeg. It still could be that machair sites fruit earlier in the season as Roland McHugh has sometimes found excellent sites like Aghadachor near Rosapenna usually visiting these sites in early October and this is something that needs more investigation.

Churchyards were again generally poor with the best sites (Dungloe Church of Ireland - B76661157 and St Colmkillie Church of Ireland at Glenalla - C24012740) only hosting 7 species. Churchyards are often the only sites in lowland squares but very good churchyards are rare in the west of Ireland.

**Notable Finds**

**New Irish Records**

There are no published records or records for Ireland in the Fungus Records Database for the British Isles (FRDBI) hosted by the British Mycological Society or the National Biodiversity Data Centre for the following species:

*Melanoleuca friesii* (Bres.) Bon.

This genus as a whole is poorly understood and under recorded. This species is very similar to the common *M.polioleuca* but is distinguished by the cheilocystidia being in the majority lageniform and not fusiform as in *M.polioleuca*. This species is listed in CBIB and the British Fungus Flora as *M.albifolia* but the name *M.friesii* is used in Funga Nordica. It was found at Rosapenna machair at C12163719 on 29/10/2009. It is probably more common in Ireland and just under recorded.
**Pluteus griseoluridus** P.D. Orton
This is a small pink spored species found in bare sand in fore dunes associated with Marram grass at Portacurry or more strictly at An Chloch Ghlas at B71531774 on 25/10/09. Embryo dunes have their own distinctive mycota with *Psathyrella ammophila*, *Melanoleuca cinereifolia* and *Peziza ammophila* dominating but this species was locally common. There are 43 records for GB for this species in the FRDBI.

**Stropharia albonitens** (Fr.) P. Karst.
This striking large white very viscid *Stropharia* with dark brown black spores is rarely recorded in the British Isles with only 11 records in the FRDBI. Found at Lough Ascardan (B85161538) on 26/10/2009 in grass alongside the small road and at Rathmullan Roman Catholic Church (C29562789) on 27/10/2009.
Other Notable Records – Target Species

*Hygrocybe calciphila* Arnolds
Found at Rosapenna machair (C12163719) on 29/10/2009, Dooey Dunes (B755019) on 24/10/09 and 01/11/09 and Derrybeg: Carrick Machair (B801285) on 02/11/2009. This dry capped waxcap looks similar to *H. miniata* but has broader spores and is usually found in dune systems.

*Hygrocybe calyptriformis* (Berk. & Broome) Fayod
The “flagship” waxcap unmistakable with its pink colour. This photo shows why it is sometimes called the Ballerina. Found at Letterkenny: Conwal Church of Ireland (C16781152) on 24/10/2009 and Muckros (G62337435) on 30/10/2009.
**Hygrocybe citrinovirens** (Lange) Jul. Schäff.
Usually found earlier in the season, this large lemon yellow waxcap was found once in this survey on the very last day at Dunfanaghy: Holy Cross Church (C01663706) on 06/11/2009.

**Hygrocybe nitrate** (Pers.) Wünsche
One of the rarer waxcaps, this is noted due to its strong nitrous smell. What was notable in this survey was how often this species was found with five records. Found at Lough Ascardan (B85161538) on 26/10/2009, Arran More (B64901449) on 28/10/2009, Malin Beg: Silver Strand (G499799) on 31/10/2009, Maghera Strand (G65219096) on 31/10/2009 and Derrybeg: Carrick Machair (B801285) on 02/11/2009.

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**Clavaria straminea** Cotton
An unusual pale straw coloured Fairy Club with a bright yellow base that grows singly. Sometimes it grows with a twisted form like a corkscrew. This species seems to have years when it is commonly found and other years when it is hardly found. Recorded from Portnoo: Narin Dunes (G720995) on 24/10/2009, Maghera Strand (G658909) on 31/10/2009 and Dunfanaghy: Holy Cross Church (C01663706) on 06/11/2009.

**Clavaria zollingeri** Lév.
One of the most striking Fairy Clubs being bright purple and densely branched. Found at Muckros (G62337435) on 30/10/2009 on the side of an earth bank dividing the fields. Only recorded from 6 other sites in Ireland: Clare Island in Mayo from 1910, Clandeboye Estate in Down in 1948, Castlewellan in Down in 1994, Barnett’s Demesne in Belfast (2001, 2005, 2006), Ballykelly, Tamlaghtfinlagan Parish Church in Londonderry in 2004 and Kiliskeery Parish Church in Fermanagh in 2004. Hence this is only the second record in the Republic of Ireland and the first since 1910.
Clavulinopsis umbrinella (Sacc.) Corner
A notable fairy club, often a pale brown colour. Densely branched but the spores are smooth distinguishing pale forms from Ramariopsis kunzei. Found at Arran More (B65411752) on 28/10/2009 and Muckros (G62337435) on 30/10/2009.
**Entoloma bloxamii** (Berk.) Sacc.
A large blue bulky *Entoloma* that is not often recorded. Recorded six times before in the Republic of Ireland and fifteen times in the whole of Ireland. Found at Teelin Point (G59177508) on 30/10/2009. A Northern Ireland Priority Species.

**Entoloma undatum** (Gillet) M.M. Moser
A small *Entoloma* with deeply decurrent gills and an umbilicate cap. Found at Kilmacrennan: Leiter Presbyterian Church (C16022042) on 27/10/2009.

**Geoglossum atropurpureum** (Batsch) Pers.
It is very difficult to separate this species from other earth tongues in the field but it sometimes has a browner or more purple colour. Very different under the microscope with brown colours and non-septate spores. A Northern Ireland Priority Species. Found at Teelin Point (G59177508) on 30/10/2009 and Marfagh Head (B987377) on 06/11/2009.

**Microglossum olivaceum** (Pers.) Gillet
A very striking earth tongue with brown and/or blue/green colours. Only recorded from 5 sites in the Republic of Ireland, it has been more commonly recorded in Northern Ireland but it is still a notable species. A Northern Ireland Priority Species. Found at Muckros (G62337435) on 30/10/2009.

**Other Notable Records – non-Target Species**

**Agaricus silvaticus** Schaeff.
Not a rare species, these records are more noted by the habitat being here found in open grassland. This species is normally found in woodland. Found at Crohy Head: Tircreg (B726064) on 01/11/2009 in acid grassland and Sheskinmore Dunes in a heath / grassland mosaic at G678958 on 03/11/2009.
Chamaemyces fracidus (Fr.) Donk
Only known from three sites in Ireland – Muckross Wood in Killarney from 1989, Castle Archdale in Fermanagh from 2000 and Mullagh More on the Burren from 2006. A distinctive species with dark spots on the stipe. Found from Melmore Head on Rosguill (C136447) on 29/10/2009.
**Coprinopsis ammophilae** (Courtec.) Redhead, Vilgalys & Moncalvo
This small inkcap is one of the small distinctive group of species found associated with Marram grass in foredunes. Only recorded once before in Ireland from Mullaghmore in Sligo from 2000. Found at Portacurry Dunes (B71531774) on 25/10/2009 and Ballymastocker Dunes on Fanad at C252379 on 27/10/2009.

**Cortinarius croceus** Fr.
There is notably a species of *Cortinarius* in the section *Dermocybe* that is found in commonly in grasslands. As this is an ectomycorrhizal genus, it is possibly forming ectomycorrhizal like relationships with sedges. It is possible this is actually *C. pratensis* but spore size points it towards *C. croceus*. Found at Melmore Head (C136447) on 29/10/2009 and Owenwee Valley (G64318950) on 31/10/2009.

**Gloniella adianti** (Kunze) Petr.
This is a small ascomycete found on dead Juniper wood on Arran More at B64391515 on 28/10/2009 and was kindly identified by Roy Anderson. There is one record for this species from Ireland from near Derreen in West Galway in 1989 and this is actually one of only two records for the whole of the British Isles. It is usually recorded associated with ferns. Roy contacted Eric Boehm in the US who has written a world monograph for this group ([http://www.eboehm.com/gloniella.html](http://www.eboehm.com/gloniella.html)). He commented as follows:

“It is true that there does exist of group of Gloniella species that are primarily recovered from ferns, but I would keep an open mind on host specificity. For these lignicolous and corticolous fungi, my assumption would be that host-specificity either does not exist, or, if it does, then the hosts involved will be found to be numerous and not follow a generalized pattern.”
**Hebeloma radicosum** (Bull.) Ricken
An intriguing record of a large viscid Hebeloma with a ring and that smells strongly of marzipan. Found at Castlegrove Country Hotel near Letterkenny (C22601556) on 27/10/2009. It is intriguing because it is normally associated with mole latrines but of course there are no mole latrines in Ireland. The only other published association is with wood mice burrows and this may be the case here. It was actually found in rotting grass cuttings which may or may not be a coincidence.

![Image of Hebeloma radicosum](image)

**Hebeloma vaccinium** Romagn.
Only recorded once before in Ireland in 2000 from Wicklow. A dark brown *Hebeloma*, this was recorded on *Salix repens* at Maghera Strand (G65649087) on 31/10/2009.

**Lichenomphalia alpina** (Britzelm.) Redhead, Lutzoni, Moncalvo & Vilgalys
This small bright yellow lichenized fungus was found on the summit heath of Muckish (C001285) on 05/11/2009 by Luke Mitchel. Probably under recorded, there is only one other Irish record on the FRDBI from the Galtee Mountains from 1969.
**Stropharia coronilla** (Bull.) Quél.
Known from three other sites in Ireland (North Bull Island – 1941, 1948; Greystones in Wicklow from 1988 and the Royal Canal near Maynooth in 2004). This small *Stropharia* does not look unlike a small *Agaricus* and is also similar to the rarer *S. halophila* which has larger spores. Found at Dooey Dunes (G720995) by Chris Stretch on 24/10/09.

**Typhula micans** (Pers.) Berthier
A small pink club found on decaying leaves and stems. Found twice in dune systems by Debbie Nelson and the Northern Ireland Fungus Group at Dooey Dunes (G720995) on 24/10/09 and Carrickfin dunes on 25/10/09.

**Lepiota sp.**
An unidentified *Lepiota* was found at Sheskinmore amongst heather at the edge of a heath / grassland mosaic. It was in the *L. brunneoincarnata / L. echinella* area with ellipsoid spores and a pileus with long elements mixed with short clavate cells. It was not robust enough for *L. brunneoincarnata* as the stipe was only 4 mm thick and the spores were too large for *L. echinella* at 8-9 (10) x 4-5 µm. This group of *Lepiota* is unclear taxonomically so the species is described and dried and will await further work on this group.

**New Vice County Records**
As West Donegal is so poorly recorded mycologically, of the 194 species recorded on this survey, 119 are new vice county records. Table 4 lists these.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Authority</th>
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<td><em>Agaricus bernardi</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Agaricus macrocarpus</em></td>
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<td><em>Agaricus silvaticus</em></td>
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<td><em>Asteroma impressum</em></td>
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<td>Pholiota conissans</td>
<td>(Fr.) M.M. Moser</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pluteus griseoluridus</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Psathyrella ammophilia</td>
<td>(Durieu &amp; Lév.) P.D. Orton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psathyrella conopilus</td>
<td>(Fr.) A. Pearson &amp; Dennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psilocybe coprophila</td>
<td>(Bull.) P. Kumm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puccinia poarum</td>
<td>E. Nielsen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhopogonographus filicinis</td>
<td>(Fr.) Nitschke ex Fuckel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhytisema salicinum</td>
<td>(Pers.) Fr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rickenella fibula</td>
<td>(Bull.) Raithelh.</td>
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Table 4 – Species new to West Donegal

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<td><em>Russula betularum</em></td>
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<td><em>Russula cyanoxantha</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Russula exalbicans</em></td>
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<td><em>Russula mairei</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Russula queletii</em></td>
<td>Fr.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Schizophyllum commune</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Scleroderma bovista</em></td>
<td>Fr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Stropharia aeruginosa</em></td>
<td>(Curtis) Quél.</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>(Bull.) Quél.</td>
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<td>(Desm.) Morgan</td>
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<td>(Berk. &amp; Broome) Gjaerum</td>
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<tr>
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<td>(Schaeff.) P. Kumm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>(Pers.) Berthier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Vascellum pratense</em></td>
<td>(Pers.) Kreisel</td>
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<td><em>Xylaria carpophila</em></td>
<td>(Pers.) Fr.</td>
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10km square and Site Rankings

Both the total 10km squares and individual sites were ranked according to numbers of species of *Hygrocybe*. Map 1 shows the distribution of the 10km squares surveyed and the number of species of *Hygrocybe* found in each square. Appendix 1 gives full 10km and site species lists.

If the results in Tables 5 - 8 are compared to the results from the Clare, West Cork and West Mayo surveys (see Table 1), it is obvious that finding good sites in West Donegal was not difficult compared to the other surveys as 18 sites had 10 or more species of *Hygrocybe*. The stand out site was Arran More with 19 species which is the second best site found in the four surveys after Clare Island. The area especially around the head at Cronagarn was so good that it is bound to be richer than found on this one day.

The sites with more than 10 species varied enormously in character. Some sites were tiny like the road sides around Lough Ascardan (10 species), the small area of acid grassland found over the blocky talus amongst blanket bog at Sruhanganrow (13 species) or on the steep slopes above the sea cliffs of Pollet (14 species). These are unlikely to have too many more species but the large sites of Arran More, Teelin Point, Lough Salt, Melmore Head, Tramore Dunes / Marfagh Head and Sheskinmore could have many more species. Dunes and machair sites were again not good but some sites like Sheskinmore and Carrick machair had additional habitats within them that provided real interest.
Map 1 – 10km squares surveyed with number of species of *Hygrocybe* recorded
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<thead>
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<tr>
<td>Fanad: Pollet</td>
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<td>C12022574</td>
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<td>Melmore Head</td>
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<tr>
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<td>G62337435</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tramore Dunes / Marfagh Head</td>
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<td>B993373</td>
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<td>Malin More</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheskinmore Dunes</td>
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<td>Glengesh: Common Mountain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maghera Strand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scraigs Hill</td>
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<td>Glencolumbkille: Glen Head</td>
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<td>Derrybeg: Carrick Machair</td>
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<td>Rathmullan: Fort Royal Hotel</td>
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<td>Kilmacrennan: Leiter Presbyterian Church</td>
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Table 5 – Sites ranked by number of *Hygrocybe*

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<tr>
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</thead>
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Table 6 – Significant sites ranked by number of *Clavariaceae*

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<tr>
<td>Melmore Head</td>
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</table>

Table 7 – Significant sites ranked by number of *Entolomataceae*
Vesterholt et al (1999) estimated that sites with 22+ species of waxcap (which translates to sites with 15+ in one visit) are internationally important and Genney et al (2009) wrote in the guidelines for designating SSSIs in the UK that sites with 18+ species from multiple visits and 12+ in a single visit should be considered for SSSI status. Additionally sites with 5+ species of Clavariaceae, 12+ species of Entolomataceae or 3+ species of Geoglossaceae should be considered. My personal thought is that some of these thresholds are a bit low for the British Isles but this would mean that a significant number of sites in West Donegal could be considered for site protection with Arran More and Teelin Point (and the cliffs to Slieve League) could be of international importance. Muckros would be worth considering for Clavariaceae alone but would also qualify in terms of Hygrocybe.

**Site Images**

It is important to give readers a good idea of the types of sites that may be good for waxcap grasslands hence a wide range of site photographs is given here with comments.
The fields leading out to Cronagarn on Arran More

Coastal grassland on the west coast of Arran More
Fort Royal Hotel, Rathmullan. One of the best lawns in the survey

Ballymastocker Dunes – not a great site although the golf course and machair were not searched
Maghera Dunes. The coastal grassland extended along the cliff edges which is where the most waxcap interest was.

Owenwee Valley near Maghera Dunes. The small patches of acid grassland often associated with old houses are the areas of interest.
Garbhros, Glencolumbkille from the beach. This could be a very promising site.

Silver Strand, Malin Beg. These very tightly grazed slopes were very good indeed.
Muckish: Meencoolasheskin. These small areas of acid grassland were very limited amongst the blanket bog.

The summit heath on Muckish. This could support an interesting mycota (not waxcaps) but it is likely that fruiting would be much earlier in the year.
Muckros fields. These were very rich fields with the earth banks being particularly good.

Muckros fields from the west.
Poisoned Glen. The areas of acid grassland in the glen are tiny under the main cliffs and were not productive. Probably just too acid.

Lough Salt. A large area of acid grassland albeit patchy surrounds the lough and is worth a much longer look.
Sheskinmore – this site offers varied dune, machair, heath and acid grassland creating a very rich mosaic

Lough Ascardan – tiny but rich areas of acid grassland along the road
The small grassy talus slopes at Bingorm are some of few possible sites in the high mountains.

Sruhangarrow – small but rich areas of grassland covering the blocky talus.
Species Rankings
The grassland target species were ranked according to the number of 10km squares in which they were found and compared to their rank in the other surveys.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Count Of 10km</th>
<th>Mayo Rank</th>
<th>West Cork Rank</th>
<th>Clare Rank</th>
<th>Irish Rank</th>
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<td>43</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>43</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>49</td>
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<tr>
<td>43</td>
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<td>E</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>49</td>
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<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td>43</td>
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<td>43</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
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<td>Hygrocybe glutinipes var. glutinipes</td>
<td>H</td>
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<td>26</td>
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<td>Entoloma aspreamer</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>51</td>
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<td>49</td>
<td>Geoglossum atropurpureum</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>Geoglossum glutinosum</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
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<td>49</td>
<td>Hygrocybe calyptriformis</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>40</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Clavaria fragilis</td>
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<td>34</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>39</td>
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<td>55</td>
<td>Clavaria zollingeri</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>Entoloma bloxamii</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>Entoloma longistriatum var. scaritulum</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tr>
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<td>55</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>51</td>
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<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>Entoloma sericeoides</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tr>
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<td>55</td>
<td>Entoloma undatum</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
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<td>55</td>
<td>Hygrocybe aurantiosplendens</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>Hygrocybe citrinoviresens</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>55</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>59</td>
</tr>
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<td>G</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 9 – Species ranks and comparisons with other surveys

The interesting points of note here are:
- How common *Hygrocybe insipida* was compared to the other surveys
- How common the classic acid grassland fungi of *H.pratensis, H.punicea, Entoloma conferendum* and *Geoglossum fallax* were
- That *Hygrocybe conica* var. *conica* was not so common as in the other surveys
- That the Fairy Clubs were more typically represented compared to the West Mayo survey where they were virtually absent as the fruiting season was almost over

**Comparisons to other areas**

The following tables are the up to date site rankings for the whole of Ireland based on number of *Hygrocybe* and *Clavariaceae*.  

37
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>No of Species</th>
<th>No visits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The Curragh</td>
<td>Kildare</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Clare Island</td>
<td>West Mayo</td>
<td>26 (27)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Slievenacloy ASSI</td>
<td>Antrim</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Crossmurrin NNR</td>
<td>Fermanagh</td>
<td>23</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Binevenagh NNR</td>
<td>Londonderry</td>
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<td>10</td>
</tr>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Ballyprior</td>
<td>Laois</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Keble NNR</td>
<td>Antrim</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Achill Island: Keem Bay</td>
<td>West Mayo</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Monawilkin ASSI</td>
<td>Fermanagh</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Aghadachor</td>
<td>West Donegal</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Arran More</td>
<td>West Donegal</td>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Barnett's Park</td>
<td>Antrim</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Longmore Td., 1.5km NW of The Sheddings</td>
<td>Antrim</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Hillsborough Parish Church</td>
<td>Down</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Dursey Island</td>
<td>West Cork</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Mount Stewart Estate</td>
<td>Down</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Murrevagh Maghera</td>
<td>West Mayo</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Bantry House</td>
<td>West Cork</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Ballynacarriga</td>
<td>West Cork</td>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Agnew's Hill</td>
<td>Antrim</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Black Head</td>
<td>Clare</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Silent Valley, Mourne Mountains</td>
<td>Down</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Slemish Mountain</td>
<td>Antrim</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Teelin Point</td>
<td>West Donegal</td>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Inishturk</td>
<td>West Mayo</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>John McSparran Memorial Hill Farm</td>
<td>Antrim</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Clandeboyce Estate</td>
<td>Down</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Murlough NNR</td>
<td>Down</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Great Heath of Maryborough</td>
<td>Laois</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Knockninny ASSI</td>
<td>Fermanagh</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>East Torr Td, nr Torr Head</td>
<td>Antrim</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Drum Manor Forest Park</td>
<td>Tyrone</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Table 10: Top Irish Grassland sites as of 27/11/09

Sites marked in colour have been surveyed in the four recent surveys funded by the Heritage Council. The figures in brackets for Clare Island include the original survey records. Aghadachor is listed here but was not visited in this survey. There are worries about this site as motorbike scambling circuits can be seen from Google Earth on the site.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>No of Species</th>
<th>No Visits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Clare Island</td>
<td>West Mayo</td>
<td>5 (12)</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Binevenagh NNR</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The Curragh</td>
<td>Kildare</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bantry House</td>
<td>West Cork</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Belclare and Prospect House Woods</td>
<td>West Mayo</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Crom Castle Estate</td>
<td>Fermanagh</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Castle Archdale Country Park</td>
<td>Fermanagh</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Castle Coole</td>
<td>Fermanagh</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Erne Island</td>
<td>West Cork</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>John McSparran Memorial Hill Farm</td>
<td>Antrim</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Muckros</td>
<td>West Donegal</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Murlough NNR</td>
<td>Down</td>
<td>6</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Slievenacloy ASSI</td>
<td>Antrim</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 11: Waxcap grassland sites ranked by number of species of *Clavariaceae*

**Recommended sites for further survey**

Many of these sites were visited rather quickly and really would need much more detailed study. The following are sites that I would recommend for further survey and this would include sites that I did not get to but feel could be good.

- Arran More. There is a wonderful “jizz” about this site and I think it will be a very significant site with the grasslands around the south west heads being the best areas
- Teelin Point and the grasslands extending along the cliff edges towards Slieve League. The weather was quite appalling when we visited this site and prevented further exploration.
- Tramore Dunes / Marfagh Head at Dunfanaghy with the Marfagh Head area in particular extending for some distance to the north
- Lough Salt. Another large site worthy of much more time. The grasslands around the large crag above the lough were not reached
- Melmore Head
- Muckros. These small fields had such a range of exceptional species that it more visits will produce many more records
- Sheskinmore Dunes. This is such a huge area with a variety of habitats that it could be very good especially the acid grassland on some of the craggy inland areas
- Glencolumkille: Garbhros. If access was sorted out onto the farmed areas of this small ridge, it could prove very good
- Glengesh: Common Mountain. Heavy rain made this site slippy and we didn’t get to the areas of best potential further down the valley
- Maghera Strand – the coastal cliffs were good and also interesting in terms of ectomycorrhizal species associated with *Salix repens.*
- Bloody Foreland: Rinardalliff Point. High winds made this site dangerous and it is likely to be better
- Derrybeg: Carrick Machair. Another very varied and gigantic site. Well worth more exploration
- Dunfanaghy: Holy Cross Church. This had some very interesting species and is worth keeping an eye on
• Malin More
• Malin Beg: Silver Strand
• Gola Island. Not visited but highly likely to be good
• Inishbofin. Not visited but highly likely to be good
• Tory Island. Tory might not be good but most of the islands have worth visiting
• Rutland Island? Inishcoo?
• The summit of Muckish. Possible site for *Hygrocybe salicis-herbacea* and other arctic-alpine species but it would need a visit in September

**Recommended Fungal Priority Species for County Donegal**

Another 75 species were added to the County Donegal Biodiversity list on this survey. Importantly, there is now sufficient data to recommend some priority species for County Donegal. While there if often not enough historic data to assess decline (and these baseline surveys will hopefully be able to be used for such assessments in future years), one statistic that is often available is that of the decline of the habitat that these species are dependent on. Semi-natural grassland is an endangered habitat threatened by development, agricultural improvement or abandonment. For this reason, the following species have been identified as UK or Northern Ireland Priority species and could be translated to County Donegal. They are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Northern Ireland</th>
<th>UK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Microglossum olivaceum</em></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Clavaria zollingeri</em></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Phellodon melaleucus</em></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Entoloma bloxamii</em></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Hygrocybe calyptriformis</em></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Geoglossum atropurpureum</em></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most of these are grassland fungi naturally enough but *Phellodon melaleucus* is a toothed fungus found at Ards Forest Park first by Stuart Dunlop. *Hebeloma radicosum* could be considered as there is possibly something unique happening here in terms of its associations.

**Conclusions**

Grassland fungi are a particularly attractive group that are very threatened all over Europe due to habitat loss. Ireland, along with Great Britain, is one of the best areas in the world for these fungi and there are few species groups that we can actually say that for. The vice county of West Donegal has been shown to be rich in grassland fungi with two sites of international importance found and 10 sites would qualify for consideration for site designation under SSSI selection guidelines in the UK. To this end, site protection should be considered for some of these sites and it is my hope that these surveys will raise the profile of this beautiful group by providing the data and the context to make these decisions.

Site designation is only the first step though as the key target is to manage these sites favourably. It is unlikely that grassland fungi are identified features in the management plans for any of these sites and integrating the site management requirements of these fungi into the management plans should be looked at. Integrating their needs into agri-environment schemes would be another important step so it is important to know their ecological requirements. Advice on their management requirements can be obtained from the following sources:

• CCW’s report on Habitat Management to Conserve Fungi:  

In addition, the Fungal Conservation Forum produced a very attractive leaflet for landowners on Grassland fungi which is downloadable at  
http://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/plantlife-saving-species-publications.html. This contains the following management guidelines for grassland fungi:

• To keep your grassland well grazed or mown so that the turf is short. Remove clippings wherever possible. Regular cutting does not appear to damage the fungi below ground, but if you want to see what you have, cut less in Autumn to allow fruiting
• To maintain existing field drainage systems where appropriate
• That fertilisers damage grassland fungi and should be avoided if possible
• To try and avoid the use of fungicides or use them sparingly, as they may inadvertently kill useful fungi or fungi you never intended to control
• To avoid using moss killers since these fungi may form intimate relationships with mosses and may even depend on them
• To avoid lime or apply it with caution since it may damage fungi

I am also willing to help give advice on any issue on grassland fungi at any time.

Images
All images of species that were taken in this survey can be used by any interested organisation for conservation purposes. These images and many others are available at www.nifq.org.uk/photos.htm or from the Picassa web album at http://picasaweb.google.com/mitchel.david/

Acknowledgements
Thanks must go to Roland McHugh for advice and records, the Northern Ireland Fungus Group for helping on the first weekend, Paul Kirk for helping with data from the FRDBI and all the landowners who allowed me access onto their land and without whom this would not have been possible. Thanks also to my wife Jolanda and children for helping with the survey work as the more eyes there are, the more fungi are found.

The financial support of the Heritage Council is also gratefully acknowledged as without this, this survey would not have been possible and I can only hope that it helps to raise awareness of this wonderful group of fungi and this beautiful county.

Bibliography


Appendix 1 – 10km and Site Details

**B60**

**Sites Searched:** Not visited

**Hygrocybe** 0  **Clavariaceae** 0  **Entolomaceae** 0  **Geoglossaceae** 0  **Others:** 0

Possible Sites: Roaninish island - inaccessible

**B61**

**Sites Searched:** Arran More

**Hygrocybe** 19  **Clavariaceae** 5  **Entolomaceae** 6  **Geoglossaceae** 1  **Others:** 1

The island of Arran More with the best areas being the south and west of the island. The small beach at Rossillion Bay and point at Rassag could also be worth searching.

**Grassland Target Species Recorded**

- **Clavulinopsis corniculata**
- **Clavulinopsis helvola**
- **Clavulinopsis laeticolor**
- **Clavulinopsis luteoalba**
- **Clavulinopsis umbrinella**
- **Dermoloma cuneiforme var. cuneiforme**
- **Entoloma atrocoeruleum**
- **Entoloma chalybaeum var. chalybaeum**
- **Entoloma conferendum**
- **Entoloma papillatum**
- **Entoloma prunuloides**
- **Entoloma sericeum**
- **Geoglossum fallax**
- **Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina**
- **Hygrocybe punicea**
- **Hygrocybe quieta**
- **Hygrocybe reidii**
- **Hygrocybe russocoriacea**
- **Hygrocybe splendidissima**
- **Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea**
- **Hygrocybe cantharellus**
- **Hygrocybe ceracea**
- **Hygrocybe chlorophana**
- **Hygrocybe cocinea**
- **Hygrocybe conica var. conica**
- **Hygrocybe flavipes**
- **Hygrocybe fomicata**
- **Hygrocybe insipida**
- **Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta**
- **Hygrocybe miniata**
- **Hygrocybe nitrata**
- **Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis**
Site Details:

Site: Arran More

Date Visited: 28/10/20  GridRef: B646146
H: 19  C: 5  E: 6  G: 1  O: 0

An exceptional site - the waxcaps were found over a wide area and this site is likely to even better. The area searched started at the end of the road going out to the south western point on Arran More at Rannagh. The first sheep grazed fields past the end of the road were some of the best. They are steep with patches of heath within the acid grassland grading into wetter areas where it is less steep. The interest continued all around the head at Cronagarn and along the western cliffs. The best sites were found at B64271517, B64441572, B64901706, B65011754 and B65461746.

The notable species were Hygrocybe nitrata, Clavulinopsis umbrinella and Entoloma prunuloides.

Agaricus urinascens                Macro Mushroom
Bovista plumbea                    Grey Puffball
Clavulinopsis corniculata          Meadow Coral
Clavulinopsis helvola              Yellow Club
Clavulinopsis laeticolor           Handsome Club
Clavulinopsis luteoalba            Apricot Club
Clavulinopsis umbrinella           Beige Coral
Coprinus comatus                   Shaggy Inkcap
Dermoloma cuneifolium var. cuneifolium Crazed Cap
Entoloma atrocoeruleum
Entoloma chalybaeum var. chalybaeum Indigo Pinkgill
Entoloma conferendum               Star Pinkgill
Entoloma papillatum                Papillate Pinkgill
Entoloma prunuloides               Mealy Pinkgill
Entoloma sericeum                  Silky Pinkgill
Geoglossum fallax
Glioniella adianti
Hygrocybe cantharellus             Goblet Waxcap
Hygrocybe ceracea                  Butter Waxcap
Hygrocybe chlorophana              Golden Waxcap
Hygrocybe coccinea                 Scarlet Waxcap
Hygrocybe conica var. conica       Blackening Waxcap
Hygrocybe flavipes                 Yellow Foot Waxcap
Hygrocybe fornicata                Earthy Waxcap
Hygrocybe insipida                 Spangle Waxcap
Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta         Heath Waxcap
Hygrocybe miniata                  Vermilion Waxcap
Hygrocybe nitrata                  Nitrous Waxcap
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis</td>
<td>Meadow Waxcap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina</td>
<td>Parrot Waxcap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygrocybe punicea</td>
<td>Crimson Waxcap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygrocybe quieta</td>
<td>Oily Waxcap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygrocybe reidii</td>
<td>Honey Waxcap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygrocybe russocoriacea</td>
<td>Cedarwood Waxcap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygrocybe splendidissima</td>
<td>Splendid Waxcap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygrocybe virginia var. virginia</td>
<td>Snowy Waxcap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lycoperdon nigrescens</td>
<td>Dusky Puffball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melanoleuca polioleuca f. polioleuca</td>
<td>Common Cavalier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mucilago crustacea</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panaeolus acuminatus</td>
<td>Dewdrop Mottlegill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phragmidium violaceum</td>
<td>Violet Bramble Rust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psilocybe coprophila</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psilocybe similevulenta</td>
<td>Liberty Cap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhytisma acerinum</td>
<td>Sycamore Tarspot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stropharia pseudocyanea</td>
<td>Peppery Roundhead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stropharia semiglobata</td>
<td>Dung Roundhead</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**B70**

**Sites Searched:** Crohy Head: Tircreg; Dooey Dunes

**Hygrocybe 13 Clavariaceae 3 Entolomaceae 1 Geoglossaceae 3 Others: 0**

The acid grassland on Crohy Head are likely to be the best areas. The grassland areas found at Tircreg were small and the some fields beside the road at Tievearragan Hill near Crohy Head itself would also be worth searching. The Dooey Dune system is a huge area of semi-natural grassland but it proved of limited interest for grassland fungi.

**Grassland Target Species Recorded**

- Clavaria acuta
- Clavulinopsis corniculata
- Clavulinopsis helvola
- Entoloma conferendum
- Geoglossum cookeanum
- Geoglossum fallax
- Trichoglossum hirsutum
- Hygrocybe calciphila
- Hygrocybe cantharellus
- Hygrocybe chlorophana
- Hygrocybe coccinea
- Hygrocybe conica var. conica
- Hygrocybe conica var. conicoides
- Hygrocybe insipida
- Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta
- Hygrocybe mucronella
- Hygrocybe persistens var. persistens
- Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis
- Hygrocybe quieta
- Hygrocybe russocoriacea
- Hygrocybe virginia var. fuscescens
- Hygrocybe virginia var. ochraceopallida
- Hygrocybe virginia var. virginea
**Site Details:**

**Site:** Crohy Head: Tircreg  
**Date Visited:** 01/11/20  
**GridRef:** B726064  
**H:** 11  **C:** 3  **E:** 1  **G:** 0  **O:** 0

There were small patches of grassland associated with ruined houses on the slopes at Tircreg. Other areas worth searching could be some of the fields at Crohy Head itself at B71360854.

- *Agaricus silvaticus*  
  Blushing Wood Mushroom
- *Clavaria acuta*  
  Pointed Club
- *Clavulinopsis corniculata*  
  Meadow Coral
- *Clavulinopsis helvola*  
  Yellow Club
- *Cystoderma amianthinum*  
  Earthy Powdercap
- *Entoloma conferendum*  
  Star Pinkgill
- *Hebeloma crustuliniforme*  
  Poisonpie
- *Hygrocybe cantharellus*  
  Goblet Waxcap
- *Hygrocybe chlorophana*  
  Golden Waxcap
- *Hygrocybe coccinea*  
  Scarlet Waxcap
- *Hygrocybe conica var. conica*  
  Blackening Waxcap
- *Hygrocybe insipida*  
  Spangle Waxcap
- *Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta*  
  Heath Waxcap
- *Hygrocybe mucronella*  
  Bitter Waxcap
- *Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis*  
  Meadow Waxcap
- *Hygrocybe quieta*  
  Oily Waxcap
- *Hygrocybe russocoriacea*  
  Cedarwood Waxcap
- *Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea*  
  Snowy Waxcap
- *Laccaria laccata*  
  Deceiver
- *Mycena leptocephala*  
  Nitrous Bonnet
- *Panaeolus acuminatus*  
  Dewdrop Mottlegill
- *Stropharia semiglobata*  
  Dung Roundhead

**Site:** Dooey Dunes  
**Date Visited:** 24/10/20  
**GridRef:** B755019  
**H:** 5  **C:** 1  **E:** 0  **G:** 3  **O:** 0

An enormous set of dunes, this site was visited twice, by the Northern Ireland Fungus Group on October 24th and DM on November 1st. The rarely recorded *Hygrocybe calciphiila* was found and *Peziza arvernensis* is also of note. However for the rest only the usual typical mycota was found. Also despite the large areas of Salix repens, nothing was found here either although the main fruiting period of ectomycorrhizal fungi on Salix repens

- *Agaricus bernardii*
- *Clavaria acuta*  
  Pointed Club
Clitocybe dealbata  
Ivory Funnel

Geoglossum cookeanum

Geoglossum fallax

Hygrocybe calciphila

Hygrocybe conica var. conicoides  
Dune Waxcap

Hygrocybe mucronella  
Bitter Waxcap

Hygrocybe persistens var. persistens  
Persistent Waxcap

Hygrocybe virginea var. fuscescens

Hygrocybe virginea var. ochraceopallida

Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea  
Snowy Waxcap

Lepista nuda  
Wood Blewit

Melanoleuca cinereifolia

Mucilago crustacea

Panaeolus papilionaceus var. papilionaceus  
Petticoat Mottlegill

Peziza ammophila  
Dune Cup

Peziza arvernensis

Trichoglossum hirsutum  
Hairy Earthtongue

B71

Sites Searched:  Annagary RC Church; Dungloe Church of Ireland; Kincasslagh RC

Hygrocybe 7  Clavariaceae 0  Entolomaceae 2  Geoglossaceae 2  Others: 0

Churchyards and the dunes at Portacurry were the best sites found in this wet square. The machair behind the foredunes at Portacurry was not searched. The best sites are likely to be the islands of Rutland Island and Inishcoo but it was not possible to organise access onto these islands.

Grassland Target Species Recorded

Entoloma conferendum  
Hygrocybe insipida

Entoloma jubatum  
Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta

Geoglossum fallax  
Hygrocybe punicea

Trichoglossum hirsutum  
Hygrocybe russocoriacea

Hygrocybe coccinea  
Hygrocybe virginea var. ochraceopallida

Hygrocybe conica var. conica  
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea

Hygrocybe conica var. conicoides

Site Details:

Site:  Annagary RC Church

Date Visited:  03/11/20  GridRef:  B79601938

H: 1  C: 0  E: 0  G: 0  O: 0

A small area of grassland that is unlikely to be of significant interest.
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea  Snowy Waxcap
Panaeolina toenisecii  Brown Mottlegill

**Site:**  Dungloe Church of Ireland  
**Date Visited:**  01/11/20  **GridRef:**  B76661157
**H:**  7  **E:**  2  **G:**  1  **O:**  0

One of the best churchyards in this survey but still unlikely to be of significant interest.

Armillaria gallica  Bulbous Honey Fungus
Entoloma conferendum  Star Pinkgill
Entoloma jubatum  Sepia Pinkgill
Geoglossum fallax
Hygrocybe coccinea  Scarlet Waxcap
Hygrocybe conica var. conica  Blackening Waxcap
Hygrocybe insipida  Spangle Waxcap
Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta  Heath Waxcap
Hygrocybe punicea  Crimson Waxcap
Hygrocybe russocoriacea  Cedarwood Waxcap
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea  Snowy Waxcap
Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta  Heath Waxcap

**Site:**  Kincasslagh RC Church  
**Date Visited:**  25/10/20  **GridRef:**  B74341912
**H:**  1  **E:**  1  **G:**  1  **O:**  0

Of limited interest for grassland fungi.

Entoloma conferendum  Star Pinkgill
Geoglossum fallax
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea  Snowy Waxcap

**Site:**  Portacurry Dunes  
**Date Visited:**  25/10/20  **GridRef:**  B716177
**H:**  2  **E:**  0  **G:**  2  **O:**  0

The machair behind the dunes was not searched as was fenced off however, fruiting was not observed from over the fence. The areas of open access supported the usual limited mycota. However, the foredunes supported the notable *Coprinopsis ammophilae* and *Pluteus griseoludus*.

Bolbitius vitellinus  Yellow Fieldcap
Coprinopsis ammophilae  Dune Inkcap
Geoglossum fallax
Hygrocybe conica var. conicoides  Dune Waxcap
Hygrocybe virginea var. ochraceopallida
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea  Snowy Waxcap

48
Lepista nuda  Wood Blewit
Pluteus griseoluridus  Dune Brittlestem
Psathyrella ammophila  Dune Brittlestem
Psilocybe coprophila  Hairy Earthtongue
Puccinia poarum  Hairy Earthtongue
Trichoglossum hirsutum  Hairy Earthtongue

B72

Sites Searched:  Carrickfin Dunes

Hygrocybe 3  Clavariaceae 0  Entolomaceae 1  Geoglossaceae 3  Others: 0

The dunes of Carrickfin and Cruit Island were disappointing. The golf course itself was likely to be the best place on the island. The dunes at Mullaghderg would be worth visiting but the best possibility are the islands especially Gola and Inishmeane. Owey Island did not look so

Grassland Target Species Recorded

Entoloma conferendum  Hygrocybe persistens var. persistens
Geoglossum cookeanum  Hygrocybe virginea var. fusescens
Geoglossum fallax  Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea
Trichoglossum hirsutum
Hygrocybe conica var. conicoides

Site Details:

Site:  Carrickfin Dunes
Date Visited:  25/10/20  GridRef:  B779218
H: 3  C: 0  E: 0  G: 3  O 0

There is a narrow band of dunes and dune grassland between the beach and the airport. The best area for fungal interest are the large slacks at the northern end but typical of so many dune systems in Ireland, despite seemingly good habitat, fruiting was restricted to a limited range of species. The notable record of the small pink clubs of Typhula micans on a leaf was the best find.

Ascobolus carbonarius
Cheilymenia granulata
Geoglossum cookeanum
Geoglossum fallax
Hygrocybe conica var. conicoides  Dune Waxcap
Hygrocybe persistens var. persistens  Persistent Waxcap
Hygrocybe virginea var. fusescens
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea  Snowy Waxcap
Panaeolina foenisecii  Brown Mottlegill
Peziza ammophila  Dune Cup
Psathyrella ammophila  Dune Brittlestem
Psilocybe coprophila
Trichoglossum hirsutum Hairy Earhtongue
Typhula micans

B73

Sites Searched: Not visited

Hygrocybe 0 Clavariaceae 0 Entolomaceae 0 Geoglossaceae 0 Others: 0

Only possible site is the island of Inishsirrer but this needs good weather and a boat trip to be organised.

B80

Sites Searched: Doochary RC Church

Hygrocybe 3 Clavariaceae 1 Entolomaceae 0 Geoglossaceae 1 Others: 0

A very boggy square. The commonages on Croaghleheen and Croaghleconnel are likely to be the best sites but they are not too hopeful.

Grassland Target Species Recorded

Clavulinopsis corniculata
Geoglossum fallax
Hygrocybe ceracea
Hygrocybe russocoriacea
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea

Site Details:

Site: Doochary RC Church
Date Visited: 26/10/20 GridRef: B86590623
H: 3 C: 1 E: 0 G: 1 O: 0

A small churchyard with moderate interest for grassland fungi.

Armillaria gallica Bulbous Honey Fungus
Clavulinopsis corniculata Meadow Coral
Geoglossum fallax
Hebeloma crustuliniforme Poisonpie
Hygrocybe ceracea Butter Waxcap
Hygrocybe russocoriacea Cedarwood Waxcap
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea Snowy Waxcap

B81

Sites Searched: Lough Ascardan

Hygrocybe 10 Clavariaceae 3 Entolomaceae 1 Geoglossaceae 1 Others: 0
The very small patches of grassland along the road around Crockator were reasonably productive and could be better. The other area worth searching are some of the fields and commonage at Crovey North.

**Grassland Target Species Recorded**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clavaria acuta</td>
<td>Pointed Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clavulinopsis corniculata</td>
<td>Meadow Coral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clavulinopsis helvola</td>
<td>Yellow Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entoloma conferendum</td>
<td>Star Pinkgill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geoglossum fallax</td>
<td>Golden Waxcap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygrocybe chlorophana</td>
<td>Blackening Waxcap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygrocybe conica var. conica</td>
<td>Spangle Waxcap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta</td>
<td>Heath Waxcap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygrocybe mucronella</td>
<td>Bitter Waxcap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygrocybe nitrata</td>
<td>Nitrous Waxcap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis</td>
<td>Meadow Waxcap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygrocybe quieta</td>
<td>Oily Waxcap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygrocybe russocoriacea</td>
<td>Cedarwood Waxcap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea</td>
<td>Snowy Waxcap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leptosphaeria acuta</td>
<td>Nettle Rash</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Site Details:**

**Site:**  Lough Ascardan  
**Date Visited:**  26/10/20  
**GridRef:**  B85691477  

A very small strip of acid grassland alongside the road surrounded by bog and heath. The construction of the road has left small areas beside the road that are better drained and these are rich in waxcaps showing the importance of drainage in waxcap locations. The two fields on the north western corner of the lough were not searched due to difficult access with the stream overflowing but these could be good. Notable fungi include Hygrocybe nitrata and the first Irish record for the white viscid *Stropharia albonitens*.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
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<tr>
<td>Clavaria acuta</td>
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<td>Meadow Coral</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clavulinopsis helvola</td>
<td>Yellow Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cystoderma amianthinum</td>
<td>Earthy Powdercap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entoloma conferendum</td>
<td>Star Pinkgill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Geoglossum fallax</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygrocybe chlorophana</td>
<td>Golden Waxcap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygrocybe conica var. conica</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hygrocybe insipida</td>
<td>Spangle Waxcap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta</td>
<td>Heath Waxcap</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea</td>
<td>Snowy Waxcap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leptosphaeria acuta</td>
<td>Nettle Rash</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**B82**

### Sites Searched:
Derrybeg: Carrick Machair; Derrybeg RC Church; Gweedore Hotel

### Hygrocybe
9

**Clavariaceae** 1

**Entolomaceae** 1

**Geoglossaceae** 1

**Others**: 0

The large area of dune / machair / acid grassland mosaic at Carrick and Glashagh Upper is the best area in this wet square and will be better than found on this visit.

### Grassland Target Species Recorded

- *Clavulina corticata*
- *Entoloma poliopus var. poliopus*
- *Geoglossum cookeanum*
- *Hygrocybe calciphila*
- *Hygrocybe conica var. conicoides*
- *Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta*
- *Hygrocybe persistens var. persistens*
- *Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis*
- *Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina*
- *Hygrocybe psittacina var. fuscascens*
- *Hygrocybe virginea var. ochraceopallida*
- *Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea*

### Site Details:

**Site:** Derrybeg RC Church

**Date Visited:** 02/11/20

**GridRef:** B81662564

**H:** 1  **C:** 0  **E:** 0  **G:** 0  **O:** 0

There is a very restricted area of grassland and it is unlikely to be of significant interest.

*Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina*  *Parrot Waxcap*

**Site:** Derrybeg: Carrick Machair

**Date Visited:** 02/11/20

**GridRef:** B801285

**H:** 8  **C:** 1  **E:** 1  **G:** 1  **O:** 0

An enormous area of dunes, machair and acid grassland mosaic. Granite outcrops lead to a rolling terrain which creates the mosaic of habitats which in turn mean that this is a much more interesting coastal site. The presence of *Hygrocybe nitratata* and *H. calciphila* show that this is a site worth exploring in detail.

*Asteroma impressum*
Clavulinopsis corniculata       Meadow Coral
Coprinopsis niveus             Snowy Inkcap
Entoloma poliopus var. poliopus
Geoglossum cookeanum
Hygrocybe calciphila
Hygrocybe conica var. conicoides   Dune Waxcap
Hygrocybe insipida             Spangle Waxcap
Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta     Heath Waxcap
Hygrocybe nitrata              Nitrous Waxcap
Hygrocybe persistens var. persistens  Persistent Waxcap
Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis  Meadow Waxcap
Hygrocybe virginia var. fusescens
Hygrocybe virginia var. ochraceopallida
Hygrocybe virginia var. virginea  Snowy Waxcap
Lepista nuda                    Wood Blewit
Volvariella gloiocephala       Stubble Rosegill

**Site:** Gweedore Hotel  
**Date Visited:** 02/11/20  
**GridRef:** B85842240  
**H:** 0  **C:** 0  **E:** 0  **G:** 0  **O:** 0

Unlikely to be of significant interest for grassland fungi but did contain the interesting non target species of Pholiota conissans and Macrocystidia cucumis

Armillaria gallica          Bulbous Honey Fungus
Lacrymaria lacrymabunda    Weeping Widow
Macrocystidia cucumis      Cucumber Cap
Pholiota conissans         Phragmidium violaceum  
                          Violet Bramble Rust
Taphrina alni              Taphrina alni  
                          Alder Tongue

**B83**

**Sites Searched:** Bloody Foreland: Rinardalliff Point; Magheraroarty: Dooey Peninsula

**Hygrocybe** 8  **Clavariaceae** 2  **Entolomaceae** 3  **Geoglossaceae** 2  **Others:** 0

The mountain of Bloody Foreland itself is too acid and boggy to be of interest but the fields to the west and down to Rinardalliff Point are interesting and will yield more species. The best possible sites are the islands of Inishbofin, Inishdooey and Inishbeg but good weather and an organised boat is required to visit these islands.

**Grassland Target Species Recorded**

Clavulinopsis corniculata  
Clavulinopsis helvola  
Entoloma conferendum  
Entoloma jubatum  
Entoloma serrulatum  
Geoglossum cookeanum
Geoglossum fallax
Hygrocybe chlorophana
Hygrocybe coccinea
Hygrocybe conica var. conica
Hygrocybe conica var. conicoides
Hygrocybe insipida
Hygrocybe punicea
Hygrocybe quieta
Hygrocybe russocoriacea
Hygrocybe virginea var. ochraceopallida
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea

Site Details:

Site: Bloody Foreland: Rinardalliff Point
Date Visited: 04/11/20  GridRef: B81483353
H: 8  C: 2  E: 3  G: 1  O: 0
An interesting area of acid grassland leading out to the point. Severe winds made foraying near the cliffs too dangerous so this site could well hold more species. Some of the enclosed fields around Bloody Foreland could well be very interesting as well.

Agaricus urinascens
Macro Mushroom
Clavulinopsis corniculata
Meadow Coral
Clavulinopsis helvola
Yellow Club
Clitocybe fragrans
Fragrant Funnel
Entoloma conferendum
Star Pinkgill
Entoloma jubatum
Sepia Pinkgill
Entoloma serrulatum
Blue Edge Pinkgill
Geoglossum fallax
Hygrocybe chlorophana
Golden Waxcap
Hygrocybe coccinea
Scarlet Waxcap
Hygrocybe conica var. conica
Blackening Waxcap
Hygrocybe insipida
Spangle Waxcap
Hygrocybe punicea
Crimson Waxcap
Hygrocybe quieta
Oily Waxcap
Hygrocybe russocoriacea
Cedarwood Waxcap
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea
Snowy Waxcap
Lepista nuda
Wood Blewit
Lepista panaeola
Marasmium oreades
Fairy Ring Champignon
Stropharia pseudocyanea
Peppery Roundhead

Site: Magheraroarty: Dooey Peninsula
Date Visited: 04/11/20  GridRef: B895330
H: 2  C: 0  E: 0  G: 1  O: 0
A very large dune system with machair behind the dunes. Appalling weather cut short this visit and in reality the site was hardly visited.
Bolbitius vitellinus  
Geoglossum cookeanum  
Hygrocybe conica var. conicoides  
Hygrocybe virginea var. ochraceopallida  
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea  
Volvariella gloiocephala  

Yellow Fieldcap
Dune Waxcap
Snowy Waxcap
Stubble Rosegill

Sites Searched: Not visited

Hygrocybe 0  Clavariaceae 0  Entolomaceae 0  Geoglossaceae 0  Others: 0

Possible sites: Tory Island. It was really hoped to visit Tory but the high winds or other commitments meant that it was not to be.

B90

Sites Searched: Fintown RC Church; Scraigs Hill

Hygrocybe 12  Clavariaceae 1  Entolomaceae 1  Geoglossaceae 1  Others: 0

Scraigs Hill is undoubtedly the best site in this square.

Grassland Target Species Recorded

Clavaria acuta
Entoloma conferendum
Geoglossum fallax
Hygrocybe ceracea
Hygrocybe chlorophana
Hygrocybe coccinea
Hygrocybe irrigata
Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta
Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis
Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina
Hygrocybe punicea
Hygrocybe quieta
Hygrocybe reidii
Hygrocybe russocoriacea
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea

Site Details:

Site: Fintown RC Church
Date Visited: 03/11/20  GridRef: B92610234
H: 3  C: 0  E: 0  G: 1  O: 0

An interesting area of grassland leading down to the lough shore that may hold some more species of interest.

Armillaria gallica  
Geoglossum fallax  
Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis  

Bulbous Honey Fungus
Meadow Waxcap

55
Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina  
Parrot Waxcap
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea  
Snowy Waxcap
Lepista nuda  
Wood Blewit
Melanoleuca polioleuca f. polioleuca  
Common Cavalier
Mucilago crustacea  
Violet Bramble Rust
Phragmidium violaceum  
Xylaria hypoxylon  
Candlesnuff Fungus

Site:  Scraigs Hill
Date Visited:  03/11/20  GridRef:  B92880157
H: 11  C: 1  E: 1  G: 1  O 0

Steep acid grassland leading up to the crags of Scraigs Hill. There are good areas of grassland here but fruiting was not abundant and it was surprising that this was not a better site.

Clavaria acuta  
Pointed Club
Cordyceps militaris  
Scarlet Caterpillarclub
Cystoderma amianthinum  
Earthy Powdercap
Entoloma conferendum  
Star Pinkgill
Geoglossum fallax  
Hygrocybe ceracea  
Butter Waxcap
Hygrocybe chlorophana  
Golden Waxcap
Hygrocybe coccinea  
Scarlet Waxcap
Hygrocybe irrigata  
Slimy Waxcap
Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta  
Heath Waxcap
Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis  
Meadow Waxcap
Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina  
Parrot Waxcap
Hygrocybe punicea  
Crimson Waxcap
Hygrocybe quieta  
Oily Waxcap
Hygrocybe reidii  
Honey Waxcap
Hygrocybe russocoriacea  
Cedarwood Waxcap
Lichenomphalia umbellifera  
Heath Navel
Panaeolus acuminatus  
Dewdrop Mottlegill
Stropharia semiglobata  
Dung Roundhead

B91

Sites Searched:  Dunlewey Church of Ireland; Poisoned Glen

Hygrocybe 5    Clavariaceae 0    Entolomaceae 1    Geoglossaceae 0    Others: 0

A very wet boggy square. The high mountains are too boggy and acid to be of interest. Thin strips of grassland around the shore of Lough Barra could be worth visiting and some of the steep talus slopes high on the slopes of Bingorm could yield a few species.
**Grassland Target Species Recorded**

- Entoloma conferendum
- Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina
- Hygrocybe coccinea
- Hygrocybe punicea
- Hygrocybe conica var. conica
- Hygrocybe insipida
- Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina
- Hygrocybe punicea
- Hygrocybe conica var. conica
- Hygrocybe insipida

**Site Details:**

**Site:** Dunlewey Church of Ireland  
**Date Visited:** 02/11/20  
**GridRef:** B92641919  
**H:** 2  
**C:** 0  
**E:** 0  
**G:** 0  
**O:** 0  
The ruined church at Dunlewey is very wet and unlikely to be of further interest.  
- **Hygrocybe coccinea** Scarlet Waxcap  
- **Hygrocybe punicea** Crimson Waxcap  
- **Panaeolina foenisecii** Brown Mottlegill

**Site:** Poisoned Glen  
**Date Visited:** 02/11/20  
**GridRef:** B944167  
**H:** 4  
**C:** 0  
**E:** 1  
**G:** 0  
**O:** 0  
This extremely wet glen is unlikely to be of further interest. The only areas were very small patches of grassland at the base of the cliffs in the glen at B94551694 and B94721704 and these only had a very restricted range of species. The only other possible area would be some of the grazed banks of the river leading out of the glen at B94171712 but these were not searched.  
- **Entoloma conferendum** Star Pinkgill  
- **Hygrocybe conica var. conica** Blackening Waxcap  
- **Hygrocybe insipida** Spangle Waxcap  
- **Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina** Parrot Waxcap  
- **Hygrocybe punicea** Crimson Waxcap  
- **Rhopographus filicinus** Bracken Map  
- **Stereum rugosum** Bleeding Broadleaf Crust  
- **Stropharia semiglobata** Dung Roundhead

**B92**

**Sites Searched:** Money Beg RC Church

**Hygrocybe** 2  **Clavariaceae** 0  **Entolomaceae** 0  **Geoglossaceae** 0  **Others:** 0

Another very wet high square with few waxcaps found. The crags on Aghla More overlooking Altan Lough and on Crockanalaragagh overlooking Lough Aluirg could be good but both of these would involve a very long walk in.
Grassland Target Species Recorded

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Species</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hygrocybe conica var. conica</td>
<td>Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Site Details:

Site: Money Beg RC Church

Date Visited: 02/11/20  GridRef: B90562050

H: 2  C: 0  E: 0  G: 0  O: 0

A small area of wet grassland that is unlikely to be of significant interest.

Galerina vittiformis  Hairy Leg Bell
Hygrocybe conica var. conica  Blackening Waxcap
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea  Snowy Waxcap
Panaeolina foenisecii  Brown Mottlegill

B93

Sites Searched: Gortahork RC Church; Tramore Dunes / Marfagh Head

Hygrocybe 15  Clavariaceae 5  Entolomaceae 2  Geoglossaceae 3  Others: 0

The dunes of Dooey Peninsula and Falcarragh are possible areas not searched but the coastal grassland at Marfagh Head and to the north of this should be revisited and searched much more intensively as it is good.

Grassland Target Species Recorded

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Species</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clavaria acuta</td>
<td>Hygrocybe colemanniana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clavulinopsis corniculata</td>
<td>Hygrocybe conica var. conicoides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clavulinopsis helvola</td>
<td>Hygrocybe fornicata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clavulinopsis laeticolor</td>
<td>Hygrocybe insipida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clavulinopsis luteolalba</td>
<td>Hygrocybe mucronella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entoloma conferendum</td>
<td>Hygrocybe pratensis var. pallida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entoloma prunuloides</td>
<td>Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geoglossum atropurpureum</td>
<td>Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geoglossum cookeanum</td>
<td>Hygrocybe punicea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geoglossum fallax</td>
<td>Hygrocybe quieta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygrocybe ceracea</td>
<td>Hygrocybe russocoriacea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygrocybe chlorophana</td>
<td>Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygrocybe coccinea</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Site Details:

Site: Gortahork RC Church

Date Visited: 06/11/20  GridRef: B91503045
An interesting area of grassland that is probably much better for ectomycorrhizal fungi than grassland fungi with all the surrounding Sitka

Clavaria acuta, Pointed Club
Clavulinula rugosa, Wrinkled Club
Clitocybe fragrans, Fragrant Funnel
Cystoderma amianthinum, Earthy Powdercap
Entoloma conferendum, Star Pinkgill
Entoloma prunuloides, Mealy Pinkgill
Geoglossum fallax
Hygrocybe chlorophana, Golden Waxcap
Hygrocybe insipida, Spangle Waxcap
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea, Snowy Waxcap
Lactarius deterrimus, False Saffron Milkcap
Russula queletii, Fruity Brittlegill

Site: Tramore Dunes / Marfagh Head
Date Visited: 06/11/20
GridRef: B993373

Another gigantic dune system that with its varied topology with sand blown up the hill with areas of bare rock and acid grassland is worth a much longer visit. The best area for waxcaps was the acid grassland on Marfagh Head to the north of the Tramore Strand which in itself is an enormous area which could be further searched to the north of the head. Whether this is actually one site or two could be debated but the habitats do merge. If Marfagh Head was a separate site, only Hygrocybe mucronella was not recorded from this area in the list below. Notable species were H.pratensis var. pallida and

Bovista plumbea, Grey Puffball
Clavulinopsis corniculata, Meadow Coral
Clavulinopsis helvola, Yellow Club
Clavulinopsis laeticolor, Handsome Club
Clavulinopsis luteoalba, Apricot Club
Entoloma conferendum, Star Pinkgill
Geoglossum atropurpureum, Dark-purple Earhtongue
Geoglossum cookeanum
Geoglossum fallax
Hygrocybe ceracea, Butter Waxcap
Hygrocybe chlorophana, Golden Waxcap
Hygrocybe coccinea, Scarlet Waxcap
Hygrocybe colemaniana, Toasted Waxcap
Hygrocybe conica var. conicoides, Dune Waxcap
Hygrocybe fornicata, Earthy Waxcap
Hygrocybe mucronella Bitter Waxcap
Hygrocybe pratensis var. pallida Pale Waxcap
Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis Meadow Waxcap
Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina Parrot Waxcap
Hygrocybe punicea Crimson Waxcap
Hygrocybe quieta Oily Waxcap
Hygrocybe russocoriacea Cedarwood Waxcap
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea Snowy Waxcap
Lepista nuda Wood Blewit
Lepista panaeola
Panaeolus acuminatus Dewdrop Mottlegill

B94

Sites Searched: Not visited

Hygrocybe 0 Clavariaceae 0 Entolomaceae 0 Geoglossaceae 0 Others: 0

A very small bit of land within this square with the farm at Crockaclogher, Horn Head the only possible site.

C00

Sites Searched: Not visited

Hygrocybe 0 Clavariaceae 0 Entolomaceae 0 Geoglossaceae 0 Others: 0

A small area within West Donegal and nothing of interest identified in the pre-survey

C01

Sites Searched: Lough Gartan: Glebe House; Sruhangarrow

Hygrocybe 13 Clavariaceae 0 Entolomaceae 3 Geoglossaceae 2 Others: 0

A wet square with small drier areas of acid grassland like Sruhagararrow few and far between. Fields to the south west of Sruhagararrow at the end of the road could be good.

Grassland Target Species Recorded

Entoloma chalybaeum var. chalybaeum
Entoloma conferendum
Entoloma sericeum
Geoglossum fallax
Geoglossum glutinosum
Hygrocybe ceracea
Hygrocybe chlorophana
Hygrocybe coccinea
Hygrocybe conica var. conica
Hygrocybe flavipes
Hygrocybe insipida
Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta
Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina
Hygrocybe punicea
Hygrocybe quieta
Hygrocybe reidii
Site Details:

Site: Lough Gartan: Glebe House

Date Visited: 26/10/20    GridRef: C06231742
H: 2  C: 0  E: 1  G: 0  O 0

An estate lawn of a property managed positively for nature conservation. The lawn itself is very wet and only small areas are likely to be good for waxcaps. It would be important to remove the grass cuttings which are currently left in situ if nutrient levels are to become more favourable for waxcaps. As a woodland site, this location is likely to be very good for ectomycorrhizal fungi.

Agaricus macrocarpus

Cantharellus tubiformis var. tubiformis    Trumpet Chanterelle
Coprinus comatus    Shaggy Inkcap
Entoloma conferendum    Star Pinkgill
Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta    Heath Waxcap
Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina    Parrot Waxcap
Inocybe geophylla var. lilacina    Lilac Fibrecap
Inocybe lanuginosa    Woolly Fibrecap
Laccaria laccata    Deceiver
Lactarius blennius    Beech Milkcap
Lactarius glyciosmus    Coconut Milkcap
Rhytisma acerinum    Sycamore Tarspot
Rhytisma salicinum
Russula betularum    Birch Brittlegill
Russula cyanoxantha    Charcoal Burner
Russula nigricans    Blackening Brittlegill
Scleroderma bovista    Potato Earthball

Site: Sruhangarrow

Date Visited: 26/10/20    GridRef: C03031462
H: 13  C: 0  E: 3  G: 2  O 0

A small area of acid grassland in an area of blocky talus only about 1 hectare in size that is surrounded by blanket bog. Waxcap fruiting was abundant in this small island of grassland and ultimately the spatial limitation of the site will mean that numbers are unlikely to be too much

Cordyceps militaris    Scarlet Caterpillarclub
Cystoderma amiantinum    Earthy Powdercap
Entoloma chalybaeum var. chalybaeum    Indigo Pinkgill
Entoloma conferendum    Star Pinkgill
Entoloma sericeum  
Exidia recisa  
Fuligo septica  
Geoglossum fallax  
Geoglossum glutinosum  
Hygrocybe ceracea  
Hygrocybe chlorophana  
Hygrocybe coccinea  
Hygrocybe conica var. conica  
Hygrocybe flavipes  
Hygrocybe insipida  
Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta  
Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina  
Hygrocybe punicea  
Hygrocybe quieta  
Hygrocybe reidii  
Hygrocybe russocoriacea  
Hygrocybe splendidissima  
Laccaria laccata  
Muclago crustacea  
Panaeolus acuminatus  

C02

Sites Searched: Muckish: Meencoolasheskin; Muckish: Summit

Hygrocybe 7  Clavariaceae 1  Entolomaceae 0  Geoglossaceae 0  Others: 0

This square includes the main part of Glenveagh National Park which was not visited due to time restrictions. There are possible areas here although the steep slopes on either side of Lough Beagh did not look hopeful. Most of Muckish itself is too acid and wet. The best possible area could be some of the fields on Loughaskerry and Murray’s Town in the south.

Grassland Target Species Recorded

Clavulinopsis fusiformis  
Hygrocybe coccinea  
Hygrocybe insipida  
Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta  
Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina  

Site Details:

Site: Muckish: Meencoolasheskin  
Date Visited: 05/11/20  
GridRef: C00012672
Small patches of acid grassland occur below the road to Falcarragh under Muckish. The limited size of these patches mean they are unlikely to hold significant numbers of waxcaps. There are other possible areas of grassland on Crocknalaragagh.

- *Clavulinopsis fusiformis* (Golden Spindles)
- *Hygrocybe coccinea* (Scarlet Waxcap)
- *Hygrocybe insipida* (Spangle Waxcap)
- *Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta* (Heath Waxcap)
- *Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina* (Parrot Waxcap)
- *Hygrocybe punicea* (Crimson Waxcap)
- *Hygrocybe quieta* (Oily Waxcap)
- *Hygrocybe reidi* (Honey Waxcap)
- *Psilocybe semilanceata* (Liberty Cap)
- *Stropharia semiglobata* (Dung Roundhead)

**Site:** Muckish: Summit

**Date Visited:** 05/11/20  
**GridRef:** C001285

A large area of montane heath on the summit of Muckish. I was searching unsuccessfully for *Hygrocybe salicis-herbaceae* but did find a number of specimens of *Lichenomphalia alpina* on bare soil on the Rhacomitrium heath. This pure yellow lichenised basidiomycete is rarely recorded in Ireland with the only record on the FRDBI being from the Galtees in Tipperary in 1969 by M.Scannell.

- *Cystoderma amianthinum* (Earthy Powdercap)
- *Lichenomphalia alpina*
- *Lichenomphalia umbellifera* (Heath Navel)
- *Mycena epipterygia var. epipterygia* (Yellowleg Bonnet)

**C03**

**Sites Searched:** Dunfanaghy: Holy Cross Church; Marble Hill Strand

*Hygrocybe* 7  *Clavariaceae* 1  *Entolomaceae* 1  *Geoglossaceae* 1  *Others*: 0

This will be a better square as Clonmass Point at Marble Strand was not accessible and looked a good possibility. Breaghy Head and Dundonnell Head could be possible sites as could the golf course and dunes at Dunfanaghy. Much of Horn Head is too acid and wet.

**Grassland Target Species Recorded**

- *Clavaria straminea*  
- *Entoloma jubatum*  
- *Geoglossum cookeanum*  
- *Hygrocybe chlorophana*  
- *Hygrocybe citrinovirens*  
- *Hygrocybe coccinea*  
- *Hygrocybe conica var. conicoides*  
- *Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis*  
- *Hygrocybe punicea*  
- *Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea*  

63
Site Details:

Site:  Dunfanaghy: Holy Cross Church
Date Visited:  06/11/20  GridRef:  C01663706
H:  5  C:  1  E:  1  G:  0  O:  0

A very interesting large area of grassland around the church contained the only record of *Hygrocybe citrinovirens* on this survey (a very late record for this usually early fruiting species), large amounts of *H.punicea* and *Clavaria straminea*. These good records indicate that this could well be the best churchyard visited in this survey and certainly worth a revisit.

- *Clavaria straminea*  Straw Club
- *Cystoderma amianthinum*  Earthy Powdercap
- *Entoloma jubatum*  Sepia Pinkgill
- *Hygrocybe chlorophana*  Golden Waxcap
- *Hygrocybe citrinovirens*  Citrine Waxcap
- *Hygrocybe coccinea*  Scarlet Waxcap
- *Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis*  Meadow Waxcap
- *Hygrocybe punicea*  Crimson Waxcap
- *Rhytisma acerinum*  Sycamore Tarspot
- *Stropharia pseudocyanea*  Peppery Roundhead

Site:  Marble Hill Strand
Date Visited:  05/11/20  GridRef:  C066363
H:  0  C:  0  E:  0  G:  0  O:  0

A thin strip of dunes behind the beach is backed by fields grazed by cattle but these are fenced off as is Clonmass Point. No fungi were found at all in the thin strip of dunes open to the public. As this visit was late in the day, there was no time to organise access onto Clonmass Point which looks very promising for waxcaps. This area is definitely worth returning to and

- *Rhytisma acerinum*  Sycamore Tarspot

C04

Sites Searched:  Glenoory: Doagh Bay; Horn Head: Coastguard Hill

**Hygrocybe**  10  **Clavariaceae**  0  **Entolomaceae**  2  **Geoglossaceae**  0  **Others:**  1

The square includes small corners of Horn Head and Rosguill. It is unlikely to be too much better as possible grassland is restricted on Horn Head to disturbed ground around the old coastguard and signal watchtowers. Rosguill was better with more potential grassland.

**Grassland Target Species Recorded**

- *Dermoloma cuneiform var. cuneiform*  *Hygrocybe chlorophana*
- *Entoloma conferendum*  *Hygrocybe coccinea*
- *Entoloma sericeum*  *Hygrocybe insipida*
Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis
Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina
Hygrocybe quieta
Hygrocybe reidii
Hygrocybe russocoriacea
Hygrocybe splendidissima
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea

Site Details:

Site: Glenoory: Doagh Bay
Date Visited: 29/10/20
GridRef: C09844239
H: 10  C: 0  E: 2  G: 1  O: 0

A good area of acid grassland between the road and the sea. The steeper areas or rocky knolls were the best areas for fruiting.

Clitocybe fragrans
Cordyceps militaris
Cystoderma amianthinum
Dermoloma cuneifolium var. cuneifolium
Entoloma conferendum
Entoloma sericeum
Hygrocybe chlorophana
Hygrocybe coccinea
Hygrocybe insipida
Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis
Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina
Hygrocybe quieta
Hygrocybe reidii
Hygrocybe russocoriacea
Hygrocybe splendidissima
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea
Lepista panaeola
Psilocybe coprophila
Psilocybe semilanceata
Stropharia pseudocyanea
Stropharia semiglobata
Vascellum pratense

Site: Horn Head: Coastguard Hill
Date Visited: 06/11/20
GridRef: C01364097
H: 1  C: 0  E: 0  G: 0  O: 0

The northern part of Horn Head has very few potential areas for waxcaps with these mostly restricted to areas of disturbance by man, e.g. around the ruined coastguard building or signal tower. Unlikely to be of significant
**Hygrocybe insipida**  Spangle Waxcap
*Panaeolus papilionaceus var. papilionaceus*  Petticoat Mottlegill
*Stropharia aeruginosa*

**C11**

**Sites Searched:**  Letterkenny: Conwal Church of Ireland; Letterkenny: St Eunan’s

**Hygrocybe** 6  **Clavariaceae** 1  **Entolomaceae** 1  **Geoglossaceae** 2  **Others:** 0

Churchyards are likely to be the best sites in this lowland square.

**Grassland Target Species Recorded**

- *Clavulinopsis corniculata*
- *Entoloma conferendum*
- *Geoglossum glutinosum*
- *Trichoglossum hirsutum*
- *Hygrocybe calyptriformis*
- *Hygrocybe chlorophana*
- *Hygrocybe irrigata*
- *Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis*
- *Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina*
- *Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea*

**Site Details:**

**Site:**  Letterkenny: Conwal Church of Ireland

- **Date Visited:**  24/10/20  **GridRef:**  C16781152
- **H:**  5  **C:**  1  **E:**  1  **G:**  2  **O:**  0

A churchyard of interest as it hosts the flagship species, *Hygrocybe calyptriformis*, at one of its two sites in this survey. This site is likely to have more waxcaps and should be revisited.

- *Clavulinopsis corniculata*  Meadow Coral
- *Entoloma conferendum*  Star Pinkgill
- *Geoglossum glutinosum*
- *Hygrocybe calyptriformis*  Pink Waxcap
- *Hygrocybe chlorophana*  Golden Waxcap
- *Hygrocybe irrigata*  Slimy Waxcap
- *Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis*  Meadow Waxcap
- *Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea*  Snowy Waxcap
- *Trichoglossum hirsutum*  Hairy Earthtongue

**Site:**  Letterkenny: St Eunan’s Cathedral

- **Date Visited:**  24/10/20  **GridRef:**  C16711148
- **H:**  4  **C:**  0  **E:**  0  **G:**  0  **O:**  0

A very small area of grass. Unlikely to be of significant interest.

- *Coprinus comatus*  Shaggy Inkcap
- *Galerina vittiformis*  Hairy Leg Bell
- *Hygrocybe chlorophana*  Golden Waxcap
Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis  Meadow Waxcap
Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina  Parrot Waxcap
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea  Snowy Waxcap

C12

Sites Searched:  Kilmacrennan: Church of Ireland; Kilmacrennan: Leiter Presbyterian

Hygrocybe  17  Clavariaceae  4  Entolomaceae  3  Geoglossaceae  1  Others:  1

Lough Salt Mountain is the best area within the square without doubt with churchyards also important.

Grassland Target Species Recorded

Clavaria fumosa
Clavulinopsis corniculata
Clavulinopsis fusiformis
Clavulinopsis helvola
Dermoloma cuneifolium var. cuneifolium
Entoloma conferendum
Entoloma jubatum
Entoloma undatum
Geoglossum fallax
Hygrocybe ceracea
Hygrocybe chlorophana
Hygrocybe coccinea
Hygrocybe fornicata
Hygrocybe insipida
Hygrocybe irrigata
Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta
Hygrocybe miniata
Hygrocybe mucronella
Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis
Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina
Hygrocybe punicea
Hygrocybe quieta
Hygrocybe reidii
Hygrocybe russocoriacea
Hygrocybe splendidissima
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea

Site Details:

Site:  Kilmacrennan: Church of Ireland

Date Visited:  24/10/20  GridRef:  C14052049
H: 0  C: 0  E: 0  G: 0  O: 0

Of limited interest for grassland fungi.

Coprinus comatus  Shaggy Inkcap
Rhytisma acerinum  Sycamore Tarspot

Site:  Kilmacrennan: Leiter Presbyterian

Date Visited:  27/10/20  GridRef:  C16022042
H: 6  C: 1  E: 2  G: 1  O: 0

One of the better churchyards found in this survey although only 6 waxcaps were found and it is worth another visit. *Hygrocybe fornicata* and *Entoloma undatum* are the notable fungi found.
Clavulinopsis corniculata  Meadow Coral
Clitocybe dealbata  Ivory Funnel
Clitocybe fragrans  Fragrant Funnel
Coprinus comatus  Shaggy Inkcap
Cystoderma amianthinum  Earthy Powdercap
Dermoloma cuneifolium var. cuneifolium  Crazed Cap
Entoloma conferendum  Star Pinkgill
Entoloma undatum
Galerina vittiformis  Hairy Leg Bell
Geoglossum fallax
Hygrocybe ceracea  Butter Waxcap
Hygrocybe chlorophana  Golden Waxcap
Hygrocybe fornicata  Earthy Waxcap
Hygrocybe insipida  Spangle Waxcap
Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta  Heath Waxcap
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea  Snowy Waxcap
Lepista nuda  Wood Blewit
Melanoleuca polioleuca f. polioleuca  Common Cavalier

Site: Lough Salt
Date Visited: 29/10/20  GridRef: C12022574
H: 14  C: 3  E: 2  G: 1  O: 0

A good site that is likely to much better and that should be explored in more depth. Areas of acid grassland are found all round the western side of the lough and add up to a significant area. The steep field at C11992570 and areas around C12112597 and C12872713 were searched but the large area around the crag at C12532676 was not and should be visited.

Clavaria fumosa  Smoky Spindles
Clavulinopsis fusiformis  Golden Spindles
Clavulinopsis helvola  Yellow Club
Clitocybe vibecina  Mealy Funnel
Cystoderma amianthinum  Earthy Powdercap
Entoloma conferendum  Star Pinkgill
Entoloma jubatum  Sepia Pinkgill
Geoglossum fallax
Hygrocybe chlorophana  Golden Waxcap
Hygrocybe coccinea  Scarlet Waxcap
Hygrocybe insipida  Spangle Waxcap
Hygrocybe irrigata  Slimy Waxcap
Hygrocybe miniata  Vermilion Waxcap
Hygrocybe mucronella  Bitter Waxcap
Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis  Meadow Waxcap
Sites Searched: Rosapenna machair

Hygrocybe 5  Clavariaceae 0  Entolomaceae 0  Geoglossaceae 1  Others: 0

Possible sites in this square are largely restricted to the huge area of machair between Aghadachor and Downies. Aghadachor has been visited by Roland McHugh and 19 Hygrocybe have been recorded from here. I missed the turnoff and ended up not visiting this site. The machair at Rosapenna was fairly disappointing. Roland's visits to Aghadachor were all earlier in the season on 9 October 1999 and 12 October 2002 which suggests that the coastal machair sites may fruit earlier than acid grassland sites.

Grassland Target Species Recorded

Geoglossum cookeanum  Hygrocybe virginea var. fuscescens
Hygrocybe calciphila  Hygrocybe virginea var. ochraceopallida
Hygrocybe colemanniana  Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea
Hygrocybe conica var. conicoides
Hygrocybe insipida

Site Details:

Site: Rosapenna machair

Date Visited: 29/10/20  GridRef: C12163719
H: 5  C: 0  E: 0  G: 1  O: 0

A huge area of machair and dunes. The golf courses were not searched and could be of interest but as typical for so many Irish dune systems, the site showed good fungal fruiting but was very limited in terms of diversity. Hygrocybe virginea, H.conica and H.persistens, earth tongues, Lepista nuda and Melanoleuca spp dominate. However the first Irish record for Melanoleuca friesii was found here. It is likely to be more common as it is only recently been included in keys for the species.
Geoglossum cookeanum
Hygrocybe calciphila
Hygrocybe colemanniana
Hygrocybe conica var. conicoides
Hygrocybe insipida
Hygrocybe virginea var. fuscescens
Hygrocybe virginea var. ochraceopallida
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea
Lepista nuda
Melanoleuca friesii
Melanoleuca polioleuca f. polioleuca

C14

Sites Searched: Melmore Head

Hygrocybe 14 Clavariaceae 2 Entolomaceae 5 Geoglossaceae 1 Others: 0

A very good square. Melmore Head was an excellent site and other possible sites in this square at the machair at Rosses Strand and Rosses Point on Rosguill and on Fanad, the dunes at Ballyheirnan Bay and Donaghmore Strand with the acid grassland of Gortnatraw Point looking quite hopeful.

Grassland Target Species Recorded
Clavulinopsis corniculata
Clavulinopsis luteoalba
Entoloma asprellum
Entoloma atrocoeruleum
Entoloma conferendum
Entoloma jubatum
Entoloma porphyrophaeum
Geoglossum cookeanum
Hygrocybe ceracea
Hygrocybe chlorophana
Hygrocybe coccinea
Hygrocybe colemanniana
Hygrocybe conica var. conica

Site Details:

Site: Melmore Head
Date Visited: 29/10/20
GridRef: C136447
H: 14
C: 2
E: 5
G: 1
O: 0
A very good well drained site grazed by sheep. Fruiting was also found in the caravan site. The notable species found was *Chamaemyces fracidus* with *Lactarius lacunarum* also found on *Salix repens* in the heath.

*Bolbitius vitellinus*  
Yellow Fieldcap

*Chamaemyces fracidus*  
Dewdrop Dapperling

*Clavulinopsis corniculata*  
Meadow Coral

*Clavulinopsis luteoalba*  
Apricot Club

*Clitocybe dealbata*  
Ivory Funnel

*Corinarius croceus*  

*Cystoderma amianthinum*  
Earthy Powdercap

*Entoloma asprellum*  

*Entoloma atrocoeruleum*  

*Entoloma conferendum*  
Star Pinkgill

*Entoloma jubatum*  
Sepia Pinkgill

*Entoloma porphyrophaeum*  
Lilac Pinkgill

*Geoglossum Cookeanum*  

*Hygrocybe ceracea*  
Butter Waxcap

*Hygrocybe chlorophana*  
Golden Waxcap

*Hygrocybe coccinea*  
Scarlet Waxcap

*Hygrocybe colemaniana*  
Toasted Waxcap

*Hygrocybe conica var. conica*  
Blackening Waxcap

*Hygrocybe conica var. conicoides*  
Dune Waxcap

*Hygrocybe flavipes*  
Yellow Foot Waxcap

*Hygrocybe fornicata*  
Earthy Waxcap

*Hygrocybe insipida*  
Spangle Waxcap

*Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis*  
Meadow Waxcap

*Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina*  
Parrot Waxcap

*Hygrocybe punicea*  
Crimson Waxcap

*Hygrocybe quieta*  
Oily Waxcap

*Hygrocybe russocoriacea*  
Cedarwood Waxcap

*Hygrocybe virginea var. fuscescens*  

*Hygrocybe virginea var. ochraceopallida*  

*Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea*  
Snowy Waxcap

*Lactarius lacunarum*  

*Lepista nuda*  
Wood Blewit

*Melanoleuca cinereifolia*  

*Melanoleuca polioleuca f. polioleuca*  
Common Cavalier

*Peziza ammophila*  
Dune Cup

*Psathyrella ammophila*  
Dune Brittlestem

*Stropharia aeruginosa*  

*Stropharia semiglobata*  
Dung Roundhead
Vasceillum pratense  Meadow Puffball

C21

Sites Searched:  Castlegrove Country Hotel

Hygrocybe 3  Clavariaceae 1  Entolomaceae 1  Geoglossaceae 0  Others: 0

A lowland square with churches or estate lawns being the only possible sites. Ardrumman House and Killydonnell Abbey are other possible locations.

Grassland Target Species Recorded

Clavulinopsis luteoalba  Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta
Entoloma sericeum  Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea
Hygrocybe conica var. conica

Site Details:

Site:  Castlegrove Country Hotel
Date Visited:  27/10/20  GridRef:  C22601556
H: 3  C: 1  E: 1  G: 0  O 0

The deep spongy lawn had been very recently cut but featured no waxcaps. The lack of species would indicate the addition of fertilisers and this site is likely to be better for woodland fungi than grassland fungi. The notable species found was Hebeloma radicosum, a species normally found associated with mole latrines - see the discussion on notable finds.

Boletus badius  Bay Bolete
Clavulinopsis luteoalba  Apricot Club
Coprinus comatus  Shaggy Inkcap
Cystoderma amianthinum  Earthy Powdercap
Entoloma sericeum  Silky Pinkgill
Galerina vittiformis  Hairy Leg Bell
Hebeloma crustuliniforme  Poisonpie
Hebeloma radicosum  Rooting Poisonpie
Hygrocybe conica var. conica  Blackening Waxcap
Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta  Heath Waxcap
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea  Snowy Waxcap
Laccaria laccata  Deceiver
Lacrymaria lacrymabunda  Weeping Widow
Lactarius quietus  Oakbug Milkcap
Lactarius vietus  Grey Milkcap
Rhytisma acerinum  Sycamore Tarspot
Rickenella fibula  Orange Mosscap
Rickenella swartzii  Collared Mosscap
Russula delica  Milk White Brittlegill

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Russula mairei  Beechwood Sickener
Russula nigricans  Blackening Brittlegill
Suillus luteus  Slippery Jack
Tricholoma fulvum  Birch Knight

C22

Sites Searched:  Glenalla: St Colmkillle Church of Ireland; Rathmullan: Presbyterian

Hygrocybe 7  Clavariaceae 1  Entolomaceae 3  Geoglossaceae 1  Others: 1

The most promising area in this square is the upland area of Crockanaffrin but access to this proved difficult as the minor road was suitable for a non 4x4. Churches are the only other likely sites.

Grassland Target Species Recorded

- Clavaria fumosa  Hygrocybe insipida
- Dermoloma cuneifolium var. cuneifolium  Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta
- Entoloma conferendum  Hygrocybe miniata
- Entoloma jubatum  Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis
- Entoloma papillatum  Hygrocybe reidii
- Geoglossum fallax  Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea
- Hygrocybe chlorophana

Site Details:

Site:  Glenalla: St Colmkillle Church of

Date Visited:  27/10/20  GridRef:  C24012740
H: 7  C: 1  E: 2  G: 0  O 0

Jointly the best churchyard with (only) seven species of waxcap. A rural church this would be worth another visit.

- Clavaria fumosa  Smoky Spindles
- Entoloma jubatum  Sepia Pinkgill
- Entoloma papillatum  Papillate Pinkgill
- Hygrocybe chlorophana  Golden Waxcap
- Hygrocybe insipida  Spangle Waxcap
- Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta  Heath Waxcap
- Hygrocybe miniata  Vermilion Waxcap
- Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis  Meadow Waxcap
- Hygrocybe reidii  Honey Waxcap
- Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea  Snowy Waxcap
- Hypoxylon fuscum  Hazel Woodwart
- Lycoperdon nigrescens  Dusky Puffball
Site: Rathmullan: Presbyterian Church  
**Date Visited:** 27/10/20  
**GridRef:** C29732778  
**H:** 0  
**C:** 0  
**E:** 0  
**G:** 0  
**O:** 0  
No grassland fungi target species found here at all.

Galerina vittiformis  
Hairy Leg Bell

Site: Rathmullan: Roman Catholic  
**Date Visited:** 27/10/20  
**GridRef:** C29562789  
**H:** 1  
**C:** 0  
**E:** 1  
**G:** 1  
**O:** 0  
A small amount of grassland that it was felt should have had more waxcaps. The notable find was the second Irish record of *Stropharia albonitens*.

Armillaria gallica  
Bulbous Honey Fungus

Colybia butyracea f. butyracea  
Butter Cap

Coprinus comatus  
Shaggy Inkcap

Cystoderma amiantinum  
Earthy Powdercap

Dermoloma cuneifolium var. cuneifolium  
Crazed Cap

Entoloma conferendum  
Star Pinkgill

Geoglossum fallax

Hygrocybe virginia var. virginia  
Snowy Waxcap

Lactarius quietus  
Oakbug Milkcap

Melanoleuca polioleuca f. polioleuca  
Common Cavalier

Panaeolina foeniseccii  
Brown Mottlegill

Rhytisma acerinum  
Sycamore Tarspot

Rickenella fibula  
Orange Mosscap

*Stropharia albonitens*

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**C23**

**Sites Searched:** Ballymastocker Dunes; Fanad: Saldarha Head

**Hygrocybe** 9  
**Clavariaceae** 3  
**Entolomaceae** 1  
**Geoglossaceae** 3  
**Others:** 0

Small patches of acid grassland on Knockalla Mountain, Ballymastocker dunes and Portsalon grassland are the main sites in this square but they are unlikely to be significant.

**Grassland Target Species Recorded**

- **Clavaria acuta**
- **Clavulinopsis fusiformis**
- **Clavulinopsis luteoalba**
- **Entoloma papillatum**
- **Geoglossum cookeanum**
- **Geoglossum fallax**
- **Trichoglossum hirsutum**
- **Hygrocybe ceracea**
- **Hygrocybe conica var. conica**
- **Hygrocybe conica var. conicoides**
- **Hygrocybe insipida**
- **Hygrocybe miniata**
Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis  Hygrocybe virginea var. fuscescens
Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina  Hygrocybe virginea var. ochraceopallida
Hygrocybe reidii  Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea
Hygrocybe russocoriacea

Site Details:

Site: Ballymastocker Dunes
Date Visited: 27/10/20  GridRef: C252379
H: 2  C: 1  E: 0  G: 2  O: 0
The small area of dunes by the carpark at the south end of the beach was searched and was not spectacular mycologically. The notable species was *Coprinopsis ammophilae* found in the foredunes. The golf course and machair behind the dunes were not searched.

Clavaria acuta  Pointed Club
Coprinopsis ammophilae  Dune Inkcap
Geoglossum cookeanum
Hygrocybe conica var. conicoides  Dune Waxcap
Hygrocybe virginea var. fuscescens
Hygrocybe virginea var. ochraceopallida
Lepista nuda  Wood Blewit
Peziza ammophila  Dune Cup
Trichoglossum hirsutum  Hairy Earhtongue

Site: Fanad: Saldarha Head
Date Visited: 27/10/20  GridRef: C258374
H: 9  C: 2  E: 1  G: 1  O: 0
Small strips of grassland associated with the construction of the road were the only possible sites for waxcaps. The best spots were at C25543736, C25813751 and C26953707. Unlikely to be a significant waxcap site.

Clavulinopsis fusiformis  Golden Spindles
Clavulinopsis luteoalba  Apricot Club
Cystoderma amianthinum  Earthy Powdercap
Entoloma papillatum  Papillate Pinkgill
Geoglossum fallax
Hygrocybe ceracea  Butter Waxcap
Hygrocybe conica var. conica  Blackening Waxcap
Hygrocybe insipida  Spangle Waxcap
Hygrocybe miniata  Vermilion Waxcap
Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis  Meadow Waxcap
Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina  Parrot Waxcap
Hygrocybe reidii  Honey Waxcap
Hygrocybe russocoriacea  Cedarwood Waxcap
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea  Snowy Waxcap
Lichenomphalia umbellifera  Heath Navel
Panaeolus acuminatus  Dewdrop Mottlegill
Psilocybe semilanceata  Liberty Cap
Stropharia pseudocyanea  Peppery Roundhead
Stropharia semiglobata  Dung Roundhead

Sites Searched:  Fanad: Pollet

Hygrocybe  14  Clavariaceae  3  Entolomaceae  5  Geoglossaceae  1  Others:  0

The small good grassland on the coastal cliffs at Pollet show how difficult it can be to find

Grassland Target Species Recorded

Clavaria acuta  Hygrocybe insipida
Clavulinopsis helvola  Hygrocybe irrigata
Clavulinopsis luteoalba  Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta
Entoloma chalybaeum var. chalybaeum  Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis
Entoloma conferendum  Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina
Entoloma papillatum  Hygrocybe punicea
Entoloma poliopus var. poliopus  Hygrocybe quieta
Entoloma serrulatum  Hygrocybe reidii
Geoglossum fallax  Hygrocybe russocoriacea
Hygrocybe chlorophana  Hygrocybe splendidissima
Hygrocybe coccinea  Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea
Hygrocybe conica var. conica

Site Details:

Site:  Fanad: Pollet
Date Visited:  27/10/20  GridRef:  C23894601
H: 14  C: 3  E: 5  G: 1  O: 0

The steep acid grassland on the high cliffs to the north of Pollet Head were

Clavaria acuta  Pointed Club
Clavulinopsis helvola  Yellow Club
Clavulinopsis luteoalba  Apricot Club
Cystoderma amianthinum  Earthy Powdercap
Entoloma chalybaeum var. chalybaeum  
Entoloma conferendum  
Entoloma papillatum  
Entoloma poliopus var. poliopus  
Entoloma serrulatum  
Geoglossum fallax  
Hygrocybe chlorophana  
Hygrocybe coccinea  
Hygrocybe conica var. conica  
Hygrocybe insipida  
Hygrocybe irrigata  
Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta  
Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis  
Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina  
Hygrocybe punicea  
Hygrocybe quieta  
Hygrocybe reidii  
Hygrocybe russocoriacea  
Hygrocybe splendidissima  
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea  
Mucilago crustacea  
Panaeolus papilionaceus var. papilionaceus  
Stropharia pseudocyanea  
Stropharia semiglobata

C32

Sites Searched:  Rathmullan: Fort Royal Hotel; Rathmullan: Rathmullan House

Hygrocybe 8  Clavariaceae 1  Entolomaceae 0  Geoglossaceae 1  Others: 0

There is a tiny area of land in West Donegal in this square with the estate lawns of Fort Royal and Rathmullan House being the only possibilities.

Grassland Target Species Recorded

Clavulinopsis laeticolor
Hygrocybe miniata
Trichoglossum hirsutum
Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina
Hygrocybe ceracea
Hygrocybe quieta
Hygrocybe chlorophana
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea
Hygrocybe conica var. conicoides
Hygrocybe insipida

Site Details:
Site: Rathmullan: Fort Royal Hotel

Date Visited: 27/10/20  GridRef: C30232863
H: 7  C: 1  E: 0  G: 1  O: 0

The lawns here were better drained than the neighbouring Rathmullan House and were subsequently much better for waxcaps with seven species recorded. The woodlands were also much richer in fungi and this was a very pleasurable site to foray in.

*Clavulinopsis laeticolor*  Handsome Club
*Clitocybe dealbata*  Ivory Funnel
*Clitocybe nebularis*  Clouded Funnel
*Cellybia butyracea f. butyracea*  Butter Cap
*Coprinopsis atramentaria*  Common Inkcap
*Helvella lucunosa*  Elfin Saddle
*Hygrocybe ceracea*  Butter Waxcap
*Hygrocybe chlorophana*  Golden Waxcap
*Hygrocybe insipida*  Spangle Waxcap
*Hygrocybe miniata*  Vermilion Waxcap
*Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina*  Parrot Waxcap
*Hygrocybe quieta*  Oily Waxcap
*Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea*  Snowy Waxcap
*Inocybe rimosus*  Split Fibrecap
*Lactarius glycinosus*  Coconut Milkcap
*Lactarius pubescens*  Bearded Milkcak
*Leccinum cyaneobasileucum*
*Marasmius setosus*
*Melanoleuca polioleuca f. polioleuca*  Common Cavalier
*Parasola conopilus*  Conical Brittlestem
*Rhytismacrerinum*  Sycamore TarSpot
*Rickenella fibula*  Orange Mosscap
*Rickenella swartzii*  Collared Mosscap
*Russula exalbicans*  Bleached Brittlegill
*Trichoglossum hirsutum*  Hairy Earthtongue
*Tricholoma terreum*  Grey Knight
*Tricholomopsis rutilans*  Plums and Custard
*Trochila ilicina*  Holly Speckle

Site: Rathmullan: Rathmullan House

Date Visited: 27/10/20  GridRef: C30112825
H: 1  C: 0  E: 0  G: 0  O: 0

Very wet lawns surround the house with a thin strip of dunes below the lawn. The lawns are likely to be too wet for waxcaps and this site is likely to be more significant for woodland fungi than grassland fungi.

*Coprinopsis atramentaria*  Common Inkcap
Ganoderma australe  
Gymnopilus junonius  
Hygrocybe conica var. conicoides  
Melanoleuca polioleuca f. polioleuca  
Microsphaera alphitoides  
Peziza ammonphila  
Rhytisma acerinum  
Taphrina alni  
Xylaria hypoxylon  

Southern Bracket  
Spectacular Rustgill  
Dune Waxcap  
Common Cavalier  
Dune Cup  
Sycamore Tarspot  
Alder Tongue  
Candlesnuff Fungus  

C33

Sites Searched:  Not visited

Hygrocybe  0  Clavariaceae  0  Entolomaceae  0  Geoglossaceae  0  Others:  0

A very small bit of land within West Donegal. Only Otway Golf club a possible site.

G47

Sites Searched:  Malin Beg: Silver Strand

Hygrocybe  10  Clavariaceae  3  Entolomaceae  0  Geoglossaceae  1  Others:  1

A tiny area of land within this square but it contains the steep short grassland above Silver Strand. Rathlin O’Birne island could be an interesting site and is worth a visit if possible.

Grassland Target Species Recorded

Clavaria fumosa  
Clavulinopsis corniculata  
Clavulinopsis helvola  
Dermoloma cuneifolium var. cuneifolium  
Geoglossum fallax  
Hygrocybe chlorophana  
Hygrocybe conica var. conica  
Hygrocybe insipida  

Hygrocybe nitratia  
Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina  
Hygrocybe punicea  
Hygrocybe quieta  
Hygrocybe reidii  
Hygrocybe russocoriacea  
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea

Site Details:

Site:  Malin Beg: Silver Strand  
Date Visited:  31/10/20  
GridRef:  G499799  
H: 10  C: 3  E: 0  G: 2  O: 1

The very steep tightly grazed slopes on the cliffs above Silver Strand. This has the feeling of a better waxcap site and is definitely worth another visit. Notable species found were Hygrocybe nitratia.
Bovista nigrescens  Brown Puffball
Clavaria fumosa  Smoky Spindles
Clavulinopsis corniculata  Meadow Coral
Clavulinopsis helvola  Yellow Club
Dermoloma cuneifolium var. cuneifolium  Crazed Cap
Geoglossum fallax
Hygrocybe chlorophana  Golden Waxcap
Hygrocybe conica var. conica  Blackening Waxcap
Hygrocybe insipida  Spangle Waxcap
Hygrocybe nitrata  Nitrous Waxcap
Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina  Parrot Waxcap
Hygrocybe punicea  Crimson Waxcap
Hygrocybe quieta  Oily Waxcap
Hygrocybe reidii  Honey Waxcap
Hygrocybe russocoriacea  Cedarwood Waxcap
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea  Snowy Waxcap
Lepista panaeola

**Sites Searched:**  Malin More

**Hygrocybe**  13  **Clavariaceae**  2  **Entolomaceae**  0  **Geoglossaceae**  1  **Others:**  0

Mostly sea but the coastal grassland at Malin More extending out to Rossan Point is very good. The northern half of Rathlin O’Birne Island could be worth exploring.

**Grassland Target Species Recorded**

- Clavulinopsis helvola
- Clavulinopsis luteoalba
- Geoglossum Cookeanum
- Hygrocybe Ceracea
- Hygrocybe Chlorophana
- Hygrocybe Coccinea
- Hygrocybe Conica var. Conica
- Hygrocybe Insipida
- Hygrocybe Quieta var. Quieta

**Site Details:**

- **Site:**  Malin More
- **Date Visited:**  31/10/20  **GridRef:**  G49268297
- **H:**  13  **C:**  2  **E:**  0  **G:**  1  **O:**  0
A very interesting stretch of grassland leading out to Rossan Point that is definitely worth another visit. The earth banks were particularly interesting.

*Agaricus urinascens*  
*Clavulinopsis helvola*  
*Clavulinopsis luteoalba*  
*Geoglossum Cookeanum*

*Hygrocybe ceracea*  
*Hygrocybe chlorophana*  
*Hygrocybe coccinea*  
*Hygrocybe conica var. conica*  
*Hygrocybe insipida*  
*Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta*  
*Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis*  
*Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina*  
*Hygrocybe punicea*  
*Hygrocybe quieta*  
*Hygrocybe reidii*  
*Hygrocybe russocoriacea*  
*Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea*  
*Omphalina pyxidata*  
*Panaeolus acuminatus*  
*Psilocybe coprophila*  
*Stropharia semiglobata*

**Macro Mushroom**  
**Yellow Club**  
**Apricot Club**  
**Butter Waxcap**  
**Golden Waxcap**  
**Scarlet Waxcap**  
**Blackening Waxcap**  
**Spangle Waxcap**  
**Heath Waxcap**  
**Meadow Waxcap**  
**Parrot Waxcap**  
**Crimson Waxcap**  
**Oily Waxcap**  
**Honey Waxcap**  
**Cedarwood Waxcap**  
**Snowy Waxcap**  
**Dewdrop Mottlegill**  
**Dung Roundhead**

**Sites Searched:**  
Teelin Point

**Hygrocybe** 15  
**Clavariaceae** 3  
**Entolomaceae** 7  
**Geoglossaceae** 3  
**Others:** 1

An excellent square with a lot of possibilities. Teelin Point was visited but the whole stretch of coast between Teelin Point and Carrigan Head and on to the car park under Slieve League at Cunniltagh is definitely worth exploring.

**Grassland Target Species Recorded**

*Clavulinopsis fusiformis*  
*Clavulinopsis helvola*  
*Clavulinopsis luteoalba*  
*Dermoloma cuneifolium var. cuneifolium*  
*Entoloma asprellum*  
*Entoloma atrocoeruleum*  
*Entoloma bloxamii*  
*Entoloma conferendum*  
*Entoloma longistriatum var. sarcitulum*  
*Entoloma papillatum*  
*Entoloma serrulatum*  
*Geoglossum atropurpureum*  
*Geoglossum fallax*  
*Trichoglossum hirsutum*  
*Hygrocybe chlorophana*  
*Hygrocybe coccinea*
A surprisingly good site in that it was small and often quite rank. However there were very steep slopes beside the cliffs and the fruiting here was excellent. This site probably extends up along the cliffs at Rinnakill with one area in particular on the higher slopes looking good. This site should be revisited and searched in depth. The notable species were *Entoloma bloxamii* and *Geoglossum atropurpureum*.

*Bolbitius vitellinus*\(^\ast\)\hspace{1cm} Yellow Fieldcap

*Clavulinopsis fusiformis*\(^\ast\)\hspace{1cm} Golden Spindles

*Clavulinopsis helvola*\(^\ast\)\hspace{1cm} Yellow Club

*Clavulinopsis luteoalba*\(^\ast\)\hspace{1cm} Apricot Club

*Dermoloma cuneifolium var. cuneifolium*\(^\ast\)\hspace{1cm} Crazed Cap

*Entoloma asprellum*\(^\ast\)\hspace{1cm} Big Blue Pinkgill

*Entoloma atrocoeruleum*\(^\ast\)\hspace{1cm} Star Pinkgill

*Entoloma conferendum*\(^\ast\)\hspace{1cm} Papillate Pinkgill

*Entoloma longistriatum var. sarcitulum*\(^\ast\)\hspace{1cm} Blue Edge Pinkgill

*Geoglossum atropurpureum*\(^\ast\)\hspace{1cm} Dark-purple Earthtongue

*Geoglossum fallax*\(^\ast\)\hspace{1cm} Golden Waxcap

*Hygrocybe chlorophana*\(^\ast\)\hspace{1cm} Scarlet Waxcap

*Hygrocybe coccinea*\(^\ast\)\hspace{1cm} Blackening Waxcap

*Hygrocybe conica var. conica*\(^\ast\)\hspace{1cm} Glutinous Waxcap

*Hygrocybe glutinipes var. glutinipes*\(^\ast\)\hspace{1cm} Spangle Waxcap

*Hygrocybe insipida*\(^\ast\)\hspace{1cm} Slimy Waxcap

*Hygrocybe irrigata*\(^\ast\)\hspace{1cm} Heath Waxcap

*Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta*\(^\ast\)\hspace{1cm} Vermilion Waxcap

*Hygrocybe miniata*\(^\ast\)\hspace{1cm} Meadow Waxcap

*Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis*\(^\ast\)\hspace{1cm}
Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina  Parrot Waxcap
Hygrocybe punicea  Crimson Waxcap
Hygrocybe quieta  Oily Waxcap
Hygrocybe reidii  Honey Waxcap
Hygrocybe russocoriacea  Cedarwood Waxcap
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea  Snowy Waxcap

Lactarius lacunarum
Mucilago crustacea
Panaeolus acuminatus  Dewdrop Mottlegill
Rickenella fibula  Orange Mosscap
Stropharia semiglobata  Dung Roundhead
Trichoglossum hirsutum  Hairy Earhtongue

G58

Sites Searched:  Glencolumbkille Church of Ireland; Glencolumbkille Strand;

Hygrocybe 16  Clavariaceae 1  Entolomaceae 1  Geoglossaceae 1  Others: 0

Another very good square. A number of reasonable sites added together gave a good number of species without a stand out site being found. However the low ridge of Garbhros could well be very good and is definitely worth another visit sorting out access with the local farms. The steep slopes of Craigbeefan to the east of Glen Head are worth searching as could be the hills around Port.

Grassland Target Species Recorded

Clavulinopsis helvola
Entoloma sericeum
Geoglossum fallax
Hygrocybe aurantiosplendens
Hygrocybe cantharellus
Hygrocybe ceracea
Hygrocybe chlorophana
Hygrocybe coccinea
Hygrocybe conica var. conica
Hygrocybe flavipes

G58

Site Details:

Site:  Glencolumbkille Church of Ireland
Date Visited:  31/10/20  GridRef:  G53478500
H: 0  C: 0  E: 0  G: 0  O 0

Unlikely to be of significant interest for grassland fungi.

Rhytisma acerinum  Sycamore Tarspot
**Site:** Glencolumbkille Strand

**Date Visited:** 31/10/20  |  **GridRef:** G524849

**H:** 1  |  **C:** 0  |  **E:** 0  |  **G:** 0  |  **O:** 0

Very little was found in the dunes and it is unlikely to be good for waxcaps.

*Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea*  
Snowy Waxcap

*Melanoleuca polioleuca f. polioleuca*  
Common Cavalier

*Puccinia poarum*

**Site:** Glencolumbkille: Doonalt

**Date Visited:** 31/10/20  |  **GridRef:** G50468404

**H:** 2  |  **C:** 0  |  **E:** 0  |  **G:** 1  |  **O:** 0

A very small patch of grassland around the car park at Doonalt. It will only support a few species.

*Geoglossum fallax*

*Hygrocybe conica var. conica*  
Blackening Waxcap

*Hygrocybe insipida*  
Spangle Waxcap

**Site:** Glencolumbkille: Glen Head

**Date Visited:** 31/10/20  |  **GridRef:** G521861

**H:** 9  |  **C:** 1  |  **E:** 1  |  **G:** 0  |  **O:** 0

The steep slopes of Glen Head grade from heath into grassland especially on the steeper sections or areas nearer the cliffs. This was the only site on this survey for *Hygrocybe aurantiosplendens* and *Hygrocybe fornicata* was also found. Some of the grassland on the steep slopes of Craigbeetan would also be worth searching.

*Clavulinopsis helvola*  
Yellow Club

*Entoloma sericeum*  
Silky Pinkgill

*Hygrocybe aurantiosplendens*  
Orange Waxcap

*Hygrocybe cantharellus*  
Goblet Waxcap

*Hygrocybe ceracea*  
Butter Waxcap

*Hygrocybe chlorophana*  
Golden Waxcap

*Hygrocybe coccinea*  
Scarlet Waxcap

*Hygrocybe fornicata*  
Earthy Waxcap

*Hygrocybe punicea*  
Crimson Waxcap

*Hygrocybe quieta*  
Oily Waxcap

*Hygrocybe russocoriacea*  
Cedarwood Waxcap

*Stropharia semiglobata*  
Dung Roundhead

**Site:** Glencolumbkille: Garbhros

**Date Visited:** 31/10/20  |  **GridRef:** G52498530

**H:** 11  |  **C:** 0  |  **E:** 0  |  **G:** 1  |  **O:** 0

The low ridge to the south of the small road leading out to Glen Head is very promising. They are enclosed fields so access would need to be obtained but this would be worth it. The one area searched was very rich and a longer visit to this site could be very rewarding.
Geoglossum fallax
Hygrocybe ceracea           Butter Waxcap
Hygrocybe chlorophana       Golden Waxcap
Hygrocybe coccinea          Scarlet Waxcap
Hygrocybe flavipes          Yellow Foot Waxcap
Hygrocybe glutinipes var. glutinipes Glutinous Waxcap
Hygrocybe insipida          Spangle Waxcap
Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis Meadow Waxcap
Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina Parrot Waxcap
Hygrocybe punicea           Crimson Waxcap
Hygrocybe quieta            Oily Waxcap
Hygrocybe russocoriacea     Cedarwood Waxcap
Hypholoma fasciculare       Sulphur Tuft

Sites Searched: Not visited

Hygrocybe 0  Clavariaceae 0  Entolomaceae 0  Geoglossaceae 0  Others: 0

A long hike would be needed to get to the possible heads around Glenlough or cliffs of Slieve-tooey.

Sites Searched: Kilcar: Umuskan; Muckros

Hygrocybe 15  Clavariaceae 6  Entolomaceae 2  Geoglossaceae 2  Others: 0

The excellent fields at Muckros meant Muckros Head itself was not visited although it is much more acid and is probably not productive for waxcaps. Parts of Tawny Hill and the beach at Fintragh could be worth visiting.

Grassland Target Species Recorded
Clavaria fragilis            Hygrocybe cantharellus
Clavaria fumosa              Hygrocybe chlorophana
Clavaria zollingeri          Hygrocybe coccinea
Clavulinopsis fusiformis     Hygrocybe conica var. conica
Clavulinopsis helvola        Hygrocybe glutinipes var. glutinipes
Clavulinopsis umbrinella     Hygrocybe insipida
Entoloma chalybaeum var. chalybaeum
Entoloma conferendum         Hygrocybe intermedia
Microglossum olivaceum       Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis
Trichoglossum hirsutum       Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina
Hygrocybe calyptriformis     Hygrocybe punicea
Hygrocybe quieta
Hygrocybe reidii
Hygrocybe russocoriacea
Hygrocybe virginea var. fuscescens

**Site Details:**

**Site:** Kilcar: Umuskan  
**Date Visited:** 30/10/20  
**GridRef:** G62887814  
**H:** 7  **C:** 0  **E:** 0  **G:** 0  **O:** 0

These records were provided along with samples by John O’Boyle. The fields up to the scree underneath the crag at Umuskan are promising. *Hygrocybe intermedia* was found earlier in the year here indicating that more species are likely to be found.

- *Hygrocybe chlorophana*  
  Golden Waxcap
- *Hygrocybe coccinea*  
  Scarlet Waxcap
- *Hygrocybe insipida*  
  Spangle Waxcap
- *Hygrocybe intermedia*  
  Fibrous Waxcap
- *Hygrocybe punicea*  
  Crimson Waxcap
- *Hygrocybe quieta*  
  Oily Waxcap
- *Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea*  
  Snowy Waxcap
- *Stropharia semiglobata*  
  Dung Roundhead

**Site:** Muckros  
**Date Visited:** 30/10/20  
**GridRef:** G62337435  
**H:** 14  **C:** 6  **E:** 2  **G:** 2  **O:** 0

These two excellent fields lie between the small road going out to Muckros Head and the beach. A series of notable species especially of Clavariaceae were found on the fields with the earth banks being some of the best localities although the fields themselves were also good. *Hygrocybe calyptriformis, Clavaria zollingeri, Clavaria fragilis, Clavulinopsis umbrinella* and *Microglossum olivaceum* are all special finds with this being the only site for *Clavaria zollingeri* and *Microglossum olivaceum* in this survey. Indeed this is the first time I personally have found *Clavaria zollingeri* in Ireland.

- *Clavaria fragilis*  
  White Spindles
- *Clavaria fumosa*  
  Smoky Spindles
- *Clavaria zollingeri*  
  Violet Coral
- *Clavulinopsis fusiformis*  
  Golden Spindles
- *Clavulinopsis helvola*  
  Yellow Club
- *Clavulinopsis umbrinella*  
  Beige Coral
- *Cordyceps militaris*  
  Scarlet Caterpillarclub
- *Entoloma chalybaeum var. chalybaeum*  
  Indigo Pinkgill
- *Entoloma conferendum*  
  Star Pinkgill
- *Hygrocybe calyptriformis*  
  Pink Waxcap
- *Hygrocybe cantharellus*  
  Goblet Waxcap
Hygrocybe chlorophana  Golden Waxcap
Hygrocybe coccinea  Scarlet Waxcap
Hygrocybe conica var. conica  Blackening Waxcap
Hygrocybe glutinipes var. glutinipes  Glutinous Waxcap
Hygrocybe insipida  Spangle Waxcap
Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis  Meadow Waxcap
Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina  Parrot Waxcap
Hygrocybe punicea  Crimson Waxcap
Hygrocybe quieta  Oily Waxcap
Hygrocybe reidii  Honey Waxcap
Hygrocybe russocoriacea  Cedarwood Waxcap
Hygrocybe virginea var. fuscescens  Snowy Waxcap
Hygrocybe virginea var. ochraceopallida  Snowy Waxcap
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea  Snowy Waxcap
Lichenomphalia umbellifera  Heath Navel
Microglossum olivaceum  Olive Earthtongue
Mucilago crustacea
Omphalina pyxidata
Stropharia pseudocyanea  Peppery Roundhead
Trichoglossum hirsutum  Hairy Earthtongue

G68

Sites Searched: Owenwee Valley

Hygrocybe 9  Clavariaceae 1  Entolomaceae 1  Geoglossaceae 1  Others: 0

A very wet square with the steep slopes of the northern hills of most interest. The slopes west of the river on the Owenwee valley were searched but the steep slopes under Maum on the other side of the valley could be interesting. However the best possible site are the very steep fields above the coastal road at G69718983.

Grassland Target Species Recorded

Clavulinopsis fusiformis
Entoloma papillatum
Geoglossum fallax
Hygrocybe chlorophana
Hygrocybe coccinea
Hygrocybe conica var. conica
Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta
Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis
Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina
Hygrocybe punicea
Hygrocybe reidii
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea

Site Details:

Site: Owenwee Valley
The small patches of acid grassland around the ruined houses at G64318950 were searched and they supported a typical acid grassland community. Some of the steep slopes under the crags of Maum say at G64708938 would also be worth searching.

Clavulinopsis fusiformis  
Cortinarius croceus  
Entoloma papillatum  
Geoglossum fallax  
Hygrocybe chlorophana  
Hygrocybe coccinea  
Hygrocybe conica var. conica  
Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta  
Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis  
Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina  
Hygrocybe punicea  
Hygrocybe reidii  
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea  
Leptosphaeria acuta  
Panaeolus acuminatus  

Golden Spindles  
Papillate Pinkgill  
Golden Waxcap  
Scarlet Waxcap  
Blackening Waxcap  
Heath Waxcap  
Meadow Waxcap  
Parrot Waxcap  
Crimson Waxcap  
Honey Waxcap  
Snowy Waxcap  
Nettle Rash  
Dewdrop Mottlegill  

Sites Searched:  Maghera Strand; Sheskinmore Dunes

Hygrocybe  16  Clavariaceae  1  Entolomaceae  3  Geoglossaceae  3  Others:  0

Potentially a very good square even better than already found. Maghera Strand and Sheskinmore Dunes are the best sites without a doubt with Sheskinmore in particular needing a much longer visit. The steep coastal slopes west of Maghera Strand are worth a longer visit with the steep slopes of Slievetooey another possibility as could be Dawros Head.

Grassland Target Species Recorded

Clavaria straminea  
Entoloma conferendum  
Entoloma poliopus var. poliopus  
Entoloma sericeoides  
Geoglossum cookeanum  
Geoglossum fallax  
Trichoglossum hirsutum  
Hygrocybe chlorophana  
Hygrocybe coccinea  
Hygrocybe colemanniana  

Hygrocybe conica var. conicoides  
Hygrocybe flavipes  
Hygrocybe fornicata  
Hygrocybe insipida  
Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta  
Hygrocybe mucronella  
Hygrocybe nitratia  
Hygrocybe persistens var. persistens  
Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina  
Hygrocybe punicea
A very interesting site. The sand dunes of the strand grade into acid grassland on the steep slopes above the strand and Maghera cave. This site had the "feeling" of a much better site and should definitely be revisited. Of particular note was the amount of Salix repens often high on the cliffs and the amount of ectomycorrhizal fungi associated with the Salix. *Cortinarius anomalus* and *Hebeloma vaccinium* were recorded along with three species of *Inocybe* but with the latter, unless they are identified while fresh, it is very difficult to do so later (pers. Comm. A. Outen). Other notable species recorded include *Hygrocybe nitrata* and *H. colemanniana.*

- **Bovista plumbea** Grey Puffball
- **Clavaria straminea** Straw Club
- **Clavulinia cinerea** Grey Coral
- **Cortinarius anomalus** Variable Webcap
- **Entoloma conferendum** Star Pinkgill
- **Entoloma poliopus var. poliopus**
- **Geoglossum cookeanum**
- **Geoglossum fallax**
- **Lycoperdon utriformis** Mosaic Puffball
- **Hebeloma vaccinium**
- **Hygrocybe chlorophana** Golden Waxcap
- **Hygrocybe coccinea** Scarlet Waxcap
- **Hygrocybe colemanniana** Toasted Waxcap
- **Hygrocybe conica var. conicoides** Dune Waxcap
- **Hygrocybe insipida** Spangle Waxcap
- **Hygrocybe mucronella** Bitter Waxcap
- **Hygrocybe nitrata** Nitrous Waxcap
- **Hygrocybe punicea** Crimson Waxcap
- **Hygrocybe quieta** Oily Waxcap
- **Hygrocybe russocoriacea** Cedarwood Waxcap
- **Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea** Snowy Waxcap
- **Lepista nuda** Wood Blewit
- **Melanoleuca polioleuca f. polioleuca** Common Cavalier
- **Rhytisma salicinum**
- **Trichoglossum hirsutum** Hairy Earhtongue
Site: Sheskinmore Dunes
Date Visited: 03/11/20  GridRef: G685955
H: 13  C: 0  E: 3  G: 2  O: 0
An enormous coastal dune system that definitely needs more visits. Windblown sand and dunes cover a rolling terrain with rock outcrops leading to an intricate mix of acid and dune grassland which creates the interest. This site was only partially visited with the areas around Trawmore Strand and the point at Carrickalahagh visited. The latter point was quite acid and the best area for waxcaps which were often fruiting amongst the heather at the heath/grassland interface.

Agaricus silvaticus
Blushing Wood Mushroom
Bjerkandera adusta
Smoky Bracket
Collybia dryophila
Russet Toughshank
Entoloma conferendum
Star Pinkgill
Entoloma poliopus var. poliopus
Entoloma sericeoides
Geoglossum Cookeanum
Hygrocybe coccinea
Scarlet Waxcap
Hygrocybe colemaniana
Toasted Waxcap
Hygrocybe conica var. conicoides
Dune Waxcap
Hygrocybe flavipes
Yellow Foot Waxcap
Hygrocybe fornicata
Earthy Waxcap
Hygrocybe insipida
Spangle Waxcap
Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta
Heath Waxcap
Hygrocybe persistens var. persistens
Persistent Waxcap
Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina
Parrot Waxcap
Hygrocybe punicea
Crimson Waxcap
Hygrocybe quieta
Oily Waxcap
Hygrocybe russocoriacea
Cedarwood Waxcap
Hygrocybe virginia var. fuscescens
Hygrocybe virginia var. ochraceopallida
Hygrocybe virginia var. virginia
Snowy Waxcap
Lepiota sp.
Lepista panaeola
Mycena epipterygia var. epipterygia
Yellowleg Bonnet
Mycena pura var. pura
Lilac Bonnet
Panaeolus acuminatus
Dewdrop Mottlegill
Panaeolus papilionaceus var. papilionaceus
Petticoat Mottlegill
Psathyrella ammophila
Dune Brittlestem
Stropharia pseudocyanea
Peppery Roundhead
Stropharia semiglobata
Dung Roundhead
Trichoglossum hirsutum

Hairy Earthtongue

G76

Sites Searched: St John's Point

Hygrocybe 9 Clavariaceae 0 Entolomaceae 0 Geoglossaceae 0 Others: 0

The tip of St John's Point is the only land in this square.

Grassland Target Species Recorded

Hygrocybe coccinea
Hygrocybe insipida
Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis
Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina
Hygrocybe punicea
Hygrocybe quieta
Hygrocybe reidii
Hygrocybe russocoriacea
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea

Site Details:

Site: St John's Point

Date Visited: 30/10/20 GridRef: G710695

H: 9 C: 0 E: 0 G: 0 O: 0

A large area of coastal grassland, limestone pavement grading into heath and bog. Daylight was fading fast on this site visit and the site was only partially searched. Likely to be a much better site.

Hygrocybe coccinea Scarlet Waxcap
Hygrocybe insipida Spangle Waxcap
Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis Meadow Waxcap
Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina Parrot Waxcap
Hygrocybe punicea Crimson Waxcap
Hygrocybe quieta Oily Waxcap
Hygrocybe reidii Honey Waxcap
Hygrocybe russocoriacea Cedarwood Waxcap
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea Snowy Waxcap
Stropharia pseudocyanea Peppery Roundhead
Stropharia semiglobata Dung Roundhead

G77

Sites Searched: Not visited

Hygrocybe 0 Clavariaceae 0 Entolomaceae 0 Geoglossaceae 0 Others: 0

Churchyards and Bruckless House are the most likely sites in this square.

G78
Sites Searched: Glengesh: Common Mountain

**Hygrocybe** 11  **Clavariaceae** 0  **Entolomaceae** 1  **Geoglossaceae** 0  **Others**: 0

The north western slopes of Common Mountain need further exploration as could the north eastern facing corrie of the same mountain.

**Grassland Target Species Recorded**
- Entoloma conferendum
- Hygrocybe ceracea
- Hygrocybe chlorophana
- Hygrocybe coccinea
- Hygrocybe insipida
- Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta
- Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis
- Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina
- Hygrocybe punicea
- Hygrocybe quieta
- Hygrocybe splendidissima
- Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea

**Site Details:**

**Site**: Glengesh: Common Mountain  
**Date Visited**: 30/10/20  
**GridRef**: G70268724

Glengesh is a valley with a lot of potential for waxcap locations. The steep slopes of Common Mountain on the eastern side of the valley looked the most promising and were accessed from the farm at G69938707. The torrential rain meant that surveying was very difficult and the areas of most potential were not reached. The slopes were very wet and the best areas were restricted to earth banks or the steep river sides descending the slopes. This site should be revisited especially the slopes at G70648747 or G69718727

Cordyceps militaris  
Entoloma conferendum  
Hygrocybe ceracea  
Hygrocybe chlorophana  
Hygrocybe coccinea  
Hygrocybe insipida  
Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta  
Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis  
Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina  
Hygrocybe punicea  
Hygrocybe quieta  
Hygrocybe splendidissima  
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea  
Stropharia semiglobata  

G79
Sites Searched: Portnoo: Narin Dunes

Hygrocybe 5  Clavariaceae 2  Entolomaceae 0  Geoglossaceae 1  Others: 0

Portnoo dunes and Roshin Point are the only likely sites in this square.

Grassland Target Species Recorded

Clavaria acuta
Clavaria straminea
Geoglossum cookeanum
Hygrocybe calciphila
Hygrocybe conica var. conicoides

Site Details:

Site: Portnoo: Narin Dunes
Date Visited: 24/10/20  GridRef: G720995
H: 5  C: 2  E: 0  G: 1  O 0

This site was also visited by the Northern Ireland Fungus group on October 24th. The best area of interest was on the caravan site. Also of note was the amount of juniper with berries.

Bolbitius vitellinus  Yellow Fieldcap
Clavaria acuta  Pointed Club
Clavaria straminea  Straw Club
Dacrymyces stillatus  Common Jellyspot
Geoglossum cookeanum
Hygrocybe calciphila
Hygrocybe conica var. conicoides  Dune Waxcap
Hygrocybe mucronella  Bitter Waxcap
Hygrocybe persistens var. persistens  Persistent Waxcap
Hygrocybe virginea var. fuscescens
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea  Snowy Waxcap
Lepista nuda  Wood Blewit
Melanoleuca polioleuca f. polioleuca  Common Cavalier
Omphalina subhepatica
Stropharia coronilla  Garland Roundhead
Typhula micans

G87

Sites Searched: Not visited

Hygrocybe 0  Clavariaceae 0  Entolomaceae 0  Geoglossaceae 0  Others: 0

Probably not a good square with churchyards or the east side of Inver Bay or small spit at Beelpark being the possible sites.
G88

**Sites Searched:** Not visited

**Hygrocybe** 0  **Clavariaceae** 0  **Entolomaceae** 0  **Geoglossaceae** 0  **Others:** 0

The Blue Stacks were one area not visited and whether they would be too wet is the question. Churches at Letterbarra, Frosses or the south east slopes of Carnaween could be worth searching.

G89

**Sites Searched:** Glenties Church of Ireland; Glenties RC Church

**Hygrocybe** 1  **Clavariaceae** 0  **Entolomaceae** 0  **Geoglossaceae** 1  **Others:** 0

An unlikely square with churches or the southern slopes of Meenamalragh being the only likely locations.

**Grassland Target Species Recorded**

- Geoglossum fallax
- Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea

**Site Details:**

**Site:** Glenties Church of Ireland

**Date Visited:** 03/11/20  **GridRef:** G81779429

H: 0  C: 0  E: 0  G: 0  O: 0

The churchyard was locked but the area leading up to the church was searched. It was too wet for any grassland fungi.

- *Clitocybe fragrans*  Fragrant Funnel
- *Tricholomopsis rutilans*  Plums and Custard

**Site:** Glenties RC Church

**Date Visited:** 03/11/20  **GridRef:** G81949409

H: 1  C: 0  E: 0  G: 1  O: 0

A small area of grassland that is unlikely to be of significant interest.

- *Armillaria gallica*  Bulbous Honey Fungus
- *Cystoderma amianthinum*  Earthy Powdercap
- *Geoglossum fallax*
- *Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea*  Snowy Waxcap
- *Laccaria laccata*  Deceiver
- *Melampsoridium betulinum*  Birch Rust
- *Xylaria carpophila*  Beechmast Candlesnuff

G97

**Sites Searched:** Not visited
Hygrocybe 0  Clavariaceae 0  Entolomaceae 0  Geoglossaceae 0  Others: 0

A small area of land within West Donegal with the churchyards of Donegal town being the only possible sites.

G98

Sites Searched:  Not visited

Hygrocybe 0  Clavariaceae 0  Entolomaceae 0  Geoglossaceae 0  Others: 0

This part of the Blue Stacks could either be very good or far too wet. Areas to look would be Loughheask demesne, Banagher Mountain, the southern slopes of Binnasruel and the slopes of Mullaghanadreesruhan up to Lough Belshade.

G99

Sites Searched:  Not visited

Hygrocybe 0  Clavariaceae 0  Entolomaceae 0  Geoglossaceae 0  Others: 0

Very unlikely with the areas to look being Croaghnahalla or Croaghnanard Lough but they would be a bit of a hike.
Appendix 2 - Species Atlas

The all Ireland species maps are reasonably inclusive but other records may exist. Red dots are from 2009, yellow from 1970 – 2008 and green pre-1970

Grassland Target Species

*Clavaria acuta Fr.* Pointed Club

A white Fairy Club growing singly with larger spores than *C. fragilis*

*Clavaria fragilis Holmsk.* White Spindles

A white Fairy Club often growing in clumps – always a good record

*Clavaria fumosa Fr.* Smoky Spindles

A smoky grey Fairy Club growing in dense clumps – always a good record
**Clavaria straminea Cotton**  Straw Club

A notable Fairy Club with a distinctive yellow base and straw coloured above. Sometimes twisted like a corkscrew.

**Clavaria zollingeri Lév.**  Violet Coral

An extremely striking purple densely branching Fairy Club - very few records in Ireland

**Clavulinopsis corniculata (Fr.) Corner**  Meadow Coral

A common coralloid Fairy Club
**Clavulinopsis fusiformis (Sowerby) Corner**  Golden Spindles
A yellow clumped Fairy Club that is most common in acid grassland.

**Clavulinopsis helvola (Pers.) Corner**  Yellow Club
The most common Fairy Club - yellow, grows singly with warty spores.

**Clavulinopsis laeticolor (Berk. & M.A. Curtis) R.H. Petersen**  Handsome Club
A Fairy Club that needs to be microscopically checked to distinguish from *C. luteoalba* as it has a long apiculus on the spores.
**Clavulinopsis luteoalba** (Rea) Corner  Apricot Club
A common apricot Fairy Club

**Clavulinopsis umbrinella** (Sacc.) Corner  Beige Coral
A rarer Fairy Club that appears to be a good indicator of high quality grasslands

**Dermoloma cuneifolium var. cuneifolium** (Fr.) Bon  Crazed Cap
A species found in unfertilised grasslands with a strong smell of flour and a cracking cap
**Entoloma asprellum (Fr.) Fayod**

A Leptonia with a brown cap and blue stipe. Similar to *E. poliopus* but with a fertile gill edge.

---

**Entoloma atrocoeruleum Noordel.**

A blue black Leptonia with a blue fibrillose stipe. Similar to *E. corvinum* but with a fertile gill edge.

---

**Entoloma bloxamii (Berk.) Sacc.** Big Blue Pinkgill

A large fleshy blue Entoloma. A Northern Ireland Priority species
**Entoloma chalybaeum var. chalybaeum (Pers.) Noordel.** Indigo Pinkgill
A striking blue black Entoloma with a polished stipe and blue gills

**Entoloma conferendum (Britzelm.) Noordel.** Star Pinkgill
A common Entoloma in acid grassland with very distinctive spores

**Entoloma jubatum Fr.** Sepia Pinkgill
Similar to the larger *E. porpyrophaeum* but noted by non-reddish colours, dark striate stem and different Cheilocystidia
**Entoloma longistriatum var. sarcitulum (Kühner & Romagn. ex P.D. Orton) Noordel.**
A brown Leptonia often with a brown gill edge and brown stipe

**Entoloma papillatum (Bres.) Dennis** Papillate Pinkgill
One of the difficult Nolanea group

**Entoloma poliopus var. poliopus (Romagn.) Noordel.**
A relatively common Leptonia in unfertilised grasslands. With a brown cap, blue stipe and sterile gill
**Entoloma porphyrophaeum (Fr.) P. Karst.** Lilac Pinkgill

A large bulky Entoloma with a fibrillose cap and the stipe often with purple colours

![Map of Entoloma porphyrophaeum](image1)

**Entoloma prunuloides (Fr.) Quél.** Mealy Pinkgill

A chunky Entoloma often quite common in grasslands. Can be quite variable but tastes and smells of flour.

![Map of Entoloma prunuloides](image2)

**Entoloma sericeoides (J.E. Lange) Noordel.**

A large pale funnel shaped Entoloma with decurrent gills

![Map of Entoloma sericeoides](image3)
**Entoloma sericeum (Bull.) Fr.** Silky Pinkgill

A common brown Nolanea

---

**Entoloma serrulatum (Fr.) Hesler** Blue Edge Pinkgill

A blue black Leptonia with a black gill margin. Not uncommon.

---

**Entoloma undatum (Gillet) M.M. Moser**

A small funnel shaped Entoloma with deeply decurrent gills
Geoglossum atropurpureum (Batsch) Pers. Dark-purple Earthtongue
A notable species hardly distinguishable in the field. A Northern Ireland Priority species

Geoglossum cookeanum Nannf.
Can be the largest species of earth tongue growing to several centimetres tall

Geoglossum fallax E.J. Durand
The most common earth tongue on acid grassland
**Geoglossum glutinosum Pers.**
An earth tongue that is very viscid

**Hygrocybe aurantiiosplendens R. Haller Aar.** Orange Waxcap
A rarer waxcap that is often over-recorded. Gill trama should always be checked to see if they are not very long and parallel which would mean it is the common orange form of *H. chlorophana*

**Hygrocybe calciphila Arnolds**
A rare waxcap usually found in dune systems. Looks like *H. miniata* but has fatter spores. Not many Irish records
**Hygrocybe calypriformis (Berk. & Broome) Fayod**  Pink Waxcap
The flagship species of waxcap. Unmistakable with its pink, conical cap that often splits and curls up.

**Hygrocybe cantharellus (Schwein.) Murrill**  Goblet Waxcap
A waxcap usually found in acid grassland. Noted by its dry, red scurfy cap and decurrent

**Hygrocybe ceracea (Wulfen) P. Kumm.**  Butter Waxcap
A yellow waxcap - not uncommon
*Hygrocybe chlorophana (Fr.) Wünsche*  Golden Waxcap
One of the most common waxcaps

*Hygrocybe citrinovirens (Lange) Jul. Schäff.*  Citrine Waxcap
Often an early species. Large and lemon yellow

*Hygrocybe coccinea (Schaeff.) P. Kumm.*  Scarlet Waxcap
One of the most common red waxcaps
Hygrocybe colemanniana (A. Bloxam) P.D. Orton & Watling  
Toasted Waxcap

Usually restricted to calcareous grassland

Hygrocybe conica var. conica (Schaeff.) P. Kumm.  
Blackening Waxcap

Very common blackening waxcap. Very variable but may be more than one species in this group.

Hygrocybe conica var. conicoides (P.D. Orton) Boertm.  
Dune Waxcap

Some authors give this variety species rank and is distinguished by narrower spores. Usually found in sand dunes
**Hygrocybe flavipes (Britzelm.) Arnolds**  Yellow Foot Waxcap

Grey waxcap with a pale stipe with a yellow base. Look out for the similar *H. lacmus* that does not have the yellow base.

**Hygrocybe fornicata (Fr.) Singer**  Earthy Waxcap

A grey to brown species with ascending gills

**Hygrocybe glutinipes var. glutinipes (J.E. Lange) R. Haller**  Glutinous Waxcap

Very viscid and smaller than *H. chlorophana*
**Hygrocybe insipida (Lange ex S. Lundell) M.M. Moser**  Spangle Waxcap

Very common small viscid waxcap. Often with very red stipe at apex contrasting with yellow gills.

**Hygrocybe intermedia (Pass.) Fayod**  Fibrous Waxcap

A dry and fibrillose red waxcap that usually fruits very early in the season

**Hygrocybe irrigata (Pers.) M.M. Moser**  Slimy Waxcap

A grey viscid waxcap that can pale with age
**Hygrocybe laeta var. laeta (Pers.) P. Kumm.** Heath Waxcap
Common especially in acid grassland

**Hygrocybe miniata (Fr.) P. Kumm.** Vermillion Waxcap
Red, dry, scurfy waxcap with distinctive spores

**Hygrocybe mucronella (Fr.) P. Karst.** Bitter Waxcap
Often overlooked but with a very bitter taste if touched with the tongue.
Hygrocybe nitrata (Pers.) Wünsche  Nitrous Waxcap
One of the rarer and more unusual species with a strong nitrous smell

Hygrocybe persistens var. persistens (Britzelm.) Singer  Persistent Waxcap
Often confused with H.conica but does not blacken. One of the earlier waxcaps to fruit.

Hygrocybe pratensis var. pallida (Cooke) Arnolds  Pale Waxcap
Also recorded as H.berkeleyi - a white H.pratensis
Hygrocybe pratensis var. pratensis (Pers.) Murrill  Meadow Waxcap
One of the largest waxcaps that can be very abundant

Hygrocybe psittacina var. psittacina (Schaeff.) P. Kumm.  Parrot Waxcap
Usually very common and distinguished by its green colours

Hygrocybe punicea (Fr.) P. Kumm.  Crimson Waxcap
Large and notable with a dull crimson colour and fibrous stipe
**Hygrocybe quieta (Kühner) Singer**  Oily Waxcap
Noted for its oily smell

**Hygrocybe reidii Kühner**  Honey Waxcap
Recognised by its honey smell especially if rubbed. Not uncommon

**Hygrocybe russocoriacea (Berk. & Mill.) P.D. Orton & Watling**  Cedarwood Waxcap
Noted by its amazing smell of cedar wood
**Hygrocybe splendidissima** (P.D. Orton) P.D. Orton & Watling

Splendid Waxcap

Large scarlet waxcap smelling of honey if the stipe is rubbed. Usually found in acid grassland.

**Hygrocybe virginea var. fuscescens** (Bres.) Arnolds

A variety with a brown centre to the cap.

**Hygrocybe virginea var. ochraceopallida** (P.D. Orton)

This variety is usually found in calcareous grassland.
Hygrocybe virginea var. virginea (Wulfen) P.D. Orton & Watling  
Snowy Waxcap
A very common species

Microglossum olivaceum (Pers.) Gillet  
Olive Earthtongue
The olive green earth tongue that does have a number of colour variants. A Northern Ireland Priority Species

Trichoglossum hirsutum (Pers.) Boud.  
Hairy Earthtongue
An earth tongue with noticeable setae like hairs which can be seen with the naked eye especially on the stipe
Other Species

Boletes and Agarics

**Agaricus bernardii Quél.**
A white, later dirty brown, Agaric more commonly found in coastal grasslands in Ireland.

**Agaricus macrocarpus (F.H. Møller) F.H. Møller**
A large Agaric similar to *A. arvensis* but larger.

**Agaricus silvaticus Schaeff.**  Blushing Wood Mushroom
A strongly reddening agaric usually found in woodland but also in grassland.
**Agaricus urinascens (F.H. Moller & Jul. Schäff.)** Macro Mushroom

More commonly known as Agaricus macrosporus that can grow to very large sizes

---

**Armillaria gallica Merxm. & Romagn.** Bulbous Honey Fungus

The most common Honey Fungus in much of Ireland with a bulbous base. Not as pathogenic as *A. mellea*.

---

**Bolbitius vitellinus (Pers.) Fr.** Yellow Fieldcap

A common species found on decaying grass or dung
**Boletus badius Fr.** Bay Bolete

Common on coniferous trees but also found on deciduous trees

**Chamaemyces fracidus (Fr.) Donk** Dewdrop Dapperling

Rarely recorded in Ireland - a notable record

**Clitocybe dealbata Sowerby** Ivory Funnel

A very poisonous small white fungus often with a frosted cap found in grasslands
**Clitocybe fragrans Sowerby** Fragrant Funnel
Not uncommon in grasslands with a striking smell

**Clitocybe nebularis (Batsch) Quél.** Clouded Funnel
A common saprophyte in leaf litter. Often appearing late in the season.

**Clitocybe vibecina (Fr.) Quél.** Mealy Funnel
A grey Clitocybe with decurrent gills
**Collybia butyracea f. butyracea (Bull.) P. Kumm.** Butter Cap

A common saprophyte in leaf litter

**Collybia dryophila (Bull.) P. Kumm.** Russet Toughshank

A very common species although rarer further north in Ireland

**Coprinopsis ammophilae (Courtec.) Redhead, Vilgalys & Moncalvo** Dune Inkcap

A small inkcap found on Marram Grass in foredunes
**Coprinopsis atramentarius (Bull.) Fr.** Common Inkcap
Should never to eaten along with alcohol

**Coprinus comatus (O.F. Müll.) Gray** Shaggy Inkcap
Also known as the Lawyer’s Wig

**Coprinopsis niveus (Pers.) Fr.** Snowy Inkcap
A snowy white inkcap on dung
**Cortinarius anomalus Fr.** Variable Webcap

A variable ectomycorrhizal species here found on *Salix repens*

---

**Cortinarius croceus Fr.**

An ectomycorrhizal species often found in open grassland with no "usual" ectomycorrhizal species nearby. Possibly mycorrhizal with Carex species. Very similar to *C. cinnamomeus*

---

**Cystoderma amianthinum (Scop.) Fr.** Earthy Powdercap

A common grassland species
Galerina vittiformis (Fr.) Singer  Hairy Leg Bell
Will be more common as it was not systematically looked for.

Gymnopilus junonius (Fr.) P.D. Orton  Spectacular Rustgill
Large orange fungus growing on trees

Hebeloma crustuliniforme (Bull.) Quél. Poisonpie
Often over-recorded with a strong radish smell. Spores are non-dextrinoid
**Hebeloma radicosum (Bull.) Ricken** Rooting Poisonpie

A very large viscid Hebeloma with a slimy ring smelling of marzipan. Usually found associated with mole or wood mouse latrines.

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**Hypholoma fasciculare (Huds.) P. Kumm.** Sulphur Tuft

Very common saprophyte.

---

**Inocybe geophylla var. lilacina Gillet** Lilac Fibrecap

Common purple ectomycorrhizal species with brown spore print.
**Inocybe rimosa (Bull.) P. Kumm.** Split Fibrecap

A large Inocybe with smooth spores that may actually be a number of different species

**Laccaria laccata (Scop.) Fr.** Deceiver

The Deceiver which as its name suggests is very variable

**Lacrymaria lacrymabunda (Bull.) Pat.** Weeping Widow

The Weeping Widow with dark drops on the gills
**Lactarius blennius (Fr.) Fr.**  Beech Milkcap

Very common Milk cap under beech

**Lactarius deterrimus Gröger**  False Saffron Milkcap

Found under spruce - with carrot coloured milk - looks like *L. deliciosus* which is found under Pines

**Lactarius glyciosmus (Fr.) Fr.**  Coconut Milkcap

A coconut smelling milk cap often found associated with Birch
*Lactarius lacunarum* Romagn. ex Hora
Notably found on the *Salix repens* in coastal heath. Usually in damp woodland

*Lactarius pubescens* Fr.  Bearded Milkcap
Commonly associated with young Birch

*Lactarius quietus* (Fr.) Fr.  Oakbug Milkcap
Very common under Oak. Has a distinctive smell
**Lactarius viesus (Fr.) Fr. Grey Milkcap**

A pale Milk Cap found under Birch with hot milk

**Leccinum cyaneobasileucum Lannoy & Estades**

Once thought to be a separate white Leccimum, this name includes the common species with grey wooly scabers on the stipe that used to be called *L. brunneogriseolum*

**Lepista nuda (Bull.) Cooke** Wood Blewit

Very common in grassland as well as woods and gardens
**Lepista panaeola (Fr.) P. Karst.**
Unusual species of Lepista with grey brown colours

**Macrocystidia cucumis (Pers.) Joss.** Cucumber Cap
A distinctive species with a strong smell of cucumber and very large cystidia

**Marasmius oreades (Bolton) Fr.** Fairy Ring Champignon
The Fairy Ring Champignon with a very tough stipe
**Marasmius setosus (Sowerby) Noordel.**

A small white Marasmius on beech leaves

**Melanoleuca cinereifolia (Bon) Bon**

A grey Melanoleuca with grey gills found in embryo dunes

**Melanoleuca friesii (Bres.) Bon**

Very similar to *M.polioleuca* but with most cheilocystidia lageniform rather than fusiform as with *M.polioleuca*
Melanoleuca polioleuca f. polioleuca (Fr.) Kühner & Maire  Common Cavalier

Often recorded as M. melaleuca in the past but the latter lacks cystidia

Mycena epipterygia var. epipterygia (Scop.) Gray  Yellowleg Bonnet

Has a cap with a viscid layer that can peel off.

Mycena galericulata (Scop.) Schaeff.  Common Bonnet

Common on wood
**Mycena leptocephala (Pers.) Gillet** Nitrous Bonnet

A grey Mycena with a strong nitrous smell. If found on grassland, it is usually on buried wood.

**Mycena pura var. pura (Pers.) P. Kumm.** Lilac Bonnet

Common species of woodland and grassland with strong radish smell

**Omphalina pyxidata (Bull.) Quél.**

A small Omphalina with strongly decurrent gills
**Omphalina subhepatica (Batsch) Murrill**
A small Omphalina with very decurrent gills on dune grassland

**Panaeolina foenisecii (Pers.) Maire** Brown Mottlegill
Very common in domestic lawns

**Panaeolus acuminatus (Schaeff.) Gillet** Dewdrop Mottlegill
Very common "little brown job" with mottled gills
**Panaeolus papilionaceus var. papilionaceus (Bull.)**  
**Petticoat Mottlegill**

Very common - includes *P. sphinctrinus*

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**Pholiota conissans (Fr.) M.M. Moser**

A small pale yellow *Pholiota* that is sometimes found in grasslands when it is associated with the roots of grasses.

---

**Pluteus griseoluridus P.D. Orton**

A small brown *Pluteus* that can be found on Marram grass in dune systems.
**Psathyrella ammophila (Durieu & Lév.) P.D. Orton**  Dune Brittlestem
Found in embryo dunes

**Psathyrella conopilus (Fr.) A. Pearson & Dennis**  Conical Brittlestem
A *Psathyrella* with very distinctive cap cells

**Psilocybe coprophila (Bull.) P. Kumm.**
Small fungus on dung
**Psilocybe semilanceata (Fr.) P. Kumm.** Liberty Cap

The Magic Mushroom – a common species with a distinctive nipple

**Rickenella fibula (Bull.) Raithelh.** Orange Mosscap

Small orange fungus with decurrent gills found in grassland

**Rickenella swartzii (Fr.) Kuyper** Collared Mosscap

Small fungus with a distinct black spot in centre of cap and decurrent gills.
**Russula betularum Hora**  Birch Brittlegill
Small red Russula that can fade to white. Firey taste to the gills

**Russula cyanoxantha (Schaeff.) Fr.**  Charcoal Burner
A variable edible Russula with waxy gills.

**Russula delica Fr.**  Milk White Brittlegill
Large white Russula with a depressed centre to the cap
**Russula mairei Singer**  Beechwood Sickener

Bright red species with very white gills under beech now correctly known as *R. nobilis*.

---

**Russula nigricans (Bull.) Fr.**  Blackening Brittlegill

Large blackening Russula with very distant gills. Very common

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**Russula queletii Fr.**  Fruity Brittlegill

A dark purple Russula associated with Spruce
**Schizophyllum commune (L.) Fr.** Common Porecrust

Found on silage bales. Can badly affect the quality of the silage but good management practise can prevent it from occurring.

**Stropharia aeruginosa (Curtis) Quél.**

Striking blue green fungus with a permanent ring

**Stropharia albonitens (Fr.) P. Karst.**

A striking white viscid *Stropharia* with a ring
**Stropharia coronilla (Bull.) Quél.** Garland Roundhead

Found in dune systems and distinguished from *S. halophila* by spore size.

**Stropharia pseudocyanea (Desm.) Morgan** Peppery Roundhead

An interesting grassland species often with blue and yellow colours. Has to be checked against *S. caerula* which has numerous cells at the gill edge filled with yellow material.

**Stropharia semiglobata (Batsch) Quél.** Dung Roundhead

Very common on dung.
**Suillus luteus (L.) Roussel**  Slippery Jack
A large viscid Bolete with a ring found under Pine

**Tricholoma fulvum (Bull.) Bigeard & H. Guill.**  Birch Knight
Common species under Birch

**Tricholoma terreum (Schaeff.) P. Kumm.**  Grey Knight
A grey velvety capped Tricholoma
**Tricholomopsis rutilans (Schaeff.) Singer**  Plums and Custard

Distinctive species with a plum coloured cap and custard coloured gills. Always associated with wood although it may be buried.

**Volvariella gloiocephala (DC.) Fr.**  Stubble Rosegill

Large pink spored species with a volva. Often in fertilised places.

**Aphylophoroid Species (Brackets, chanterelles, etc)**

**Bjerkandera adusta (Willd.) P. Karst.**  Smoky Bracket

A greyish white bracket often found with dense overlapping caps.
**Cantharellus tubiformis var. tubiformis (Bull.) Fr.** Trumpet Chanterelle
Related to the Chanterelle but smaller

**Clavulina cinerea (Bull.) J. Schröt.** Grey Coral
A common grey branching Fairy Club mainly found in woodlands

**Clavulina rugosa (Bull.) J. Schröt.** Wrinkled Club
A woodland species of Fairy Club
**Ganoderma australe (Fr.) Pat.** Southern Bracket
A large perennial bracket fungus. Often mixed with *G.applanatum* but the spore sizes are quite different.

**Polyporus squamosus (Huds.) Fr.** Dryad's Saddle
A huge scaly bracket often fruiting very early in the year

**Stereum rugosum (Pers.) Fr.** Bleeding Broadleaf Crust
A bracket that reddens if cut
**Typhula micans (Pers.) Berthier**

A small pink Typhula found on leaves or stems

---

**Gasteroid species (puffballs, earth stars etc)**

**Bovista nigrescens Pers.** Brown Puffball

Subglobose fruitbody that can persist in dried state for months. Unlike puffballs, the whole fruiting body breaks up to release spores.

---

**Bovista plumbea Pers.** Grey Puffball

Common on grasslands. Smaller than *B.nigrescens*
**Lycoperdon excipuliformis (Scop.) Pers.**  Pestle Puffball
A large puffball with a long stipe. Used to be known as *Handkea excipuliformis.*

**Lycoperdon nigrescens Wahlenb.**  Dusky Puffball
A puffball with black scales found in grassland.

**Lycoperdon pratense (Pers.) Kreisel**  Meadow Puffball
A common grassland puffball noted by a distinct line between the stipe and main body of the fungus if sliced. Used to be known as *Vascellum pratense.*
**Lycoperdon utriforme Bull.** Mosaic Puffball

Large puffball found in grasslands. Used to be known as *Handkea utriformis*

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**Scleroderma bovista Fr.** Potato Earthball

A common earthball with a complete reticulum on its spores. Can push up tarmac.

---

**Jelly Fungi**

**Dacrymyces stillatus Nees** Common Jellyspot

Small orange jelly found on wood, often on treated, fence posts or benches.
*Exidia recisa (Ditmar) Fr.*
A jelly found on Salix wood

Ascomycetes

*Ascobolus carbonarius P. Karst.*
A small discomycete found on bonfire sites

*Cheilymenia granulata (Bull.) J. Moravec*
Common discomycete on cattle dung
**Cordyceps militaris (L.) Link**  Scarlet Caterpillarclub

The Caterpillar Killer which parasitises moth pupae in grassland

**Gloniella adianti (Kunze) Petr.**

A small black ascomycete found on Ferns or Juniper

**Helvella lacunosa Afzel.**  Elfin Saddle

The black bone fungus
**Hypoxylon fuscum** *(Pers.)* **Fr.** Hazel Woodwart

Very common black spots on Hazel

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**Hypoxylon multiforme** *(Fr.)* **Fr.** Birch Woodwart

A black crust like fungus on wood with numerous ostioles

---

**Leptosphaeria acuta** *(Moug. & Nestl.)* **P. Karst.** Nettle Rash

Pointy black spots on dead nettle stems. Very common
**Peziza ammophila Durieu & Mont.**  Dune Cup

A cup fungus found in embryo dunes with a buried stem in the sand

---

**Peziza arvernensis Boud.**

A large cup fungus

---

**Peziza repanda Wahlenb.**  Palamino Cup

A large cup fungus often found on plaster, rotting paper etc
**Rhopographus filicinus (Fr.) Nitschke ex Fuckel**  Bracken Map

A ubiquitous species on Bracken. Will be much more common as not systematically

**Rhytisma acerinum (Pers.) Fr.**  Sycamore Tarspot

Tar spot fungus found on Sycamore leaves

**Rhytisma salicinum (Pers.) Fr.**

Tar spot found on Salix leaves
**Taphrina alni (Berk. & Broome) Gjaerum**  Alder Tongue
The tongues found on Alder cupules

**Trochila ilicina (Nees) Greenh. & Morgan-Jones**  Holly Speckle
Very common on Holly leaves

**Xylaria carpophila (Pers.) Fr.**  Beechmast Candlesnuff
Very similar to the Candle Snuff Fungus but found on Beech mast
**Xylaria hypoxylon (L.) Grev.** Candlesnuff Fungus

Very common on wood

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**Rusts and Smuts**

**Melampsoridium betulinum (Pers.) Kleb.** Birch Rust

A common rust on Birch leaves

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**Phragmidium violaceum (Schultz) G. Winter** Violet Bramble Rust

Very common rust on Bramble. Will be more common as not systematically looked for
**Puccinia poarum E. Nielsen**
A common rust on Coltsfoot. Will be more common as not systematically looked for.

**Powdery Mildews**

**Microsphaera alphitoides Griffon & Maubl.**
A powdery mildew on Oak leaves.

**Coelomycetes**

**Asteroma impressum Fuckel**
Black spots on Tussilago leaves where black pycnidia are emersed in a cottony hyphae.
Myxomycetes (Slime Moulds)

*Fuligo septica* (L.) F.H. Wigg.
A yellow slime mould

*Mucilago crustacea* Mich.
A slime mould in grass that looks like vomit. Normally lives in the soil digesting bacteria and moves up onto grass to fruit.

Appendix 3 – Biodiversity Species List for County Donegal - Fungi

As referenced earlier, this is the annotated and updated list of Fungi for County Donegal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Species</th>
<th>Current Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agaricus arvensis</td>
<td>Agaricus arvensis</td>
<td>Horse Mushroom</td>
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