



<b>Scientific name</b>	<i>Phragmites australis</i> – <i>Equisetum fluviatile</i> swamp
<b>Common name</b>	Common Reed – Water Horsetail swamp
<b>Community code</b>	FW3E

### Vegetation

These are dense reed beds dominated by *Phragmites australis* which is joined only rarely by other tall swamp species such *Typha latifolia* and *Sparganium erectum*. *Equisetum fluviatile* frequently occurs in an understorey, where occasionally one may find *Mentha aquatica*, *Menyanthes trifoliata* or *Agrostis stolonifera*.

### Ecology

This swamp community is found in fairly basic and mildly eutrophic waters fringing lakes and lagoons.

### Sub-communities

No sub-communities are currently described.

### Similar communities

*Phragmites* is found, perhaps unsurprisingly, in most of the communities in the FW3 *Phragmites australis* – *Cladium mariscus* group. It seldom, however, dominates the vegetation as strongly as it does here in this community.

### Records and distribution

#### Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	148
Transitional:	7
Total:	155

#### Number of records (mapped)

2001-2015:	25
1986-2000:	92
1971-1985:	36
Pre-1971:	1
Total:	154

#### Number of hectads (most recent records)

2001-2015:	5
1986-2000:	30
1971-1985:	7
Pre-1971:	1
Total:	43

#### Number of hectads (all mapped records)

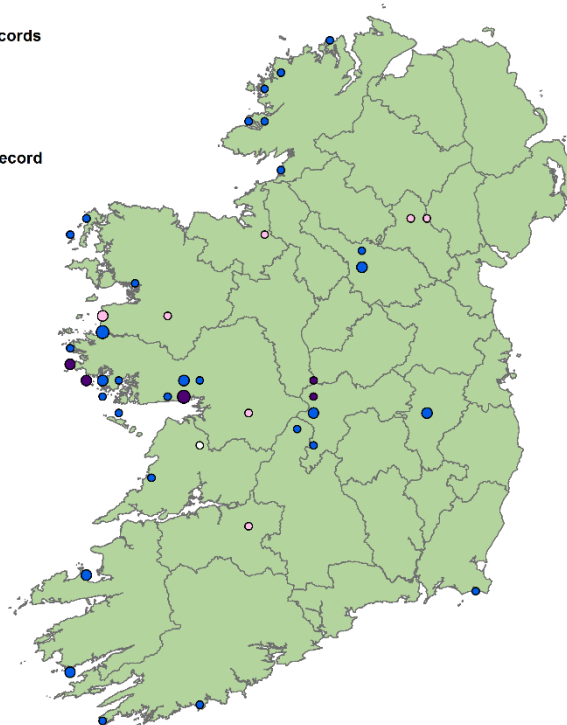
2001-2015:	5
1986-2000:	33
1971-1985:	11
Pre-1971:	1

#### Number of records

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

#### Most recent record

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



**Synoptic table (n = 108)**

Species	Frequency		Cover		Species	Frequency		Cover	
	(from I-V)		min	(med) max		(from I-V)		min	(med) max
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	V		5-(8)-10		<i>Potentilla palustris</i>	I		1-(2)-8	
<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	III		+(3)-7		<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	I		+(3)-5	
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	II		+(2)-7		<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	I		2-(3)-7	
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	II		2-(4)-9		<i>Potamogeton polygonifolius</i>	I		2-(3)-5	
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	II		2-(3)-8		<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i>	I		3-(5)-8	
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	I		1-(2)-5		<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i>	I		+(3)-5	
<i>Carex rostrata</i>	I		+(3)-7		<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	I		+(2)-8	
<i>Galium palustre</i>	I		+(2)-7		<i>Bolboschoenus maritimus</i>	I		+(2)-3	
<i>Lemna minor</i>	I		2-(3)-7		<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	I		+(5)-8	
<i>Sparganium erectum</i>	I		+(2)-4		<i>Potamogeton natans</i>	I		2-(3)-3	
<i>Calliergonella cuspidata</i>	I		+(4)-10		<i>Juncus bulbosus</i>	I		2-(3)-8	
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	I		+(4)-8		<i>Carex nigra</i>	I		+(2)-3	
<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	I		2-(3)-7		<i>Berula erecta</i>	I		2-(8)-8	
<i>Schoenoplectus lacustris</i>	I		+(2)-3		<i>Kindbergia praelonga</i>	I		2-(3)-5	
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	I		1-(3)-3		<i>Brachythecium rutabulum</i>	I		2-(3)-5	
<i>Hippuris vulgaris</i>	I		2-(2)-4		<i>Lysimachia vulgaris</i>	I		2-(3)-5	
<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>	I		1-(2)-5		<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	I		2-(3)-3	
<i>Epilobium palustre</i>	I		1-(2)-3		<i>Utricularia australis/vulgaris</i>	I		2-(4)-7	
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	I		+(3)-3		<i>Fontinalis antipyretica</i>	I		3-(5)-7	
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	I		2-(2)-3		<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	I		3-(3)-5	

**Affinities**

GHI: FS1 Reed and tall sedge swamps  
 ZM: PHR-01A Phragmiton communis Koch 1926  
 EUNIS: C3.2111 Freshwater *Phragmites* beds  
 NVC: S4 *Phragmites australis* swamp and reed-beds (55.2%)  
 Annex I: No significant correspondence

**Proxy environmental data**

Light: 7.1      Reaction: 6.6      Wetness: 9.7      Fertility: 5.5      Salinity: 1.4

**Conservation value**

This is a species-poor community. Stands of FW3E may occur fringing lagoons corresponding to the priority EU HD Annex I habitat 1150 Lagoons\*,

**Management**

These reeds beds maybe exploited locally on a small scale for reed harvesting. Threats to this community include eutrophication and drainage.

**Key references**

Brock, T., Frigge, P., van der Ster, H. (1979) A vegetation study of the pools and surrounding wetlands in the Dooaghry area, Co. Mayo (unpublished). National Parks & Wildlife Service, Dublin, Ireland.  
 Crawford, I., Bleasdale, A., Conaghan, J. (1996) BIOMAR survey of Irish machairs sites. Vol. I. Site information. (No. 3), Irish Wildlife Manuals. Dúchas, The Heritage Service, Dublin, Ireland.



Photo 1. FW3E *Phragmites australis* – *Equisetum fluviatile* swamp, Menlough, Galway (J. Martin, September 2014)



Photo 2. FW3E *Phragmites australis* – *Equisetum fluviatile* swamp, Menlough, Galway (F. O'Neill, August 2014)