



# Action for Bogs

No. 22



Irish Hare by Dave MacPherson





## Conservation Action Plan for Girley Bog



The IPCC is in the process of developing a ten year Conservation Action Management Plan for Girley Bog. The aim of the plan is to protect and enhance the habitats and wildlife present on Girley Bog and to utilise the site responsibly for recreation, education and public awareness. The plan will document the significance of Girley Bog for heritage, recreation and education. It will include a series of actions needed to maintain and enhance its wildlife and recreational importance, as well as documenting fully restoration works undertaken on the site to date. The opinion of the local community on the plan will be sought through public survey and directly at open days on site during heritage week (30th August).

### Meet Katie Geraghty IPCC's new Campaign Officer



I became a volunteer on the Girley Bog project in the summer of 2014. I had recently finished a degree in Wildlife Biology at the Institute of Technology in Tralee. During my time at Tralee I gained knowledge of the many environmental and conservation issues in Ireland. For my thesis I completed a study of spiders on the Mount Brandon Nature Reserve, Co. Kerry. This is where I developed a love, not only for spiders, but also for Ireland's peatlands. I began to appreciate the beauty of bogs and their importance as wildlife habitats and also for the ecosystem services they provide. In May 2015 I became Campaign Officer for the IPCC, I am delighted to be part of the IPCC's team and look forward to helping conserve and enhance Ireland's bogs.

## Sustainable peat source needed for mushroom growing



When we buy our mushrooms from the local supermarket, we do not always spare a thought to how these mushrooms are grown. Currently many Irish mushroom growers are using peat extracted from Irish bogs to grow their mushrooms, many of which are exported abroad. In fact Ireland boasts the largest mushroom company in Europe and second largest in the world. The issue is that these mushrooms are grown with a peat casing above the compost, and we are unaware where this peat is being sourced. The IPCC are seeking to ensure that this peat is being responsibly sourced and not being extracted from bogs of conservation concern. It is notable that the Australian Permaculture Research Institute ([www.permaculturenews.org](http://www.permaculturenews.org)) advises against the growth of button mushrooms and instead pushes focus on the growth of other types, as it is the button mushrooms which require casing and as this requires peat such growth is viewed as unsustainable.

## Award for IPCC's Tadhg Ó Corcora



Tadhg Ó Corcora, Conservation Officer with the Irish Peatland Conservation Council scooped an award for Ireland from the International Peat Society. Tadhg has been working with the IPCC for six years now in the Bog of Allen Nature Centre and is skilled in peatland restoration work.

The awards are given by the International Peat Society under the Allan Robertson Grant Scheme. The award encourages excellence in the field of peatland management. The International Peat Society is a group whose members have environmental and economic interests in peat and peatlands worldwide.

The grant is valued at €500 and can be used by the winner to further their work. "I am delighted to receive this international endorsement for my work and I will be putting the funds towards a project to undertake *Sphagnum* moss restoration on Girley Bog in Co. Meath" says Mr Ó Corcora.







**Large Heath Butterfly**

The Large Heath butterfly (*Coenonympha tullia*) is uncommon in Ireland and is Red listed as vulnerable in both Ireland and Europe. Throughout its life cycle it feeds on two plant species; the larva feed on bog cotton (*Eriophorum sp.*) and the adult feed on cross leaved heather (*Erica tetralix*). For this reason the species is restricted to good quality bog habitats. The IPCC is happy to announce the Large Heath has been observed in large numbers on both Lodge Bog and Girley Bog

## Raised Bogs: Restoration and Conservation Plans



Drain blocking is the most important restoration technique on raised bogs. Photo: T Ó Corcora

IPCC is represented on the steering committee of the Raised Bog project of the Peatlands Council. We are happy to report progress on the development of restoration and conservation plans for the 53 raised bog special areas of conservation. We have reviewed documents that set out conservation objectives for each site and we have made comments on the restoration works proposed for the sites based on our own experience in raised bog restoration and management. Plans are underway to hold a workshop on best practice in raised bog restoration measures and from this workshop to develop a much needed handbook on the current best practice.

## Heritage week 2015 22nd - 30th of August



### Heritage week Kildare



**Open Day at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre & Visit to Lodge Bog**  
2pm-5pm, Sunday 23rd August  
Meet @ Bog of Allen Nature Centre, Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare  
Irish Peatland Conservation Council  
[www.ipcc.ie](http://www.ipcc.ie) or [www.facebook.com/IPCC.ie](http://www.facebook.com/IPCC.ie)

### Heritage week Meath



**Open Day Showcasing the Restoration of Girley Bog**  
2pm-5pm, Sunday 30th August  
Meet @ Causey Farm, Fordstown, Navan, Co. Meath  
[www.ipcc.ie](http://www.ipcc.ie) or [www.facebook.com/IPCC.ie](http://www.facebook.com/IPCC.ie)

### Heritage week Mayo



**Guided Walk of Tóchar Daithí Bán Nature Trail**  
2.30-3.30pm 24th and 27th August  
Meet @ Ballycroy National Park Visitor Centre, Co. Mayo  
National Parks & Wildlife Service  
Tel: 098 49888  
[www.facebook.com/BallycroyNationalPark](http://www.facebook.com/BallycroyNationalPark)

### Heritage week Mayo



**Family Fun Day on the Bog**  
11.00am-2.00pm Saturday 29th August  
Meet @ Clogher Heritage Cottage, Clogher, Claremorris, Co. Mayo  
Tel: 094 9030687  
[www.clogherheritage.com](http://www.clogherheritage.com)

### Heritage week Offaly



**Clara Bog: Past and Present - From Industrial Past to Conservation and Recreation**  
2.00-3.00pm Tuesday 25th August  
Meet @ Clara Boardwalk, Clara Bog, Co. Offaly  
Tel: 057 9368878  
[www.facebook.com/ClaraBog](http://www.facebook.com/ClaraBog)

### Heritage week Galway



**Guided 1.5 to 2 hr Walk through Connemara National Park**  
11.00am-1.00pm Wednesday 26th August  
Appropriate foot wear and raingear essential Meet @ Connemara National Park, Letterfrack, Co. Galway  
Tel: 095 41054  
[www.connemaranationalpark.ie](http://www.connemaranationalpark.ie)

National Heritage Week is coordinated by The Heritage Council and its aim is to build awareness and education about our heritage thereby encouraging its conservation and preservation. The bogs of Ireland are part of Ireland's natural heritage. They are home to many important species of birds, insects and a wealth of unusual plants. Peat, water and plants have been growing together for 10,000 years to make a bog habitat. Exploitation of peat for fuel has dramatically reduced the area once covered by peatlands in Ireland. During heritage week there will be events all around Ireland so why not take part in enjoying Ireland's wonderful natural heritage. For further information about Heritage week events go to [www.heritageweek.ie](http://www.heritageweek.ie)

## National Heritage Week 2015



# A Love of Bogs Lasts Longer than a Lifetime



## Giving in memory a tribute to someone you love

For a free copy of our guide to leaving a legacy, please call Catherine O'Connell on 045-860133, or write to IPCC, Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare or e-mail a request to us at [bogs@ipcc.ie](mailto:bogs@ipcc.ie)



Irish Peatland Conservation Council

## Volunteer for a brighter future



Photo: C. Ó Corcora

## Join in with us

Find out how by contacting the IPCC today  
Contact us today by calling 045-860133 or visit our website  
[www.ipcc.ie](http://www.ipcc.ie)

**Bog of Allen Nature Centre**  
In the heart of the bog and with bogs in our hearts

**Fáilte**  
from the Irish Peatland Conservation Council

- Bogland Exhibition
- Guided Tours
- Wildlife Gardens
- Family Nature Activities
- Sweet-eating plants
- Nature Shop
- Refreshments
- Toilets
- Conference Centre
- Library
- Classroom
- Lullymore Biodiversity Trail (Meeting Point)
- Tourist Information Point
- Lodge Bog Nature Reserve
- Lullymore West Bog Nature Reserve

Individuals and Groups Welcome  
[www.ipcc.ie](http://www.ipcc.ie)

**Open all Year to Visitors**

**2015-2020**

**BORD NA MÓNA**

**Bog of Allen Nature Centre, Lullymore, Tel: 045-860133 VISITUS: Tour on [www.ipcc.ie](http://www.ipcc.ie)**

## Help Save Our Boglands JOIN IPCC NOW!



I would like to join as a Friend of the Bog (tick category)

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single               | €40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joint/Family/Teacher | €45 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unwaged              | €27 |

I enclose my cheque/postal order payable to IPCC, or,  
please debit my Debit Card/Visa/  
Mastercard account for €.....

Card number.....

Signature .....

Expiry date .....

Security Code (last 3 digits above signature panel) .....

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms .....

Address .....

.....

Tel: ..... Date of Birth: .....

Post to: IPCC, Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare