Lodge Bog, Co. Kildare, Ireland (GPS: 53.16499N - 6.55489E) is a 35ha intact remnant of raised bog habitat which is being managed for conservation by the Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC). In 2009 IPCC began to trial the Sphagnum transfer method of restoring peat forming vegetation to damaged areas of Lodge Bog following the methods of Quinty & Rochford (2003).

Sphagnum mosses have special peat forming characteristics and are critical for formation and sustainability of raised bog habitats. Drainage, fire and peat extraction have caused a loss of 88% of Ireland’s raised bog resource. Restoration of damaged raised bogs is key to safeguarding the future of the habitat and species as well as ensuring that Ireland meets its EU Habitats Directive targets.

A key finding was that over time successful Sphagnum colonisation can lead to a return of the characteristic active bog species to the area, a step towards restoring active bog habitat. Given the success of the 16th plot IPCC put forward that implementing the Sphagnum transfer method on borrow pits with adequate water table should be recommended as a best practice procedure where peat dams are being construction on raised bogs across Ireland.

The following results were obtained:

- 50% were successful with good Sphagnum regeneration (>30% plot cover)
- 25% failed due to flooding
- 25% showed partial growth of Sphagnum (10-30% plot cover)

The borrow pit trial showed the 3rd highest % cover despite being installed in 2012.

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