

Lullymore West Bog

Kildare
Map and Guide

Irish Peatland Conservation Council
Comhairle Chaomhnaithe Phortaigh na hÉireann



Refuge for Wildlife

Lullymore West Bog is a cutaway bog from which peat was commercially extracted in the 20th century. It is 4.5ha in extent. Vegetation has naturally recolonised the site which has become an important refuge for wildlife. Over 300 species of bird, plant, insect and animal are found here. The variety of habitats on the site including grassland, scrub woodland, pools and ditches support the biodiversity of life on the site.



From the left: Frogs breed in the wetland habitats on Lullymore West in spring. The Emperor Moth may sometimes be seen flying during the day. Lullymore West Bog is part of the great Bog of Allen. The site is located on the north western edge of the mineral soil island of Lullymore.

Butterfly Haven

Lullymore West Bog is being conserved by the Irish Peatland Conservation Council for its diversity of butterflies and moths. With 21 out of the 28 butterflies occurring in Ireland found here and over 150 species of moth, the site is exceptional in Ireland.



Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*)



Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*)



Dark Green Fritillary (*Argynnis aglaja*)



Green Veined White (*Artogeia napi*)



Large White (*Pieris brassicae*)



Orange Tip (*Anthocharis cardamines*)



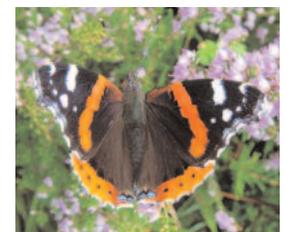
Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae*)



Peacock (*Inachis io*)



Speckled Wood (*Pararge aegeria*)



Red Admiral (*Vanessa alalanta*)

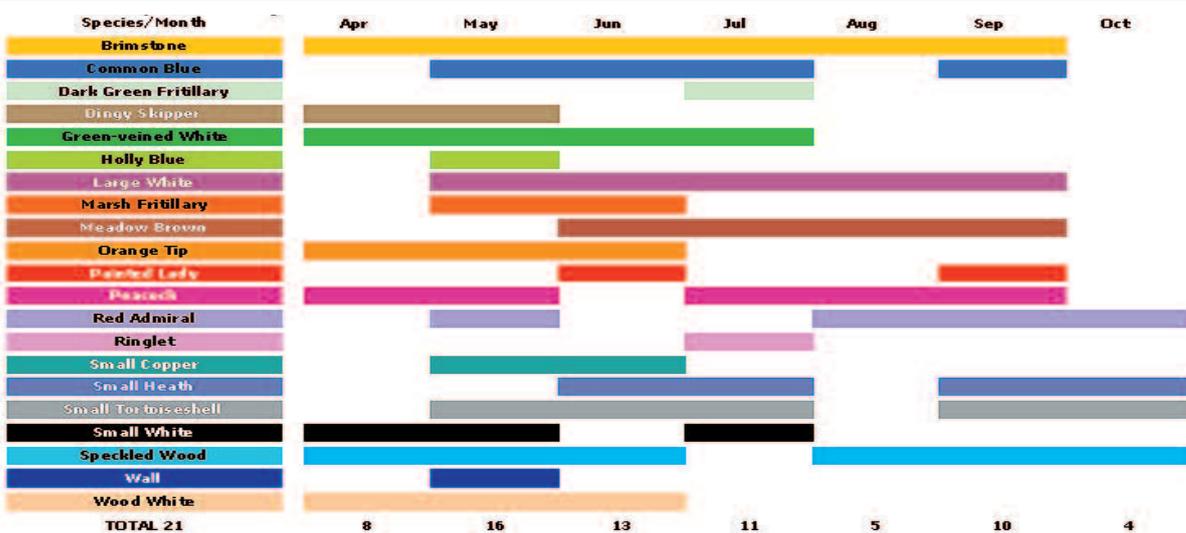
Endangered Marsh Fritillary Butterfly

The grassland habitat at Lullymore West Bog is a breeding area for the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly because of the abundance of its food plant Devil's Bit Scabious in the vegetation. The Marsh Fritillary is an endangered species because of loss of its habitat and it is the only butterfly species protected in Europe under the Habitats Directive.

From the right: the Adult Marsh Fritillary Butterfly flies in June. Caterpillars are active in Spring and Autumn basking in the sun and feeding. Caterpillars from a nest eating leaves of Devil's Bit Scabious, Marsh Fritillary pupa. Flower of the food plant Devil's Bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) abundant in autumn.



Butterfly Watch



The best time to watch butterflies on Lullymore West Bog is between the months of April and September. Choose to visit on a warm still day after midday. This chart shows when butterflies on Lullymore West Bog can be seen in flight.

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Wild Flowers



Because the wet grassland habitat of Lullymore West Bog has never been improved for agriculture, the site contains a very high diversity of wild flowers including Devils Bit Scabious, Yarrow, Knapweed, Common Twayblade, Lesser Butterfly Orchid and Fragrant Orchid.

The diversity of plants at Lullymore West Bog attracts many invertebrates including bees, wasps, bugs, snails, beetles, spiders, craneflies, slugs, butterflies and moths.



Clockwise from the left:
Heath Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza maculata*),
Bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*),
Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and
Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*).



Monitoring and Management

Lullymore West Bog was transferred to the Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC) by Bord na Móna (the Irish Turf Board) in 2005. IPCC aims to protect and enhance the butterfly and moth diversity of Lullymore West Bog. As part of this conservation work a monitoring and management programme is being implemented on the site.



Lullymore West Bog butterfly monitoring team. Each week from April to October a butterfly transect on the site, is surveyed by IPCC as part of the Irish Butterfly Monitoring Scheme.



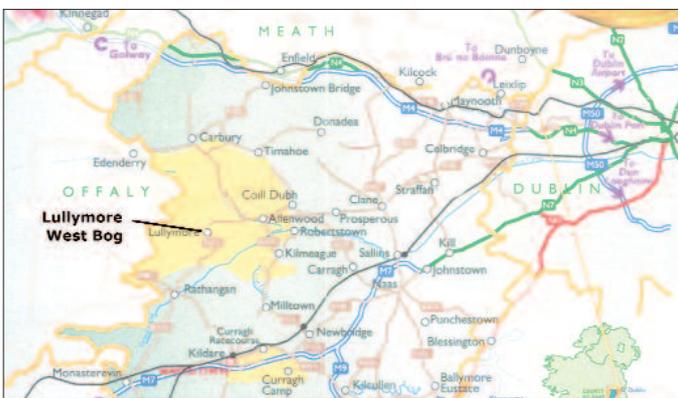
Left: The spread of scrub into the wet grassland and Marsh Fritillary breeding habitat is controlled by removing the invasive trees and blocking drains.

Right: Marsh Fritillary Butterfly Survey. Each year in Spring and Autumn the ground nests of the caterpillars of the Marsh Fritillary are monitored.

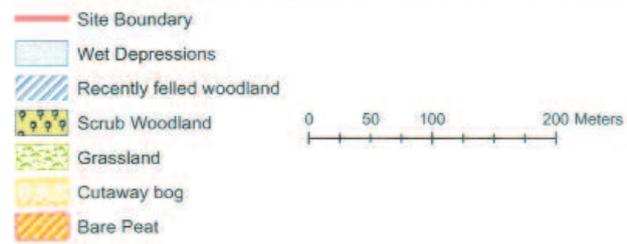


Visiting Lullymore West Bog

Lullymore West Bog is located off the R414 between the towns of Rathangan and Allenwood in Co. Kildare. These towns can be approached from the M7/N7 or from the N4/M4 roads. The bog can be reached from the minor road that passes the front of the Bog of Allen Nature Centre. It is located 1.5km from the Centre. Lullymore West Bog is sign posted as a nature reserve.



Above: Location map for Lullymore West Bog.
Right: Habitat map for Lullymore West Bog, Co. Kildare showing grassland, woodland and wetland habitats. Map prepared by Padraig Fogarty in 2007.



Safe Visit

Please help us to preserve and protect Lullymore West Bog so that generations can enjoy it too. We ask you to follow these guidelines:

- * Dumping of rubbish and personal items is prohibited as they damage the bog and spoil the environment.
- * Walking pets, camping, fires and the use of motorised vehicles on the bog are prohibited as they disturb wildlife.
- * It is an offense to feed or molest wildlife or remove or disturb any natural feature or plant on the bog.
- * When walking on the bog try to avoid trampling ground nests of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly particularly in Spring and Autumn.
- * It is dangerous to walk on the bog surface owing to hidden ditches, soft ground, tree stumps, pools, drains and brambles.
- * "Pursuant to the provisions of the Occupiers' Liability Act 1995, the occupiers of these premises puts all visitors to his premises on notice that his sole duties to them are: (a) not to injure the visitor or damage the property of the visitor intentionally, and (b) not to act with reckless disregard for the visitor or the property of the visitor."

The IPCC Bog of Allen Nature Centre



The Bog of Allen Nature Centre is located at Lullymore in the heart of the Bog of Allen and is run by the Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC). IPCC are developing a national centre of excellence for peatland education, research and conservation here. Visitors are welcome. We offer educational programmes for schools and special interest groups and the independent visitor. Facilities include a museum, exhibitions about the Bog of Allen, research library, habitats and gardens and the largest garden of carnivorous plants in Ireland and the U.K. IPCC is a charity (CHY6829) campaigning for the conservation of a representative sample of Irish peatlands and is entirely supported by voluntary contributions. Volunteers welcome. IPCC, Bog of Allen Nature Centre, Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare, R51 V293. T: +353-45-860133; E: bogs@ipcc.ie. www.ipcc.ie.



Above: The Bog of Allen Nature Centre - "one of the Top 10 Eco Projects in Ireland" - Lonely Planet 2008.
Left: Carnivorous plants from all over the world growing in the greenhouse at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre.



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