



Collaborative Conservation of Girley Bog

Co. Meath, Ireland

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Girley Bog, Co. Meath (GPS 53.68483N -6.94971E) is a raised bog Natural Heritage Area (NHA1580). It is 100ha in extent located on the eastern margin of the range of raised bog distribution in Ireland. Girley Bog is owned by state agencies, non governmental organisations and private individuals. The bog is of significant importance for biodiversity and recreation. The successful management of Girley Bog for its species and habitats and its amenity value has required collaboration between a diverse range of community individuals and stakeholder groups. These include the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Coillte Teoranta, Dutch Foundation for the Conservation of Irish Bogs, Meath County Council, Meath Eco Tours, Irish Peatland Conservation Council, Native Woodland Trust, Denyer Ecology, Causey Farm, Queen's University Belfast and local community members.



The successful conservation of Girley Bog was achieved through effective communication, planning and collaboration by a team of groups and individuals



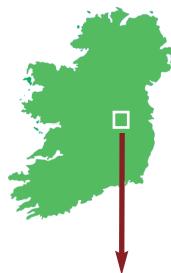
Native woodland planting was co-ordinated by the Native Woodland Trust around the bog



Volunteers supported the Irish Peatland Conservation Council in blocking 1.5km of drains in 2014



Restoration activities for volunteers included Sphagnum moss transfer. Restoration and management practices on the site aim to enhance the active raised bog habitat, a priority for conservation



Girley Bog has a well established national walking route (Loop Walk No. 51) providing an amenity value to the peatland



Information signs engage the visiting public with the natural habitat, its biodiversity and management projects



Training of local guides to provide educational and recreational tours on the site builds local enterprise



Girley bog is a demonstration site for Coillte Teoranta LIFE09 NAT/IE/000222 Raised Bog Restoration project which involved clearing a 32.2ha plantation of conifers from the bog surface and drain blocking.

The restoration of Girley bog presented opportunities for volunteering and stewardship. Participants learned new practical skills



The collaboration of the various members of the Girley Bog Meitheal Team has set a platform for the development of a conservation management plan for the site. The plans goals will be to protect and enhance the raised bog and woodland habitats on the site and to ensure the accessibility of the site for all. This work is made possible through funding support from the Heritage Council, Environmental Protection Agency, Meath County Council, Native Woodland Trust, National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Dutch Foundation for the Conservation of Irish Bogs.

This poster has been supported by the Irish Environmental Network
 Images courtesy of the National Parks and Wildlife Service,
 Irish Peatland Conservation Council and Apple Maps