

Safe Visit Guidelines

As you explore Girley Bog, please take the time to read the information panels located along the loop walk. Here are some tips to ensure you have a safe visit and help protect Girley Bog and its wildlife so that future generations can enjoy it, too.



- * Dumping of rubbish and personal items is prohibited, as they damage the bog and spoil the environment.
- * Camping, fires and the use of motorised vehicles on the bog are prohibited, as they disturb wildlife.
- * Please keep pets on a leash to avoid disturbing wildlife.
- * It is an offence to disturb or interfere with the natural fauna and flora on the bog.
- * It is dangerous to walk on the bog surface as there can be hidden ditches, soft ground, tree stumps and brambles. Please use the loop walk trail and the boardwalks provided.
- * Please practice the principles of Leave no Trace (www.leavenotraceireland.org).
- * '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.'

Learn more about peatlands by visiting the Bog of Allen Nature Centre, in Lullymore, Co. Kildare, which is run by the Irish Peatland Conservation Council. Visit www.ipcc.ie, where you will find lots of information about Irish peatlands, including the 'Discovering the Wild Bogs of Ireland' teachers resource pack, which is available to download.

Bog Cotton



Getting to Girley Bog



Girley Bog is located 8km southwest of Kells.

Access and parking are available at the trail head for the Girley Bog National Loop Walk (No. 51), which is signposted from the N52.

GPS: N: 53.68483, E: -6.94971 Facilities:

Grid Ref: N 705 680

Area: 100ha

Status: Natural Heritage Area No. 1580, incorporating Girley (Drewstown) Bog Special Area of Conservation No. 2203

Landowners: private individuals, NGOs and the Irish Government. The Girley Bog Meitheal includes representatives from the local community, landowners, NGOs, and state and semi-state agencies.



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Girley Bog, Meath Walking Map & Guide



Enjoy a walk through one of Ireland's wild peatlands and discover the variety of wildlife present on Girley Bog

Discovering Girley Bog - Formation, Wildlife & Walking



What makes Girley Bog stand out from all the bogs in Ireland is its wildlife, its peaceful loop walk and the Girley Bog Meitheal, which is bringing people together to help protect and promote this unique space. Here are the top-10 great things about Girley Bog.

#1 Living Sponge

Sphagnum moss holds 20 times its own weight in water. *Sphagnum* are the bog-building mosses and are plentiful on Girley Bog.



#2 Insect Trap

Sundews on Girley Bog catch midges in their sticky leaves to boost their diet.



#3 Bog Bleater

The Snipe can be found on Girley Bog. Its tail feathers make a bleating sound as it flies over nesting sites.



#4 Clean Air

Lichens only grow in fresh clean air, which is plentiful on Girley Bog.



#5 Water Babies

Frogs and newts breed in pools and ditches on the bog in spring.



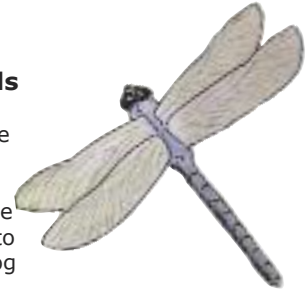
#6 Dark Angel

In folklore, the raven often represented the darker aspects of life, but could sometimes be considered a guardian angel as well.



#7 Bog Jewels

Watch out for the jewels of the insect world. In the summer, dragonflies emerge from bog pools to hunt over the bog surface.



#8 Rarely Seen

Pine Martens are one of the rarest mammals in Girley's woods.



#9 Call of the Wild

The skylark sings loudly to mark its territory on Girley Bog.



A Wilderness Preserved

Girley Bog, from the Irish 'grellach', meaning a mire or marshy place, is a dome-shaped raised bog that developed in a lake basin over a period of 10,000 years. The dome of the bog is surrounded by deciduous woodlands. At the end of the last Ice Age, a shallow lake was present where the bog is today. This lake gradually became completely overgrown with vegetation which, upon dying, slowly accumulated in the lake basin without decomposing, consequently forming peat. Bog mosses (species of *Sphagnum*) began to grow in this water-logged environment and soaked up rainfall like sponges. Over the millennia, their remains accumulated in the lake basin to a depth of 10m, creating the peat that now forms the typical 'high bog' of Girley.



#10 Social Nester

Sand Martins migrate to Girley from Africa and nest in groups in old turf banks.

