

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 to help protect Girley Bog and its wildlife so that future generations can enjoy it too.



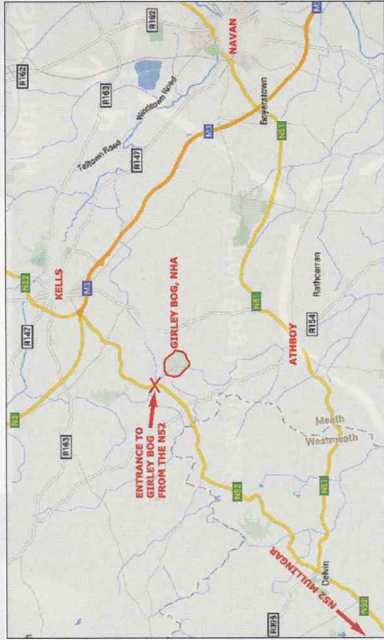
- * Dumping of rubbish and personal items is prohibited as they damage the bog and spoil the environment.
- * Camping, fires and the use of motorised vehicles on the bog are prohibited as they disturb wildlife.
- * Please keep pets on a leash as they can disturb wildlife.
- * It is an offence to disturb or interfere with the natural fauna and flora on the bog.
- * It is dangerous to walk on the bog surface owing to 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.leaveoutreaceireland.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 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 south west 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: N53.68483 E-6.94971

Grid Ref: N 705 680

Area: 100ha

Status: Natural Heritage Area

No. 1580 incorporating Girley

(Drewstown) Bog Special Area of Conservation No. 2203

Facilities:



Landowners: private individuals, non governmental organisations and the Irish Government. The Girley Bog Meitheal includes representatives from the Local Community, Landowners, NGOs, State and Semi-State agencies.



Acknowledgments: The on-going maintenance of the National Loop Walk is supported by National Parks and Wildlife Service, Coillte and Meath County Council. This leaflet was produced with funding support from Meath County Council's Community Heritage Grant Scheme.

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Girley Bog, Meath Walking Map & Guide



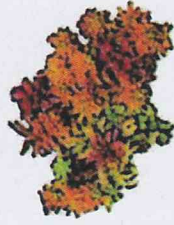
Enjoy a walk through one of Ireland's wild peatlands and discover the variety of wildlife found on Girley Bog

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 that is bringing people together to help protect and promote this unique space. Here's the top 10 great things about Girley Bog.

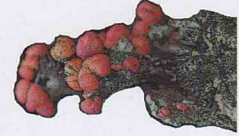
#1 Living Sponge
Sphagnum moss holds 20 times its own weight in water. Sphagnum are the bog building mosses and are plentiful on Girley Bog.



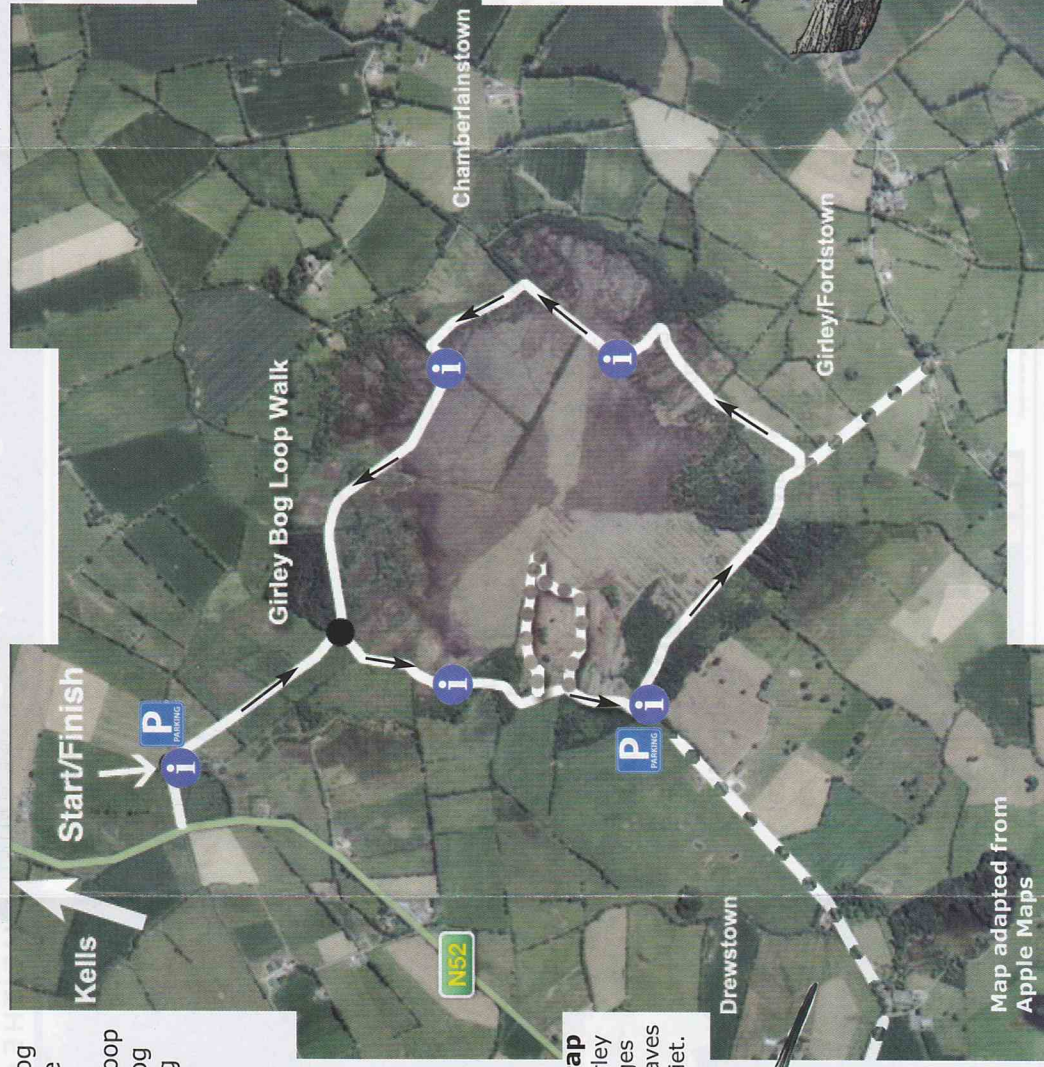
#2 Insect Trap
Sundews on Girley Bog catch midges in their sticky leaves to boost their diet.



#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.



A Wilderness Preserved

Girley Bog from the Irish 'grellach' meaning a mire or marshy place is a dome-shaped raised bog which 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 totally overgrown with vegetation that slowly accumulated in the lake basin, without decomposing, to form peat. Bog mosses (species of *Sphagnum*) began to grow in this water-logged environment. These mosses 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.



#5 Water Babies

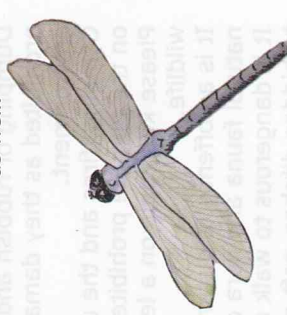
Frogs and newts breed in pools and ditches on the bog in spring.



#6 Dark Angel
In folklore, the Raven often represented the darker aspects of life, but could be somewhat of a guardian angel as well.



#7 Bog Jewels
Watch out for the jewels of the insect world. Dragonflies emerge from bog pools to hunt over the bog surface in the summer.



#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.



#10 Social Nester
Sand Martins migrate to Girley from Africa and nest in groups in old turf banks.

