



While the Irish Peatland Conservation Council warmly welcome visitors to Lodge Bog we would remind you of the needs and privacy of local residents and to acknowledge the interests of local land owners. These tips will ensure you have a safe visit and help you protect Lodge Bog so that future generations can enjoy it too.

- \* Please do not park on public roads.
- \* Dumping of rubbish and personal items is prohibited as they damage the bog and spoil the environment.
- \* Walking pets without leads, camping, fires and the use of motorised vehicles on the bog are prohibited as they disturb wildlife.
- \* It is an offence to feed or molest wildlife or to remove or otherwise disturb any natural feature or plant on the bog.
- \* It is dangerous to walk on the bog surface owing to hidden ditches, soft uneven ground, tree stumps, pools, drains and brambles. Please use the boardwalk provided.
- \* Fences and walls keep some animals in and some out, use stiles or gates (and shut them after you please).
- \* Weather conditions can change rapidly. Are you prepared?
- \* Lullymore is home or a place of work for many people. Please respect their privacy.
- \* Lodge Bog is adjacent to the R414 which is an extremely busy road so please take care if walking on or crossing the road.
- \* Leave No Trace.

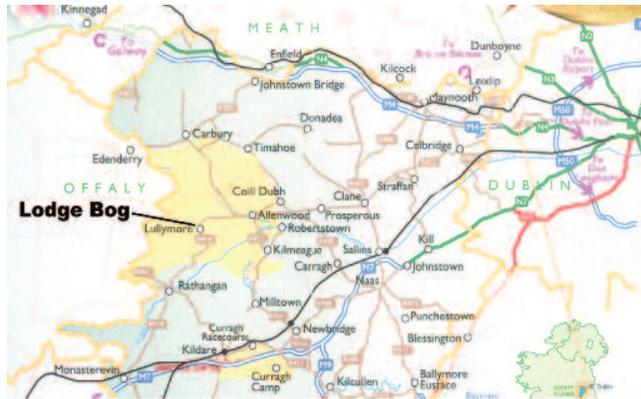


Lodge Bog naturally stores carbon as it grows. Soft, wet bog vegetation rich in *Sphagnum* mosses actively locks carbon into peat.



The boardwalk on Lodge Bog affords visitors a bird's eye view of the nature reserve

Thank you for your co-operation.



Lodge Bog is located on 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. Lodge Bog is sign posted as a nature reserve. The best place to start if visiting the bog is at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre which is 500m or a 10 minute walk from the entrance to the boardwalk on the site.

**Area:** 35ha

**GPS Co-ordinates:** N 53° 16' 42.392" E -6° 56' 34.125 "

**Nearest Village:** Allenwood

**County:** Kildare

**Owned By:** IPCC (28ha of Lodge Bog was donated to the IPCC by Bord na Móna in 2005. In 2008 IPCC purchased a further 3.5ha of the bog from a private landowner). A further 3.5ha are in private ownership.

**Discovery Map:** (1:50,000) No. 49

**Viewing Points:** from the boardwalk

**Parking:** Limited parking available in a lay-by on the road opposite the boardwalk, otherwise parking is available in the Bog of Allen Nature Centre on weekdays.

**Refreshments:** Tea and Coffee available in the Bog of Allen Nature Centre on weekdays

**Picnic:** picnic tables at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre

**Nearest Pub:** Allenwood

**Virtual Tour:** Before you visit why not take a virtual tour of the reserve by connecting to the IPCC YouTube channel from [www.ipcc.ie](http://www.ipcc.ie)



Text, layout & design by C. O'Connell and T. Ó Corcora  
 © 2016 Irish Peatland Conservation Council, Bog of Allen Nature Centre, Lullymore, Rathangan Co. Kildare, R51 V293. [www.ipcc.ie](http://www.ipcc.ie). The conservation of Lodge Bog is a long-term project of the IPCC and is supported by Kildare County Council, the Heritage Council, Bord na Móna and IPCC's donors and volunteers. Photographs © A. McCluskey, C. O'Connell, T. Ó Corcora, C. Breathnach and Google Maps



IPCC's mission is to conserve a representative sample of the peatlands of Ireland for future generations to enjoy. Lodge Bog is an example of the practical work that we do to enhance nature in local areas and to engage with communities. We are a registered charity (CHY6829).

You can donate to our work or volunteer by visiting [www.ipcc.ie](http://www.ipcc.ie). Thank You.



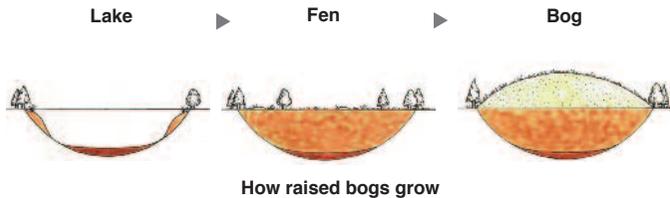
**Don't miss the cry of the Curlew and the experience of walking on water on your visit to Lodge Bog nature reserve**

## Lodge Bog - The Moving Bog

Lodge Bog is a raised bog of immense biodiversity value in the Irish midlands. It supports raised bog habitat and the associated wildlife which were once very widespread in this region of the famous Bog of Allen, but which now have been lost on a large scale due to peat extraction. Lodge Bog is made from water, peat and vegetation. All three components are strongly interconnected. If any one of them is removed, this threatens the future of the site and its wildlife. Lodge Bog gets its supply of water and nutrients from rainfall which is a poor source of the nutrients needed for plant growth. There is so much water in the bog, that the natural process of decay is impeded and the partially rotted plant remains accumulate as peat which is 98% water. It is very exciting to walk on the bog surface and feel it move as you compress its watery depths with your foot prints.

### 10,000 Years of History

Lodge Bog took 10,000 years to grow and presented three very different habitats during this time. First it was a freshwater lake, then an alkaline fen and finally, an acid bog. The peat in Lodge bog is 8m deep.



### Biodiversity Hot Spot

Lodge Bog has a rich diversity of wildlife with over 388 plants, birds and animals finding refuge in it. There is an abundance of *Sphagnum* moss and *Cladonia* lichen, 26 birds including Curlew and Skylark, 12 dragonfly, 61 moths and 16 butterflies, including the Large Heath (*Coenonympha tullia*), and 47 spiders. The spider fauna includes *Hyposisinga albobittata*, which was discovered here in 2005 by Myles Nolan and is a new species to Ireland. You can enjoy a panoramic view of Lodge Bog from the seating area on the boardwalk which looks towards the Hill of Allen.

## Conserving Lodge Bog - A Labour of Love

IPCC are actively managing Lodge Bog so as to restore its peat forming vegetation. Our mission is to reverse, as far as possible the effects of drainage on the bog and the impact of industrial peat extraction on the bog margins. Drainage has caused the bog to subside by as much as 4m from one side to the other (for example as you travel eastwards from the boardwalk towards the industrial cutover bog along the R414 road). There are 5km of drains within the bog and volunteers working on behalf of IPCC have blocked these with 200 dams constructed mostly with plastic lumbar. We monitor the water levels on Lodge Bog year round using a series of 118 piezometers (dipwells). The results show that water levels have risen by 15-20cm on the bog as a result of drain blocking. We periodically remove invasive species colonising the bog and we have undertaken restoration of bare peat areas through *Sphagnum* moss cultivation - a technique learned from Canadian peatland managers. Each year we welcome primary and post primary students to the site to study its unique ecology and we encourage researchers to work on this bog. Visitors are welcome year round to the nature reserve which has a 100m boardwalk and seating area especially for them.

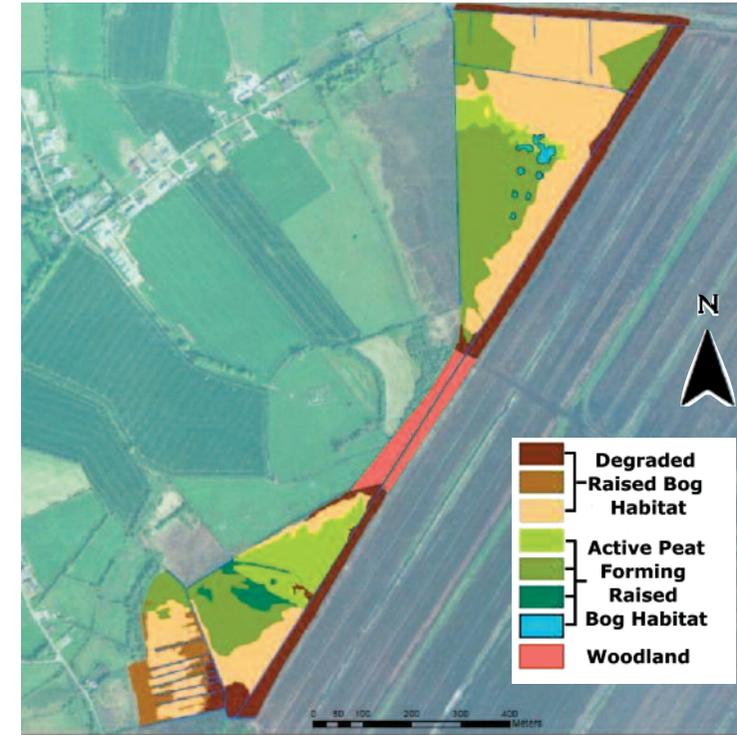
*Sphagnum* Cultivation    Water Monitoring    Drain Blocking



Volunteer action to conserve Lodge Bog

1. Frog
2. Bog Cotton
3. Sundew
4. Large Heath Butterfly on Cross-leaved Heath
5. Curlew
6. Damselfly
7. *Sphagnum* Moss

## Lodge Bog Habitats



Raised bog habitat is a conservation priority within the European Union. We are fortunate that the habitats present on Lodge Bog include active peat forming raised bog, degraded raised bog capable of forming peat with hydrological restoration, high, uncut bog which supports the raised bog habitats and bog woodland. This vegetation map researched and drawn by Miles Newman in 2009.

