

Coad Bog BioBlitz 2016

Programme of Events and Things to Do

(All visitors should register on arrival & sign the visitor book)



Date	AM	PM
Fri 20th May		Set up moth traps with NPWS, site access, transect location, erect temporary signs, full site walkover, GPS 4 corners, site overview
Sat 21st May	Set pitfall traps & GPS Install piezometers	Site profiling, Drain mapping & Photography
Sun 22nd May	Site profiling Peat Depths (19 points)	Site profiling, peat probing
Mon 23rd May	Biodiversity Surveys Birds, Bryophytes, Carnivorous Plants. Sweep netting, Pond dipping	Habitat mapping, Site profiling
Tues 24th May	Volunteer training	Film footage, Peat stratigraphy, <i>Community Event (7.30pm)</i> Site Safari & Star Party
Wed 25th May	Water measurements Drain blocking, volunteer training	Film footage/photography, Install fire- break, Habitat mapping
Thurs 26th May	Caherdaniel National School visit, Infants - Earth Walk Senior students - Ranger Programme	Water Measurements Film footage & photography
Fri 27th May	Empty pitfall traps Site clean-up	

Go raibh maith agat as ucht cabhrú linn!
Thank you!



Coad Bog, Co. Kerry

Visitor Guide



Fáilte



Irish Peatland Conservation Council
Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare R51 V293
www.ipcc.ie

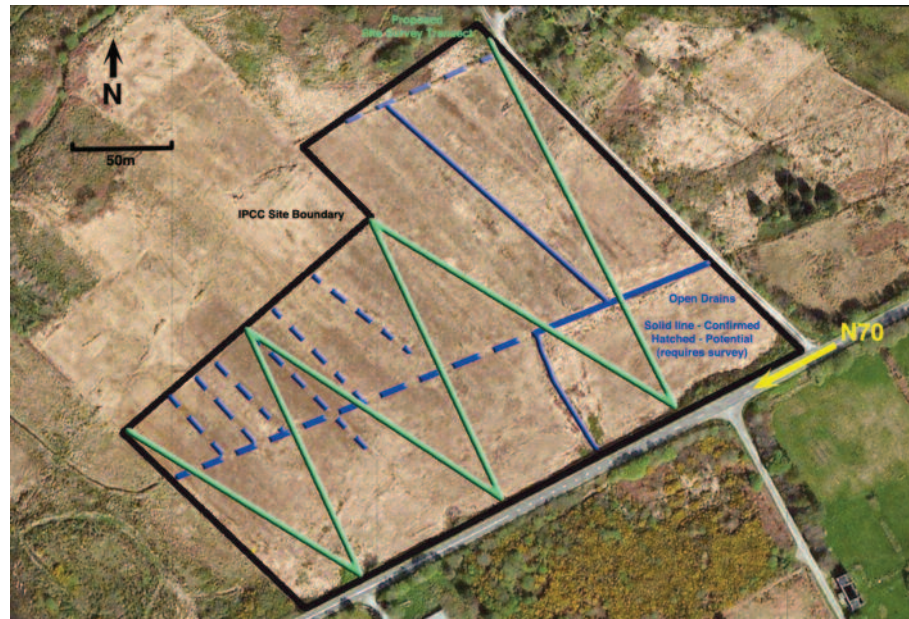
A Gift of a Bog

Coad Bog which comprises 10 acres of blanket bog was kindly donated to the Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC) in 2015 by a supporter who has roots in Kerry. This site is the first of its kind to be owned and managed by the IPCC so it is a very exciting time for us.

Coad Bog is located on the Ring of Kerry (N70) between Castle Cove and Caherdaniel in the townland of Coad. Turf was hand cut from the bog in historical times and used by the local blacksmith. There has been excellent regeneration of *Sphagnum* rich vegetation on the site since turf cutting stopped. With a little work active blanket bog habitat can be restored here, one of the most celebrated and unique peatland types in the world.

What is a blanket bog?

Blanket bogs are wetlands made of peat, plants and water combined together. Peat is the result of the accumulation of partially decayed plants over thousands of years. The dead plants don't rot because they grow in waterlogged conditions where there is little oxygen. Bacteria and fungi - the agents of decay are prevented from working in these conditions. The main source of water to a peatland is from rainfall which means the peatland is acidic pH 4. Blanket bogs develop on poorly drained soils where the weather is very wet. All of the country's high mountains are covered in this type of bog as



Coad Bog, Co. Kerry: Map detailing IPCC owned land, on-site drainage and IPCC designed transects for surveying the site in June 2016

are the western lowlands, where it rains two out of every three days.

What's Special About Coad Bog?

Coad Bog contains blanket bog habitat which is a conservation priority within European Union. And with 8% of the global area of blanket bog occurring in Ireland, the country is an important international location for this habitat.

Within the special habitat of Coad Bog there are some rare and fascinating species such as *Sphagnum* or Bog Moss

- the peat-forming plant, *Schoenus nigricans* or the Black bog-rush - an indicator species for blanket bog, *Succisa pratensis* or the Devil's-bit Scabious- the preferred food plant of the Marsh Fritillary butterfly and the insect-eating Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*). Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) and Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*) have been recorded on Coad Bog.

Dark Skies

Coad Bog falls within the 'CORE' area of Kerry International Dark-Sky Reserve

Breeding Birds

The soft peaty soil of Coad bog makes an ideal feeding ground for waders. These birds can stick their long bills into the soft peat as they search for food. The Snipe, also known as the bog bleater, occurs on Coad Bog. Its tail feathers make a bleating sound as it flies over its nesting sites, marking its territory. Snipe nest in tussocks on the ground and when disturbed fly away in a distinctive zig zag pattern.

Frogs

Frogs are commonly seen on bogs. They are amphibians hunting on the bog surface but they need to return to water to breed. Clumps of frog spawn may be seen in bog pools and ditches which later develop into tadpoles.

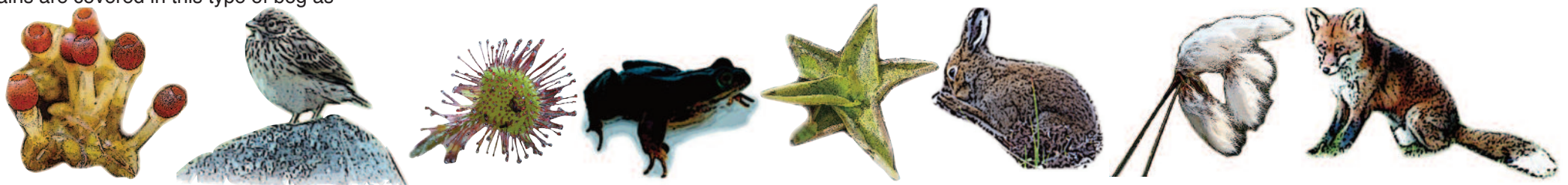
Threats and Changes

Coad bog is threatened by man in many different ways such as drainage, fire, hand cutting of peat and telegraph pole maintenance.

Fixing Coad Bog

There is lots of work to be done to reach our goal of making sure that Coad Bog is a haven for wildlife. IPCC with the help of the community will work to:

- Restore the entire site to active blanket bog (peat forming).
- Restore the hydrological regime of the bog system by blocking drains
- Monitor and enhance flora and fauna



From the left: Coad Bog is rich in species including *Sphagnum* moss, skylark, sundew, frog, butterwort, hare, bog cotton and fox.