



Annual Report and Financial Accounts 2020

Irish Peatland Conservation Council



www.ipcc.ie



Message from the IPCC Committee of Management



Image: The Irish Peatland Conservation Council Committee of Management adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic by meeting online via zoom in 2020.

Governance Code

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council confirm that our organisation complies with the Governance Code for the community, voluntary and charitable sector in Ireland.
9th May 2017



A new draft Peatlands and Climate Change Action Plan was developed. The aims of this action plan are to ensure the protection of those peatlands currently in good condition and supporting their range of ecosystem functions and to enhance the resilience to climate change of the entire country's peatlands through appropriate management, funding, education and collective effort.

We are delighted to present the Annual Report and Financial Accounts of the Irish Peatland Conservation Council for 2020.

2020 was an unprecedented year with the COVID-19 pandemic affecting all sectors of Irish society. Being confined to our homes has helped us to see, hear and enjoy wildlife even more. Despite the challenges of Covid-19 it has been a successful year for bogs and their wildlife.

A new draft Peatlands and Climate Change Action Plan 2030 was prepared to compliment the Irish Peatland Conservation Council's Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2020. A peatlands and carbon research project undertaken by the Irish Peatland Conservation

Council to estimate the carbon stored on an area of cutover land at Girley bog, Co. Meath provided scientific evidence of the value of peatlands as carbon stores.

Publications included a new Peatland Habitat Assessment Guide, to support peatland custodians nationwide understand the condition of their local peatland habitat. The guide provides recommended restoration methods that can improve the peatland habitat ecosystem services.

With travel restrictions in place the charity adapted and designed online lessons and resources for teachers and pupils in order to continue to raise the profile of the value of Irish peatlands.

The voluntary Committee of Management held 8 meetings in 2020. Covid-19 restrictions resulted in a move from physical meetings to virtual meetings. Our work included regulating IPCC's finances and operations, monitoring health and safety, facilitating an audit of our finances and ensuring compliance with the Charities Regulator Governance Code.

2020 Committee of Management IPCC:

Rachel Kavanagh,
Martin Kelly,
Kate Macnamara,
Miriam Mooney,
Catherine O'Connell,
Tiernan Murray,
John Pierce and
Seán Ó Fearghail

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council's (IPCC) mission is to conserve a representative portion of Irish peatlands for people to enjoy now and in the future. We run the national Save the Bogs Campaign, we own a network of five peatland nature reserves in Kerry, Kildare, Meath and Waterford and we manage the Bog of Allen Nature Centre, which is open to visitors and school groups. We provide an extensive information service on our website at www.ipcc.ie. IPCC have four members of staff and are supported by 100 volunteers.

Four thousand individuals subscribe to our campaign. CHY6829, RCN20013547.

Conserving and Protecting Peatlands in Ireland



The completion of the site management reports documents the conservation, management, policy, promotion and educational work completed by the Irish Peatland Conservation Council staff and our dedicated volunteers. This work was supported in 2020 by our Friends of the Bog, Core Funding from the Irish Environmental Network along with grant funding from Meath County Council, Kildare County Council and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

2020 was a productive year for the Irish Peatland Conservation Council with regards to peatland research. The **Girley Bog** Carbon Project was completed with the assistance of our volunteers Donal Lyons and Transition Year student Andrew Matthews. This was made possible with funding from Meath County Council and from the Peatlands Community Engagement Scheme of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. 21 peat probe depths were taken with a minimum depth of 2.06m and a maximum depth of 5.555m recorded. A core sample of peat and the peat depths were used to calculate the average stored carbon to be 355724 tonnes of Carbon on the cutover area of Girley Bog. A depth of peat on the high bog was measured at 9.1m. The Irish Peatland Conservation Council attended two meetings of the Girley Bog Meitheal in 2020, a community based group of individuals and

organisations involved with the conservation and management of Girley Bog.

The Large Heath butterfly was documented for the first time this year on **Coad Bog** in Co. Kerry by IPCC's longterm volunteer Myfanwy Humphreys. This shows evidence on the progress of the conservation efforts on site such as drain blocking.

2020 proved a difficult year for the Móin Fhionnurach Development Association of **Fenor Bog** in Co. Waterford as a result of COVID-19. All AGM's and essential fundraising events were cancelled.

Wildlife observations at the **Bog of Allen Nature Centre** documented 92 species in 2020. This includes Birds of Conservation Concern such as the status Red Yellowhammer. With funding from Kildare County Council through the Heritage Grant Scheme, IPCC developed the 'Pollinator Enhancement

Study' where 5 grassland management practices were put to the test to identify a method that increases pollinators and pollinator friendly plants which is cost and time effective for community groups. The conclusion of the project was to allow the grass to grow naturally. 258 pollinators and 33 pollinator plant species were recorded.

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council monitored the wildlife on **Lullymore West**, Co. Kildare. 792 butterflies from 20 species, 219 casual records from 46 different species and a fantastic 24 occupied Marsh Fritillary larval webs were recorded.

A phenomenal 43 Large Heath butterflies were recorded on **Lodge**

Bog, Co. Kildare in 2020, this represents the highest number of this iconic peatland butterfly recorded to date on the reserve. Three Curlew returned to Lodge Bog, however with limited access to the reserve during the nesting season breeding was not confirmed in 2020. A *Sphagnum* moss transfer was completed on bare peat that was exposed after removing a section of boardwalk in 2018. This method of restoration aims to enhance the ecological condition of the reserve.

Water level monitoring on Lodge Bog, Coad Bog and Girley Bog was completed in 2020. This monitoring enables the charity to assess the progress of the restoration methods completed to date.



Classifying the different peat layers from a core sample on Girley Bog, Co. Meath. Image © N. Madigan.

Peatland Campaigns



Map taken from Google Maps 2020 showing the devastating loss of peatland habitat on Snipe Bog, Monasterevin in Co. Kildare. This was uploaded to Facebook to raise awareness and reached 4046 people.



"We support @The MontyDon and all gardeners that help to protect peatlands by choosing to use peat-free compost in their gardens" - IPCC campaign for Peat-free gardening. On Facebook it had 22 likes and 12 shares.

IPCC continually campaign for the protection of peatlands in Ireland. This is communicated in a number of ways such as through IPCC's social media campaigns and posts, press releases and interviews, policy submissions and consultations, through partnerships with environmental groups both locally and Internationally, through education programmes and publications and through essential peatland training initiatives such as the *Sphagnum* moss transfer.

As a direct result of COVID-19, many events, talks and conferences were cancelled this year.

Lobbying

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council sent a letter to Minister Malcolm Noonan to inform him that the

public have still not received any information about the new NHA network to be designated. Complaints to the National Parks & Wildlife Service and Planning enquiries to County Councils and the Environmental Protection Agency on the matter of impacts to Cloonkeen SAC, Rinn River NHA and Derrymore pNHA in Counties Longford and Leitrim regarding peat extraction were made. Concerns were reported by members of the public and IPCC feel it is our utmost duty to report these concerns to the relevant authority.

Concerns over Peat Extraction Regulations

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council were contacted by a local of Snipe Bog in Monasterevin, Co. Kildare regarding the destruction of the vegetation layer and peat extraction on the

site. The Irish Peatland Conservation Council contacted Kildare County Council planning department but were informed that the matter is not in their jurisdiction. A post was uploaded to the Irish Peatland Conservation Council Facebook account regarding this issue to garner attention on the matter. The National Parks and Wildlife Service claimed that they did not have jurisdiction while the Environmental Protection Agency will not intervene unless the development reached 50ha. This case highlighted how the regulation involving peatland development are flawed and include loop holes for developers to take advantage of.

CANN Project

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council gave a virtual talk to the Ulster Wildlife as

part of the CANN (Collaborative Action for the Natura Network) project with regards to training on the methods of *Sphagnum* moss transfer. Dr. O'Connell completed a *Sphagnum* moss training day at Peatlands Park, Co. Armagh with the group. 2020 was the third and final year of this project work between the IPCC and CANN.

Peat-free Gardening

IPCC campaigned for the protection of bogs which are still being used to extract peat for the moss peat industry by posting on social media in support of Monty Don and all other peat-free gardeners. The charity also made a submission to the Review of the Use of Peat in the Horticultural Industry. An outcome of which the Government must setup a working group to address the issues presented in the review.

Monitoring Peatlands in Ireland

Site Name, County	Issue	IPCC Action/Outcome
Ardee Bog, Co. Louth	Proposed infrastructure	The Irish Peatland Conservation Council were made aware of a potential road development near Ardee Bog in Co. Louth by a member of the public. The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht were contacted but there was no response. Minister Shane Ross was also contacted who said it was a matter for Louth County Council. Louth County Council were contacted by IPCC informing them that while the Ardee Bypass Project has been put on hold, there are still works going on near the boundary of the pNHA (Proposed Natural Heritage Area).
Barnesmore Windfarm, Co. Donegal	Windfarm SID Application	Recommendations included considering the carbon impact of the development. Questions included what quality studies of Annex 1 habitats does the developer acknowledge to be present, has the developer monitored the environmental impact over 25 years and what is the connectivity between this site and the surrounding landscape?
Ferbane Bog, Co. Offaly	Amenity Planning Application	The Irish Peatland Conservation Council advised on the construction of recycled plastic lumbar boardwalks to be used and to work with other wildlife groups to develop wildlife corridors. Species of importance recorded on the site include Merlin and frogs. The application was lost and not taken into consideration.
Carlingford Mountain SAC (Special Area of Conservation), Co. Louth	Turf cutting	The Irish Peatland Conservation Council notified the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection Agency and Louth County Council to inform them of alleged fresh turf cutting as observed by a local. Irish Peatland Conservation Council asked for the matter to be investigated and to ascertain whether the turf cutting activities are from a historical turf bank or a new one.
Carrownagappul Bog, Co. Cork	Education and Amenity Park Planning Application	The Irish peatland Conservation Council made four recommendations for the site such as the establishment of warning signs and public participation to discourage illegal dumping on laybys, signage to warn of the risk of fire, the use of recycled plastic lumbar boardwalks rather than gravel pathways and finally alternative ways to show how turf cutting was completed in the past using a sleán rather than a physical demonstration.
Cloncrow Bog NHA (Natural Heritage Area), Co. Westmeath	Development of a bog walk	The Irish Peatland Conservation Council wrote a letter in support of Eugene Dunbarr from ETHOS (Everything Tyrrellspass Has To Offer) Tyrrellspass in relation to the development of a town and bog walk on Cloncrow Bog.
Coole Bog, Co. Westmeath	Westland IPPC licence renewal	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - IPCC sent a letter to the EPA regarding the application on the IPC licence by Westland. Irish Peatland Conservation Council insisted that bog rehabilitation be part of the compliance after use.
Croagh Windfarm, Co. Leitrim	Proposed Windfarm Development	The Irish Peatland Conservation Council objected on the grounds that the loss of blanket bog proposed for County Leitrim is too extensive. Also to investigate the impacts on freshwater ecosystems in the pre-planning, construction and windfarm operation stages with a full hydrological and ecological survey completed, there is a record of Curlew, an Annex II species present on site and finally to minimise invasive species encroachment and peat sedimentation into riverine systems.
Kilcar, Shannagh, Windfarm, Co. Donegal	Draft Screening for AA (Appropriate Assessment) and EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment)	The Irish Peatland Conservation Council highlighted the importance of blanket bog as an Annex I habitat and how developers put more emphasis on managing a habitat elsewhere rather than protecting the peatland habitat in Kilcar proposed for this development.
Mott McDonald Consultant	Planning permission	A submission was made to Mott McDonald, a consultant for Bord na Móna seeking planning permission for the historical exploitation of 41 sites.
Umeras Bog, Co. Kildare	Development of a Peatland Nature Park	The Irish Peatland Conservation Council supported the restoration of Umeras Bog in this development as re-wetting the peat bog and monitoring the waterlevels would allow for peatland specific species to once again return.
Woodfield Bog, Co. Offaly	Turf cutting on new banks	The Irish Peatland Conservation Council received information from the Laois Heritage Officer regarding alleged turf cutting on new banks of Woodfield Bog. IPCC sent the Heritage Officer information on how the County Council can assess the situation and intervene. IPCC also contacted the Offaly Heritage Officer and the planning Department of Offaly County Council regarding this very matter.

Protecting Peatlands in Ireland

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council made submissions to the following Policies and Consultations in 2020

- 1. Wind Energy Guidelines 2020** - The charity raised the concern that there is too much emphasis on the developers and not enough on protecting the peatland habitat itself. Windfarms should not be developed on peatlands that need to be drained or that are designated.
- 2. Peat in the Horticultural Industry Review** - A series of questions were presented which the charity expressed concerns on including that the charity cannot support further destruction of peatlands "as a means of financial gain regardless of job losses".
- 3. Review of Peatland Strategy** - Recommendations by the charity included to increase the methods for assessing peatland habitats.
- 4. IPCC reviewed the Irish Wildlife Manuals No. 128, The habitats of cutover raised bog** - NPWS consultation questioned omissions from the plan including how the degradation occurred.
- 5. County Kerry Development Plan 2015-2021** - The charity expressed concerns on the loss of peatlands in Kerry, peatland fragmentation caused by windfarms and road infrastructure, impacts on river catchments, nitrogen deposition within SAC's and accounting for loss of carbon sequestered within peatlands in Kerry.
- 6. National Parks and Wildlife Service Draft Prioritised Action Framework for Ireland 2021-2027** - Comments made by the Irish Peatland Conservation Council included a call for a national fen survey, inadequate assessment, impacts of grazing and lack of conservation targets for blanket bogs, appealed for the completion of the designation of Raised Bogs, work with and provide financial and restoration support to peatlands that are not state-owned.
- 7. Bord na Móna Environmental Impact Assessment Report** - The charity objected to the extraction of peat on any site for activities such as the horticulture industry and alternative products need to exist. A number of case studies were included by the charity where conservation interests and the interests of Bord na Móna conflicted.
- 8. Bord na Móna Enhanced Climate Change Rehabilitation Plans** - 15 recommendations including the need to publish methods used and proof that Edera Bog will withstand impacts of climate change.

1. Casework

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council responded to 12 site issues (see page 4) and made submissions to 8 policy documents in 2020 (see table inset). IPCC made quarterly reports to lobbying.ie regarding campaigning activities.

2. Peatlands Council

In 2020, IPCC attended 3 meetings of the Peatlands Council where updates on turf cutter compensation, management works and the Living Bog Project were discussed. Two further meetings of the turf-cutting compensation appeals group were also attended.

3. Living Bog LIFE Raised Bog Restoration Project

As representatives on the steering committee of this project the charity attended 2 meetings in 2020. Comments were made as part of a review of an interim report to the EU. Restoration works were completed on 9 sites with a budget of €5 million. The project will be extended into 2021.

4. RAMSAR Wetlands Committee

IPCC attended the annual meeting virtually, on the 26th of April 2020. The meeting was in relation to a new policy document on wetlands to be prepared. IPCC were invited to another meeting to give a presentation regarding the impacts of nitrates on Special Areas of

Conservation (SAC). This was received very well.

5. Irish Environmental Network/ Environmental Protection Agency

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council are a member of the Irish Environmental Network and attended the annual meeting between these two groups on 23rd October 2020. The charity sought an update on the Westland Horticultural Industrial Extraction IPPC licence application. This application was eventually rejected a planning application that the charity had opposed (see page 4).

6. Abbeylax Technical Advisory Group

IPCC attended the annual meeting where the new Ecological Survey on the annexed habitats of Abbeylax Bog was discussed. Also on the agenda was all other conservation and management works completed during the year and any future works.

7. Questionnaires

IPCC took part in a questionnaire as part of the Lough Currane, Inny River and Ballinskelligs Bay Catchment Management Plan with regards to how peatlands in catchment areas should be managed. The charity aimed to draw attention to the relationship between peatland habitat and water quality.

Peatland Awareness, Education and Training



Bogs in the Classroom educational video and resources developed for online teaching as part of the Heritage In Schools Online Virtual Pilot Programme.

The Bog of Allen Nature Centre is a gateway for the Irish Peatland Conservation Council's awareness, education and training programmes. Offering in-house and outreach peatland education initiatives allows us to reach a greater audience and promote peatland protection.

1. Bog of Allen Nature Centre Visitor Attraction

IPCC welcomed 83 students (3 Irish groups) and 115 visitors to the nature centre during the year. Due to COVID-19 as a result of restrictions in place, the centre was closed to all visitors on three occasions in 2020 between the 12th of March to the 20th of July, from the 7th of August to the 1st of September and from the 7th of October to the 1st of December. Therefore, visitor and school numbers are much lower than previous years.

2. Bog of Allen Nature Centre Visitor Flyer

A new and updated flyer was designed and 2000 copies were printed. This included updating the

visitor donation entry fee, new imagery and snappy descriptions of family friendly activities.

3. The Heritage in Schools Virtual Pilot Programme 2020

With travel restrictions due to Covid-19 12 Heritage Experts including Nuala Madigan and Paula Farrell of the Irish Peatland Conservation Council took part in a virtual pilot programme hosted by the Heritage in Schools Scheme of the Heritage Council. The Irish Peatland Conservation Council designed and narrated powerpoint videos and downloadable resources to engage pupils and bring the bogs to them. To follow, the class met virtually with their Heritage Expert on zoom. This programme was only offered to schools in Donegal and Kilkenny free of charge to assess the success of such a scheme. 27 virtual workshops were completed and 5 meetings were attended raising €4280 for the charity.

4. Partnerships

IPCC have continued to partner with organisations



From top: The new Bog of Allen Nature Centre visitor flyer. The updated Hop To It Frog Booklet. The Peatland Condition Assessment Guide.

Peatland Awareness, Education and Training



Two videos uploaded to YouTube and social media to virtually celebrate Heritage week 2020. From left: The Summer Wildlife Survey showcasing the lush vegetation along the Ballygoran Stream in Co. Kildare. Managing Pollinators in Your Community Garden as part of the Pollinator Enhancement Study in the Bog of Allen Nature Centre showing the various pollinators and pollinator friendly plants identified.

to form strong relations. This includes SEAI, Heritage in Schools, Waterways Ireland, Local Authorities and libraries to complete a variety of peatland related initiatives. In 2020, 20.5 outreach school visits with SEAI, 19 virtual workshops to schools supported by Kildare County Council via Kildare libraries, two post primary talks as part of Science Week and three workshops for Kerry Biosphere were also completed (see table inset).

With funding support from the Climate Environment Action Fund the Irish Peatland Conservation Council worked with 11 Local Authorities to engage a wider audience of people throughout Ireland with regards to peatland education. As part of this, IPCC published a second edition of the *Hop To It Frog Book* to encourage and inform citizen scientists in Limerick and Cavan on frog breeding behaviour in Ireland and to submit records.

Virtual talks on bogs were provided in Meath, Offaly, Longford, Tipperary, Waterford and Laois while Wicklow and Cork City opted for a Peatland Habitat Assessment Guide.

5. Heritage Week 2020

Due to COVID-19, IPCC were unable to host any physical events for Heritage Week 2020 however, IPCC did host three online events including the development of a video showcasing the Pollinator Enhancement Study that took place at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre over the Summer Months, the Ballygoran Stream Summer Wildflower Survey and a dedicated webpage on IPCCs website for the Peatland Management DIY Tool Kit.

6. Biodiversity Week

IPCC were due to host an event on Coad Bog in Co. Kerry with BSBI Kerry however, this was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions and postponed until 2021. The Irish Peatland Conservation

Council did take part in a virtual backyard BioBlitz with support from the Irish Environmental Network. This online event engaged members of the public with wildlife experts who supported by identifying species observed in backyards.

7. Culture Night with a twist

IPCC could not hold our annual Culture Night event however, a short video was developed and uploaded to social media to show IPCC's followers that 'Some Chores Never Change'.

Education	Workshops Delivered	Meetings attended	Revenue Raised
Heritage in Schools Pilot Virtual Programme	27	5	€4280
SEAI	20.5 (outreach)	4	€5810
School and group visits to the Bog of Allen Nature Centre	4		€1070
Kildare County Libraries	19 completed (organised 21)		€1400
Science Week Midlands Science Festival	2 post primary talks		€350
Kerry Biosphere	3		€250
Total	71.5	9	€13,160

Peatland Awareness, Education and Training

8. Hop to It Frog Survey

IPCC added another 321 frog records to our database in 2020. Thanks to the work of numerous citizen scientists IPCC now hold 5770 frog records on our database from 1997 onwards.

9. New infrastructure for the Wildlife Gardens

IPCC were awarded funding from Dredge to finish the garden paths and complete the fence around the fen and bog habitats with recycled plastic lumbar as part of the 'Wildlife Walk Through Time'. Phase 2 project. This was postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions and will be completed in 2021.

10. Community Foundation for Ireland Biodiversity Action Plans

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council engaged with four community groups, Mullingar Tidy Towns, Caherconlish Tidy Towns, Streamstown Tidy Village and Newtownforbes Tidy Town to develop Community Biodiversity Action Plans. These included developing habitats maps, completing biodiversity surveys and presenting recommendations to maintain and enhance local biodiversity. Community engagement was promoted through quarterly newsletters, social media videos and online surveys for members of the public to get involved.

11. Waterways Ireland Virtual Classroom Video

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council prepared a virtual classroom based video as an alternative to field educational visits hosted with Waterways Ireland.

12. Monasterevin Tidy Towns

Two social media videos associated with wildlife that members of the public can encounter in autumn and winter were developed for Monasterevin Tidy Towns.

13. Governance

Paula Farrell and Nuala Madigan completed a First Aid Course. IPCC is working towards full compliance with the Charities Regulator Governance Code. In 2020 works included; risk management plan, child safe guarding policy, financial control policy, update of IPCC strategic and business plan 2019-2021, an update of the staff mileage claim form with a self declaration section and conflict of interest policy.

A Donor Charter and Data Protection Statement were prepared and uploaded to IPCC's website. IPCC also claimed the Government Wage Subsidy scheme for salaries April-August.

14. Talks and conferences

Dr. Catherine O'Connell gave a talk to Dutch students from Radboud University in



A video created for Monasterevin Tidy Towns with funding from the Arts Department of Kildare County Council 2020.

the Netherlands as part of the Ireland module. The Abbeygroup (corporate business) received a talk from Tristram Whyte.

Nuala Madigan gave a talk on Florons Day in the Netherlands and also a talk on *Sphagnum* restoration to the Lough Neagh group. Catherine O'Connell attended a conference on backing our bogs where financing peatland restoration was discussed and also gave a talk to SMBC aviation all about the significance of peatlands when confronting climate change.

As part of Peat Fest 2020, an event organised by a youth group in the Netherlands known as Re-Peat, a live stream of Lodge Bog was undertaken by Nuala Madigan on 31st May.

15. Irish Environmental Network Media Training

Paula Farrell attended a

training event on behalf of IPCC on writing and composing press releases with the IEN via zoom.

16. Draft Peatlands and Climate Change Action Plan 2030

During the lockdown in 2020, IPCC staff completed 25 literature reviews of documents used to inform the new action plan. A draft was developed detailing the relationship between climate and peatlands and identified a set of objectives to guide the charities campaign work on this issue over the coming years. The draft was sent for peer review and will be published in 2021.

Communicating Peatlands, Volunteers, Fundraising

Press Releases 2020

- Hop To It in 2020 and take part in Ireland's Longest Running Citizen Science Frog Survey
- Celebrate Ireland's only Native Frog Species on World Frog Day 2020
- Returning to the Bog of Allen Nature Centre to Discover a Spectacular Year for the Large Heath Butterfly
- Shocking degradation of Irish Peatlands needs Action Plan with Climate Focus
- International Bog Day 2020: A Call to Action this International Bog Day
- IPCC Welcome the Imminent Publication of the 100th Irish Wildlife Manual
- Celebrating Heritage Week 2020 with the Irish peatland Conservation Council - Virtually
- While the Horticultural Industry Talks about Change, Habitat and Wildlife, Destruction Continues

**HOT
OFF THE
PRESS!**



Irish Peatland Conservation Council Press Releases published in the Irish Times online newsletter.

1. Peatland News and Action for Bogs Magazines

These publications are the corner stone in IPCC's communication and supporter development work. Two printed issues of Peatland News and one virtual issue of Action for Bogs were released in 2020.

2. Press Releases

IPCC issued 8 press releases on a diverse range of topics (see table to the left).

3. Media Highlights

IPCC's press release on the 'Shocking degradation of Irish Peatlands needs Action plan with Climate Focus' received significant media attention with the Irish Times publishing both the article online and in print. IPCC contributed weekly articles to the Leinster Leader and two feature articles to the Allen Eye (circulated to 2500 homes in Kildare) were published in 2020. Interviews with Catchments.ie and Harper Magazine resulted in online publications. A nationwide campaign promoting the Hop To

It Frog survey in early 2020 was well received with 12 regional county newspapers publishing the article.

4. Volunteers

Throughout the year, IPCC worked alongside our dedicated volunteers both at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre, Nature Reserves and remotely. The work involved maintenance of the wildlife gardens, species and water level monitoring, habitat mapping, scrub clearance, research and informative written pieces to include in Peatland News.

IPCC also have a number of volunteers that sort through stamps in their own homes. This provides essential revenue through the stamp appeal where stamps are purchased by collectors.

5. Fundraising

IPCC made 12 successful funding applications in 2020 to Waterways Ireland, Flogas, Kildare and Meath Heritage Grant, Doherty, Local Authorities, Irish

Environmental Network, Peatlands Community Engagement Fund 2020 and the Community Foundation for Ireland.

Our supporters and Friends of the Bog donated generously to the Spring and Christmas appeals and donated prizes towards the raffle. We also kindly received 195 shop orders. All money raised helps IPCC towards the conservation and protection of peatlands in Ireland.



Communicating Peatlands, Volunteers, Fundraising



Images: Wild Ireland Calendar 2021 designed by IPCC in partnership with Flogas. Volunteers participating in scrub clearance on Lullymore West Bog for International Bog Day 2020. Photo: N. Madigan



IPCC On Line Presence	2018	2019	2020
Web Site Visitors	46,752	53,702	62,636
Facebook followers	2,752	3,728	3,734
Twitter followers	1,291	1,791	2,254
YouTube views	27,689	32,322	39,630
Trip Advisor Reviews	32	36	37
Instagram	221	393	698

www.ipcc.ie

6. Website and Social Media

The IPCC have been very active on social media and track the progress of campaigns and posts during the year. Six campaigns were designed and published entitled Bog Babies, Wildlife Wonders at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre, Reserve Management Highlight Posts, Insect Eating Plants, Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC) working

for YOU Behind the Scenes, the Pollinator Enhancement Study Campaign and the Autumn Catalogue Campaign.

On the 1st May for the first time the IPCC went live on Instagram in partnership with Patagonia to show viewers how IPCC garden peat-free which included a tour of the Wildlife Gardens at the Bog of Allen Nature

Centre. Nuala Madigan, IPCC's Education Officer also hosted a video chat on WhatsApp with Sophie Nicoullad, a Councillor in the Ballyfermot, Drimnagh area regarding composting.

Planning submissions, events, reports and webpages are continually updated on the IPCC website. A finished report of the Pollinator Enhancement Study was included on the gardening tips webpage. Posters designed as the centre page in the last four Peatland News Editions were uploaded to the resources section of the website and also posted on social media which gathered a lot of attention and requests. These included the Fen, Raised Bog and Blanket Bog plant posters, the Marsh Fritillary and Bonding with Butterflies posters.

An article was published on the Daily

Mail.co.uk digital newspaper entitled 'Monty Don slams garden centres for 'actively choosing to do harm' by selling compost made from peat. Monty Don quoted Dr. Catherine O'Connell from a ITV TV programme where the habitat loss caused by peat harvesting and mining "on an industrial scale is a total disaster". The Daily Mail UK has a monthly digital readership of 30,804,000. IPCC uploaded a post to all social media accounts on the 19th of November 2020 in support of Monty Don promoting the use of peat-free compost.

Minister of State Malcom Noonan visited Girley Bog, Co. Meath in 2020. IPCC explained the importance of peatland habitat and biodiversity conservation through water level monitoring and a peat probing demonstration.

Social Media Campaigns on IPCC Facebook Page

Title	# Posts	Reach
- Bog Babies	11	18,285
- Wildlife Wonders at the Bog of Allen Nature centre	11	9,759
- Reserve Management	4	2637
- Insect Eating Plants	6	6,185
- IPCC working for YOU behind the scenes	18	8,551
- The Pollinator Enhancement Study Campaign	4	2,012
- Christmas Gift Catalogue Campaign	10	4,350

Thank You



Companies, Agencies & Organisations

Abbey Tours Limited
Amy McCluskey
An Féar Gorta - Tea-
Rooms and Garden
Allen Eye
Ballymaloe Cookery
School
Bank of America
BirdWatch Ireland
Kildare Branch
Butterfly
Conservation
Ireland
Cavan County Council
Caherconlish Tidy
Towns
C.B. & H.H. Taylor
1984 Trust
Climate Action
Department of
Culture, Heritage
and the Gaeltacht
Environment Fund
Community
Foundation
for Ireland
Community Wetlands
Forum
Cork County Council
Cork Institute of
Technology
Department of
Housing Local
Government and
Heritage
Dublin Zoo
Dun Laoghaire
Rathdown County

Council
ETHOS
Flogas Ireland Ltd
Fota Wildlife Park
Fruit Hill Farm
Girley Bog Meitheal
HDH Wills 1965
Charitable Trust
Heritage Council
IEN Irish
Environmental
Network
Irish Peatland Society
Irish Ramsar
Wetlands
Committee
Jackie & Ed Keilthy
Jewellery
John FitzGerald
Katie Geraghty
Kildare County Council
Kerry County Council
KRA Visionary Project
Partners
Laois County Council
Leinster Leader
Limerick City and
County Council
Longford County
Council
Marsh Christian Trust
Meath County Council
Met Éireann
Michael Gorey
Lullymore
Móin Fhionnurach
Development
Association
Monasterevin Tidy

Towns
Mullingar Tidy Towns
National Biodiversity
Data Centre
National Parks and
Wildlife Service
Newtownforbes Tidy
Towns
Offaly County Council
Patagonia
Paula Farrell
Peatlands Community
Engagement Scheme
2020
Peatlands Council
Revenue
Commissioners
Streamstown Tidy
Village
Sustainable Energy
Association of
Ireland
The Drehid Grant
Scheme
The Living Bog Raised
Bog Restoration
LIFE Project
Tipperary County
Council
Ulster Wildlife
Waterford City and
County Council
Waters and
Communities
Westmeath County
Council
Waterways Ireland
Wetland Surveys
Ireland
Wicklow County

Council
Individuals
Aisa Cooper
Catherine O' Dea
Daniel Bevons
David Collins
Dáithí Kimber
Frank Callanan
Fionnuala Ward
Florence McCarthy
Gwyn Grace
Lilius Riekstins
Michael Smurfit
Michael Tubridy
Roger & Olivia
Goodwillie
Seán Ó Fearghail
Wilbert Gelens

Legacies and In Memoriam Gifts

David Bellamy
David Dillon
Geraldine Watts
James Egan
Sonja Landweer
Thomas Murray
Thomas Smith
Tim Robinson

Volunteers

Andrew Matthews
Anna Collins
Bernadette Byrne
Brendan Wyse
Catherine O'Connell
Christoir O'Driscoll
Cliona Kelliher
Denis Judge

Donal Lyons
Edward Smyth
Emily Toner
Fionnuala FitzGerald
Johann Kieselch
John Fearn
John Pierce
Kate Flood
Kate Macnamara
Katie Smirnova
Kay O'Connell
Lesley Whiteside
Lorcan Scott
Lucy Fitzpatrick
Martin Kelly
Miriam Mooney
Myfanwy Humphreys
Natacha Weadick
Natasha Sullivan
Pat Bell
Pat Wyse
Patricia Dunne
Pierce O'Flynn
Rachel Kavanagh
Rita Byrne
Seán Ó Fearghail
Síobhan Macnamara
Tiernan Murray
Timothy Sullivan
Tom Mc Cormack
Wilbert Gelens

IPCC Staff

Catherine O'Connell
Nuala Madigan
Paula Farrell
Tristram Whyte

Company registration number: 116156

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

Financial statements

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

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The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG
Company limited by guarantee

Directors and other information

Directors	Dr Catherine O'Connell Mr Martin Kelly Dr Rachel Kavanagh Ms Kate Macnamara Mr Sean O Fearghail Ms Miriam Mooney
Secretary	Dr Rachel Kavanagh
Company number	116156
Registered office	Lullymore Rathangan Co. Kildare
Business address	Lullymore Rathangan Co. Kildare
Auditor	Kildare Audit & Accountancy Services 9 Eyre Street Newbridge Co. Kildare
Bankers	Bank of Ireland Lower Baggot Street Dublin 2
Solicitors	O'Shaughnessy Bairead Solicitors 1 Father Mc Wey Street Edenderry Co. Offaly
Charity Numbers	CHY6829 (Revenue) and RCN20013547

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

Directors report

The directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements of the company for the financial year ended 31 December 2020.

Directors

The names of the persons who at any time during the financial year were directors of the company are as follows:

Dr Catherine O'Connell
Mr Martin Kelly
Dr Rachel Kavanagh
Ms Kate Macnamara
Mr Sean O Fearghail
Ms Miriam Mooney

Principal activities

The company's principal activity continues to be the conservation of a representative sample of Irish Bogs, education and publicity, promoting environmental awareness, provision of information and encouraging the protection and conservation of our natural heritage for the common good.

Development and performance

Both the level of activity and the year end financial position were satisfactory during the year. The accounts are being signed off during the COVID19 crisis and while the visitor sections are closed. Income streams from donations reduced in the calendar year, however this was offset by reduced project spend and support from government covid schemes.

Assets and liabilities and financial position

Net Assets increased during the year due to the organisation availing of government supports in the year as well as reduced spend on conservation projects.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The company is well financed and supported currently through its cash reserve position. The primary risks to the company relate to the future income streams being impacted by a continued reduction in grant and donation income.

Likely future developments

The income streams in 2021 are expected to continue to be negatively impacted due to the COVID19 crisis.

Events after the end of the reporting period

The Covid pandemic has continued post the end of the financial year and continues to negatively impact the ability of the organisation to support visitor events.

Accounting records

The measures taken by the directors to secure compliance with the requirements of sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to the keeping of accounting records are the implementation of necessary policies and procedures for recording transactions, the employment of competent accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and the provision of adequate resources to the financial function. The accounting records of the company are located at Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare.

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

Directors report (continued)

Relevant audit information

In the case of each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved in accordance with section 332 of Companies Act 2014:

- so far as each director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's statutory auditors are unaware, and
- each director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's statutory auditors are aware of that information.

This report was approved by the board of directors on 30 April 2021 and signed on behalf of the board by:

Dr Catherine O'Connell
Director

Ms Miriam Mooney
Director

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

Directors responsibilities statement

The directors are responsible for preparing the directors report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council. Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the profit or loss of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and directors report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Independent auditor's report to the members of
The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG**

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG (the 'company') for the financial year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the profit and loss account, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 3. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2020 and of its profit for the financial year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which ISAs (Ireland) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Emphasis of matter

The accounts have been prepared and signed off in period of uncertainty regarding COVID19 crisis and long term impact. These impacts have been further detailed in the Directors report included in the financial statements and do not impact on the financial accounts as presented.

**Independent auditor's report to the members of
The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG (continued)**

Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- in our opinion, the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements; and
- in our opinion, the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, and financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions required by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Respective responsibilities

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**Independent auditor's report to the members of
The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG (continued)**

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Independent auditor's report to the members of
The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG (continued)**

Claire Kelly (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of
Kildare Audit & Accountancy Services
Incorporated Public Accountants and Statutory Auditor
9 Eyre Street
Newbridge
Co. Kildare

30 April 2021

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

**Profit and loss account
Financial year ended 31 December 2020**

	Note	2020 €	2019 €
Turnover		165,239	207,012
Cost of sales		(3,948)	(5,131)
Gross profit		161,291	201,881
Administrative expenses		(137,025)	(202,504)
Operating profit/(loss)		24,266	(623)
Other interest receivable and similar income		6,775	43
Profit/(loss) before taxation		31,041	(580)
Tax on profit/(loss)		-	-
Profit/(loss) for the financial year		<u>31,041</u>	<u>(580)</u>

The company has no other recognised items of income and expenses other than the results for the financial year as set out above.

The notes on pages 12 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

**Balance sheet
As at 31 December 2020**

	Note	2020 €	€	2019 €	€
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8	331,427		338,603	
			331,427		338,603
Current assets					
Stocks	9	5,617		7,164	
Debtors	10	6,705		13,942	
Cash at bank and in hand		721,165		675,249	
		733,487		696,355	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(10,020)		(11,105)	
Net current assets			723,467		685,250
Total assets less current liabilities			1,054,894		1,023,853
Net assets			1,054,894		1,023,853
Capital and reserves					
Capital Reserve			8,337		8,337
Restricted operational Contingency reserve			246,590		246,590
Restricted Land Reserve			122,709		120,146
Profit and loss account			677,258		648,780
Members funds			1,054,894		1,023,853

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with Section 1A of FRS 102 Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 30 April 2021 and signed on behalf of the board by:

Dr Catherine O'Connell - Director

Ms Miriam Mooney - Director

The notes on pages 12 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

**Statement of changes in equity
Financial year ended 31 December 2020**

	Capital Reserve	Restricted operational Contingency reserve	Restricted Land Reserve	Profit and loss account	Total
	€	€	€	€	€
At 1 January 2019	8,337	246,590	105,535	663,971	1,024,433
Transfers & reserve movements	-	-	14,611	(14,611)	-
Profit/(loss) for the financial year				(580)	(580)
Total comprehensive income for the financial year	-	-	-	(580)	(580)
At 31 December 2019	8,337	246,590	120,146	648,780	1,023,853
At 31 December 2019 and 1 January 2020	8,337	246,590	120,146	648,780	1,023,853
Profit/(loss) for the financial year				31,041	31,041
Total comprehensive income for the financial year	-	-	-	31,041	31,041
Reserve movements			2,563	(2,563)	-
At 31 December 2020	8,337	246,590	122,709	682,384	1,054,894

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

Notes to the financial statements Financial year ended 31 December 2020

1. General information

The company is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in Ireland. The address of the registered office is Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102 Section 1A, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'. The Triennial review 2017 amendments to the standard have been early adopted.

3. Accounting policies and measurement bases

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through profit or loss.

The financial statements are prepared in Euro, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Turnover

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and represents amounts receivable for goods supplied and services rendered, stated net of discounts and of Value Added Tax.

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods have transferred to the buyer, usually on despatch of the goods, the amount of revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that the associated economic benefits will flow to the entity, and the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transactions can be measured reliably.

When the outcome of a transaction involving the rendering of services can be reliably estimated, revenue from the rendering of services is measured by reference to the stage of completion of the service transaction at the end of the reporting period.

When the outcome of a transaction involving the rendering of services cannot be reliably estimated, revenue is recognised only to the extent that expenses recognised are recoverable.

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

Notes to the financial statements (continued) **Financial year ended 31 December 2020**

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and is subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts is recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in equity, except to the extent it reverses a revaluation decrease of the same asset previously recognised in profit or loss. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other comprehensive income to the extent of any previously recognised revaluation increase accumulated in equity in respect of that asset. Where a revaluation decrease exceeds the accumulated revaluation gains accumulated in equity in respect of that asset, the excess shall be recognised in profit or loss.

Increases in assets owned from non monetary donations received are not recognised as an income or donation, nor is a value attributed to same in the Financial statements.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Freehold property	- 2%	straight line
Fittings fixtures and equipment	- 20%	reducing balance
Office equipment	- 20%	reducing balance

If there is an indication that there has been a significant change in depreciation rate, useful life or residual value of tangible assets, the depreciation is revised prospectively to reflect the new estimates.

Impairment

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

When it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

Stocks

Stocks are measured at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost includes all costs of purchase, costs of conversion and other costs incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition.

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

Notes to the financial statements (continued) **Financial year ended 31 December 2020**

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary shares or preference shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in profit or loss, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss immediately.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised in profit or loss immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

4. Limited by guarantee

The company is one limited by guarantee and in the event of the company being wound up the liability in respect of each of its members is €1.27.

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Financial year ended 31 December 2020

5. Staff costs

The average number of persons employed by the company during the financial year, including the directors was 4 (2019: 5).

The aggregate payroll costs incurred during the financial year were:

	2020	2019
	€	€
Wages and salaries	90,629	129,035
Social insurance costs	8,462	14,129
	<u>99,091</u>	<u>143,164</u>

6. Directors remuneration

The directors aggregate remuneration was as follows:

	2020	2019
	€	€
Emoluments in respect of qualifying services	<u>33,396</u>	<u>44,200</u>

7. Appropriations of profit and loss account

	2020	2019
	€	€
At the start of the financial year	660,828	712,540
Profit/(loss) for the financial year	31,041	(580)
Capital & Restricted land reserve allocation	(2,563)	(14,611)
At the end of the financial year	<u><u>689,306</u></u>	<u><u>697,349</u></u>

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Financial year ended 31 December 2020

8. Tangible assets

	Freehold property	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Office equipment	Total
	€	€	€	€
Cost				
At 1 January 2020	471,660	94,548	71,495	637,703
Additions	-	1,689	2,496	4,185
At 31 December 2020	<u>471,660</u>	<u>96,237</u>	<u>73,991</u>	<u>641,888</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2020	138,511	90,580	70,009	299,100
Charge for the financial year	9,433	1,265	663	11,361
At 31 December 2020	<u>147,944</u>	<u>91,845</u>	<u>70,672</u>	<u>310,461</u>
Carrying amount				
At 31 December 2020	<u>323,716</u>	<u>4,392</u>	<u>3,319</u>	<u>331,427</u>
At 31 December 2019	<u>333,149</u>	<u>3,968</u>	<u>1,486</u>	<u>338,603</u>

9. Stocks

	2020	2019
	€	€
Finished goods and goods for resale	<u>5,617</u>	<u>7,164</u>

10. Debtors

	2020	2019
	€	€
Other debtors	5,449	3,500
Prepayments	1,256	911
Accrued income	-	9,531
	<u>6,705</u>	<u>13,942</u>

11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	€	€
Trade creditors	-	261
Other creditors including tax and social insurance	7,621	8,445
Accruals	2,399	2,399
	<u>10,020</u>	<u>11,105</u>

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Financial year ended 31 December 2020

12. Approval of financial statements

The board of directors approved these financial statements for issue on 30 April 2021.

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

The following pages do not form part of the statutory accounts.

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

**Detailed profit and loss account
Financial year ended 31 December 2020**

	2020	2019
	€	€
Turnover		
Donations	90,908	119,273
Bogland purchase donations	1,687	14,881
Shop sales	12,085	9,452
Government grants	45,960	43,958
Other income	14,599	19,448
	<u>165,239</u>	<u>207,012</u>
 Cost of sales		
Opening stock	(7,164)	(12,047)
Purchases	(2,401)	(248)
	<u>(9,565)</u>	<u>(12,295)</u>
 Closing stock	5,617	7,164
	<u>(3,948)</u>	<u>(5,131)</u>
 Gross profit	<u>161,291</u>	<u>201,881</u>
 Gross profit percentage	97.6%	97.5%
 Overheads		
Administrative expenses	(137,025)	(202,504)
	<u>(137,025)</u>	<u>(202,504)</u>
 Operating profit/(loss)	24,266	(623)
 Operating profit/(loss) percentage	14.7%	0.3%
Other interest receivable and similar income	6,775	43
 Profit/(loss) before taxation	<u><u>31,041</u></u>	<u><u>(580)</u></u>

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

Detailed profit and loss account (continued)
Financial year ended 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
	€	€
Overheads		
Administrative expenses		
Wages and salaries	(57,233)	(84,835)
Directors remuneration	(33,396)	(44,200)
Directors Employers PRSI	(2,887)	(4,840)
Employer's PRSI contributions	(5,575)	(9,289)
Staff training	(500)	-
Insurance	(4,666)	(3,478)
Light and heat	(4,204)	(4,051)
Cleaning	(230)	(220)
Repairs and maintenance	(473)	(12,889)
Printing, postage and stationery	(4,041)	(1,553)
Telephone	(1,599)	(1,620)
Computer costs	(541)	(698)
Conservation projects	(4,486)	(18,105)
Travel & related costs	(1,246)	(2,340)
Auditors remuneration	(2,377)	(2,890)
Bank charges	(762)	(1,043)
Profit on exchange	-	521
Loss on exchange	(771)	-
Staff welfare	(120)	(200)
General expenses	(557)	(1)
Depreciation of tangible assets	(11,361)	(10,773)
	<u>(137,025)</u>	<u>(202,504)</u>

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

Detailed profit and loss account (continued)
Financial year ended 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
	€	€
Project Grants Received from Public Bodies		
Bord na Mona	270	-
Carlow County Council	-	508
Cavan County Council	250	225
Clare County Council	50	50
Cork City Council	508	250
Cork County Council	-	254
Cork Institute of Technology	-	4,680
Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht including the Peatlands Community Engagement Fund	7,386	5,423
Department of Education & Skills	-	-
Department of Communications, Climate Action Environment (Irish Environmental Network)	21,863	18,111
Donegal County Council	-	254
Dublin City Council	-	848
Dublin Zoo	-	15,676
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council	-	250
Heritage Council (including Heritage in Schools & grants)	3,540	3,093
Kerry County Council	400	-
Kildare County Council	3,895	17,655
Kilkenny County Council	-	254
Laois County Council	250	450
Leitrim County Council	-	508
Limerick City and County Council	-	500
Longford County Council	500	500
Mayo County Council	-	-
Meath County Council	2,561	2,301
Monaghan County Council	-	250
National Museum of Ireland	150	-
National Library of Ireland	200	-
National Biodiversity Data Centre	150	150
Offaly County Council	250	250
Revenue Commissioners (tax refunds)	10,884	-
Roscommon County Council	-	-
South Dublin County Council	-	158
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland	5,720	4,940
Tipperary County Council (including Waters & Communities)	1,110	1,055
Waterford City and County Council	-	250
Waterways Ireland	625	1,125
Westmeath County Council	500	754
Wicklow County Council	508	250
Total	61,570	80,972

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council wish to acknowledge and thank the above groups for expenses and grants received towards the conservation and education projects undertaken in 2020.

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council CLG

Detailed profit and loss account (continued)
Financial year ended 31 December 2020

2020
€

2019
€