



IRISH PEATLAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHAOMHNAITHE PHORTAIGH NA hÉIREANN

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21st January 2021

RE:Clooniff Bog - County Roscommon

Dear Mrs King,

Thank you for allowing the Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC) to make comments on this draft rehabilitation plan. IPCC welcome the accelerated decommissioning and enhanced measures in the rehabilitation of Clooniff Bog. IPCC have a number of points to make on the draft rehabilitation plan.

Dissolved Organic Carbon (DOC) has been reported as an issue in the emissions to water from peat production sites. DOC needs to be monitored and reported on to ascertain the levels and the effects to the neighbouring designated sites.

Additionally, under the Water Framework Directive, some streams/rivers surrounding the rehabilitation area are unassigned and it is not possible to know what the quality of the water is ("Ecological Status"). Will these unassigned waterways be monitored in terms of the WFD as part of the rehabilitation?

While the draft plan lists some priority species recorded on site, IPCC see no focussed actions that will target specific species. We understand that general rehabilitation will improve the site for most wetland species but there is a chance here to involve local groups e.g. environmental organisations - in monitoring and improving habitat for their species of interest. The plan could include a map which describes the areas where community involvement may be possible in future and National Parks & Wildlife Service would be included in addressing species of concern.

The NPWS has had success in integrating the local community in the restoration process of some designated raised bogs in regards to the management of the surrounding drains/gullies. This was to alleviate fears that blocking the drains on the bog would flood neighbouring land. Using hydrological studies it was found in many circumstances that surrounding drains and gullies - if managed/cleaned - would reduce the risk of flooding and a management plan was created for the locals who were happy to be involved. This should be a process undertaken within this draft rehabilitation plan.

Your Sincerely,

Tristram Whyte - Freshwater Biology B.Sc(hons) - IPCC - Conservation, Policy & Fundraising Officer

35 YEARS TAKING ACTION FOR BOGS AND WILDLIFE

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