



Drone footage of Ketts Lough courtesy of Wetlands Survey Ireland.

Ketts Lough located within the Tullaheer Lough and Bog SAC (002343), Co. Clare covers an area of 63.12 hectares and is an example of a transition mire. Transition mire is an unstable peat-forming community that develops on the surface of water where there is a small to medium influx of nutrients and where floating mats of vegetation typically occur over saturated or open water. According to the Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland, the overall status of transition mires is bad. A large open body of water occurs at the northern end of Ketts Lough which is relatively shallow. The substrate in the lake is a mineral rich gritty clay. Emergent plants present over the surface of the lake included *Menyanthes trifoliata* (Bogbean) and *Carex rostrata* (Bottle sedge). The vegetation around the lake shore is species rich and occurs in approximately 20 – 30 cm of water. Beyond the immediate lakeshore vegetation, larger areas of sedge vegetation occur. To the south of the open water body small sedge vegetation with *Equisetum fluviatile* (Horsetail) is the main community present. All these areas form quaking mats of vegetation. As one moves south and north of the lake the vegetation becomes less aquatic in nature and more ombrotrophic until one is in *Eriophorum* (Cotton grass) and *Sphagnum* dominated vegetation. The purchase and conservation of Ketts Lough was made possible with funds raised through IPCC's Sale of Symbolic Shares in Irish peatland initiative. Thank you to all those individuals and businesses who donated to this fund, you have ensured the conservation of this wetland habitat, which offers a variety of ecosystem services to us all, for people today and future generations.

Discovering Ketts Lough



Transition Mire habitat at Ketts Lough in Co. Clare.



Common Frog



Bogbean



Cranberry

A Home for Wildlife

Ketts Lough is a diverse habitat offering flora and fauna an important habitat to breed, feed and take shelter. Two species of particular importance recorded on the site include Ireland's only insect listed as an Annex II species the Marsh Fritillary butterfly (*Euphydryas aurinia*) and the Greenland White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*).

With habitats present ranging from open water lake to ombrotrophic peatland Ketts Lough does not disappoint in terms of the wild flora recorded on the site. *Menyanthes trifoliata* (Bogbean) is dominant in areas while carpets of *Vaccinium oxycoccos* (Cranberry) offer a rich supply of berries to wildlife. In the ombrotrophic areas of the site typical peatland flora including Ling Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Common Cottongrass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*) and *Sphagnum* species are present.



Greenland White-fronted Geese



Hare



White Beak-sedge



Sphagnum moss

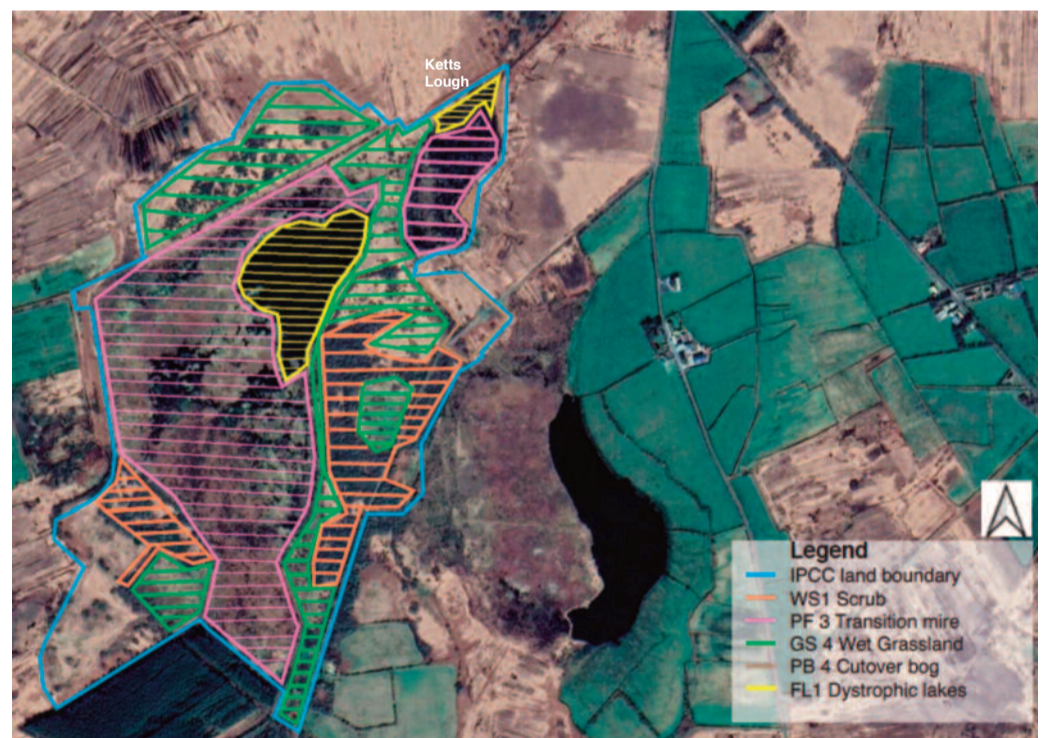


Ling heather



Marsh Fritillary butterfly

Habitat Map



Children's Burial Ground

Children's burial grounds also known as Cillini are the designated resting places of unbaptised children in Ireland. A children's burial ground is recorded within Ireland's National Monuments Historic Environment Viewer. A survey in 2016 identified the burial ground was situated on a gentle South facing slope. One upright grave marker and two smaller ones with some very low stone grave markers were also noted on the site. Although unknown for certain it is thought the children's burial ground at Ketts Lough dates to the 1918 influenza pandemic. In 2022 the Heritage Department of Clare



Childrens burial ground at Ketts Lough

County Council have commissioned a survey of children's burial grounds in Co. Clare with the burial ground at Ketts Lough included within the survey.

