

Ketts Lough is located 4km southwest of Doonbeg and 4.9km from the village of Moyasta, Co. Clare.

Status: Part of the Tullagher Lough and Bog SAC (002343).

Area: 63.12ha

GPS Co-ordinates: N: 52.702263 E: -9.555755

Grid Ref: Q 948 623

Nearest Village: Doonbeg

County: Clare

Owned By: IPCC (**Discovery Map:** (1:50,000) No. 57

Visitor Access: As a result of the extremely wet nature of Ketts Lough, there is no visitor access available.

Virtual Tour: Take a virtual tour of the reserve by visiting the IPCC YouTube channel through www.ipcc.ie

Design: R. Mac an Tuile. © 2023 Irish Peatland Conservation Council, Bog of Allen Nature Centre, Lullymore, Rathangan Co. Kildare, R51 V293.

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The IPCC's mission is to conserve a representative sample of the peatlands of Ireland for people to enjoy today and in the future. Ketts Lough is an example of the practical work that the IPCC do to protect peatland habitat and promote the many ecosystem services they offer us all. You can donate to our work or volunteer by visiting www.ipcc.ie. Thank You.

Due to the high water table on the reserve, Ketts Lough is inaccessible by foot. In 2017, the National Parks and Wildlife Service contracted Wetland Surveys Ireland to use an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) to support mapping of the habitats of Ketts Lough. This survey identified that Ketts Lough comprises several different habitat types, including transition mire, scrub, wet grassland, cutover bog, and dystrophic lakes. The northern end of Ketts Lough features a large, shallow open body of water. The substrate in the lake is a mineral-rich gritty clay. Emergent plants present over the surface of the lake include (bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) and bottle sedge (*Carex rostrata*). 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*- (cottongrass) and *Sphagnum*-dominated vegetation.

*Discover Ketts Lough -
one of Ireland's best examples of
transition mire habitat*



Ketts Lough - A Transition Mire



Transition mire habitat in Ketts Lough

Ketts Lough, located within the Tullagher Lough and Bog SAC (002343) in Co. Clare, covers 63.12 hectares and is an example of a transition mire. According to *The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland*, the overall status of transition mires is bad. A transition mire is an unstable peat-forming community that develops on the surface of water that has a low to medium influx of nutrients. In such areas, floating mats of vegetation typically occur over saturated areas or open water. Ketts Lough is considered one of the finest examples of transition mire habitat remaining in Ireland today. In 2021, the purchase and conservation of Ketts Lough by the Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC) was made possible with funds raised through the IPCC's Sale of Symbolic Shares in Irish Peatland initiative. The IPCC acknowledge and thank all those individuals and businesses who donated to this fund, which has resulted in this wet peatland habitat being conserved for the variety of ecosystem services it offers us all. The Irish Peatland Conservation Council is supported in the site management and species monitoring of Ketts Lough by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the local community and West Clare Wildlife Club.



Purple loosestrife growing on Ketts Lough

A Wildlife Refuge

Ketts Lough is a diverse habitat, offering flora and fauna an important place 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 ranging from open-water lake to ombrotrophic peatland, Ketts Lough does not disappoint in terms of wild flora. *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



Common Frog



Cranberry



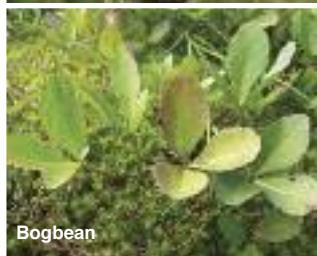
White Beak-Sedge



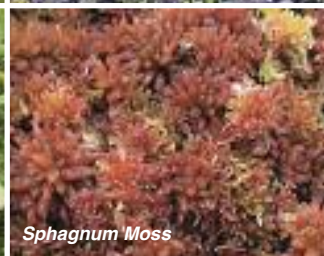
Marsh Fritillary Butterfly



Hare



Bogbean



Sphagnum Moss

Children's Burial Ground



Children's burial ground

Children's burial grounds, also known as *cillíní*, are the designated resting places of unbaptised children in Ireland. Ireland's National Monuments Historic Environment Viewer records a children's burial ground at Ketts Lough, with a 2016 survey identifying the burial ground as being situated on a gentle south-facing slope. Three upright grave-markers and some very low stone grave-markers have been found on the site.

Although unknown for certain, it is thought that the children's burial ground at Ketts Lough dates to the 1918 Influenza Pandemic. In 2022, the Heritage Department of Clare County Council commissioned a survey of children's burial grounds in Co. Clare, and the burial ground at Ketts Lough was included within the survey.



Ketts Lough and transition mire habitat