

While the Irish Peatland Conservation Council warmly welcome visitors to Lodge Bog, we would remind you of the needs and privacy of local residents and the need to acknowledge the interests of local landowners. These tips will ensure you have a safe visit and will help you protect Lodge Bog so that future generations can enjoy it too.

- * Please do not park on public roads.
- * Dumping of rubbish and personal items is prohibited, as they damage the bog and spoil the environment.
- * Walking pets without leads, camping, fires and the use of motorised vehicles on the bog are prohibited, as they disturb wildlife.
- * It is an offence to feed or molest wildlife or to remove or otherwise disturb any natural feature or plant on the bog.
- * It is dangerous to walk on the bog surface, as there can be hidden ditches, soft uneven ground, tree stumps, pools, drains and brambles. Please use the boardwalk provided.
- * Fences and walls keep some animals in and some out; use stiles or gates (and shut them after you, please).
- * Weather conditions can change rapidly. Are you prepared?
- * Lullymore is home and/or a place of work for many people. Please respect their privacy.
- * Lodge Bog is adjacent to the R414, which is an extremely busy road, so please take care if walking on or crossing the road.
- * Leave No Trace.

'Pursuant to the provisions of the Occupiers' Liability Act 1995, the occupiers of these premises puts all visitors to his premises on notice that his sole duties to them are: (a) not to injure the visitor or damage the property of the visitor intentionally, and (b) not to act with reckless disregard for the visitor or the property of the visitor.'

Thank you for your co-operation.



Lodge Bog naturally stores carbon as it grows. Soft, wet bog vegetation rich in *Sphagnum* mosses actively locks carbon into peat.



The boardwalk on Lodge Bog affords visitors a bird's-eye view of the nature reserve



Lodge Bog is located on the R414, between the towns of Rathangan and Allenwood in Co. Kildare. These towns can be approached from the M7/N7 or from the N4/M4 roads. Lodge Bog is sign-posted as a nature reserve. To visit the bog, the best place to start is at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre, which is 500m, or a 10-minute walk, from the entrance to the boardwalk on the site.

Area: 35ha

GPS Co-ordinates: N 53° 16' 42.392", E -6° 56' 34.125"

Nearest town: Allenwood

Owned By: IPCC (28ha was donated to the IPCC by Bord na Móna in 2005. In 2008, IPCC purchased a further 3.5ha of the bog from a private landowner). A further 3.5ha is in private ownership.

Discovery Map: (1:50,000) No. 49

Viewing Points: From the boardwalk

Parking: Limited parking available in a lay-by on the road opposite the boardwalk; otherwise, parking is available at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre on weekdays.

Refreshments: Tea and coffee available in the Bog of Allen Nature Centre on weekdays

Picnic: Picnic tables at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre

Nearest Pub: Allenwood



Virtual Tour: Before you visit, why not take a virtual tour of the reserve by connecting to the IPCC YouTube channel through www.ipcc.ie

Text, Layout & Design: C. O'Connell and T. Ó Corcora
© 2016 Irish Peatland Conservation Council, Bog of Allen Nature Centre, Lullymore, Rathangan Co. Kildare, R51 V293. Tel: 045 860133, E-mail: bogs@ipcc.ie, Website: www.ipcc.ie.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service funded the reprint of this publication through the Peatlands Community Engagement Scheme 2023.



Photographs © A. McCluskey, C. O'Connell, T. O Corcora, C. Breathnach and Google Maps.

The IPCC's mission is to conserve a representative sample of Irish peatlands for people to enjoy today and in the future. We are a registered charity (CHY6829, RCN 20013547). You can donate to our work or volunteer by visiting www.ipcc.ie. Thank you.



CHY6829
RCN 20013547



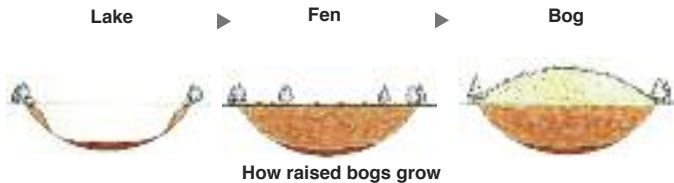
Don't miss the cry of the Curlew and the experience of walking on water on your visit to Lodge Bog nature reserve

Lodge Bog - The Moving Bog

Lodge Bog is a raised bog of immense biodiversity value in the Irish midlands. It supports raised bog habitat and the associated wildlife, which were once very widespread in this region of the famous Bog of Allen, but have now been lost on a large scale due to peat-extraction. Lodge Bog comprises water, peat and vegetation. All three components are strongly interconnected; if any one of them is removed, the future of the site and its wildlife is threatened. Lodge Bog gets its supply of water and nutrients from rainfall. There is so much water in the bog that the natural process of decay is impeded and the partially rotted plant remains accumulate as peat. Peat is 98% water. It is very exciting to walk on the bog surface and feel it move as you compress its watery depths with your footsteps. The vegetation that grows on the bog protects the upper surface of the peat from drying out and blowing away in the wind.

10,000 Years of History

Lodge Bog took 10,000 years to grow and has comprised three very different habitats over the course of its lifetime. First, it was a freshwater lake, then an alkaline fen and finally an acid bog. The peat in Lodge bog is 8m deep.



Biodiversity Hot Spot

Lodge Bog has a rich diversity of wildlife, with over 388 plants, birds and animals finding refuge in it. There is an abundance of *Sphagnum* moss and *Cladonia* lichen; 26 birds, including curlew and skylark; 12 dragonfly species; 61 moths and 16 butterflies, including the large heath (*Coenonympha tullia*) and 47 spiders. The spider fauna includes *Hypsosinga albovittata*; its discovery here in 2005 by Myles Nolan marked its first recorded sighting in Ireland. You can enjoy a panoramic view of Lodge Bog from the seating area on the boardwalk, which looks towards the Hill of Allen.

Conserving Lodge Bog - A Labour of Love

IPCC are actively managing Lodge Bog to restore its peat-forming vegetation. Our mission is to reverse, as far as possible, the effects of historic drainage on the bog and the impact of industrial peat-extraction on the bog margins. Drainage has caused the bog to subside in places; for example, the eastern edge of the bog is up to 4m lower than the western edge. There are 5km of drains within the bog, and volunteers working on behalf of IPCC have blocked these using 200 dams constructed mostly of plastic lumber. We monitor the water levels on Lodge Bog year-round using a series of 118 piezometers (dipwells). The results of this monitoring have shown that water levels have risen by 15–20cm on the bog as a result of drain-blocking. We periodically remove invasive species colonising the bog and we have undertaken restoration of bare peat areas through *Sphagnum* moss cultivation - a technique learned from Canadian peatland managers. Each year, we welcome primary and post-primary students to the site to study its unique ecology, and we encourage researchers to work on this bog. Visitors are welcome year-round to the nature reserve, which has a 100m boardwalk and a seating area.

Sphagnum Cultivation

Water Monitoring

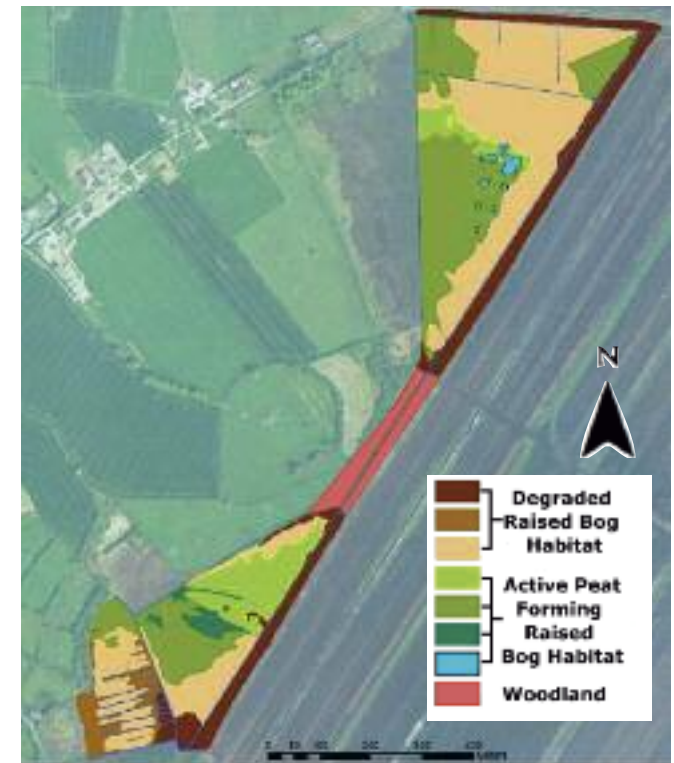
Drain-Blocking



Volunteer action to conserve Lodge Bog

1. Common Frog
2. Hare's-tail Cottongrass
3. Round-leaved Sundew
4. Large Heath butterfly on Cross-leaved Heath
5. Curlew
6. Damselfly
7. *Sphagnum* moss

Lodge Bog Habitats



Raised bog habitat is a conservation priority within the European Union. We are fortunate that the habitats present on Lodge Bog include active peat-forming raised bog, degraded raised bog that is capable of forming peat after hydrological restoration, high, uncut bog that supports the raised bog habitats and bog woodland. The above vegetation map was created by Miles Newman in 2009.

