



Charity Number CHY6829  
RCN 20013547

# Action for Bogs No.32

Photo: Cross-leaved heath (*Erica tetralix*) © N. Madigan

**Learn how YOU can Join the Save the Bogs Campaign Today**

**\* Summer updates on the work of the Irish Peatland Conservation Council \***



The Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC) is a national charity (CHY6829, RCN 20013547) with a mission to conserve a representative sample of Irish peatlands for people today and future generations to enjoy. Action for Bogs is IPCC's annual summer digital newsletter. © Irish Peatland Conservation Council 2025. Bog of Allen Nature Centre, Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare, R51 V293. Tel: 045-860133, e-mail: [bogs@ipcc.ie](mailto:bogs@ipcc.ie), website: [www.ipcc.ie](http://www.ipcc.ie)



# Welcome



**Welcome to Action for Bogs, the IPCC's summer digital newsletter sharing with you progress on current peatland species and habitat projects being undertaken on your behalf, updates from the Bog of Allen Nature Centre and an invitation to you to join the IPCC at upcoming events. You can visit the IPCC at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre Monday to Friday 10am-4pm or contact us at [bogs@ipcc.ie](mailto:bogs@ipcc.ie) or 045-860133.**

## Energy improvement works commence at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre



Image: Solar panels have been installed at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre. © T. Whyte

Under the project management of KRA Renewables in early July the IPCC welcomed GoSolar and Dalmoy to the Bog of Allen Nature Centre to undertake energy improvement works. 2024 was the last year that peat was burned in power stations to generate electricity in Ireland. When peat is burned it produces more greenhouse gases when compared to other fossil fuels and the mining of peat has devastating impacts

on peatland habitat ecosystem services. Together we campaigned and called on the Government to end the burning of peat for electricity. As Ireland now works towards a net zero economy by 2050 on your behalf the IPCC want to lead by example through improving the energy efficiency of your peatland centre.



## Your new blanket bog plant identification swatch

With funding support from the Peatlands and Natura Community Engagement Scheme 2025 the IPCC are working with Vitamin Creative Ltd. to design a new blanket bog plant identification swatch. Later this year copies of this new swatch will be distributed free to peatland community groups and educators working to share the value of and diversity of blanket bog habitat and plants throughout Ireland. Did you know that Ireland is home to



8% of the world's blanket bog habitat? This makes Ireland a significant location for this type of peatland habitat and it is important that Ireland ensures a representative sample is conserved for people to enjoy today and in the future.



An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra  
National Parks and Wildlife Service

## Kildare County Council's community grant 2025



Image: A selection of identification swatches purchased with funding awarded. © L. Moynihan

The IPCC acknowledge funding from and thank Kildare County Council for supporting volunteers at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre. Funding awarded has been allocated for a new pollinator planting bed, peat free wildlife gardening tools and identification swatches.



Comhairle Contae Chill Dara  
Kildare County Council



Images: Large heath butterfly, common frog and marsh fritillary butterfly © N. Rogerson

## Peatland species monitoring on your national network of nature reserves

The IPCC's Conservation and Education Officer's, supported by volunteers, have been busy over the past few months undertaking the IPCC's annual peatland species monitoring programme. Your Hop To It Frog Survey 2025 is well under way with 171 records of the various stages of the common frog life-cycle received from twenty three counties around Ireland.

In April the IPCC's Conservation and Education Officer's started the annual National Butterfly Monitoring Scheme of the National Biodiversity Data Centre. Weekly monitoring walks have taken place on your peatland reserve, Lullymore West, recording the diversity and

numbers of butterflies. To date eighteen of Ireland's thirty five butterfly species have been recorded in 2025. The IPCC also undertake a Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme on the reserve with six different species of bumblebee recorded to date.

On Lodge bog the IPCC completed the annual large heath butterfly habitat assessment and population count. Twenty six observations of the adult butterfly were recorded during nine site visits in June and July 2025.

Over the coming weeks the IPCC will be welcoming the conservation grazing donkeys to Lullymore West nature

reserve to help control grass growth and encourage the growth of devil's bit scabious, the food plant of the marsh fritillary butterfly. In autumn the annual marsh fritillary habitat assessment, larval nest count and scrub management will be some of the volunteering opportunities you can get involved with so make sure you are on IPCC's volunteer e-mail list, contact the IPCC on [bogs@ipcc.ie](mailto:bogs@ipcc.ie) to express your interest.



The work of the IPCC's Conservation and Education Officers is supported by the Heritage Council's Heritage Organisations Support Fund 2025

## Dragonfly and damselfly surveys on Lodge bog and Girley bog



Image: Emerald damselfly, Lodge bog © N. Rogerson

With support from Kildare County Council through their Heritage Grant Scheme 2025 and Meath County Council through their Community Biodiversity Action Plan Small Grants Scheme 2025 the IPCC are undertaking dragonfly and damselfly surveys on two of your nature reserves Lodge bog, Co. Kildare and Girley bog, Co. Meath. According to the National Biodiversity Data

Centre Ireland has fourteen resident dragonfly, 11 resident damselfly and five vagrant species (a vagrant species is one that is identified outside its typical geographic range). Due to their dependence on water to complete their life-cycle dragonflies and damselflies are found on wetlands nationwide with one, the black darter dragonfly, being a raised bog specialist.



Comhairle Contae Chill Dara  
Kildare County Council



comhairle chontae na mí  
meath county council



## Féile an Dúlra 2025 - events and new transport link to the Bog of Allen Nature Centre



Féile an Dúlra 2025 is underway. Together we have celebrated World Curlew Day, National Biodiversity Week and hosted a bat walk at the centre as part of this annual festival of nature.

Some upcoming dates for your diary include Sunday 27th July from 12noon-4pm when the IPCC will be celebrating International Bog Day. Join us at the centre (R51V293) and enjoy a guided tours of the peatland exhibition and peat free wildlife gardens, a bog walk to Lodge bog and for younger visitors a fun pond dipping activity will be available.

For National Heritage Week the IPCC have organised a series of events including offering free admission to the Bog of Allen Nature Centre from Monday 18th-Friday 22nd August

from 10am-4pm. Other dates include:

- Monday 18th August - 6.30pm - Lodge bog walk and talk meet at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre.
  - Tuesday 19th August - 11am - Lullymore West butterfly walk meet at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre.
  - Wednesday 20th August - 6.30pm - Girley bog walk and talk meet the IPCC at Girley Hall (C15 PV21), Co. Meath.
  - Friday 22nd August -1pm - Lunchtime with IPCC an online informative peatland talk.
- Full details of all IPCC upcoming events can be found at <https://www.ipcc.ie/events/>. If you are planning your visit why not consider public transport a new TFI rural transport bus route 888 Athy to Allenwood stops at the Bog of Allen Nature Centre five times daily!

**Heritage Week is an initiative of the Heritage Council.**  
The IPCC's Féile an Dúlra is supported by Kildare County Council through their Festival Grant Scheme 2025.



## You can take Action for Bogs by taking any of these steps



Save an Acre of Bogland Support IPCC's mission to purchase endangered and unique peatlands. Purchase a symbolic share in 1/16th acre of bog and receive a certificate to commemorate your work in saving Irish bogs. **€45 (PC116)**

Help Restore a Bog.  
Stop damaged bogs leaking greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Your donation will be used to block drains, monitor water levels in bogs and undertake *Sphagnum* moss transplantation. **€50 (PC161)**



**STOP  
EMIGRATION  
OF  
WILDLIFE  
Save Our  
Irish  
Boglands**



Donation to the Save the Bogs Campaign. Donations to the campaign are used to make a planning observation in favour of bogs or to train volunteers. **€20 PC10**

Bog of Allen Nature Centre Visitor Pass.  
Receive unlimited access to the Bog of Allen Nature Centre, Gardens and Nature Reserves in Kildare. Pass valid for 1 year, for either 5 adults or a family of 2 adults and 4 children **€20 PC1138**





## Help Save Our Boglands JOIN IPCC NOW!



Photo: © C. O'Connell

I would like to join as a Friend of the Bog (tick category)

- |                                               |     |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single               | €40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joint/Family/Teacher | €45 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unwaged              | €27 |

I enclose my cheque/postal order payable to IPCC, or,  
please debit my Debit Card/Visa/  
Mastercard account for €.....

Card number.....

Signature .....

Expiry date .....

Security Code (last 3 digits above signature panel) .....

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms .....

Address .....

Tel: ..... Date of Birth: .....

Post to: IPCC, Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare



## DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT.... Be an IPCC Volunteer

Photo: © P. Farrell

Take your first step to a career in conservation by volunteering on one of IPCC's nature reserves. Gain skills in bird and butterfly surveys, water table monitoring, site management and peat free gardening. Take action on climate change by getting involved in IPCC's conservation projects such as *Sphagnum* moss transfer. E-mail [bogs@ipcc.ie](mailto:bogs@ipcc.ie) or phone 045-860133 to get your name on our volunteer list.

## A Love of Bogs Lasts Longer than a Lifetime



### Giving in memory a tribute to someone you love

For a free copy of our guide to leaving a legacy, please call Nuala Madigan on 045-860133, or write to IPCC, Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare, R51 V293 or e-mail a request to us at [bogs@ipcc.ie](mailto:bogs@ipcc.ie)

## Bog of Allen Nature Centre

In the heart of the bog and with bogs in our hearts

### Enjoy

a trip down memory lane  
Tea in the Gardens

### Discover

Wildlife Gardens  
Folk Kitchen  
Bog Museum

### Explore

Bog of Allen Nature Trail

Guided tours and tea in the gardens for groups year round €10 per person. Group Discounts Available



Located on the R414 between Allenwood & Rathangan in Lullymore, Co. Kildare Tel: 045-860133 E-mail: [bogs@ipcc.ie](mailto:bogs@ipcc.ie) Website: [www.ipcc.ie](http://www.ipcc.ie)