



Bringing the bogs back to **LIFE**

funded by LIFE Nature and Coillte

"RESTORING ACTIVE BLANKET BOG IN IRELAND"

End-of-Project Conference: 4-5 October 2007

Westport, County Mayo, Ireland



coillte



Bringing the bogs back to LIFE

End of Project Conference October 4th/5th 2007 –
Westport, Co. Mayo, Ireland

Public Relations and Dissemination of Results

Caroline White – Life Blanket Bog Public Relations Mgr.




Format of Presentation

- **Public Relations tasks**
 - **Dissemination of results**
- 
- A decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, wavy, light gray lines that flow from the bottom left towards the top right, positioned in the lower right quadrant of the slide.

Main Public Relations Tasks

- Organising info days
- Networking with other Life projects
- Development of project website
- Project info brochure

Main Public Relations Tasks

- **Results booklet**
 - **Media publicity campaign**
 - **Boardwalk construction and signage**
- 
- The slide features three decorative, wavy, light gray lines that originate from the right side and curve towards the left, positioned below the list of tasks.

Information Days.....

UCD Students at Slieve Bloom Site



Information Days.... Students at Pollagoona Site



Information Days...

An Taisce Group Visit Croaghonagh



Information Days...

Education Day with IPCC



Visits to and from other Life projects

Burren Life Project, Co. Clare, Ireland



Visits to and from other Life projects



Scottish Life Peatlands Project.....

Visits to and from other Life projects



**Border Mires Life Project,
Northumberland, UK**

Aapa Mires Life Project, Finland



Visits to and from other Life projects



Visit to Cuilcagh Mountain Park, Fermanagh.....

Coillte Internal forums

District Public Consultation Meetings



Coillte Internal Forums Social & Environmental Panel Report



Coillte Internal Forums

- Numerous articles published in Coillte Contact

Busy times ahead for the LIFE Project Team

The LIFE Project Team has been very busy since this EU-funded project was approved in July of last year (see Autumn 2002 issue for more details). And indeed, they are set for a busy summer. As you know, this project focuses on the restoration and conservation of over 1,200 hectares of blanket bog across 14 sites in Coillte's ownership, located mainly along the western seaboard.

Progress to date includes:


- The visiting by Coillte and Dúchas staff, to a similar EU-funded LIFE project in England, and the development of good links between both project teams.
- The commencement of consultation procedures with Dúchas in relation to their management plans for relevant SAC's. Most of the 14 blanket bog sites are located in SAC's, and Coillte is obliged to consult with Dúchas in advance of any planned management activity proposed for sites located within SAC's.
- The completion of a training programme for site managers.
- The application and receipt of a number of limited filling licences.
- The installation of dams on some of the sites. The purpose of these dams is to restore, as much as possible, the hydrological characteristics of an intact blanket bog. This work will continue into the summer and beyond.
- The selection of sites to monitor nutrient flow.
- The installation of display signs on some demonstration sites.
- The construction of a car park at the Silver Broom site.
- The communication of the objectives of the LIFE project at Coillte District meetings, and with representatives from third level colleges, major sawmills, and An Taisce.

Public relations is a key aspect of the project and in this regard, an official launch of the project will take place in early summer to coincide with major operational work having started. It is also planned to have a number of mini-launches on the five demonstration sites that will be designed to have a particular focus on public awareness through demonstration days, interpretation and boardwalk access.


In addition, a dedicated project website is planned, and will be developed in the next couple of months (background information on the project is currently available on the Coillte website). A project brochure has been developed also and will shortly be distributed to Coillte staff and other stakeholders such as NGOs, academic institutions and relevant public authorities.

The Project Team are very satisfied with the progress that has been made to date. Indeed, so are the EU. On the 5th of March, representatives of the European Commission's LIFE Unit (DG-Environment) met with the Project Management Group in HQ, to review progress on the project to date. This involved a comprehensive presentation by Project Team and a detailed and very helpful discussion on issues arising. The LIFE Unit representatives indicated that they were very encouraged and impressed that project management systems were in place and that a good start had been made to implementing the project.

Caroline White
Kevin Donnellan



Coillte and Dúchas meet with the UK LIFE Project Team in Kielder, England



The LIFE Project Team examine existing dams in preparation for blocking them

6

Other Publicity Green Day Events

Eurosite Agenda Page 1 of 2



Nature Events / Evénements Nature



Simple search | Complex search | Add an event | Guide: FR UK

Country / Pays:

Themes / Thématiques:

Category / Catégorie:

After / après: and before / et avant:

Including the word/ Incluant le mot:

Matching event(s) / Événements correspondants : (1-10) parmi 38

<p>VIIth General Assembly Friends of the Countryside - Meta</p> <p>Réunions / Meetings - Natura 2000 - Green Days / Natura 2000 - Green Days</p>	<p>Cork (IRL)</p> <p>Contact: fcs@friendsofthecountryside.net</p>	<p>Date: 20/05/2004</p>
<p>Biodiversity Day, Clare</p> <p>Réunions / Meetings - Natura 2000 - Green Days / Natura 2000 - Green Days</p>	<p>Dromore Wood Nature Reserve, Ruan, Co. Clare (IRL)</p> <p>Contact: ekeepan@clarecoco.ie</p>	<p>Date: 22/05/2004</p>
<p>"A Celebratory Launch" - Restoring Active Blanket Bog in Irela</p> <p>Réunions / Meetings - Natura 2000 - Green Days / Natura 2000 - Green Days</p>	<p>At Eskeragh Life Demonstration Site, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo (IRL)</p> <p>Contact: caroline.white@coillte.ie</p>	<p>Date: 03/06/2004</p>
<p>Guided Hill Walk (5 hours)</p> <p>Sorties de terrain / Walks - Natura 2000 - Green Days / Natura 2000 - Green Days</p>	<p>Glenveagh Mountains National Park (IRL)</p> <p>Contact: talcorn@duches.ie</p>	<p>Date: 06/06/2004</p>
<p>Studying Elusive Animals - otters stoats and pine martins</p> <p>Conférences / Talks & Conferences - Natura 2000 - Green Days / Natura 2000 - Green Days</p>	<p>Wicklow Mountains National Park (IRL)</p> <p>Contact: educationcentrewicklow@duches.ie</p>	<p>Date: 10/06/2004</p>
<p>Guided Hill Walk (5 hours)</p> <p>Sorties de terrain / Walks - Natura 2000 - Green Days / Natura 2000 - Green Days</p>	<p>Glenveagh Mountains National Park (IRL)</p> <p>Contact: talcorn@duches.ie</p>	<p>Date: 11/06/2004</p>
<p>Bog Slides - a multimedia exploration of the phenomena</p> <p>Conférences / Talks & Conferences - Natura 2000 - Green Days / Natura 2000 - Green Days</p>	<p>Wicklow Mountains National Park (IRL)</p> <p>Contact: educationcentrewicklow@duches.ie</p>	<p>Date: 17/06/2004</p>

http://www.eurosite-nature.org/bin/agenda/r.php?l=c&pays=IRL&theme=0&categorie=%... 08/06/2004

Other Publicity

National Ploughing Championships



Other Publicity

Clare Biodiversity Day



Project Advisory Panel Field Day



Project Website

www.irishbogrestorationproject.ie



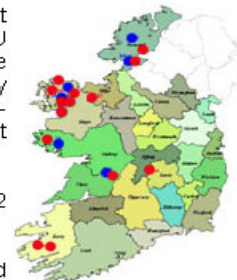
- Home
- About the Project
- Project Sites
- About Bogs
- Demonstration Sites
- Restoration Techniques
- Flora and Fauna
- EU Life Programme
- Project Promotion
- Useful Links
- Contact Us
- Privacy Policy
- Terms and Conditions

Restoring Active Blanket Bog In Ireland

A nature conservation project jointly funded by EU DG-Environment and Coillte Teoranta (The Irish Forestry Board) under the EU LIFE-Nature Programme. The project is managed by Coillte Teoranta.

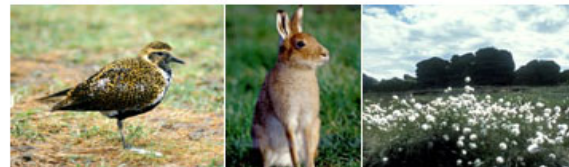
EU Project Number: Life 02 Nat/Irl/8490.

Locations of sites around Ireland include MacGillycuddys' Reeks, Co. Kerry, Slieve Aughty, Co. Clare, Nephin Beg, Crossmolina, Glenamoy and Bangor-Erris, Co. Mayo, Barnesmore Gap and Lough Golagh, Co. Donegal, Ox Mountains, Co. Sligo and Slieve Blooms, Co. Laois.



[Click on map to find out more about each project site](#)

[Click here to find out more about the project...](#)



eNewsletter Sign Up

Full Name

Email Address

[Sign Up](#)

News & Events

The Irish Bog Restoration Project launches its new look website...

Project Brochure

Restoring Active Blanket Bog in Ireland brochure available for download on our Project Promotions page...

[Click here download a snapshot of project brochure...](#)

"Saving more of the West's Bogs" - Feb 2006

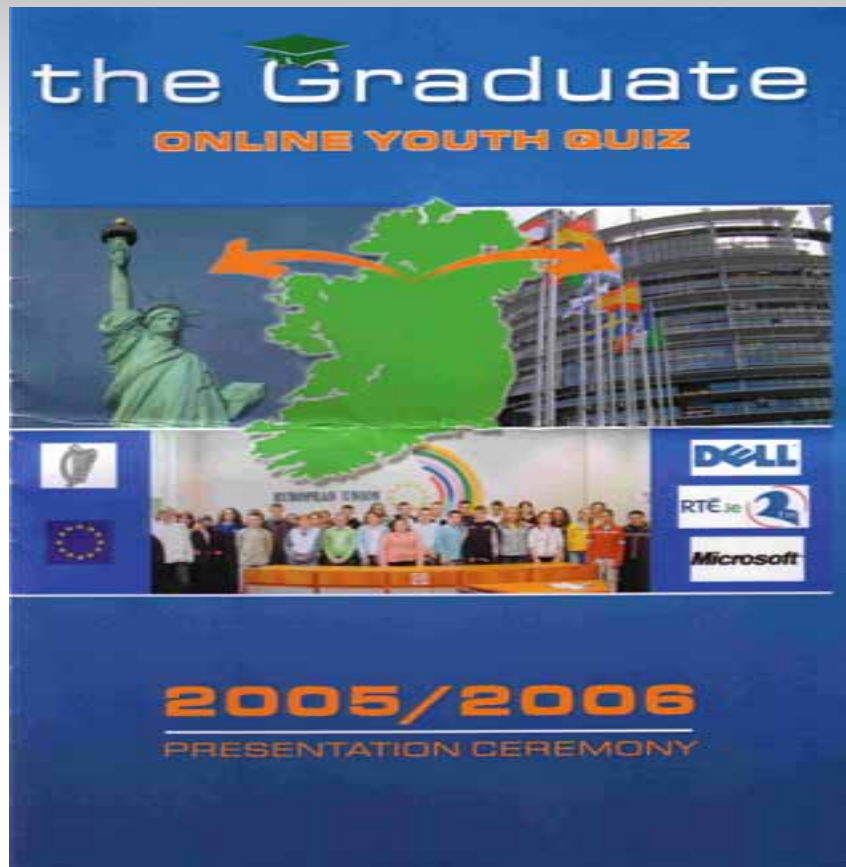
The Project was given approval by the EU in February 2006, to restore up to a further 776 ha's of Blanket Bog...

[Click here download a snapshot of the article in Adobe PDF...](#)

Graduate Treasure Trail

Links with project website

Graduate Treasure Trail



Project Information Brochure



Project Results Booklet

- **Project results booklet A layman's report detailing the results of the project.**
- **This will be circulated both nationally and internationally as appropriate.**

Project Media Publicity Campaign

- **Newspaper/Technical Articles**
- **Radio/TV coverage (launch)**
- **Graduate treasure trail**
- **Representing project at national/international forums**
- **Organisation and hosting of end of project conference..**

Newspaper Articles

4 Western People, Wednesday, July 16, 2003

NEWS



Golden plover

Coillte plans to bring life to bogs of Mayo

COILLTE, the Irish Forestry Board has undertaken a major bog restoration project to restore 14 bogland sites, most of which are located in the West of Ireland.

Sites in Mayo are located at Bellaveeny, Eskeragh, Owenirragh, Glencullin Lower and Shanvolahan, and are being managed by the local Coillte Estate Managers,

Seamus O'Connor and Joe McEvey.

These bogs are internationally renowned to be among the most important intact areas of active blanket bog found in Europe.

The project, which is jointly funded by Coillte and DG-Environment under the EU Life-Nature Programme, aims to restore the 14 bogland sites which are currently

either unplanted, partially planted or wholly afforested.

These sites, which cover over 1,200 hectares within candidate Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's), have been seriously damaged due to problems such as overgrazing and reduced water levels.

The aim of this project is to reverse these prob-

lems, and over time, to create a high quality area of active blanket bog by fencing to prevent grazing, ditch-blocking to increase water levels, restoration of the remaining areas to enlarge the area of blanket bog, and removal of naturally regenerating trees from the open bogs.

This bog restoration project is one of many initiatives that Coillte is cur-

rently undertaking as part of its Nature Conservation Programme which was initiated in 1998.

Coillte is committed to the sustainable management of its forests, demonstrated by the achievement of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification in 2001.

For more information log on to www.coillte.ie.

Technical Articles

- Crann article ...



The Restoration of Blanket Bog in Ireland

John Conaghan

In 2002 Coillte commenced an important blanket bog restoration project. This project, jointly funded by Coillte and DG-Environment under the EU LIFE-Nature Programme, is a four-year scheme the primary aim of which is to achieve restoration of blanket bog habitat within 1212 hectares of land owned by Coillte. The main focus of the project, active blanket bog, is listed as a priority habitat for conservation under Annex 1 of the E.U. Habitats Directive and the areas for restoration either lie within, or occur adjacent to, proposed Special Areas of Conservation. A total of 14 blanket bog sites, most of which are located along the western seaboard of Ireland, have been selected for restoration. At most sites the main restoration measures to be employed are the removal of conifers and the blocking of any existing drains.

Although the sites are afforested to varying degrees, most still contain significant areas of blanket bog vegetation. The main plant species growing in these areas are purple moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*), black bog rush (*Schoenus nigricans*), ling (*Calluna vulgaris*), cross-leaved heath (*Erica tetralix*), many-flowered bog-cotton (*Eriophorum angustifolium*) and various *Sphagnum* mosses. As the sites vary in terms of plantation age a number of approaches are required in order to achieve restoration of the blanket bog habitat.

FELLING OF PLANTED AREAS WITH TALL, CLOSED-CANOPY CONIFERS

In these areas the timber is being extracted by conventional harvesting methods. Trees are being removed and afterwards the ground surface is covered with a mixture of wide brush mats and areas with a patchy cover of brush remaining after harvesting. As there is generally little bog vegetation remaining in areas which have been under tall conifers for 30 to 40 years it is anticipated that recovery of bog vegetation at these sites will be slow, especially in the short term.

FELLING OF PLANTED AREAS WITH LOW, SPARSE CONIFERS

At many sites there are areas of conifer plantation which are small in stature either due to their young age or due to poor growth rates. As a result of the trees in these areas not having achieved a closed canopy, there is usually a high cover of bog vegetation mostly dominated by either purple moor-grass or ling heather. Most of the trees in these areas are being felled manually by chainsaw and left on site. In order to increase the area of open ground at these sites the felled trees are being wind-rowed. At a couple of sites in Co. Mayo the felled trees

Technical Articles

■ Peatland News – IPCC Magazine



Bliain an fí rúa le feiceáil ar an tsportach go háirithe i gcoantair shiábhá.

Scottish Natural Heritage.

Restoring Active Blanket Bog in Ireland 2002-2006 is a major initiative of Coillte Teoranta. It involves some 1,200ha of blanket bog in 14 sites, all of which have been designated as Special Areas of Conservation.

A key part of both projects will be the removal of trees from the bogland and the installation of literally thousands of dams to block drains, in a bid to restore the



From the air blanket bog surfaces are highly patterned due to the myriad of small lakes and pools that occur on them. Other habitats present include flushed fens, swallow holes, hummocks and ridges. These varied habitats contribute to the wonderful diversity of species of plant, animal and bird found in blanket bogs.

integrity of the bog's hydrological systems. An additional element of the Irish project is fencing to control grazing on areas of unplanted bogland within the project sites.

Both projects aim to raise the profile of blanket bogs and to encourage people to visit these wonderful areas, in due course Coillte will be providing awareness programmes for members of the public on five of its sites around the country.



The rare Red-throated Diver - 1,200-1,500 breeding pairs in Scotland. In Ireland less than 10 pairs breed in bogs in west Donegal.

The RSPB reserve at Forsinard in Scotland, one of the sites benefiting from the LIFE Peatlands Project is well worth a visit and can be reached by train from Inverness or Wick. Get off at Forsinard Station right next to the reserve Visitor Centre and the Dubh Lochán Trail over the blanket bog. Contact forsinard@rspb.org.uk

Further Information

Scotland: www.lifepeatland-project.com
Ireland: www.coillte.ie

Blanket Bogs Word Search Competition

The six images shown on these pages are from a postcard pack produced to celebrate and promote the peatlands of Caithness and Sutherland in Scotland. Thanks to the LIFE Peatlands Project Partners, IPCC have five sets of the stunning postcards to give away as prizes to the lucky winners of our word search competition. Solve the 10 clues below, then highlight your answers in the grid. Cut it out and send it to IPCC by 2nd May 2003 to be in with a chance to win a postcard set.

Here are the clues:

1. Most extensive peatland type in Ireland and Scotland (7, 3)
2. Carnivorous plant of bogs (6)
3. Spongy moss forming a

living layer on the bog surface (8)

4. Type of drainage hole found in blanket bogs (7)
5. Largest mammal grazing blanket bogs (3, 4)
6. Type of climate essential for blanket bog development (4, 3)
7. The EU funding programme contributing to the restoration of blanket bogs in Ireland and Scotland (4)
8. Traditional tool used to cut turf (5)
9. The pH of a blanket bog (4)
10. Device used to block drains on blanket bogs (3)

By sending these postcards you can play a part in promoting blanket bogs and encouraging people to visit these wonderful areas.

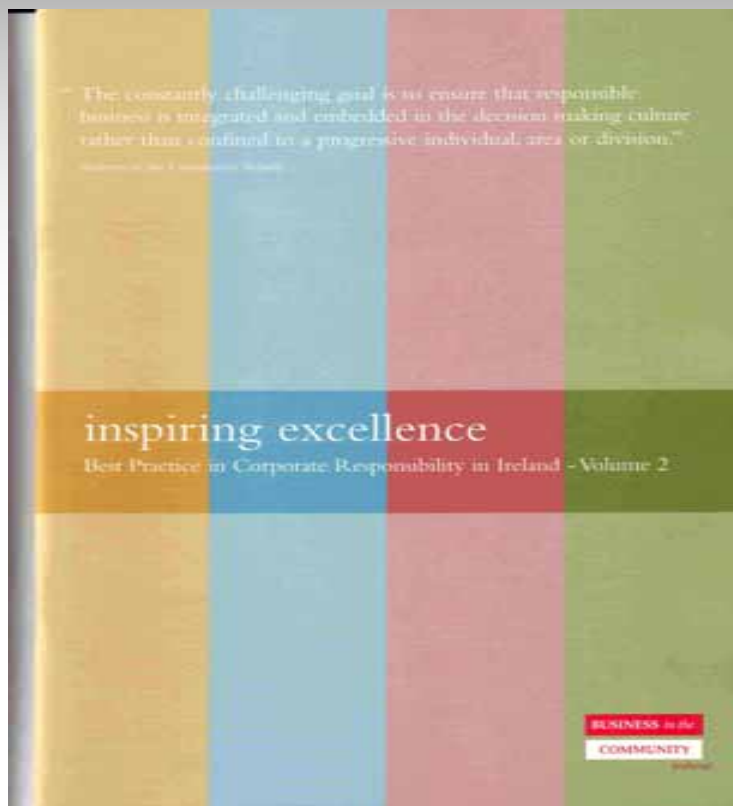
A	B	C	M	U	N	G	A	H	P	S
D	E	F	G	H	I	T	J	K	G	L
L	M	N	O	P	E	Q	R	O	L	E
S	T	U	V	W	X	B	Y	I	A	
Z	A	W	L	B	C	T	D	E	F	N
F	G	O	S	R	E	E	D	D	E	R
H	O	L	U	K	I	J	K	L	M	N
C	O	L	N	P	Q	D	R	S	T	U
V	W	A	D	I	C	A	X	Y	Z	A
B	L	W	E	C	D	M	E	F	G	H
B	I	S	W	J	K	S	L	M	N	O

Send your entries to: IPCC,
119 Capel Street Dublin 1
by Friday 2nd May 2003

Name: _____

Address: _____

Technical Articles



- Article in - Inspiring excellence – best practice in Corporate responsibility in Ireland.. BITCI

Special Event – Launch of the Project

Launch of Project



- Formal launch of project took place – June 3rd, 2004 at Eskeragh Demonstration Site, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo

- Large number of stakeholders, media invited to launch.....

- Local and national publicity gained....RTE Six One News

- Gained publicity in local and national newspapers also...

- Logged on Euro site...

Interpretative Displays and Boardwalks

- **Construction of boardwalks and developing interpretative display signage for demonstration sites...**
- **Boardwalks used extensively at our information days to show groups the work of the project**

Croaghonagh Boardwalk



Slieve Blooms Boardwalk



Interpretative Display Signage

- Interpretative signs and site signs erected.....



Dissemination of Results

- Ongoing throughout the project
- Project website.....
- Project DVD....
- Project results booklet...
- Yearly progress reports...
- Other specialist reports during the project...such as water quality monitoring..
- Through this project conference
- Media coverage throughout project....

And Finally

- **Highlights....**
 - **Gaining publicity for the project and its objectives and the work of Natura 2000**
 - **Expanding the knowledge and expertise gained on the project to the wider audience**
 - **Working as part of a fine project team.....**



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