

Information Sheet



IPCC (Irish Peatland Conservation Council) - Ireland

In brief:

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council has been awarded a grant to set up a programme to protect an area of the Lullymore West Bog which is currently under threat. The site is a breeding ground for the endangered Marsh Fritillary butterfly and is one of only a few left in Ireland with a population of the species. In addition to the Marsh Fritillary, the site is one of important wet land biodiversity and is valuable as an educational centre for peatland environments. The project has been awarded just under EUR€21,000 to re-establish the natural drainage system and protect the area by establishing boundaries, creating dedicated paths, gates and signage etc. A scientific analysis of the ecosystem will be used to structure the project which will be managed by the Council and with direct work being undertaken by volunteers. In addition there is a strong educational element both for visitors and the local population and the project aims to leave a lasting heritage for both wildlife and for recreational visitors.

The Project

The project is aimed at protecting, enhancing and conserving the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly on Lullymore West Bog, Co. Kildare, Ireland.

The project will maintain the internationally threatened Marsh Fritillary Butterfly population on Lullymore West Bog and expand the area of suitable habitat for the butterfly. It will also ensure that the boundaries of Lullymore West Bog are visible to the public so as to discourage harmful human effects and encourage protection of the fragile wetland habitat and insect fauna.

Ultimately the project will increase local awareness of the importance of the Lullymore West Bog for its unique butterfly and moth biodiversity and provide opportunities for community involvement in a conservation project.

This project will have a number of important benefits for biodiversity and nature conservation:

It will maintain and enhance the populations and natural ranges of species.

It will conserve an internationally important species - the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly. By restoring and regenerating a cutaway peatland site the project will enhance its diversity of habitats and species.

It will provide education and training for volunteers to enable them to engage in biodiversity conservation.

It will contribute to Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan.

The Organisation

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC) is a non-governmental organisation that was formed in 1982 to ensure the conservation of a representative sample of Irish bogs. Its activities include education and publicity, promoting environmental awareness, provision of information and encouraging the protection and conservation of our national heritage for the common good. IPCC own and manage a number of peatlands for conservation in Counties Kildare and Waterford, also running the Bog of Allen Nature Centre which is open to visitors and school groups and IPCC provide an extensive information service via the web site at www.ipcc.ie. The Irish Peatland Conservation Council is a company limited by guarantee, with charitable status.

In the last three years significant achievements of the IPCC have been the purchase of the Bog of Allen Nature Centre in County Kildare and its development as an international centre of excellence for peatland education, conservation and research; the acquisition of 32ha of threatened peatland for conservation in Co. Kildare and the creation of two new employment positions within the organization.

Primary Mission:

To conserve a representative sample of the bogs and fens of Ireland for future generations to enjoy.

www.ipcc.ie