

## LODGE ACTIVE RAISED BOG PROJECT – SUCCESS AFTER 5 YEARS

Scientists describe a timeline of successful raised bog restoration following re-wetting. First, physical change - increased water levels and chemical conditions, followed by medium-term re-vegetation and finally long-term topographical changes to the bog surface. IPCC are managing the restoration of Lodge bog in Ireland. Following drain blocking with plastic piling/peat in combination in 2009, water levels are now within 20cm of the bog surface for 90% of the time, whereas prior to blocking they were within 20cm of the bog surface only 30% of the time. The vegetation response was measured in 400 permanent quadrats. In 2010, 43% of the quadrats had no cover of *Sphagnum*, whereas after 5 years this had reduced to 17%. Furthermore, 20% of the quadrats had increased their cover of *Sphagnum* to between 75-100%. The improvement in the active raised bog habitat has benefits for endangered Curlew and Large Heath butterfly present on the bog.

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