

The Bord na Móna Raised Bog Restoration Project – an update on progress.

Mark McCorry, David Fallon, Barry O'Loughlin and Catherine Farrell

Bord na Móna, Leabeg, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, Ireland

Email: mark.mccorry@bnm.ie

Since its establishment in 1946, Bord na Móna (the Irish Peat Company) acquired extensive areas of Irish peatlands to develop for fuel, energy and growing media. Bord na Móna is now transitioning from a peat-based business towards more sustainable businesses such as renewable energy. The company's strategy is to balance commercial development of its lands with its natural capital and amenity/social value.

Several raised bogs partially drained for peat production in the 1980's but still retaining natural vegetation were identified as having high ecological and conservation value. These sites are now part of the Bord na Móna Raised Bog Restoration Project after the company decided to carry out restoration works and conserve these bogs. Progress is ongoing with over 1200 ha completed. Restoration at these sites will help Ireland meet commitments to conserve bogs under the EU Habitats Directive. This is an action of the Bord na Móna Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-2021.

Oral presentation