

Title: Developing methods and monitoring measures to enhance the ecological value of Bord na Móna cutaway bog for breeding waders in Ireland

Authors: Barry O'Loughlin<sup>1</sup>, David Fallon<sup>1</sup>, Mark McCorry<sup>1</sup>, Catherine Farrell<sup>1</sup> and Alex Copland<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Bord na Móna, Leabeg, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, Ireland

<sup>2</sup>Birdwatch Ireland

Abstract

Keywords – Rehabilitation; cutaway, breeding waders, wetlands, habitat creation.

Bord na Móna and BirdWatch Ireland established a trial area in 2010 on Drinagh cutaway bog in County Offaly, Ireland with a view to developing management techniques for rare or threatened breeding waders. Management measures such as scrub clearance, re-profiling and drain blocking were carried out over 30 ha between 2010 and 2011 to create a large open area of wetland habitat for breeding waders and wintering birds. The site has been monitored annually since. Subsequent bird surveys undertaken in 2010 and 2014 noted increases in the number of breeding territories in response to the management measures and ongoing habitat development. This project outlines work carried out to enhance the ecological value of the cutaway of Drinagh cutaway bog for breeding waders and discusses potential future measures to sustain breeding populations.