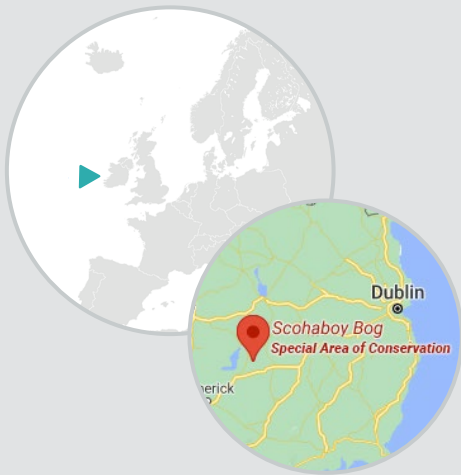


# NATURAL CLIMATE BUFFER



Ireland



## Legal Status

Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Natural Heritage Area (NHA)

## Habitats and Protected Species

Ling Heather (*Calluna Vulgaris*), Cottongrass (*Eriophorum spp*), Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*), White Beak-sedge (*Rhynchospora alba*), Bog Rosemary (*Andromeda polifolia*), Cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccos*) and bog mosses (*Sphagnum spp*) including the rare bog moss *Sphagnum imbricatum*. Bog Bean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) and Great Sundew (*Drosera anglica*).

A unique feature is the presence of Annex 1 Species White-clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*).

Mammals such as Fox, Pine Marten, Red squirrel and Stoat are known from the surrounding forest area along with a range of birdlife including Buzzards and the elusive Cuckoo.

## Information sources

[www.raisedbogrestoration.ie](http://www.raisedbogrestoration.ie)

<https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/002206>

<https://eunis.eea.europa.eu/sites/IE0002206>

<https://www.facebook.com/scohaboybogcloughjordan/>

<https://www.coillte.ie/site/sopwell-and-scohaboy-bog/>

## Scohaboy Bog

### Introduction

Scohaboy Bog is a raised bog near Cloughjordan in North County Tipperary in the midlands of Ireland. Located at the southern limit of raised bogs in Ireland the site demonstrates good diversity of microhabitats including hummock/hollow complexes and cutover areas which add to the scientific value of the site. It serves as a climate buffer by being a carbon sink, natural sponge and a blue-green space. The site comprises 71ha of high bog and cutover areas and is bounded by agricultural land and coniferous plantation. Scohaboy is one of 17 Sites in a LIFE restoration project (09NAT/IE/000222) Demonstrating Best Practice in Bog Restoration in Ireland. Project actions included felling and removing trees, blocking drains, monitoring vegetation change and water levels and installing information signage on site about the project. In 2019, Scohaboy had another major restoration intervention at the southern end of the bog funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service under the National Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) National Management Plan 2017 - 2022.

### Issues & key challenges

The site was subject to peat cutting along the northern and eastern margins and afforestation on the high bog to the north of the site. These activities along with drainage and burning caused significant impact to the hydrological regime of the site resulting in habitat loss and degradation. Community-led consultation with landowners and the wider community has had very positive outcomes in changing perceptions on the value of and management practices on the site. Scohaboy is now a popular outdoor amenity and walking trail for North Tipperary and the wider region and the site requires provision of ancillary services such as car parking to meet increased visitor usage.



### Outcomes & benefits

- Following the LIFE Project, where conifer trees were removed and drains blocked, the high bog appears to be re-wetting with wet pools and hollows developing and high water levels maintained throughout the year.
- There is much regeneration of pine and birch and thus raised bog vegetation will not establish in the former plantation area, but the hydrology regime is now much improved to the benefit of the high bog and areas of degraded raised bog now have pools of standing water with regenerating *Sphagnum* moss.

### Lessons learnt & future

The success of this project, as not only a demonstration site for raised bog restoration but also a significant community resource through development of a recreational and information trail, was based on active collaboration between statutory agencies and the local community.



CARBON SINK



NATURAL SPONGE



BLUE-GREEN SPACE

More info



An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Aitiúil agus Oidhreacht  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage



An tSeirbhís Páircéanna Náisiúnta  
agus Fiadhúlra  
National Parks and Wildlife Service



Eurosite Factsheet

Wetlands and Climate Change

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