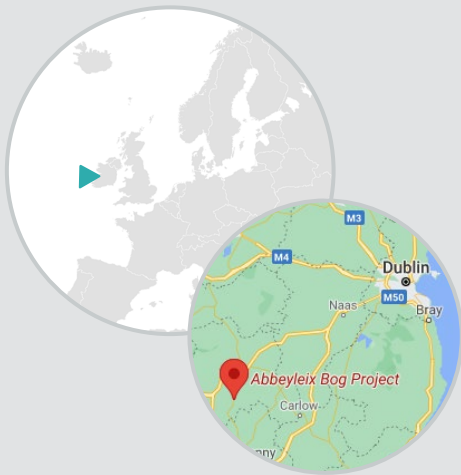


NATURAL CLIMATE BUFFER



Ireland



Legal Status

No legal designation, but a candidate for national designation

Habitats and Protected Species

Active and degraded raised bog, transition mires, alkaline fen, petrifying springs, wet woodlands, mixed woodlands and orchid-rich grassland.

Common frog, Pine Marten, Marsh Fritillary, Brook Lamprey, Red Squirrel

Management

Voluntary and community-led conservation project in collaboration with multidisciplinary stakeholders

Information and Videos

www.abbeyleixbog.ie

Facebook, Twitter & Instagram:
@abbeyleixbog



Abbeyleix Bog Project

Introduction

The Abbeyleix Bog Project is a site covering 200 ha of peatlands and other supporting habitats. The primary objective is conservation and restoration through multi-level and multi-disciplinary stakeholder collaboration. A secondary objective is the provision of a community amenity for recreation, education and research, in conjunction with a network of local, regional, national, and international organisations. The project came about in 2000 when the local community opposed the development of the site for horticultural peat production.

Issues & key challenges

- No national or international designation or legal protection
- Multiple land-use impacts over centuries affecting the whole site
- Ongoing impact and threat from neighbouring extraction industry
- Complex hydrological dynamics with associated micro habitats



Outcomes & benefits

- Local community prevented the site from being harvested for horticultural peat and the local town now benefits economically, socially and environmentally
- 50-year lease agreement with landowner since (2009)
- 64 km of drains on 100 ha raised bog blocked with peat dams (2009)
- Active raised bog increased by 1250 percent in 11 years and led to a reduction direct CO₂ emissions by more than 50% (2020)

Lessons learnt & future

Community-led multi-stakeholder collaboration essential for long term success of natural habitat conservation and management

Natural Climate Buffer management should be integrated with all the other sustainable development goals

Plans are well advanced for the phased restoration & rehabilitation of the rest of the site



CARBON SINK



NATURAL SPONGE



BLUE-GREEN SPACE

[More info](#)



Eurosites Factsheet

Wetlands and Climate Change

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