



Overview of the Project

Michael Delaney
Project Manager



8 May 2008

LIFE04 NAT/IE/000121
"Restoring Raised Bog in Ireland"

coillte ¹



Forestry in Ireland since 1900

- Due to timber exploitation – land cover under forest was reduced to 1%
- Government policy through the 1900's was to promote the planting of trees
- Social forestry – support rural communities



Restoring Raised Bog in Ireland

Following on from the success of Coillte's
Blanket Bog LIFE Project

The Company submitted a similar application
to the EU to restore 571 of Raised Bog
habitat, on 14 project sites

Submitted application Oct 2003, Approved in
July 2004



Project Funding

MAIN POINTS

RUNS FROM OCTOBER THE 1ST TO
2004 – SEPTEMBER THE 30TH - 2008
TOTAL COST = €2.5M;
FUNDING FROM EU UNDER LIFE
NATURE 75% = €1.875M
COILLTE FUNDING REMAINING 25%



Project Objective to restore all project sites to more favourable conservation status

TOTAL RESTORATION AREA SITES	571 HA - 14
TREE CROP REMOVAL	450 HA
DRAIN BLOCKING	427 HA
FENCING	320 HA
INSTALL FIRELINES	21,360 M
REMOVE NATURAL REGENERATION AS REQUIRED	
WATER AND VEGETATION MONITORING	



Project Team

- Project Manager Michael Delaney
- PR/Admin Manager Angela Wallace
- Project Accountant Richard Clear
- Project Ecologist John Derwin
- EU Affairs Manager Philip Murphy



Project Team cont..

- Site Managers
 - Marie Mannion
 - Frank Donlon
 - John Tarmey
 - Conor Devane
 - Pat Brady
 - George Beirne
 - Support Team including Coillte's harvesting, district, engineering and laboratory staff



Preparatory Actions

- Expert advice - Stuart Brooks
- Site Action Plans – NPWS
- Felling licences - Forest Service
- Visits to other LIFE Projects
- Experience gained by colleagues on Coillte's Blanket Bog Project



Pre Restoration



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Cloonshanville Bog pre LIFE Project



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Project Actions

- Project Management
- Consultation
- Preparatory work
- Tree removal
- Drain blocking
- Fencing
- Roading to demo sites
- Water level and quality monitoring
- Vegetation control and monitoring
- Public Awareness
- Project Reporting
- Inventory mapping



Major Actions

→ Tree harvesting

Commercial felling
Fell to waste
Windrowing

→ Drain blocking

Peat Dams
Plastic Dams – eco

Levelling survey
carried out to
decide the location
of the dams



Commercial Harvesting



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Brash Mat



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Installing Plastic dams



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Peat dams



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July in Ireland!!



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Threats to Project Sites

- Regenerating tree species – pine / birch
- Peat harvesting – turf cutting
- Fires



Face bank at Crosswood Bog



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Turf



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Seed source



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Main achievements

- All actions planned for the project sites are due for completion before the project ends – 30th Sept, 2008
- Enhanced and developed good working relations with stakeholders, Statutory bodies, and especially with local communities



Main achievements cont...

- Knowledge and experience gained of the techniques for restoring previously afforested raised bogs
- Significance of LIFE04: Coillte has cleared 450ha of the 877.6ha (51%) previously planted on NHA /SAC bogs on its estate



Sphagnum at Camderry Bog



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Thank you

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Brighter Future



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