

work

HERE YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT THE CHANGE IN WORK PRACTICES AS THE INDUSTRY DEVELOPED. IN THE EARLY DAYS MOST PEAT WAS CUT BY HAND BUT HAND-CUT PEAT WAS INFERIOR TO MACHINE CUT PEAT. THE NEED TO PROVIDE AN ECONOMICAL AND HIGH QUALITY FUEL, LED TO IMPROVEMENTS IN MACHINES AND PROCESSES. THE DISPLAYS SHOW THE EVOLUTION OF WORK PRACTICES.

obair

FOGHLAIMEOIDH TÚ AN T-ATHRÚ MAIDIR LE PRAITIC AG AN OBAIR DE RÉIR MAR A D'FHORBAIR AN EARNÁIL. Ó THOSACH AIMSIRE NA HEARNÁLA GEARRADH AN MHÓIN DE LÁIMH ACH NÍ RAIBH AN MHÓIN A GEARRADH DE LÁIMH CHOMH MAITH LEIS AN MÓIN A GEARRADH LE MEAISÍN. THÁINIG FEABHAS MHÓR AR MHEAISÍNÍ AGUS MHODHANNA CLEACHTA MAR A MHÉADAIGH AN GÁ DO BHREOSLA ARDCHAIGHDEÁIN AGUS EACNAMAÍOCH. LÉIRÍONN NA TAISPEÁNTAIS FORBAIRT NA BPRAITIC AG AN OBAIR.



Hand cutting of peat.

WORK TOOLS AND PRACTICES HAVE MOVED ON A LOT SINCE 1934. LIKE PRIVATE TURF CUTTERS, TURF DEVELOPMENT BOARD WORKERS INITIALLY USED SLEANS TO CUT SOD PEAT. TURF WAS SAVED AND DRAINS DUG BY HAND. ANDREWS REALISED THAT AN INDUSTRY COULD NOT BE BUILT ON HAND-PRODUCED FUEL. JUST BEFORE THE OUTBREAK OF WORLD WAR II, THE FIRST MECHANICAL SOD CUTTER (ORDERED FROM MEPPEN, GERMANY) ARRIVED IN IRELAND. THREE FURTHER MACHINES WERE NOT DELIVERED UNTIL AFTER THE WAR. THE MACHINE, (A 'BAGGER') WAS OPERATED IN CLONSAST BOG CO. OFFALY AND REQUIRED A LARGE TEAM OF MEN TO WORK WITH IT.



Fitters repairing sod peat loader, 1970s'

Milled peat harvesting required more machines and railway lines to supply the power stations. Nowadays, Bord na Móna runs an extensive rail network of permanent and temporary track.

With more mechanised work, Bord na Móna's employee skills expanded with the taking on and training of fitters and mechanics. These men, with engineers and foremen, designed and developed machines, parts and processes to improve work conditions and productivity. Employees have developed and reconditioned a wide variety of machines for the unique working conditions. This spirit of practical innovation has been crucial to Bord na Móna throughout the last 75 years.

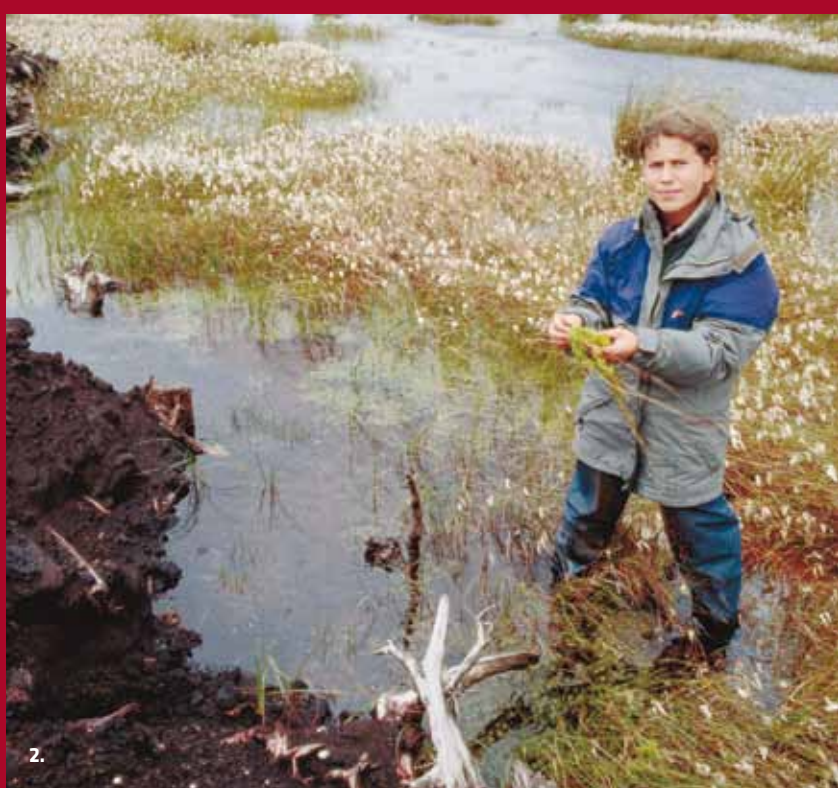


1. Apprentices in Derrygreenagh workshop.
2. Manual loading of moss peat sods, 1950s.
3. Milled peat production.
4. Milled peat harvesting.

Nowadays the diversified activities of Bord na Móna require a wide spectrum of skills and expertise. Apart from the conventional disciplines of marketing, production, engineering and finance today's employee might well be an environmental scientist, an IT specialist or an ecologist.



1.

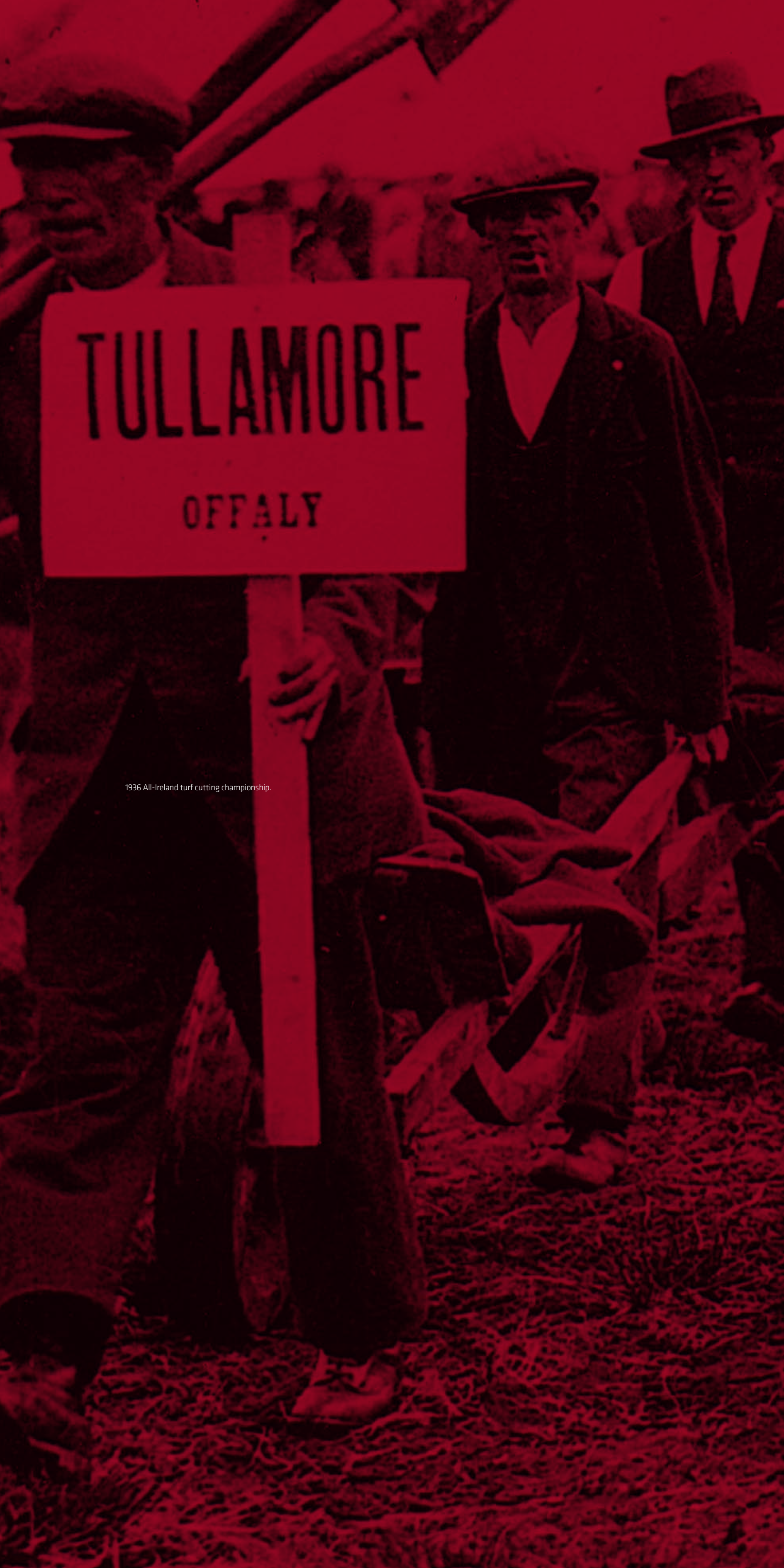


2.



3.

- 1. Innovation laboratory, Newbridge.
- 2. Ecologist at work.
- 3. Wind turbines.



1936 All-Ireland turf cutting championship.



THE KILDARE SCHEME

The Second World War caused a fuel crisis in Ireland and efforts to develop the bogs were increased rapidly. The Kildare Hand Won Turf Scheme was entrusted to the Turf Development Board. The Kildare Scheme meant that men like Christy Daly from Kerry and Paddy O'Sullivan from Tipperary migrated to Kildare to help produce fuel. Christy Daly cut turf at the rate of almost two sods a second and kept six barrow men busy for a week. Paddy O'Sullivan was All-Ireland Turf Cutting Champion in 1945 and had a long career in Bord na Móna.

The experience during the war reinforced the Irish State's commitment to developing the country's bogs. The Turf Development Board was transformed into Bord na Móna in 1946. The restructured company implemented a plan to produce over a million tonnes of sod peat a year. Two new peat fired power stations were also part of the plan.

WORKER REPRESENTATION

Mark Nugent was one of many men who developed a long career in the renewed Bord an Móna. Mark began digging drains for rail lines, eventually driving a rail car and becoming a supervisor. He became a union official and campaigned for better working conditions. He was eventually elected to the board of directors of Bord na Móna, serving three terms.



1. Loco and peat wagons crossing the Shannon.
2. Christy Daly (white shirt) competing in the All-Ireland turf cutting championship of 1945.
3. Paddy O'Sullivan, All-Ireland turf cutting champion, 1945.
4. Mark Nugent.