

Cutaway Bogs



A beautiful sunset in Lough Boora Discovery Park

Over recent years large tracts of bog have been cutaway - “cutaway “ being the term used to describe an area that has come out of production once all commercial peat has been removed. The Boora bog complex in Co. Offaly is one of the oldest areas of commercial production and as a result was the first area in which large tracts of cutaway emerged. But what was to be done with these vast expanses of land? This is the question that has faced Bord na Móna since the 1970s and although forestry and agriculture have been developed on suitable land, large tracts remained unsuitable for these enterprises.

In 1994 a group of local Bord na Móna workers formed the Lough Boora Parklands Group who produced an integrated land use plan for the Boora cutaways. The key elements of the plan embraced environmental and socio-economic concerns and hence Lough Boora Discovery Park was born.

Lough Boora Discovery Park is a beautiful landscape at the centre of Ireland - a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts. Through a creative combination of nature and the human hand new habitats are emerging on the cutaway bogs of Co. Offaly. Lands cloaked with great raised bogs for 10,000 years are at the dawn of a new era. Bogs harvested by Bord na Móna for energy since the 1940s are establishing as unique and welcoming habitats for a wide range of flora and fauna.

The parklands consist of a magnificent collection of natural & manmade lakes, wetlands, woodland areas, 50km of walkways, natural recolonisation and pastureland whilst providing a new habitat for wildlife, flora & fauna.

Lough Boora Discovery Park is the pilot project for what will be 80,000 hectares of Ireland’s cutaway bogland – an area spanning 11 counties and three provinces. The parklands project is both interesting and exciting, its significance far exceeding the 2,000 hectare site itself.



An otter walks on the ice in Lough Boora Discovery Park