

Types of Peatlands

Three types of peatland occur in Ireland.

Fens:

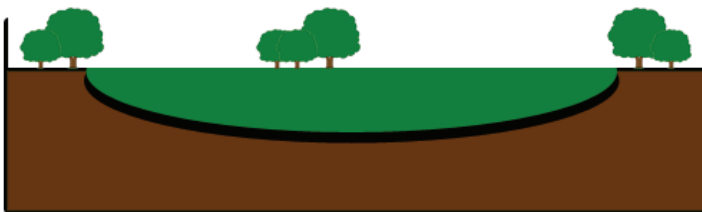
Fens are bogs which form from vegetation which is fed from ground waters rich in nutrients. They are very often an early stage in the formation of raised bogs which grow on top of the fen. Their depth can vary depending on their location but an average depth of approx. 2.2 metres is common.

Raised Bogs:

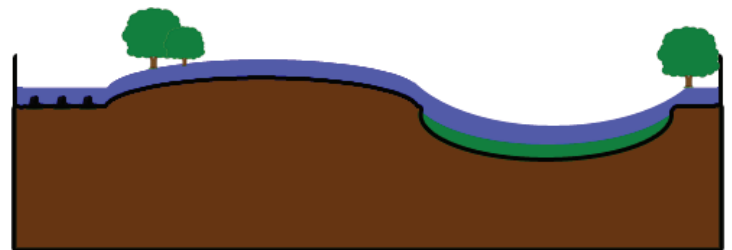
These are found normally in the midlands where moderate levels of rainfall occur annually. They have a dome-shaped surface and are very deep in some areas where depths of over 13 metres have been recorded. Their average depth is 7.5 metres.

Blanket Bogs:

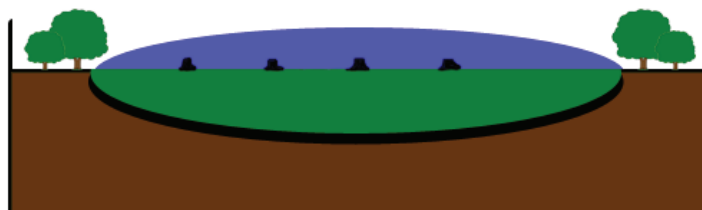
These are found chiefly in the West of Ireland and also in mountain areas throughout the country where rainfall levels are relatively high annually. They are shallow bogs which form a blanket-like layer over the surface of the underlying mineral soil. Their average depth is 2.6 metres.



Fen Bog



Blanket Bog



Raised Bog

