

PILOT SITE DESIGN

BOUGHTERARD

GALWAY, IRELAND



<https://www.virtualheb.co.uk/ling-heather-purple-wildflowers-western-isles/>

The site is situated in the mountainous area and the land, adjacent to Lake Lough Agraftard, and is owned by a private landowner.

Blanket Bog site is located around the lake Lough Agraftard. The Blanket bog of approximately 137ha is owned by a private landowner which was subjected to domestic turf cutting in the past.

The Blanket Bog has been drained in the past three decades, but currently there is no active peat cutting area. The major vegetation at the site is naturally growing Bog Cotton, White Beak Sedge, Soft rush and some sphagnum mosses growing in the ditches/drains.

The potential pilot site is an abandoned land, while rest of the bog is grown with conifer and hardwood forest, some part of the bog is grassland, while some part is fertilized with lime for growing blueberries.

Size of pilot site: 137ha

Peatland type: degraded blanket bog (subjected to drainage and domestic turf cutting)

Land use: Abandoned land (not actively used)

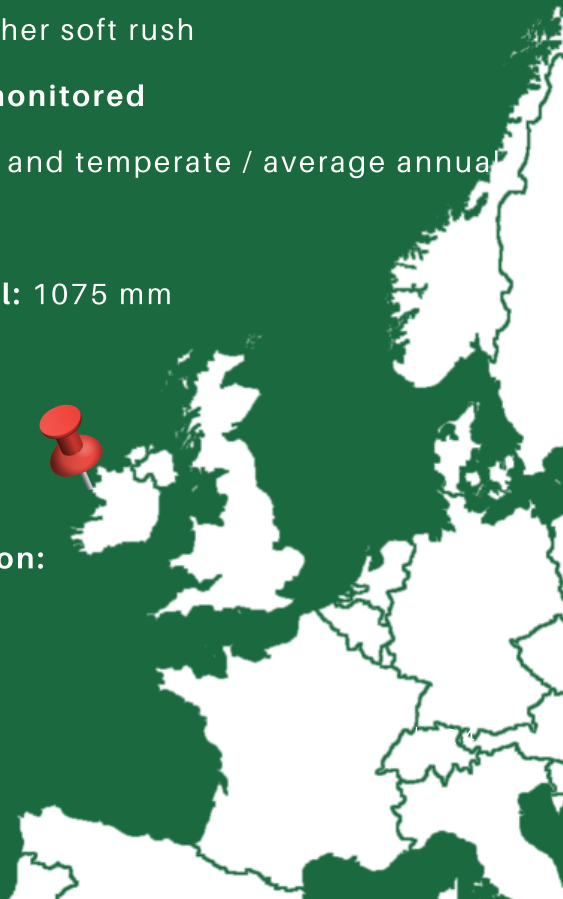
Crop type: ling heather soft rush

Water level: to be monitored

Climate type: Warm and temperate / average annual temperature of 9.8°

Total annual rainfall: 1075 mm

Target CO2 reduction:



CHALLENGES

Natural difficulties: The site is difficult to access since its remotely located in the mountainous area.

GOALS

- The blanket bog will be rewetted
- Monitoring will be conducted for ground water and CO₂

POSSIBLE BUSINESS MODEL

The Carbon Connects Project is working with the EIP-AGRI Project 2019 known as “Fresh Water Pearl Mussel Project” which provides financial incentives to landowners who improve the water quality of their lands located adjacent to any water bodies for optimizing the Pearl Mussel Habitats.

The Fresh Water Pearl Mussel also provides financial incentives for improving and enhancing quality of peatlands i.e. through re-wetting degraded peatlands



PILOT SITE TIMELINE

Before November 30th 2019 : Selection of sub-site within Pearl Mussel Site

Before December 30th 2019: Pearl Mussel Drafting Plan for Landowner

Before December 16th 2019: Contract between Landowner and Carbon Connects

Before January 10th 2020: Pre-monitoring activities (step 0)

Before January 31st 2020: Pre-monitoring Instrument installation

Autumn/winter 2019: Site activities (finding a control and treatment area, soil sampling, starting re-wetting)

January-March 2020: Implementing pre-monitoring activities (step 1-3)

April 2020: Post-monitoring activities

May 2020 - June 2021: Implementing post-monitoring activities (4-7)