

Littleton Labyrinth



Project Overview

- The closure of the Lanespark Peat Briquette factory in 2017, followed by the gradual cessation of the associated peat extraction activities on the adjacent 4,000 ha plus of industrial peatland, resulted in the loss of direct jobs as well as numerous local jobs indirectly. This has had a significant economic and cultural impact on the local communities and the wider region. As well as the direct economic consequences, it has had the effect of isolating rural communities which were once closely integrated through a common interest, Bord na Móna which was part of the social fabric of the area for decades. The Littleton bog complex encompasses a range of bogs at various stages of cutaway and rehabilitation. It is now the vision to deliver a flagship rural regeneration project to conserve employment and develop tourism in the region.

Project Aim

- An intricate network of themed walking and cycling trails is proposed that link settlements and enable immersion in the stories of the landscape. These include local short looped walks/cycles and longer distance walks/cycles to really stretch the legs.

Project Objectives

- To develop a connected Cycleway and walking trail through the existing Bord na Mona bogs.
- The project is primarily aimed at delivering long-term sustainable indirect employment by supporting the establishment and growth of tourism and recreation based enterprise.
- During the design and construction phase, the project would provide replacement equivalent jobs to Bord na Móna workers directly displaced by the decarbonisation of the peat industry. For this phase of the overall plan, we anticipate it will sustain 2-3 full time positions with a further 2-4 seasonal workers. As we build on this phase these jobs could be sustained for several years and further jobs could emerge.

Project Objective's Cont.

- The projects primary aim is to support the development of existing and the creation of new commercial enterprise in the tourism, recreation and cultural sectors by providing a visitor experience that will attract move visitors to the region and/or prolong their stay within the region. Initially it is expected that bike hire and hospitality businesses will develop.
- To develop educational facilities in biodiversity and ecology, through the development of bespoke infrastructure along individual routes. In time, it is anticipated that this unique landscape could support indirect employment in research and ecology and offer the opportunity for local communities to provide exemplars of bogland landscapes for research. To provide a demonstrator project/best practice model for 'Sustainability in Historic Structures' supported by training in energy project for business, individuals and communities.
- The development of a dedicated bushcraft and survival activity centre will support direct employment in the tourism industry

Key Milestones

- Accept Funding Offer
- Procure & Appoint Technical Consultants
- Commence Design & Environmental Assessment
- Statutory Approvals Process
- Detailed Design
- Prepare Main Works Tender Documents
- Procure & Appoint Main Works Contractor
- Completion & Handover

Project Stages

Phase	Timeline	Months
Phase 1 – Design & Environmental Evaluation	July 2021 – October 2021	4 months
Phase 2 - Statutory Approvals Process	November 2021 – February 2022	4 months
Phase 3 - Detailed Design & Procurement	March 2022 – May 2022	3 months
Phase 4 - Main Works	June 2022 – March 2023	10 months
Phase 5 - Handover	April 2024	

KPIs

- Financially Sustainable
- Best Conservation Practice
- Public & Community Use
- Secure employment

Project Map

