



SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: Cooperation Across Borders for Biodiversity (CABB) - RSPB NI Update

THEME:

Environment

FUNDING (ERDF+MATCH):

€4,935,983

MATCH FUNDING:

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs; the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government; Peatland Restoration; and the Bannister Charitable Trust.

LEAD PARTNER:

RSPB NI

PROJECT PARTNERS:

RSPB Scotland, BirdWatch Ireland, NI Water, Butterfly Conservation and Moors for Future.

Start Date: 01/01/2017

End Date: 31/12/2021



<https://bit.ly/2m1wdM0>



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Project Update

The CABB Montiaghs project officer has been busy installing safety measures for livestock, improving the site for butterflies, damselflies and dragonflies, hosting volunteer work parties to manage scrub and taking part in virtual information sharing events.

The installation of fencing and livestock facilities has enabled the grazier to put stock on site knowing that they will be safe. In October, vegetation was removed from 10 choked pools. This resulted in 1,000sqm of open water for key species, such as the Irish damselfly. Between October and December, small groups of volunteers managed regrowth of scrub, following the removal of 11 hectares of scrub last winter. Our project officer has produced an uplifting video showcasing the progress made at Montiaghs Moss.

The Garron Plateau and its local farmers will be making headlines once again as it will hopefully feature in a major BBC radio documentary this spring. Meanwhile, the CABB Garron project officer is making great progress on the delivery of the CAP, with a first draft signed off and submitted to NIEA last October. Habitat mapping is picking up the pace as well and the project is expecting final maps to be drawn up in early 2021 by the GIS specialist. CABB attendance at the virtual IUCN Peatland Conference generated lots of new contacts. It also seeded the possibility of NI CABB sites being incorporated into the IUCN Peatland code, along with the prospect of future delivery funding opportunities.



Garron peat dams in the first snow flurries of the winter

Credit: Henry McLaughlin