

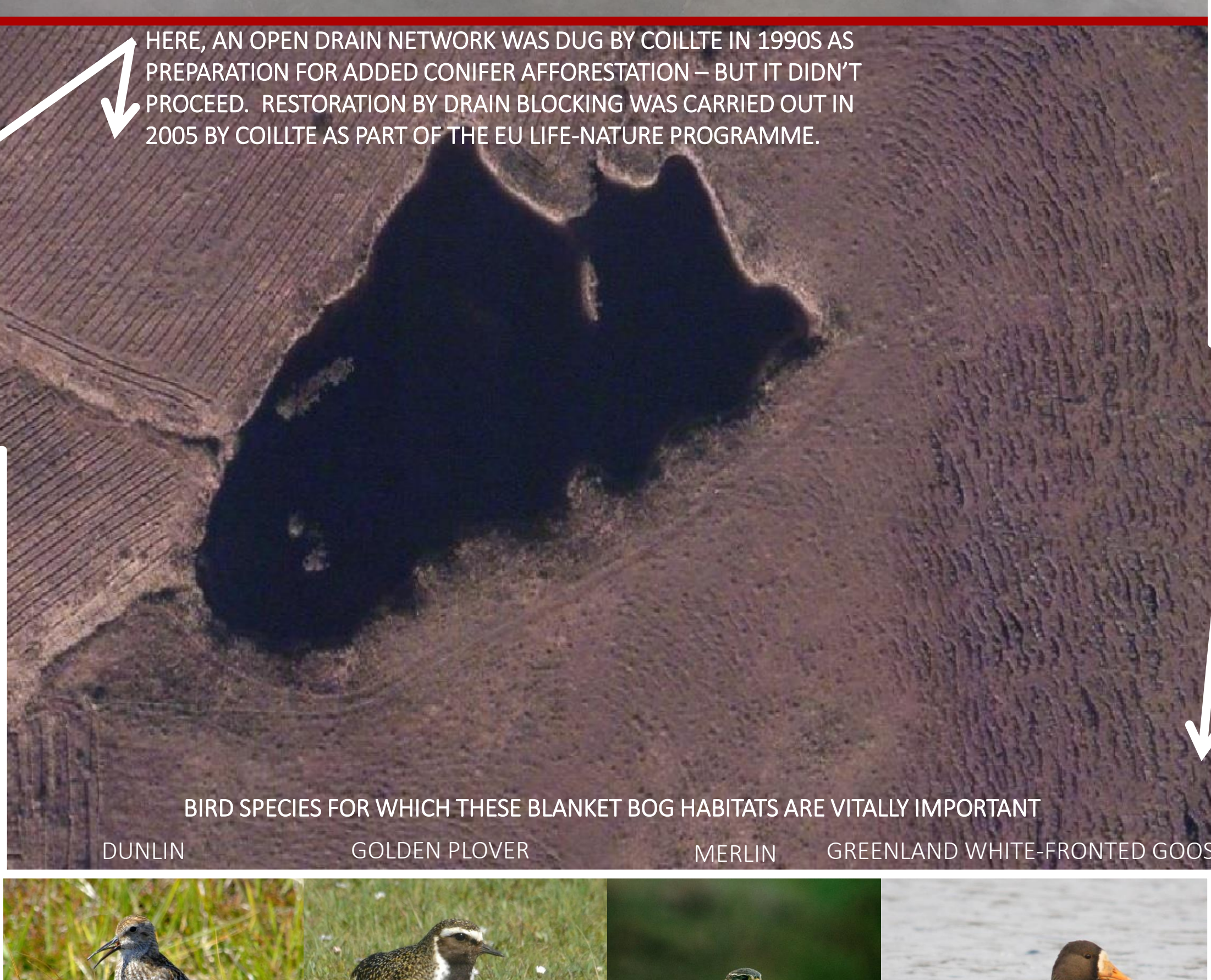
CABB – Cooperation Across Borders for Biodiversity, is mapping the habitats and producing Conservation Action Plans (CAPS) for three sites in Co Donegal, under BirdWatch Ireland

Croaghonagh Bog SAC [000129]

This relatively small SAC of 249ha is selected for the habitat [7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog) that covers about 170ha, or 68% of the site. It's a good example of an upland blanket bog which resembles raised bog by virtue of its domed profile. The surface is largely intact and ecologically valuable for its topography including hummocks, hollows and systems of large pools and concentric tear pools. It supports a wide range of plant species, and a well-developed bryophyte and lichen flora.



Photo courtesy of Dr John Conaghan, ecologist



HERE, AN OPEN DRAIN NETWORK WAS DUG BY COILLTE IN 1990S AS PREPARATION FOR ADDED CONIFER AFFORESTATION – BUT IT DIDN'T PROCEED. RESTORATION BY DRAIN BLOCKING WAS CARRIED OUT IN 2005 BY COILLTE AS PART OF THE EU LIFE-NATURE PROGRAMME.

BIRD SPECIES FOR WHICH THESE BLANKET BOG HABITATS ARE VITALLY IMPORTANT

DUNLIN GOLDEN PLOVER MERLIN GREENLAND WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE



BLADDERWORT *Utricularia minor*



HUMMOCK COMPOSED OF SPHAGNUM BOG MOSS



HUMMOCK COMPOSED OF RACOMITRIUM SILVER-HAIR MOSS. SCATTERED SMALL FEATHERS INDICATE WHERE A BIRD OF PREY SUCH AS MERLIN HAS PLUCKED ITS CATCH



Michael Bell

Michael Bell

Chris Gomersall – RSPB images

Graham Prole

Meentygrannagh Bog SAC [000173]

This 530ha site is located in the catchment of the River Finn, at the headwaters of both the Finn and the Swilly. It has one of the best examples of saddle bog in Co Donegal and has a diverse complex of peatland habitats for which the site is designated, namely [7130] Blanket bogs (* if active bog), covering c.417ha (79%) of the site, [7140] Transition mires and quaking bogs, and [7230] Alkaline fens. Associated with latter habitat is the qualifying species, [1393] Slender Green Feather-moss (*Drepanocladus vernicosus*) that has been re-classified as *Hamatocaulis vernicosus*. Peripheral zones of the site also host breeding Curlew and Merlin. Hydrology, ground and surface water regimes, water quality and attendant land-uses in the site such as sheep grazing, some limited turf-cutting, drainage and adjacent commercial forestry, are to be addressed in the CAP.

TRANSITION MIRE RICH IN SPHAGNUM BOG MOSS AND GREATER TUSsock SEDGE IS A HABITAT FED BY MINERAL GROUND-WATER

