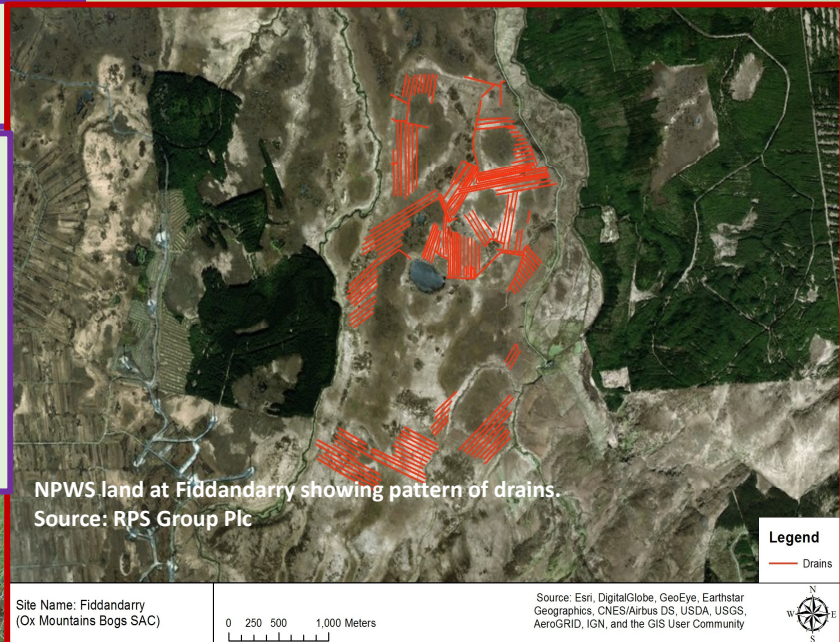


# Ox Mountains SAC

## Fiddandarry, Ox Mountains SAC, Co. Sligo/Mayo

This SAC covers a vast area (ca. 10,500 ha) between counties Sligo and Mayo with extensive areas of active blanket bog. It is designated for **Oligotrophic Waters containing very few minerals, Dystrophic Lakes, Wet Heath, Dry Heath, Blanket Bogs (Active\*), Rynchosporion Vegetation, Transition Mires, Geyer's Whorl Snail (*Vertigo geyeris*), & Marsh Saxifrage (*Saxifraga hirculus*).**



Source: BEC Consultants

A detailed botanical survey of the site will commence this year alongside hydrological monitoring to provide a baseline picture of the current state of the blanket bog habitat. Drain-blocking operations are scheduled to take place in 2019.

Fiddandarry is a townland situated in the western section of the SAC, west of Lough Easky. As part of CABB, BirdWatch Ireland plans to restore 450 ha of Blanket Bog to hydrological integrity by 2021. This will involve blocking approx. 43km of drains previously dug in the past for a forestry plantation, which fortunately did not take place. Now under NPWS ownership, the site has remained unmanaged.



Blocking of drains at Croaghonagh Bog by Coillte, (See Irish Bog Restoration Project)



Source: BEC Consultants

Once the drains have been successfully blocked, hydrological monitoring will continue to assess the effects, and hopefully, will return the blanket bog to a better condition and achieve the conservation objectives for the site. All surveys will be completed and reported on by October 2021.

Favourable conservation status of the SAC is achieved when:

- its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and
- the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.



Source: BEC Consultants

