

## FAQs

### Ordering & Delivery

#### **How can I Save A Sod?**

Complete the online order form at [greensodireland.ie/saveasod](https://greensodireland.ie/saveasod)

#### **What do I receive?**

Saving a sod will help to care for a sod of land and the species that live on it for one year.

Orders of €25 will receive a Digital Cert to acknowledge their donation.

Orders of €50+ will receive a beautiful Letterpress Certificate. The cert is hand-made by Dublin Letterpress Studio 'One Strong Arm' using card made from recycled coffee cups and printed with ecological ink.

#### **How much is delivery?**

Delivery is included in the cost.

For donations of €25, a Digital Cert of acknowledgement will be sent to you via email.

For donations of €50+ a hand-made Letterpress Certificate will be sent by post.

#### **How quickly can I expect my Digital Certificate to be delivered?**

Digital Certificates will be emailed within 5 working days.

#### **How quickly can I expect my Letterpress Certificate to be delivered?**

Letterpress Certificates are posted once a week. Please allow up to 10 working days for delivery within Ireland and up to 15 days for international orders.

If you would like your printed certificate to arrive in time for Christmas, the last order dates are:

Republic of Ireland - December 20th

Northern Ireland - December 17th

Great Britain - December 16th

Rest of Europe - December 10th

USA - December 6th

Rest of the World - December 6th

#### **Can I order more than one certificate, and send them to different people?**

For online orders please complete a separate transaction for each person.





If you require more than one Letterpress Certificate, please email us at [saveasod@greensodireland.ie](mailto:saveasod@greensodireland.ie)

If you would like to inquire about gifting in the workplace or corporate gifting please email us.

## **About the gift**

### **Where will my donation go?**

Save A Sod is a way to help preserve and protect Irish wild spaces and Irish Biodiversity. Funds donated will be used to protect the land and species already in trust – (Red Bog Co.Carlow, Arderry Co. Cavan, Rosscarbery Co.Cork, Kinnegoe Co. Donegal, Connemara Co.Galway, Ballinrobe Co.Mayo)

*"Our vision is of Ireland as a country where ecosystems are thriving and biodiversity is flourishing."*

### **Red Bog, Co. Carlow**

Thanks to the generosity of Mr David Rowe (RIP), Green Sod Ireland was gifted "Red Bog" in 2010. The land, in the form of five fields, is species-rich grassland and has a raised boundary bank of furze bushes, with a stream bordering one side. The land and its rich organic garden worked and nurtured for over 30 years by David Rowe, is being allowed to thrive in all its biodiversity for posterity. It has been planted with trees over the years. Green Sod Ireland's main function is to continue to support nature to take its course and as a result the land is teeming with wildlife, (flora and fauna). We bestow our gratitude to David Rowe.

### **Arderry, Co. Cavan**

Land at Arderry, Co. Cavan (11 acres) was gifted to Green Sod Ireland by a munificent woman Marion Jackson in 2019. Comprising a large habitat area in the 10 interlinked grassland fields, there is an abundance of native tree and hedgerow species.

The name Arderry – *Ard Doire* 'height of the oakwood' indicates that this site's past landscape would have been a woodland. The glacial origins of the landscape have resulted in formation of drumlins upon which stands a 'ringfort' a farmstead dating perhaps from the early medieval period. This ringfort, like many in Ireland, was never levelled and so has become a small island of natural habitat, serving as a refuge for wildlife and a seed source of hedgerow and meadow plants in an otherwise poor natural landscape. Associated with this are flora associated with woodland and abundant varieties of lichens, indicating good air quality and hedgerow longevity. We, in Green Sod Ireland will ever be grateful to Marion Jackson for her life-enhancing gift for the total Earth community.

### **Páirc A'Tobair, Burgatia, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork**



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Páirc a'Tobair ecology centre was gifted to Green Sod Ireland in 2018 by the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province. It is well-established as a rich and diverse Wild Acre site, comprising of young woodland, meadow, wet woodland, wet meadow and pond life with potential for immense biodiversity growth. In terms of natural habitat, the slopes of Burgatia Hill will, in time, develop into an ideal valley woodland, supporting a wide range of plants, birds, mammals and insect species. Major steps have been taken to increase the site's biodiversity value and nature preservation potential. This needs to be acknowledged and supported into the future through continued protection of the site by Green Sod Ireland.

We are very grateful to the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Southern Province for their courage and generosity in acting on behalf of Nature in this way, for all our sakes.

### **Kinnegoe, Co. Donegal**

The land at Meenletterbale, Inishowen, Co. Donegal was gifted to Green Sod Ireland in 2019 by the Sisters of Mercy, Northern Province.

Most of the area north of the road which divides the land is comprised of the most celebrated of Ireland's peatlands; an upland blanket bog and scrub mosaic, which over time will be restored to good conservation status. Here the rainfall is high and evaporation is low. These upland blanket bogs are characterised by the presence of ling heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*) and bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*). A small field adjacent to the road consists of species-poor wet grassland dominated by soft rush, other species included Yorkshire fog, creeping thistle, creeping buttercup and redshank.

To the south of the road is a series of fields, divided by a stone access road. The main species include perennial ryegrass, crested dog's-tail, Yorkshire fog, white clover and soft rush. Scrub vegetation is composed of gorse, hazel, trees such as ash, willow and sycamore, and low shrubs mixed with grasses and herbs.

Two small streams flow through the site, with hedgerows and trees offering covering for native species. This magnificent land has huge biodiversity potential and is a very significant first Wild Acres in Donegal. We are all indebted to the Sisters of Mercy, Northern Province for the wisdom and generosity they have shown. Together we hold this land in trust.

### **Saltrock, Connemara, Co. Galway**

Green Sod Ireland was gifted 14 acres at Saltrock, Little Killary, Connemara, Co. Galway in 2013, thanks to the generosity of a woman with vision, Ms. Eileen Coyne. The Connemara land, which was farmed many years ago by Eileen Coyne's grandfather, is situated on the wind-swept hillside at Little Killary under the watchful eye of Mweelrea. It contains many distinct ecosystems from wet heath and rocky outcrops to native woodland. To the north it has a sheltered rocky shoreline dropping into the Atlantic Ocean at Little Killary with mountain and peatland held in commonage to the south and west. This land with its small ancient oak woodland is home to the yellow orchid and the large marsh grasshopper and much more. Steps are being taken to enrich this bountiful



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biodiversity that is such an important part of Wild Acres in Connemara. Eileen Coyne, in her generosity and foresight is an inspiration to all of us

### **Ballinrobe, Co.Mayo**

A small native woodland consisting of oak, birch, Scots pine, and willow trees, ferns, ivy, wood sage and more. Work is beginning now to ascertain the biodiversity of the area and what management practices need to be put in place to enhance and strengthen the health and well-being of the ecosystem.

### **Can I choose the location of my sod?**

When you Save A Sod you can choose which land in trust you would like to help protect.

1. Red Bog Co.Carlow
2. Arderry Co. Cavan
3. Rosscarbery Co.Cork
4. Kinnegoe Co. Donegal
5. Connemara Co.Galway
6. Ballinrobe Co.Mayo

You may also decide not to choose a location, and to support the general work of Green Sod Ireland. Please choose 'non specific'.

### **Can I see my sod?**

It is not possible to see the sod, as it is part of a greater whole upon which we do not walk.

One of the greatest challenges Green Sod Ireland faces in protecting land for its own sake, is that what we are protecting is whole-heartedly living. It is land and its ecosystems - an organic interactive system with myriad elements, connections, and interconnections, changing, as we do, every minute, day, week, and year. Bearing that in mind, we pay great attention to the preparation of our land management plans for each, individual, diverse site in our care.

It is generally accepted that preserved lands have a positive effect on all species, including ourselves. They can serve to remind people to act in a more environmentally responsible way. Land preservation can change behaviour. These positive benefits are often difficult to quantify and may not receive as much consideration as those benefits that are easily quantifiable. Wildlife and vegetation depend on undisturbed natural areas for food, shelter, and reproduction, often in ways that we humans have not always recognised. Green Sod Ireland, in recognising this interconnectedness and interdependence, of which we are an integral part, is a forerunner in advocating the protection of land for its own sake and the sake of all species.

Green Sod Ireland is protecting land for its own sake and the sake of the species that live on it. Therefore people are asked not to walk on the land as minimising human footfall is crucial to the protection of these precious sites.



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