**Bogs and technology**

Bord na Mona is an Irish government company established in 1946 to exploit the Irish bogs. It uses the peat it harvests to make horticulture products, peat briquettes and uses milled peat for generating electricity. Ferbane is an example of where there is a power station. Bord no Mona was established in the midlands of Ireland, primary due to the presence of a raised bog. A raised bog is found in shallow depressions and can be from 8 to 12 metres deep.

In the past a slean (a square shovel) and a horse and cart were used to harvest peat. This process was slow and laborious and only small amounts could be harvested. With Bord na Mona came modern technology to exploit bogs. The ditcher is used to drains the water off the bogs. This large machine has wide tracks to increase the surface area in contact with the ground. This stops the ditcher from sinking. All tractors and machines have wider tracks and tyres as to stop the machinery sinking. This is important as a bog in its natural state is 90% water.

Milled peat is loose peat. A miller driver around the power and scrapes the top layer of the bog. This top layer (1cm) is rotavated into power, then spread out over the surface of the bog and is dried by the wind and sun. Next a ridger comes and gathers the peat into long narrow ridges where it is cover with plastic until it is transported.

Peat is transported from the bog to the power station use light railways. Bord na Mona has over 1000km of track laid around its bogs in the midlands. To saves an enormous amount of man power and makes it far easier to transport peat.