



# SITE VISIT REPORT

**Purpose of Site Visit:** Westmeath Peat Extraction

**Site Address:** Blyry Lower Bog, Tullycross and Blyry, Athlone, County Westmeath

**Date of Visit:** 12/05/2022

**Times of Visit:** 0945 to 1015

**Visit Criteria:** Peat extraction investigation

**EPA Attendees:** Mick Henry and John Gibbons

**Summary:** The purpose of the visit was to

- i) Ascertain whether peat extraction activities were been carried out on lands at the above address in County Westmeath.
- ii) To determine what activity and the location of the activities been undertaken was carried out at during recent months. The site visit commenced on lands that were the subject of correspondance received by the Agency in April 2022 where extraction of peat on a commercial scale was alleged.

**Findings of site visit of 12/05/2022:** The following was noted during the visit:

- A section of the peatland was being harrowed during the visit.
- A tracked dumper was being filled with milled peat from a large stockpile out on the peatland and was hauling the milled peat to the loading area.
- A number of machines for harvesting peat was noted at the loading area.
- We spoke to the driver of a tractor which was harrowing the peatland and he refused to give us his name. The man asked Mr. Gibbons to speak to [REDACTED] on his phone. [REDACTED] asked Mr. Gibbons to meet with him tomorrow and a meeting was arranged.
- A number of fuel drums and containers were noted at the loading area.

**Report prepared by:** John Gibbons & Mick Henry

**Signed:**

Handwritten signatures of John Gibbons and Mick Henry in blue ink, positioned above horizontal lines.

**Date:**

16/5/22

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## **Appendix 1**

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## **Appendix 2**

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**Photo 1: Machine harrowing peat on the peatland.**

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**Photo 2: Stockpile of milled peat at the loading area.**

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**Photo 3: Fuel drums/containers noted at the loading area.**

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**Photo 4: Tracked dumper and peat harvesting machinery noted at the loading area.**

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**Photo 5: Recently harrowed peat on the peatland.**

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