



SITE VISIT REPORT

Purpose of Site Visit: Westmeath Peat Extraction

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

Date of Visit: 21/07/2022

Times of Visit: 1600 to 1645

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 correspondence received by the Agency in April 2022 where extraction of peat on a commercial scale was alleged.

Findings of site visit of 21/07/2022: The following was noted during the visit:

- It was evident that recent milled peat harvesting at a very significant scale had taken place at the peatland.
- A number of machines for harvesting milled peat were noted to be both working on the peatland and also parked at the loading area.
- Two tracked dumpers were being filled with milled peat from large stockpiles out on the peatland and were hauling the milled peat to the loading area.
- A significant number of large stockpiles of milled peat which were not noted previously on the peatland were evident during this visit.
- We spoke to [REDACTED] and informed him of the need to hold an IPC Licence for the activity.
- [REDACTED] stated that he had 300 articulated loads of milled peat in a very large stockpile at the loading area, with a similar quantity out on the peatland.

Report prepared by: John Gibbons & Mick Henry

Signed:

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

Date:

22/07/22

Appendix 1



Appendix 2



Photo 1: Large stockpile of milled peat on the peatland.



Photo 2: Large stockpile of milled peat at the loading area.



Photo 3: Tracked dumper unloading milled peat on top of the stockpile at the loading area.



Photo 4: Collection of milled peat into stockpiles on the peatland.



Photo 5: Recently harrowed milled peat on the peatland.
