



# SITE VISIT REPORT

**Purpose of Site Visit:** Peat Extraction in Co. Offaly

**Site Address:** Chevychase Bog, Cushina, Portarlinton, County Offaly.

**Date of Visit:** 27/07/2022

**Times of Visit:** 1220 to 1320

**Visit Criteria:** Peat extraction investigation

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

**Organisation:** [REDACTED]

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

- i) Ascertain whether peat extraction activities were been carried out by the above or their agents on lands owned and controlled by the above or their agents in Co Offaly.
- ii) 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.
- iii) The peatlands under investigation are part of a bog complex at the above address.

**Findings of site visit of 27/07/2022:** The following was noted during the visit:

- Peat harvesting machinery (tractors, trailers, ridgers, harrows and peat collecting equipment) was noted on the peatland being worked by [REDACTED].
  - Milled peat had recently been harvested on the peatland.
  - An excavator was in use (draining and clearing tree roots) at the peatland to assist with the harvesting.
  - We spoke to the excavator driver and he informed us that a milled peat harvesting lift was on-going and the milled peat would be lifted to the stockpile in the next few days.
  - A large stockpile (110x20x20 meters approximately) of milled peat was in place and further milled peat was drying on the peatland. This stockpile was significantly larger than had been noted during the previous visit in May 2022.
  - The scale of the activity and the area worked by [REDACTED] is on a commercial scale.
  - Peat harvesting machinery was also noted on adjoining peatlands which forms part of the overall bog complex and which appear to be worked by third parties. There was evidence of recent peat extraction on this area and stockpiles of milled peat was also noted.
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**Report prepared  
by:**

John Gibbons &  
Mick Henry

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**Signed:**

*John Gibbons*  
*M. Henry*

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**Date:**

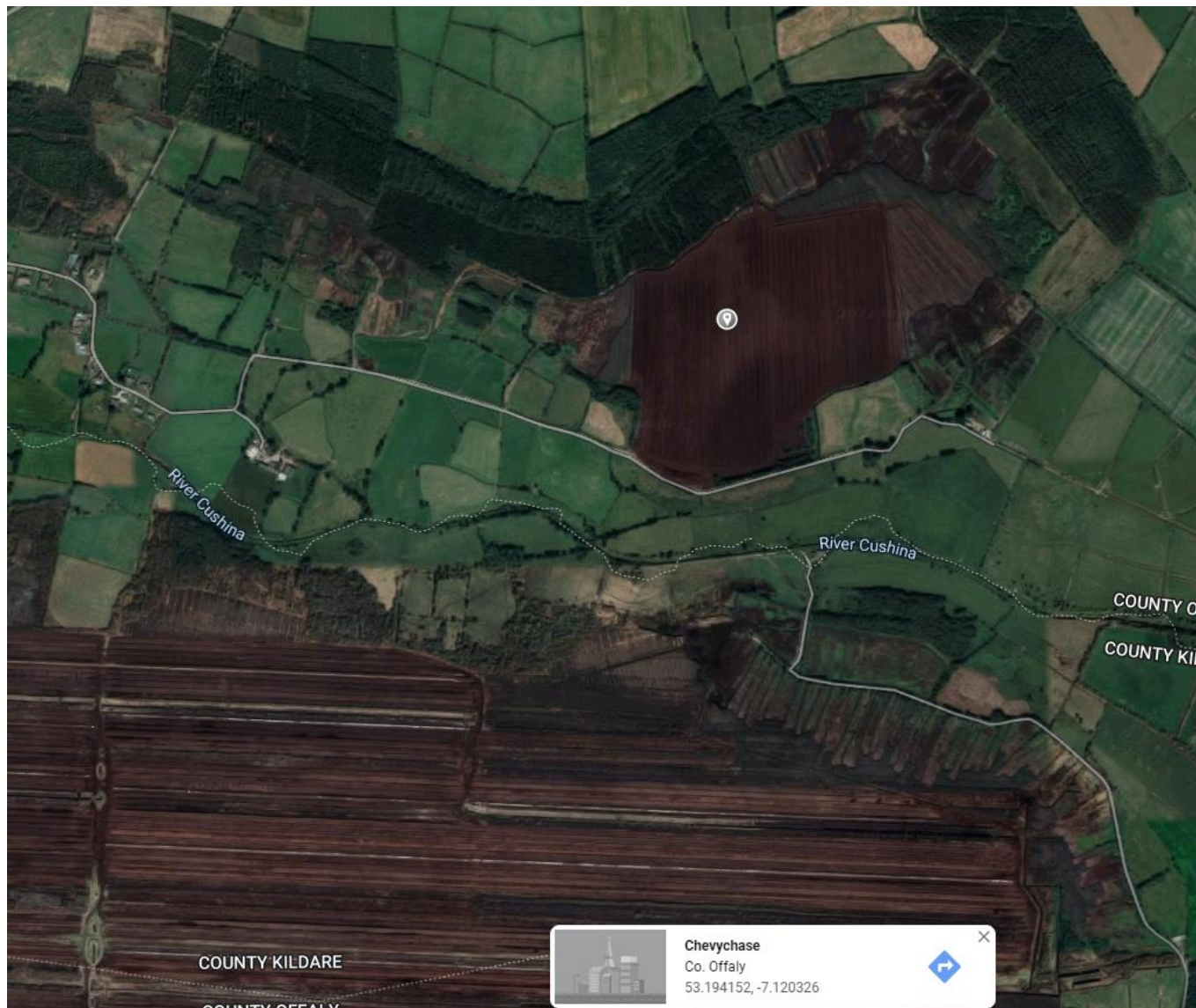
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## **Appendix 1**

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## **Appendix 2**

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**Photo 1: Peat harvesting machinery noted on [REDACTED] peatland.**

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**Photo 2: Peat harvesting machinery noted on [REDACTED] peatland.**

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**Photo 3: Recently harvested milled peat noted on [REDACTED] peatland.**

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**Photo 4: Large stockpile of milled peat noted on [REDACTED] peatland.**

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**Photo 5: Stockpile of milled peat noted on adjoining peatland within the bog complex.**

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**Photo 6: Peat harvesting machinery noted on adjoining peatland within the bog complex.**

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**Photo 7: Peat harvesting machinery noted on adjoining peatland within the bog complex.**

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