



SITE VISIT REPORT

Purpose of Site Visit: Peat Extraction in Co. Offaly

Site Address: Oldcroghan Bog, Green lane, County Offaly

Date of Visit: 12/05/2022

Times of Visit: 1100 to 1215

Visit Criteria: Peat extraction investigation

EPA Attendees: Mick Henry and John Gibbons

Organisation: To be confirmed

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 Oldcroghan, Green Lane, Co Offaly.
- 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 container lorry was being loaded with large sod peat at the loading area.
- Machinery for handling and loading peat was noted to be moving sod peat from a stockpile out on the peatland to a headland area near an entrance to the peatland. (see Appendix 2 photographs).
- Large sod peat was noted out on the peatland for further drying.
- A significant number of milled peat harvesting machines and equipment for milling peat were noted parked on the peatland.
- At the southern end of the bog a large stockpile of milled peat was noted at a loading area and milled peat machinery and equipment was noted in this area also.
- The scale of the activity and the area involved is on a commercial scale.
- We spoke to a man who was loading a container with sod peat at the loading area and we asked him who worked the peat in the area. The man declined to answer but said a [REDACTED] was his employer and he would pass on our details to him. [REDACTED] contacted Inspector Henry following the visit and requested a meeting with the EPA.

Report prepared by: John Gibbons & Mick Henry

Signed:

John Gibbons

M. Henry

Date:

16/05/22

Appendix 1



Appendix 2



Photo 1: Sod peat and milled peat areas noted on the peatland.



Photo 2: Milled peat machinery and equipment noted on the peatland.



Photo 3: Loading of sod peat onto container for export at loading area.



Photo 4: Newly constructed roadway into the peatland.



Photo 5: Large stockpile of milled peat noted at southern end of the peatland.
