



SITE VISIT REPORT

Purpose of Site Visit:	Peat Extraction in Co. Offaly
Site Address:	Oldcroghan Bog, Green lane, County Offaly
Date of Visit:	27/07/2022
Times of Visit:	1500 to 1520
Visit Criteria:	Peat extraction investigation
EPA Attendees:	Mick Henry and John Gibbons
Organisation:	Wright Peat Ltd, Bulrush Peat Ltd, Stom Barra Ltd

Summary:

- i) The purpose of the visit was to ascertain whether peat extraction activities were being 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 where it is considered that there are a number of different entities involved in peat extraction.
- iv) It is considered that peat extraction is being carried out on an area greater than the 50 hectares threshold and therefore requires an IPC Licence from the Agency.

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

- A number of milled peat harvesting machines and equipment for milling peat were noted to be working and also parked on the peatland.
 - At the northern end of the bog a large stockpile of milled peat (100 x 30 x 20 metres approximately) was noted at a loading area and milled peat machinery and equipment was noted in this area also.
 - A stockpile of milled and sod peat was noted at the loading area adjacent to the public roadway at the western boundary of the peatland.
 - Sod peat extraction/harvesting activity had significantly reduced since earlier visits in 2022. On the other hand, it was noted that milled peat extraction/harvesting activity had significantly increased and was on-going during the visit.
 - It is evident that a number of parties are involved in peat extraction on peatlands within the bog complex at this location.
 - The scale of the activity and the area involved is on a commercial scale. It is considered that peat extraction is being carried out on an area greater than the 50 hectares threshold and therefore requires an IPC Licence from the Agency.
-

**Report prepared
by:**

John Gibbons &
Mick Henry

Signed:

John Gibbons
M. Henry

Date:

11/08/22

Appendix 1



Appendix 2



Photo 1: Two tractors with peat harvesting machinery noted to be working on the peatland.



Photo 2: Stockpiles of milled peat and sod peat adjacent to the public road noted on the peatland.



Photo 3: Large stockpile of milled peat noted at northern end of the peatland.



Photo 4: Large stockpile of milled peat at the northern end of the peatland.
