



SITE VISIT REPORT

Purpose of Site Visit:	Peat Extraction on bogs in Co. Sligo
Site Address:	Monasteradeen Co Sligo
Date of Visit:	29/04/2022
Times of Visit:	1230 to 1340
Visit Criteria:	Peat extraction investigation
EPA Attendees:	Mick Henry and John Gibbons
Organisation	Abbeylara Peat Ltd and/or its agents

Summary: The purpose of the visits was to

- i) Ascertain whether peat extraction activities were been carried out by Abbeylara Peat or its agents on lands owned and controlled by Abbeylara Peat or its agents in Co Sligo.
- ii) To determine what location the activities undertaken by the company or its agents was carried out at during recent months. The visit was carried out as a follow-up to a complaint received by the Agency. The site visit commenced on lands where excavation, turning and stockpiling of sodpeat following extraction activity was noted previously.

Findings of site visit of 29/04/2022: The following was noted during the visit:

- Peat excavation machinery was noted on the bog (Appendix 1) at the Annaghbeg townland, Monasteraden, Co. Sligo where sod peat was being dug up during the visit and left on the bog for drying.
 - Machinery and equipment for peat harvesting (e.g. excavator with sod peat attachment, loader, three tractors with dumper trailers) were noted at this location (see Appendix 2 photographs).
 - Extensive excavation of sod peat had been undertaken recently and we spoke to the excavator driver and he stated that he was carrying out the work for [REDACTED]
 - We spoke to [REDACTED] by phone and outlined the purpose of our visit. We informed him that his activities at this location were unauthorised and that he needs to address this issue as a matter of urgency. We also asked [REDACTED] to contact Sligo County Council in relation to the ongoing excavation of peat at this location.
 - A significant proportion of the peatland was covered in sod peat which was recently excavated.
-

-
- Five men were noted to be turning the excavated sod peat on the bog.

**Report prepared
by:**

John Gibbons &
Mick Henry

Signed:

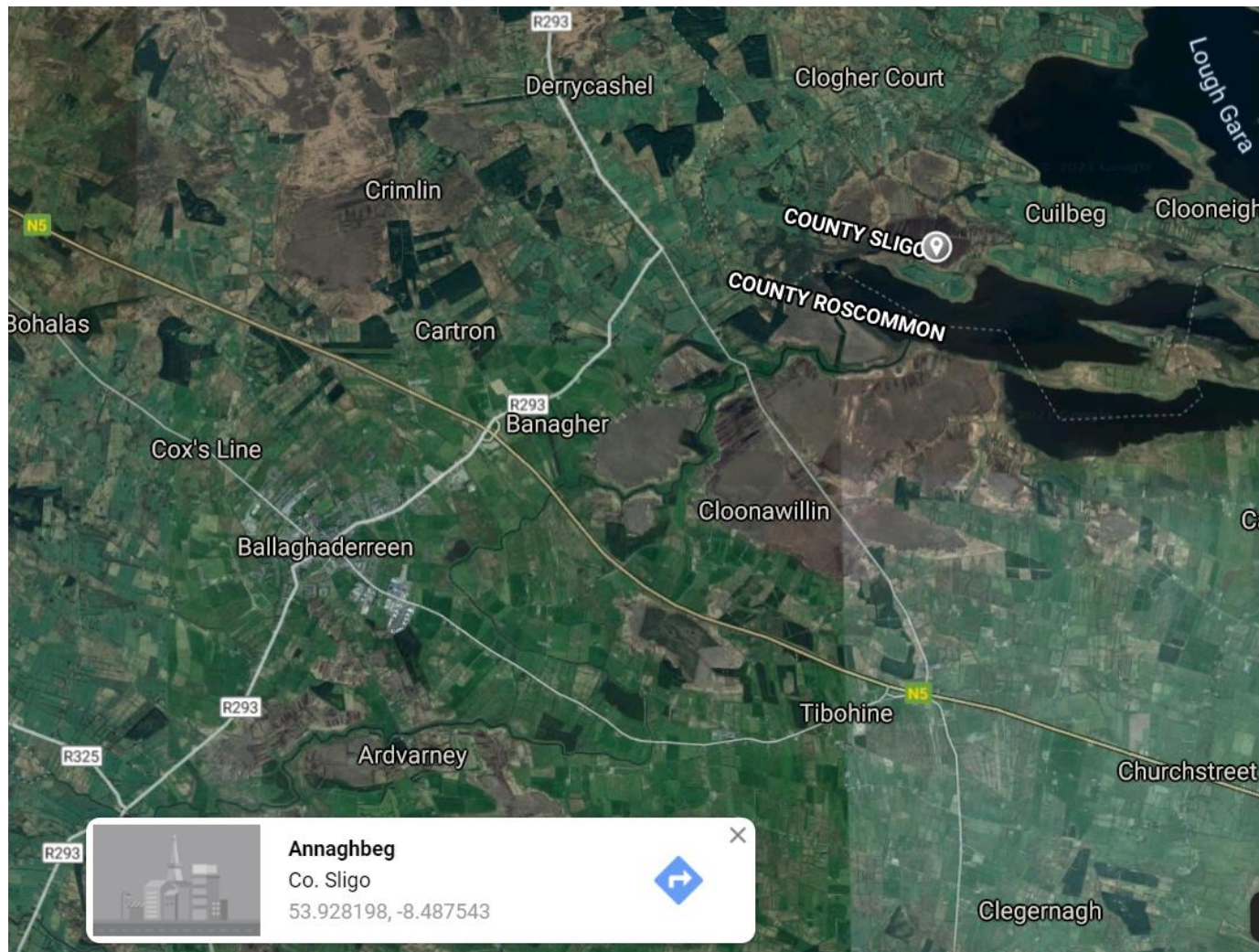
John Gibbons

M. Henry

Date:

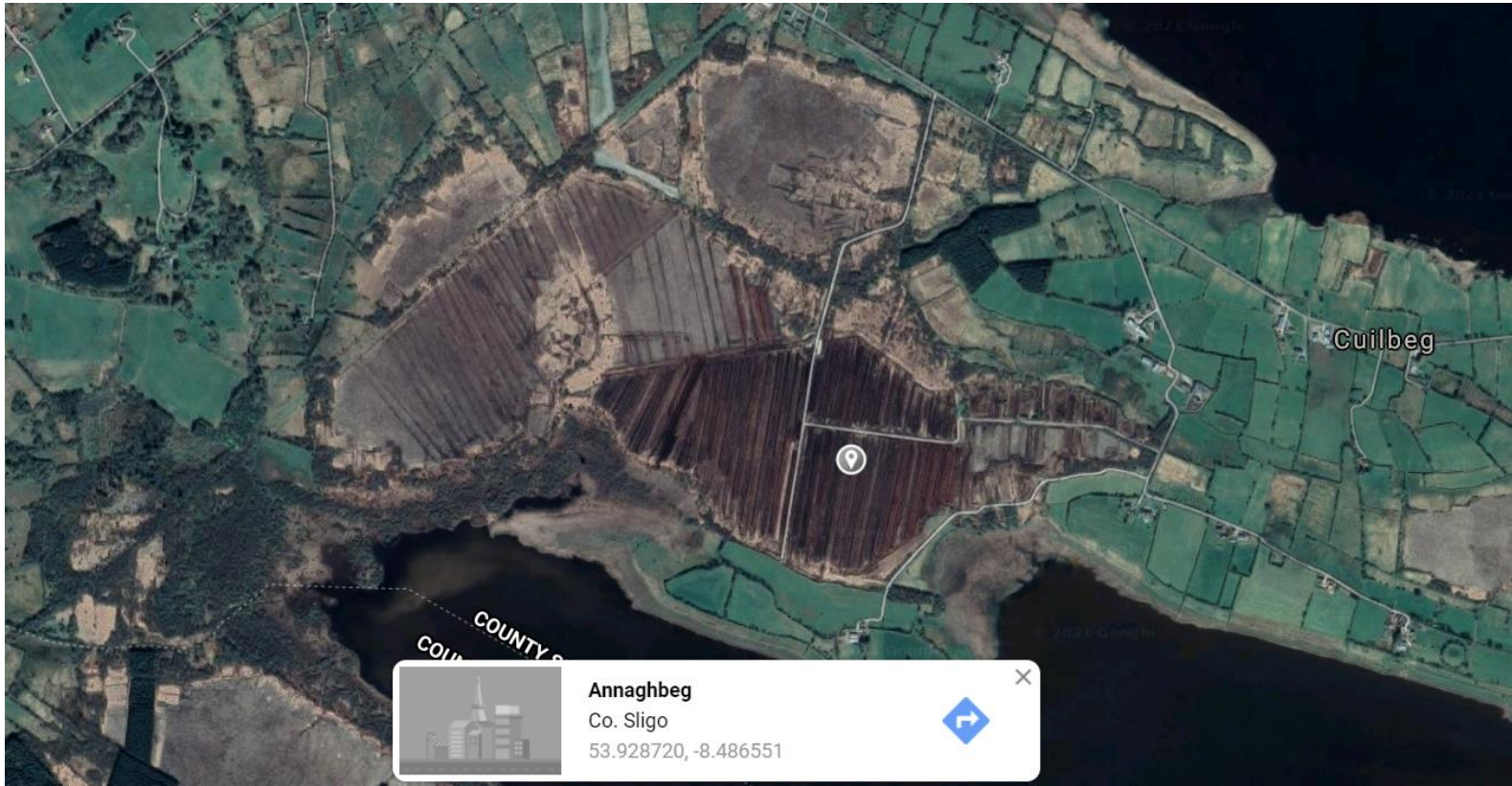
04/05/2022

Appendix 1



 **Annaghbeg**
Co. Sligo
53.928198, -8.487543





Appendix 2



Photo 1: Sod peat excavation noted to be ongoing during the visit .



Photo 2: Recently excavated sod peat noted on bog.



Photo 3: Peat harvesting equipment noted on bog.



Photo 4: Peat harvesting equipment noted on bog.



Photo 5: Sod peat left out and turned for drying noted on the bog.
