



SITE VISIT REPORT

Purpose of Site Visit:	Peat Extraction on bogs in Co. Longford
Site Address:	Annaghcooleen, Co. Longford
Date of Visit:	13/01/2023
Times of Visit:	10.45 to 11.15
Visit Criteria:	Peat extraction investigation
EPA Attendee:	Mick Henry and John Gibbons

Summary: The purpose of the visit was to

- i) Ascertain whether peat extraction activities were been carried out by one or more parties at the above address in Co Longford.
- ii) The site visit commenced on lands where excavation, turning, stockpiling and removal of sodpeat following extraction activity was noted previously by the EPA during 2022.
- iii) Peat drainage and extraction has been identified as a significant pressure in the Rinn river waterbody at Annaghcooleen County Longford (Ref. 3rd Cycle Draft Upper “Shannon Catchment Report (HA 26C)). In particular Section 5.1.1.4 of this report states:

“Peat drainage and extraction has been identified as a significant pressure in five river waterbodies (Annaghcooleen_010, Shannon (Upper)_100, Feorish (Tarmonbarry)_010, (Feorish (Tarmonbarry)_020, Curraghroe Stream_010) and one lake waterbody (Forbes). Eutrophication, likely from elevated nutrient concentrations, and sediment impacting habitat quality are the significant issues”.

Findings of site visit of 13/01/2023: The following was noted during the visit:

- Excavated sod peat was noted to have been recently dug up and left on the bog for drying at the Annaghcooleen townland, Co Longford (Appendix 1,2&3). A significant number of rows of large sod peat were noted on the bog.
 - The excavation of large sod peat was ongoing during the visit and an excavator (with the large sod peat attachment) which was excavating large sod peat was noted to be working during the visit.
 - The excavator had Derrymore Peat Ltd logo displayed on the arm of the excavator and on the rear of the excavator.
 - The EPA inspectors informed the driver of the excavator of the reason for the visit but he declined to provide any information.
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**Report prepared
by:**

Mick Henry
John Gibbons

Signed:

John Gibbons
M. Henry

Date:

16/01/2023

Appendix 1



Appendix 2

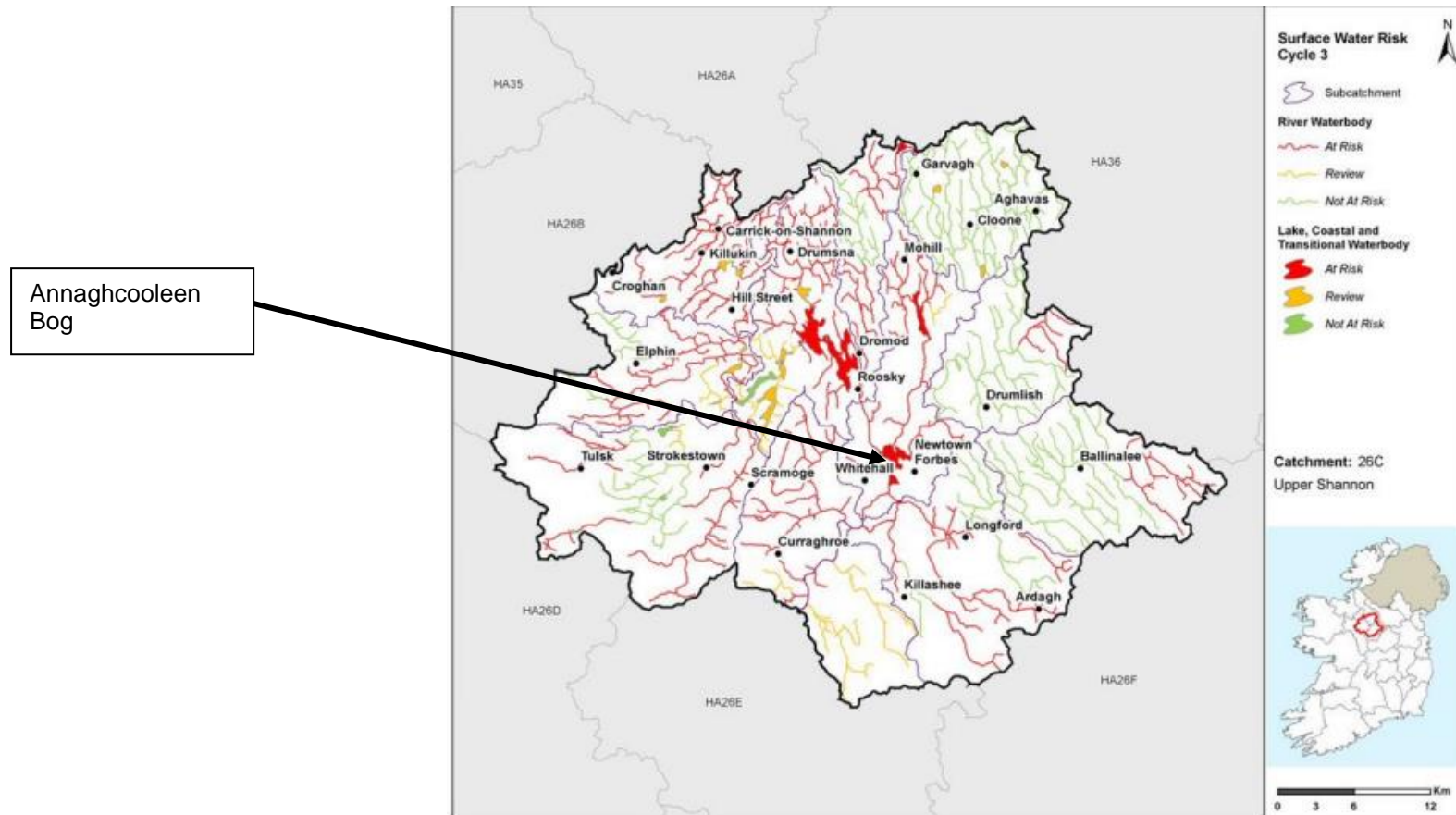


Figure 1: Map showing the location of Annaghcooleen Bog in the Upper Shannon Catchment.

Appendix 3



Photo 1: Recently excavated sod peat left out to dry on the peatland.



Photo 2: Excavator with large sod peat attachment noted on the peatland.



Photo 3: Excavator with Derrymore Peat Ltd logo noted on the peatland.



Photo 4: Drainage works in preparation for excavation noted on the peatland.
