



# SITE VISIT REPORT

**Purpose of Site Visit:** Westmeath Peat Extraction

**Site Address:** Baltrsana Bog, Greatdown, Larkfield, Mullingar, County Westmeath

**Date of Visit:** 03/02/2022

**Times of Visit:** 14.15 pm to 15.15 pm

**Visit Criteria:** Peat extraction investigation

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

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

- i) Ascertain whether peat extraction activities were been carried out on lands at Greatdown, Larkfield, County Westmeath.
- 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 January 2022 where extraction of peat on a commercial scale was alleged.

**Findings of site visit of 03/02/2022:** The following was noted during the visit:

- Peat extraction machinery was noted in the area (Appendix 1) at Greatdown townland where the peat had been dug up (large sods), stockpiled in rows prior to being removed to a loading area.
- Three excavators, three tracked dumpers and one tractor with an escalator for loading peat were noted (see Appendix 2 photographs).
- Purpose built roads were in place across the bog.
- Drainage works and settlement ponds were noted.
- Two excavator attachments for sod peat extraction were noted.
- No peat harvesting activity was taking place in the area during the visit although it was evident that significant peat extraction had taken place recently.
- It is considered that the rate of peat extraction in the area was intensive and at a commercial scale.

**Report prepared by:** John Gibbons & Mick Henry

**Signed:**

**Date:**

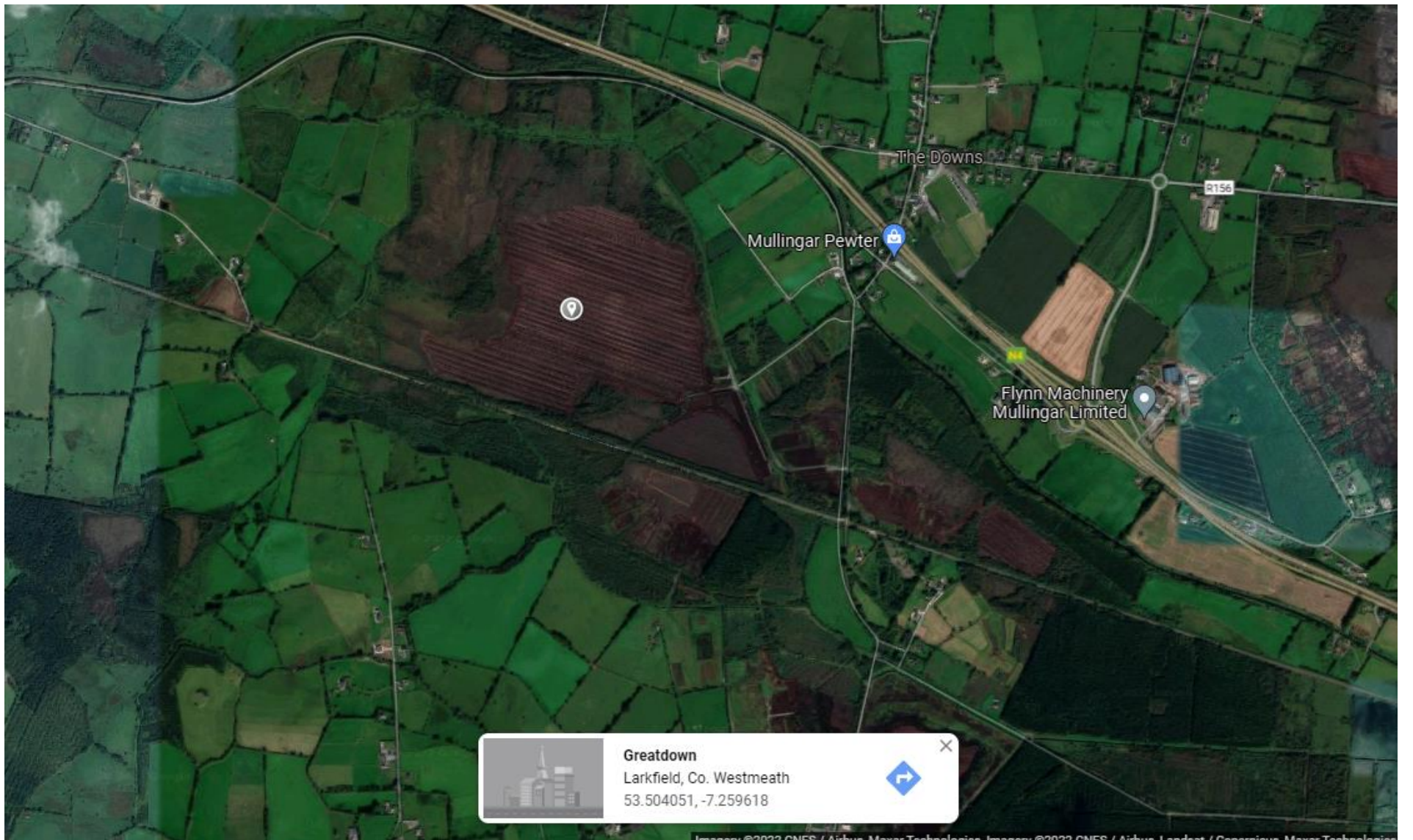
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## **Appendix 1**

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 **Greatdown**  
Larkfield, Co. Westmeath  
53.504051, -7.259618 

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## **Appendix 2**

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**Photo 1: Excavator noted on the peatland with sod peat collector attached.**

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**Photo 2: Excavator noted on the peatland with sod peat collector attached.**

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**Photo 3: Covered rows of large sod peat noted.**

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**Photo 4: Recent activity noted on peatland.**

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**Photo 5: Silt pond for collection of surface water.**

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**Photo 6: Purpose built roadway at loading area.**

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**Photo 7: Tracked dumper containing sod peat and escalator for loading peat.**

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**Photo 8: Excavator attachments for sod peat extraction.**

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