



# SITE VISIT REPORT

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

**Site Address:** Blyry Lower Bog, Tullycross and Blyry, Athlone, County Westmeath

**Date of Visit:** 05/05/2022

**Times of Visit:** 1445 to 1600

**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 the above address in 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 April 2022 where extraction of peat on a commercial scale was alleged.

**Findings of site visit of 05/05/2022:** The following was noted during the visit:

- Peat harvesting machinery and equipment for milled peat extraction were noted. A tracked dumper was noted to be hauling milled peat from a large stockpile out on the peatland to a loading area near an entrance to the peatland (Appendix 2 photographs).
- Milled peat harvesting activity had recently taken place and machinery for milling peat were noted parked on the peatland.
- The scale of the activity and the area involved is on a commercial scale.

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

**Signed:**

Handwritten signatures of John Gibbons and Mick Henry in blue ink, positioned above a horizontal line.

**Date:**

09/05/22

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## **Appendix 1**

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## **Appendix 2**

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**Photo 1: Stockpiles of milled peat awaiting collection and haulage to the loading area.**

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**Photo 2: Recently tilled peat on peatland.**

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**Photo 3: Significant stockpile of milled peat on the peatland.**

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