



SITE VISIT REPORT

Purpose of Site Visit:	Westmeath Peat Extraction
Site Address:	Milltownpass Townland, County Westmeath
Date of Visit:	12/04/23
Times of Visit:	1150 to 1235
Visit Criteria:	Peat extraction investigation
EPA Attendees:	Mick Henry and John Gibbons
Organisation	To be confirmed

Summary: The purpose of the visits was to:

- i) Ascertain the nature and extent of peat extraction activities which were being carried out at the above address.

Findings of site visit of 12/04/23: The following was noted during the visit:

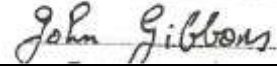
- A large stockpile of milled peat was noted along a public roadway namely L1007, Pass of Kilbride, North of Milltownpass County Westmeath.
 - The area is adjacent to and east of the Milltownpass bog NHA (Code 002323).
 - A significant area of peatland (>30 Hectares) had been worked by the milling of peat.
 - Excavations to greater than 3 Meter's were noted below the adjacent public roadway and the excavations were estimated to have taken place across the worked area.
 - A JCB loader/excavator was noted on top of the stockpile.
 - No peat extraction activity was noted at the time of the vist.
 - Machinery associated with peat extraction was noted (excavator, grader) for peat extraction.
 - The area where peat extraction had taken place is part of a larger bog complex that includes the Milltownpass bog NHA.
 - The Site synopsis for the NHA (Ref: NPWS site code 002323) states: "Damaging activities associated with these landuses include scrub clearance and drainage at the margins of the high bog. These activities have resulted in the loss of habitat, damage to the hydrological status of the site, and pose a continuing threat to its viability. Milltownpass Bog NHA is a site of considerable conservation significance comprising as it does a raised bog, a rare habitat in the E.U. and one that is becoming increasingly scarce and under threat in Ireland." The synopsis also refers to commercial peat harvesting east of the NHA.
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**Report prepared
by:**

Mick Henry &
John Gibbons

Signed:





Date:

17/4/2023

Appendix 1



Appendix 2





Photo 1: Large scale commercial peat extraction noted at Milltownpass Bog



Photo 2: Excavator noted on the large stockpile of milled peat at the loading area adjacent to the public road



Photo 3: Machinery associated with peat extraction noted on the peatland.
