



SITE VISIT REPORT

Purpose of Site Visit: Peat Extraction in Co. Offaly

Site Address: Oldcroghan Bog, Green lane, County Offaly

Date of Visit: 01/08/2023

Times of Visit: 10:45 to 11:30

Visit Criteria: Peat extraction investigation

EPA Attendees: Mick Henry and Kealan Reynolds

Organisation: Wright Peat Ltd, Bulrush Peat Ltd, Nippy Peat Ltd, Stom Barra Ltd

Summary:

- i) The purpose of the visit was to ascertain whether peat extraction activities were been carried out by the above or their agents on lands owned and controlled by the above or their agents in Co Offaly.
- ii) The site visit commenced on lands that were the subject of correspondence received by the Agency in April 2022 where extraction of peat on a commercial scale was alleged.
- iii) The peatlands under investigation are part of a bog complex at the above address where it is considered that there are a number of different entities involved in peat extraction.

Findings of site visit of 01/08/2023: The following was noted during the visit:

- At the northern end of the bog a large stockpile of milled peat was noted at the loading area. Milled peat machinery and equipment was noted adjacent to this area also.
- It was noted that milled peat extraction/harvesting activity had recently taken place on the southern part of the peatland. This was not evident during the previous visit in May 2023. The milled peat was ridged in some rows and in others it was evident that the peat was milled and harrowed and left on the peatland.
- Significant quantities of water were noted throughout the peatland.
- Covered stockpiles of milled peat were noted to be still present at the southern section of the peatland.
- No peat extraction was noted to be taking place during the visit.

Report prepared by: Mick Henry & Kealan Reynolds

Signed:

Handwritten signature of Mick Henry in blue ink.

Handwritten signature of Kealan Reynolds in blue ink.

Date:

04/08/23

Appendix 1



Appendix 2



Photo 1: Recent milled peat extraction and harvesting noted on the Southern section of the peatland – Note ridges of milled peat in some rows.



Photo 2: Covered stockpiles of milled peat in the distance at the southern end of the peatland.



Photo 3: Machinery/equipment for peat extraction and stockpile of milled peat noted at the northern end of the peatland.
