



# SITE VISIT REPORT

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| <b>Purpose of Site Visit:</b> | <b>Peat Extraction on bogs in Co. Westmeath</b>  |
| <b>Site Address:</b>          | Ballymaglavy, Abbeysrule Co Westmeath  |
| <b>Date of Visit:</b>         | 05/03/2024   |
| <b>Times of Visit:</b>        | 13:10 to 14:25   |
| <b>Visit Criteria:</b>        | Peat extraction investigation  |
| <b>EPA Attendees:</b>         | Mick Henry & Kealan Reynolds   |
| <b>Organisation</b>           | Derrymore Peat Ltd [REDACTED], Midland Turf, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and/or its agents |

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

- i) Ascertain whether peat extraction activities were being carried out by one or more parties at the above address in Co Westmeath.
- ii) The site visit commenced on lands where excavation, turning and stockpiling of sodpeat following extraction activity was noted.

**Findings of site visit of 05/03/2024:** The following was noted during the visit:

- Aerial footage and photos were taken by EPA inspectors.
  - No peat excavation was noted to be taking place on the Western Section of the peatland during the visit.
  - Large sod peat was noted to be recently extracted on a significant part of the Western Section and left on the peatland for drying.
  - An excavator with an attachment for excavating large sod peat was noted to be parked on the Western Section of the peatland. A bucket for attaching to an excavator for collecting large sod peat was present also here.
  - There were eleven plots/banks at the Southern tip of the Western Section which had no large sod peat on it.
  - Large sod peat was being collected from the Eastern Section of the peatland and transported to the loading area there.
  - Four excavators were noted to be present on the Eastern Section along with a number of dumpers for collecting the peat. A conveyor for loading lorries was also present.
  - We spoke to a man and informed him of the purpose of our visit. The man said he worked for a [REDACTED].
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**Report prepared  
by:**

Mick Henry &  
Kealan Reynolds

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**Signed:**



**Date:**

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22/03/24

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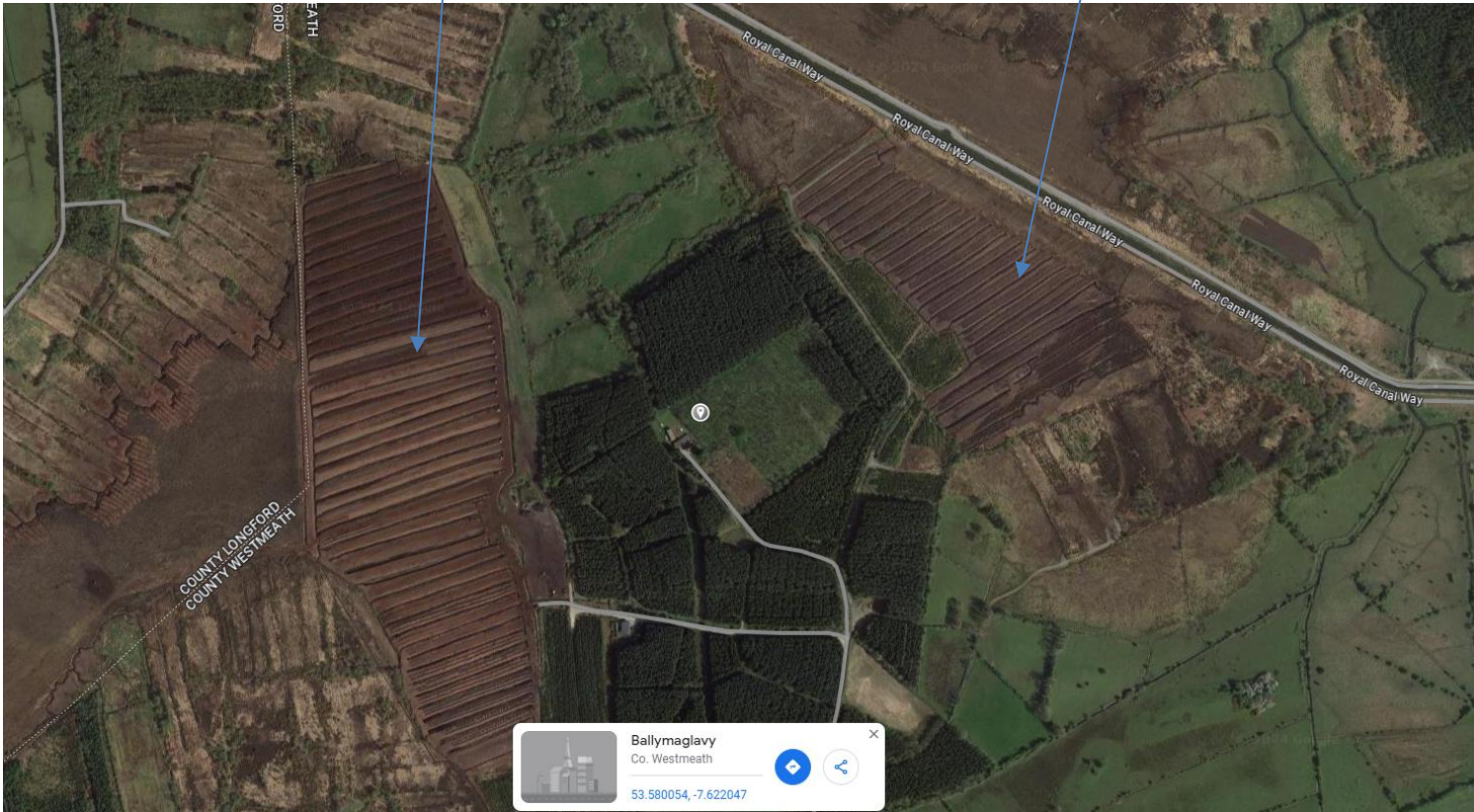
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## **Appendix 1**

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Western section

Eastern section



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## **Appendix 2**

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**Photo 1 : Large sod peat which was excavated and left to dry on the Western Section of the peatland.**

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**Photo 2 : Section of peatland at the Southern tip of the Western Section where no large sod peat was excavated and left to dry – Note excavator present.**

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**Photo 3 : Excavator with attachment for large sod peat extraction noted at the Western Section of the peatland.**

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**Photo 4 : Excavator with 'Derrymore Peat Ltd' noted at the Western Section of the peatland.**

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**Photo 6: Removal of large sod peat from the Eastern Section of the peatland noted to be ongoing during the visit.**

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**Photo 6: Removal of large sod peat from Eastern Section of the peatland noted to be ongoing during the visit.**

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**Photo 7: Photo showing large sod peat which was collected from Eastern Section of the peatland being transported to the loading area.**

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