

25 Oct 2024

Commercial Peat Extraction within County Longford

Clooniher & Annaghcooleen Bogs

Description

In accordance with the County wide enforcement plan, an investigation has been commenced as follows:

Site inspections were carried out on 29 July 2023 and 6 Oct 2024:

The investigation having regard to the following directives.

Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended).

The Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC, as amended)

The Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC, as amended), the Local Government Water Pollution Act 1977 & 1990 and

The Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 in respect of unauthorised commercial peat extraction.

The following was noted:

Sod peat was harvested in this bog in the summer 2023, the area of the worked section of bog is approximately 13 acres of the bog. It is understood this work was carried out by Derrymore Peat Ltd on behalf of an unknown third party.

The Bogs at Annaghcooleen falls within Natural Heritage Area (**Rinn River NHA**) and is within 1 Km of Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation (**Lough Forbes Complex SAC & SPA**).

Due to the Bogs close proximity to the above listed Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation it is considered exemption due the area being under the threshold of 30 ha does not apply without further justification in the form of an Environmental Impact Assessment.

Proposed Action:

Planning Enforcement action was commenced on the basis that the required Environmental Impact Assessment was not in place.

Timeframes for Enforcement:

A Warning letter in accordance with section 152 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) shall be issued to Derrymore Peat Limited by 31 October 2024.

A decision on Enforcement shall be made within 12 weeks of the date of Warning Letter ie by 31st Jan 2025

An Enforcement Notice in accordance with section 154 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) shall be issued within two weeks of the decision to enforce.

Prosecution of Offences (summary) shall be commenced within 6 months of the date of offence.



Mà scríobhann tú chugainn as Gaeilge, freagróimid tú i nGaeilge.