

Enforcement Report UNA 2024 -71

Name of Referring Party:	Environmental Protection Agency
Location of Alleged Breach:	Cloonihier & Annaghcooleen Bog
Description of Alleged Breach by referring party:	Unauthorised Extraction of peat
Date Complaint Received:	Jun 23
Date of Inspection:	29 July 23 & 3 Oct 24

Description of Site conditions and Breach

This report arises from a complaint from the EPA and is regarding possible unauthorised Commercial Peat Extraction on Clooniher and Annaghcooleen Bogs at Bornacoola Co Longford.

Planning History

None

Site Ownership

Two small plots of approx 0.5 ha are registered to the following
[REDACTED] of Lot 3 and 3A, [REDACTED].
[REDACTED] C/O HANNAN & CONNELLAN SOLICITORS, LONGFORD.
The remaining area is not registered on Land registry.

Assessment

A site inspection was carried out on 29 July 2023 and 3 Oct 2024:

The following was noted:

Sod peat was harvested in this bog in the summer 2023, however 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.

This area falls below the threshold area of 30 ha.

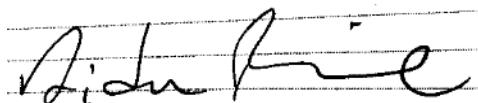
The Bog at Annaghcooleen falls within Natural Heritage Area (Rinn River NHA) and is within 1 Km of Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation (Lough Forbes Complex SAC & SPA).

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

Recommendation

It is recommended a Warning Letter in accordance with section 152 of the Planning & Development Act (as amended) be issued to the Operator, [REDACTED] of Derrymore Peat Ltd, Cloncaufield, Moydow Co Longford.

In relation to Unauthorised Commercial Peat Extraction at Coloniher & Annaghclleen Bogs, Bornacoola, Co Longford



Date: 1 Nov 24 2024

Planning Enforcement Officer
Aiden Beirne



Date 19 Nov 2024

Louise Kiernan
Senior Planner

