



SITE VISIT REPORT

Purpose of Site Visit: Offaly Peat Extraction

Site Address: Ballykileen Bog, Clara County Offaly

Date of Visit: 25/03/2022

Times of Visit: 1530 to 1600

Visit Criteria: Peat extraction investigation

EPA Attendees: Mick Henry and John Gibbons

Summary: The purpose of the visit was to

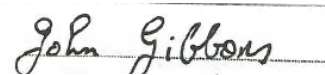
- i) Ascertain whether peat extraction activities were been carried out on lands at Ballykileen bog Clara County Offaly.
- ii) To determine what activity and the location of the activities been undertaken was carried out at during recent months. The site visit commenced on lands that were the subject of correspondence received by the Agency where extraction of peat on a commercial scale was alleged.

Findings of site visit of 25/03/2022: The following was noted during the visit:

- Peat extraction machinery was noted in the area (Appendix 1) at Ballykileen townland where the peat had been dug up (large sods), stockpiled in rows prior to being removed to a loading area.
- No activity was noted during the visit (see Appendix 2 photographs).
- It was evident that significant peat extraction had taken place recently. Recent sod peat excavation was noted over a large area. Some rows of sod peat were uncovered and other rows were covered with plastic.
- A hardstanding area had been recently constructed with C&D fill between the loading area and the entrance to the peatland.
- It is considered that the rate of peat extraction in the area was intensive and at a commercial scale.

Report prepared by: John Gibbons & Mick Henry

Signed:




Date:

28/03/22

Appendix 1



Appendix 2



Photo 1: Recently excavated sod peat noted on the peatland.



Photo 2: Significant area of sod peat left on peatland to dry with excavator in distant background.



Photo 3: Recently constructed hardstanding with C&D fill noted.
