



SITE VISIT REPORT

Purpose of Site Visit: Offaly Peat Extraction

Site Address: Ballykileen Bog, Clara County Offaly

Date of Visit: 13/04/2022

Times of Visit: 1200 to 1245

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 13/04/2022: 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.
- Two excavators, two tracked dumpers and one tractor with an escalator for loading peat were noted (see Appendix 2 photographs).
- A stockpile of sod peat (large and small sods) noted.
- Recently cut sod peat noted on the eastern side of the site.
- Recently cleared banks also noted.
- No peat excavation activity noted during the visit

We rang [REDACTED] who said he was on the bog repairing a digger. He came and met us and we discussed the activity on the peatland.

[REDACTED] said he would engage with the EPA and that he wanted to operate within the law.

Report prepared by: John Gibbons & Mick Henry

Signed:

Date:

19/04/2022

Appendix 1



Appendix 2



Photo 1: Recently collected stockpile of large sods noted on the bog.



Photo 2: Escalator and tractor noted on the peatland for sod peat loading.



Photo 3: Area recently cleared of sod peat
