



SITE VISIT REPORT

Purpose of Site Visit: Offaly Peat Extraction

Site Address: Ballykileen Bog, Clara County Offaly

Date of Visit: 30/03/2022

Times of Visit: 1130 to 1200

Visit Criteria: Peat extraction investigation

EPA Attendees: Mick Henry and John Gibbons

Summary: The purpose of the visit was to

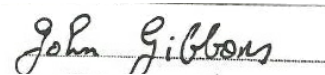
- i) Ascertain whether peat extraction activities were been carried out on lands at Ballykileen bog Clara County Offaly.
- ii) To determine what activity and the location of the activities been undertaken was carried out at during recent months. The site visit commenced on lands that were the subject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

Findings of site visit of 30/03/2022: 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 and was now being loaded onto lorries for export.
- A number of peat extraction and harvesting machines and equipment was noted (excavators, sod peat cutting attachment, tracked dumpers, tractor, escalator for loading peat) (Appendix 2 photographs).
- Peat rows were been uncovered and prepared for removal off-site. Recent peat harvesting activity had taken place in the area and was ongoing during the visit.
- It was evident that significant peat extraction had taken place recently.
- 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:

4/4/22

Appendix 1



Appendix 2



Photo 1: Loading of sod peat on to lorries for export off-site.



Photo 2: Attachment for excavating sod peat noted on the peatland.



Photo 3: Recently excavated sod peat left to dry on the peatland.



Photo 4: Sod peat handling and loading at the loading area.
