

SITE VISIT REPORT

Purpose of Site Visit: Longford/Westmeath Unlicensed Peat Extraction

Site Address: Kilsallagh, Lissanure, Derrydooan Lower, Newpass, Aghnavealogue Townlands County Longford/Westmeath.

Date of Visit: 20/05/2022

Times of Visits: 10:20 to 11:15

Visit Criteria: Peat extraction investigation

Attendees: Mick Henry and John Gibbons (EPA)
Bernard Shea and Aidan Beirne (Longford Co Co)

Organisation [REDACTED] its agents or associated companies

Summary: The purpose of the visit was to

- 1.) Ascertain whether peat extraction activities were being carried out by [REDACTED], its agents or associated companies on lands owned, controlled or associated with [REDACTED], its agents or associated companies which are included in a written undertaking between the EPA and [REDACTED] (dated 20th July 2021).
- 2.) To determine what location the activities undertaken by the companies or its agents was carried out at during recent months. The site visit commenced on lands (Area 4) where sod peat had been excavated and stockpiling of peat following milling and digging extraction activity was previously noted.
- 3.) During the visit, the EPA were accompanied by planning officers from Longford Co. Co.

Findings of site visit of 20/05/2022: The following was noted during this visit:

- 1.) We went to an area of peatland at the Co. Longford section of Area 4 and noted that sod peat extraction activity was taking place. A number of new rows of sod peat which were not previously noted during the EPA visit on 17/5/22 were present on this occasion.
 - 2.) One excavator was noted with an attachment for sod peat extraction and was excavating peat on arrival at the peatland. The excavator stopped working shortly after our arrival.
 - 3.) The driver drove the excavator from the area where the sod peat was being excavated (Co. Longford) into the area of the peatland in Co. Westmeath (owned by [REDACTED]) and parked it there.
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- 4.) When asked by EPA inspectors, the driver stated he did not wish to speak to us and he said to speak to [REDACTED]. The driver stated that he was employed by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] owned the excavator.
- 5.) It was noted that a layer of milled peat was present on some of the areas within the milled peat section of the peatland (Co. Westmeath) at Area 4.

**Report prepared
by:**

John Gibbons &
Mick Henry

Signed:




Date:

20/05/22

Appendix 1



Appendix 2



Photo 1: Plot (No.9) where sod peat was being excavated at Area 4 (Co. Longford) on arrival at the peatland.



Photo 2: Recently excavated sod peat (Co. Longford) at Area 4.



Photo 3: Sod peat excavator leaving the area of the peatland (Area 4) where sod peat was being excavated (Co. Longford) before entering the Co. Westmeath (■■■■■) section of the peatland.



Photo 4: A layer of milled peat was present on some of the areas within the milled peat section of the peatland (Co. Westmeath) at Area 4.
