

SITE VISIT REPORT

Purpose of Site Visit: Peat Extraction on bogs in Co. Westmeath

Site Address: Ballymaglavy, Abbeyshrule Co Westmeath

Date of Visit: 05/03/2024

Times of Visit: 13:10 to 14:25

Visit Criteria: Peat extraction investigation

EPA Attendees: Mick Henry & Kealan Reynolds

Organisation

and/or its agents

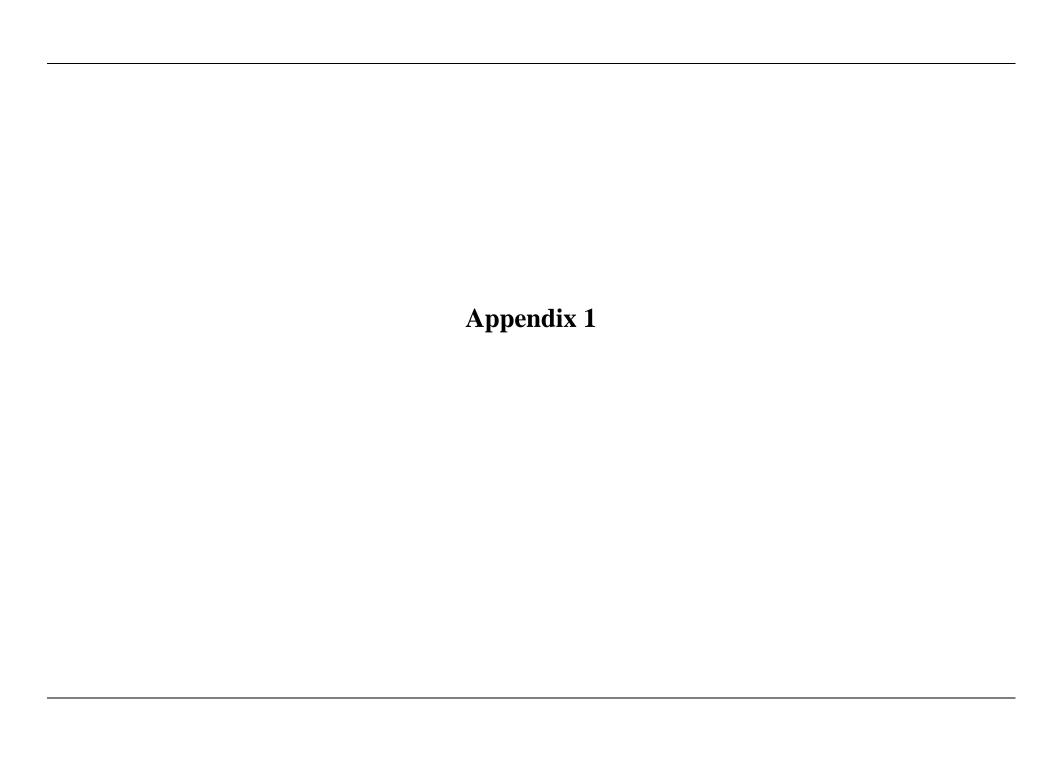
Summary: The purpose of the visit was to

- i) Ascertain whether peat extraction activities were being carried out by one or more parties at the above address in Co Westmeath.
- ii) The site visit commenced on lands where excavation, turning and stockpiling of sodpeat following extraction activity was noted.

Findings of site visit of 05/03/2024: The following was noted during the visit:

- Aerial footage and photos were taken by EPA inspectors.
- No peat excavation was noted to be taking place on the Western Section of the peatland during the visit.
- Large sod peat was noted to be recently extracted on a significant part of the Western Section and left on the peatland for drying.
- An excavator with an attachment for excavating large sod peat was noted to be parked on the Western Section of the peatland. A bucket for attaching to an excavator for collecting large sod peat was present also here.
- There were eleven plots/banks at the Southern tip of the Western Section which had no large sod peat on it.
- Large sod peat was being collected from the Eastern Section of the peatland and transported to the loading area there.
- Four excavators were noted to be present on the Eastern Section along with a number of dumpers for collecting the peat. A conveyor for loading lorries was also present.
- We spoke to a man and informed him of the purpose of our visit. The man said he worked for a **Section 1**.

Report prepared by:	Mick Henry & Kealan Reynolds	Signed:	M. Dennas Keclas Rayalf	
		- Date:	22/03/24	





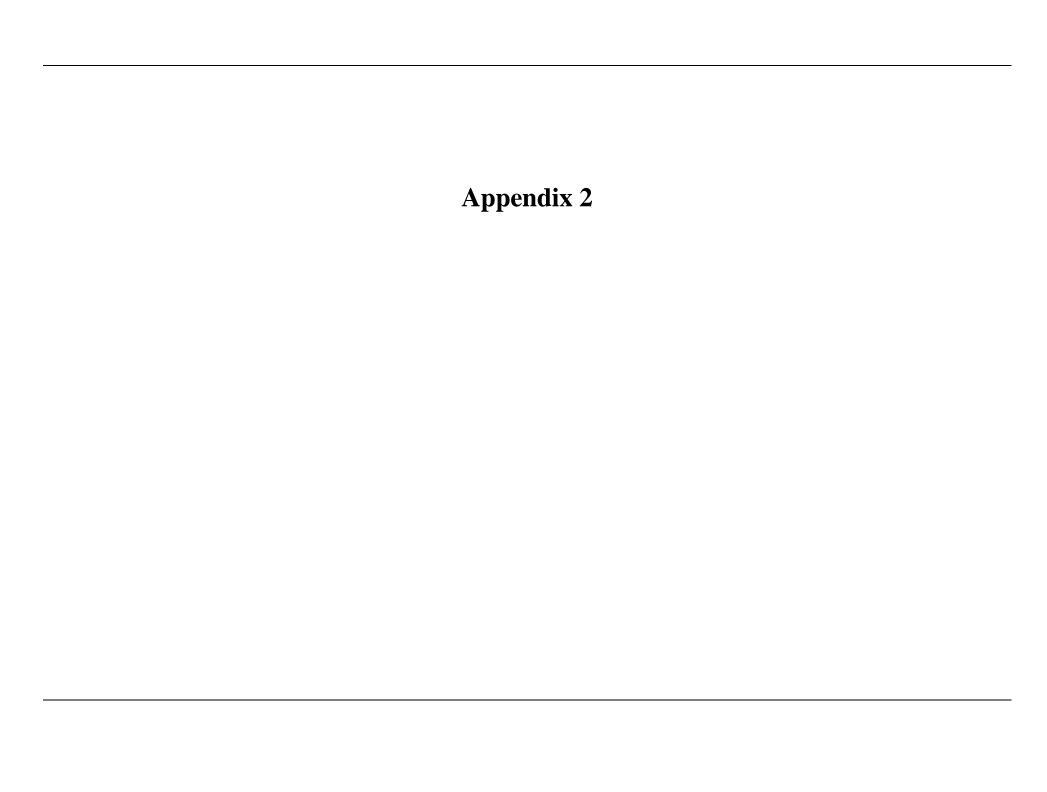




Photo 1: Large sod peat which was excavated and left to dry on the Western Section of the peatland.



 $Photo\ 2: Section\ of\ peatland\ at\ the\ Southern\ tip\ of\ the\ Western\ Section\ where\ no\ large\ sod\ peat\ was\ excavated\ and\ left\ to\ dry-Note\ excavator\ present.$



Photo 3: Excavator with attachment for large sod peat extraction noted at the Western Section of the peatland.



Photo 4: Excavator with

noted at the Western Section of the peatland.



Photo 6: Removal of large sod peat from the Eastern Section of the peatland noted to be ongoing during the visit.



Photo 6: Removal of large sod peat from Eastern Section of the peatland noted to be ongoing during the visit.



Photo 7: Photo showing large sod peat which was collected from Eastern Section of the peatland being transported to the loading area.