



# 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:** [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED].
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**Report prepared  
by:**

Mick Henry &  
Kealan Reynolds

**Signed:**



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**Date:**

22/03/24

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## **Appendix 1**

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## **Appendix 2**

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

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**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.**

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

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**Photo 4 : Excavator with [REDACTED] noted at the Western Section of the peatland.**

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

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

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

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