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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report (remedial EIAR) has been prepared by TOBIN on behalf of Bord na Móna Biomass Ltd (hereafter 'the Applicant'), as part of an application for Substitute Consent for peat extraction and ancillary activities from July 1988 to the present day that have been carried out at the 'Application Site'.

The Application Site forms part of the Derrygreenagh Bog Group and comprises five bog units including (from west to east):

- Toar Bog;
- Derryarkin Bog;
- Ballybeg Bog;
- Drumman Bog; and
- Derryhinch Bog.

The Application Site comprises land predominantly under the ownership of Bord na Móna Biomass Ltd, with part of the Application Site under the ownership of Bord na Móna Energy Ltd.

The Application Site is located south of the M6 motorway within the Counties of Offaly, Westmeath and Meath, as shown in Figure 1-1.

Section 177E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, permits an application to be made for substitute consent in respect of development where:

- An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and/or Appropriate Assessment (AA) would have been required had the development been the subject of an application for development consent under the current planning regime; or
- An EIA, EIA screening determination and /or AA was required but was not carried out.

Neither the European Union Council Directive 85/337/EEC of 27 June 1985 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (hereafter referred to as the 'EIA Directive') nor the European Union Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (hereafter referred to as the 'Habitats Directive') has retrospective effect; neither Directive imposes legal requirements to have carried out prior assessments of projects which had already commenced or been completed. There was, therefore, no legal requirement for EIA, screening for EIA or Appropriate Assessment in respect of any project prior to the latest dates for transposition of the Directives.

In the case of the EIA Directive, the latest date for transposition was 3 July 1988. In the case of the Habitats Directive, the latest date for transposition was 10 June 1994. As such, substitute consent is being sought to regularise the planning status of the Application Site for the period 1988 to the present day. This application is being made strictly without prejudice to the fact that the development benefitted from exempted development status for part of the period covered by this application.

The application for Substitute Consent is seeking consent for development which took place from July 1988¹, the timeframe for when the EIA Directive was required to be transposed into Irish Law, to present day.

This remedial EIAR provides a description of:

- The activities employed at the Application Site from 1950 at the onset of preparation works for peat extraction (including drainage of bogs) up to July 1988 (described in Section 4.5 of Chapter 4 of this remedial EIAR);
- The baseline environment as of July 1988 (described in Section 4.6 of Chapter 4 of this remedial EIAR);
- Peat extraction and ancillary activities from July 1988 to the cessation of peat extraction in June 2020 (described in Section 4.7 of Chapter 4 of this remedial EIAR);
- The management of the Application Site since June 2020 to present day (described in Section 4.8 of Chapter 4 of this remedial EIAR); and
- The activities intended to be carried out at the Application Site into the future (described in Section 4.9 of Chapter 4 of this remedial EIAR).

Under Article 1(2) of the EIA Directive, a ‘project’ means:

- *The execution of construction works or of other installations or scheme,*
- *Other interventions in the natural surroundings and landscape including those involving the extraction of mineral resources.*

This remedial EIAR and the accompanying Substitute Consent application is submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála (hereafter referred to as the ‘Coimisiún’ or ‘ACP’) in accordance with Part XA 177F of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). A remedial Natura Impact Statement (remedial NIS) accompanies this application.

Bord na Móna ceased industrial peat extraction at the Application Site at different times across the five bogs. The final peat extraction at the Application Site occurred at Ballybeg Bog in June 2020. From June 2020 to 2021, all remaining stockpiled peat was systematically removed from the Application Site. Bord na Móna’s statutory obligation to comply with the conditions of its Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) Licence (Ref. P0501-01; hereafter the “IPC Licence”), issued by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the Derrygreenagh Bog Group, which included the Application Site, remain on-going. These ongoing obligations including environmental monitoring, do not facilitate the continuation of peat extraction, but rather ensures compliance with Bord na Móna’s extant IPC Licence.

1.2 THE APPLICANT

Bord na Móna Biomass Ltd, a subsidiary of Bord na Móna plc. is an Irish, semi-state climate solutions company helping to lead Ireland towards a climate neutral future. Bord na Móna was founded in 1946, though it’s precursor, the Turf Development Board, was established in 1934 with the one of the overarching aims of both entities being to enhance national energy security through peat extraction. During the 1940s, the Second World War caused coal exports from the UK to Ireland to diminish significantly. This led to the establishment of the 1944 Turf

¹ Council Directive 85/337/EEC of 27 June 1985 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment

Development Board, tasked with devising and submitting a comprehensive programme for developing the nation's peat resources on an industrial scale.

This work ultimately resulted in the Turf Development Act (1946), under which Section 17(1) established Bord na Móna with the following duties:

- (a) to produce and market turf and turf products, and*
- (b) to foster the production and use of turf and turf products, and*
- (c) to quire bogs and other lands, and*
- (d) to manage, develop and work bogs and other lands vested in the Board, and*
- (e) generally, to do all such other things as arise out of, or are consequential upon, the duties mentioned in the preceding paragraphs of this section.*

Today, Bord na Móna (now known as BnM) focus on delivering climate solutions in renewable energy, sustainable waste management, carbon storage, and biodiversity conservation. Ireland has committed to ambitious national climate targets, and BnM's actions play a key role in helping the country achieve these targets. The company's long-term vision is to support Ireland in reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions (GHG's) by 2050. This is underpinned by Bord na Móna's 'Brown to Green' Strategy, which was formally completed in December 2023.

To power a net zero future, Bord na Móna are expanding its renewable energy infrastructure. Having constructed and maintained large-scale infrastructure for decades, the company is applying this experience to deliver renewable energy developments across the country. These projects are transforming how Ireland generates and consumes energy. With a national commitment to generating 80% of electricity from renewable sources by 2030, BnM is contributing through developments in wind, solar, biomass, and biogas to help meet this target and strengthen energy security for future generations.

BnM currently provides employment for approximately 1,500 people and manages a land holding of over 80,000 hectares located mainly in the Irish midlands. At their peak, employment numbers exceeded 7,400 in the early 1960s, with the workforce dropping to approximately 2,000 by the late 1990s.

In April 2026, Bord na Móna Powergen Ltd secured planning permission for Derrygreenagh Power, a 710MW Thermal Power Plant consisting of a Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (570MW) and Open Cycle Gas Turbine (140MW) which will fill short term gaps in renewable energy generation, ensuring a consistent electricity supply.

BnM also intends to develop a wind and solar energy project across Derryarkin, Drumman, Derryhinch and Ballybeg Bog, currently known as Derrygreenagh Wind and Solar Project.

1.3 BACKGROUND TO THE APPLICATION

Peat extraction required the clearance of vegetation and the drainage of bogs to remove water and increase the dry matter content of the peat. Drainage works and vegetation clearance at the Application Site began in 1950.

Industrial peat extraction commenced in 1958 across all five bogs, using the milled peat extraction method. Milled peat extraction is a surface extraction technique in which the upper layer of peat is mechanically fragmented (milled) using specialised machinery (as further described in Chapter 4). Following milling, the loosened peat is left to dry naturally through



exposure to sunlight and wind. Once an adequate moisture content is achieved, the peat is gathered using machinery and transported for processing or use.

Peat extraction at the Application Site pre-1988 was closely linked to the construction of Rhode Power Station and Croghan Briquette Factory. The construction of Rhode Power Station was planned and constructed based on an agreement between ESB and Bord na Móna that the station would be fuelled with peat supplied exclusively by Bord na Móna, which was to be extracted from bogs in the surrounding area, including the Application Site. Rhode Power Station was completed in two separate developments, Station A commissioned in 1960 and Station B in 1963 and peat was transported to Rhode Power Station via industrial rail lines from the Application Site. Ultimately, Rhode Power Station was decommissioned in 2003.

Croghan Briquette Factory was commissioned in 1961 and had an input of approximately 1,000 tonnes of milled peat per day, which was provided from bogs including, but not limited to, those of the Application Site. Croghan Briquette Factory was closed in 2000 and demolished in 2021.

Following the cessation of peat extraction, peat stockpiles were transported off the Application Site. The stockpiles were transported to Ballivor Horticultural Works, Derrinlough Briquette Factory, Lough Ree Power Station, West Offaly Power Station, Cúil na Móna Horticultural Works, Edenderry Power Station, and other third-party horticultural peat customers and was completed in 2021.

With the cessation of peat extraction, former extraction areas are now able to undergo natural revegetation. Measures to support site rehabilitation are detailed in the bog-specific Draft Cutaway Bog Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plans (refer to Appendix 4.3).

1.4 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Substitute Consent is being sought by Bord na Móna Biomass Ltd voluntarily to regularise, without prejudice, the planning status of the Application Site to facilitate appropriate future uses of these lands in compliance with the requirements of the planning system. Substitute Consent is being sought for the relevant peat extraction and ancillary activities that were undertaken at the Application Site from 1988 onwards, which consists of the following:

- Industrial scale peat extraction (milled peat);
- Use and maintenance of pre-existing surface water drainage infrastructure (drains, silt ponds, pumps) at the Application Site to facilitate peat extraction activity from 1988 to present day;
- Use and maintenance of pre-existing railway infrastructure to facilitate peat extraction from 1988 to present day;
- Provision of 2 no. vehicular bridges, 2 no. rail bridges and 2 no. gated access points;
- Control Measures associated with the above, inclusive of the IPC Licence measures (Ref. P0501-01) which commenced from 2000 onwards to the present day; and,
- All associated site development and ancillary works.

These peat extraction activities are referred to as the 'Project' as appropriate. A full description of the Project is included in Section 4.5 of Chapter 4 of this remedial EIAR.

For the purposes of this remedial EIAR, the Project is defined under three different timeframes termed 'Phases':

- **Peat Extraction Phase:** peat extraction activities and ancillary activities at the Application Site from July 1988 to the cessation of peat extraction in June 2020 (July 1988 – June 2020). The Peat Extraction Phase is described in detail in Section 4.7 of Chapter 4.
- **Current Phase:** the management of the Application Site since June 2020 to present day. The Current Phase is described in detail in Section 4.8 of Chapter 4.
- **Remedial Phase:** the activities proposed to be carried out at the Application Site in the future. The Remedial Phase is described in detail in Section 4.9 of Chapter 4.

1.5 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

1.5.1 Remedial EIA Legislative Context

Prior to the 20 September 2012, industrial-scale peat extraction activities was considered exempted development under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). However, the Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011, which came into effect on the 20th of September 2012, inserted Section 4 (4) into the Planning and Development Act. This provision established that development which would otherwise be considered exempted development, including peat extraction, ceases to be exempt where an EIA or an Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required. Notwithstanding this provision, the legal planning status of industrial peat extraction remained uncertain and unclear in practice up until September 2019, as described below.

The Planning & Development (Amendment) Act 2010 introduced Part XA – Substitute Consent to the legislation. Procedural provisions governing substitute consent applications were subsequently set out in Article 26 of S.I. No. 476/2011 – Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2011.

Substitute consent is the statutory planning application process to allow for regularisation of historical development of land that would require EIA if that development were to be the subject of a planning application under current legislation. The substitute consent process also provides for circumstances where an EIA, a determination as to whether an EIA is required, or an AA, was or is required and has not been carried out. The local authority can serve a notice on the developer requiring an application for substitute consent to be made to the Commission. Alternatively, where no such notice has been served, the developer may voluntarily seek substitute consent.

The Applicant has voluntarily applied for Substitute Consent to regularise, without prejudice, peat extraction and ancillary activities at the Application Site.

Sections 6, 7 and 8 of the Planning and Development, and Residential Tenancies, Act 2020, together with the Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2020, introduced further amendments to the substitute consent process. These changes were enacted in response to the Supreme Court judgement of 1 July 2020 in the “*Ballysax/ McQuaid*” cases (An Taisce v An Bord Pleanála, and Sweetman v An Bord Pleanála [2020] IESC 39). In this judgement, Mr. Justice McKechnie held that aspects of the substitute consent system were inconsistent with Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU), particularly in relation to the requirement for exceptional circumstances and public participation.

In December 2022, Bord na Móna applied to An Bord Pleanála (now known as An Coimisiún Pleanála) (ABP Ref. LS19.315436) for leave to apply for substitute consent under Section 177E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The application, submitted under Reference LS19.315436, related to peat extraction and associated activities at Derryhinch, Drumman, Derryarkin and Ballybeg Bogs. In accordance with the specific amendments proposed to the substitute consent process in the Planning and Development, Maritime and Valuation (Amendment) Act 2022, (which were commenced on 16 December 2023 by Ministerial Order S.I. 645) any such application for leave to apply for substitute consent which had not been determined by ACP before that commencement date shall be deemed withdrawn by Bord na Móna. As such, the application for leave was deemed withdrawn in January 2024.

This remedial EIAR is accompanied by an application to the Board for Substitute Consent, as prescribed under Part XA 177F of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended):

“Section 177F.— (1) A F858 [remedial environmental impact assessment report] shall contain the following:

(a) a statement of the significant effects, if any, on the environment, which have occurred or which are occurring or which can reasonably be expected to occur because the development the subject of the application for substitute consent was carried out;

(b) details of—

(i) any appropriate remedial measures undertaken or proposed to be undertaken by the applicant for substitute consent to remedy any significant adverse effects on the environment;

(ii) the period of time within which any proposed remedial measures shall be carried out by or on behalf of the applicant;

(c) such information as may be prescribed under section 177N.”

1.5.2 EIA Legislative Context

The consolidated European Union Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (the ‘EIA Directive’) has been transposed into Irish planning legislation through amendments to the Planning and Development Act 2000 and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001. Directive 2011/92/EU was subsequently amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, which has been transposed into Irish law by the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018), further amending the Planning and Development Act 2000 and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001.

This remedial EIAR has been prepared in compliance with the EIA Directive as amended by the Directive 2014/52/EU, the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), and the Planning and Development Regulations (as amended).

When an EIAR is required, Article 5 of the EIA Directive (2014/52/EU) lists the information to be provided by the development which should include the following non-exhaustive elements:

- a) a description of the project comprising information on the site, design, size and other relevant features of the project;

- b) a description of the likely significant effects of the project on the environment;
- c) a description of the features of the project and/or measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment;
- d) a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the developer, which are relevant to the project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the project on the environment;
- e) a non-technical summary of the information referred to in points (a) to (d); and,
- f) any additional information specified in Annex IV relevant to the specific characteristics of a particular project or type of project and to the environmental features likely to be affected. In addition, Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 19, Article 222A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) sets out the information to be contained in an EIAR and rEIAR respectively.

1.6 SITE LOCATION

The Application Site (see Figure 1-1) forms part of the Derrygreenagh Bog Group and comprises five bog units located south of the M6 motorway, in the counties of Offaly, Westmeath and Meath.

The five bog units include (from west to east):

- Toar Bog
- Derryarkin Bog
- Ballybeg Bog
- Drumman Bog
- Derryhinch Bog.

Overall, the Application Site comprises a total of 2,637 hectares (ha) including the five bogs, ancillary infrastructure and access roads.

The Application Site is located across the townlands listed in Table 1-1. A description of each bog is included below.

Table 1-1: Townlands within which the Application Site is located

County	Townlands
Westmeath	Cornaher, Killavally, Pallasboy, Monrath, Rathgarrett, Rahincuill, Kiltotan and Collinstown, Farthingstown, Drumman, Milltown, Pass of Kilbride, Rattin
Meath	Derryhinch, Baltigeer
Offaly	Bunsallagh, Derryarkin, Derrygreenagh, Knockdrin, Garr, Corbetstown, Carrick, Ballybeg, Croghanhill, Barrysbrook, Togher, Toberdaly, Clonin, Coolcor, Derryiron

Toar Bog

Approximately 400 ha of the Application site is located within Toar Bog, it is located approximately 2 km south of the village Tyrellspass, County Westmeath (at its closest point). The Bog is located entirely in County Westmeath, in the townlands of Rathgarrett, Monrath, Pallasboy, Killavally, Cornaher.

Derryarkin Bog

Approximately 400 ha of the Application Site is located within Derryarkin Bog, it is located approximately 5 km east of Tyrellspass, Co. Westmeath (at its closest point) and approximately 3 km south-southeast of the village Rochfortbridge, Co. Westmeath. The Bog is located on the boundary of Co. Westmeath and Offaly, in the townlands of Derryarkin, Derrygreenagh, Farthingstown, Kiltotan and Collinstown, Rathincuill, Rathgarett and Bunsallagh.

Ballybeg Bog

Approximately 673 ha of the Application Site is located within Ballybeg Bog, it is located approximately 5 km south-east of the village Rochfortbridge, and 2 km west of Rhode, County Offaly. Ballybeg Bog is adjoined with the southeastern border of Derryarkin Bog and is located entirely in County Offaly. Ballybeg Bog is in the townlands of Derryarkin, Ballybeg, Derrygreenagh, Derryiron, Coolcor, Clonin, Barrysbrook, Toberdaly and Togher.

Drumman Bog

Approximately 830 ha of the Application Site is located within Drumman Bog, it is located east of the R400 and Derryarkin Bog, approximately 2 km east of the village Rochfortbridge and 5 km north of Rhode (at its closest point). Drumman Bog is in the townlands of Farthingstown, Drumman, Derrygreenagh, Konckdrin, Garr, Carrick and Corbetstown.

Derryhinch Bog

Approximately 334 ha of the Application Site is located within Derryhinch Bog, it is located approximately 6 km northeast of the village Rochfortbridge, Co. Westmeath and 6 km southwest of Kinnegad, Co. Westmeath. Derryhinch Bog is in the townlands of Pass of Kilbride, Rattin, Derryhinch and Baltigeer.



Legend

- Application Site Boundary
- Towns
- Work Locations
 - Derrygreenagh Work Location
 - Access Point
 - Gated Access Point
 - Local Holding Area
 - Rail Bridge
 - Vehicular Bridge

0 1.5 3 Kilometers

Spatial Reference Datum: IRENET95 EPSG: 2157		Copyrights: Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community.	
A	16/09/2026	First issue	S.P B.K
Rev	Date	Description	By Chkd.

Client:

Project: Derrygreenagh Substitute Consent

Title: Figure 1-1: Site Location Map

Scale @ A3: 1:80,000

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Map Ref:	Draft:
12334-024-P.App.BO-OSM-TOB-A	A

1.7 SITE CONTEXT

The Application Site includes five bog units which form part of the Derrygreenagh Bog Group. The activities relevant to this Substitute Consent application carried out by Bord na Móna are licensed by the EPA under IPC Licence P0501-01.

The Application Site is defined by the perimeters of Toar, Derryarkin, Ballybeg, Drumman and Derryhinch bogs. Within these bogs are a number of developments not related to peat extraction and ancillary activities, which have been subject to their own planning consent. This includes sand and gravel extraction facilities at Derryarkin and Drumman Bog, consented biomass storage facilities at Drumman and Toar Bogs, and a recently consented Combined Cycle Gas Turbine and Open Cycle Gas Turbine Thermal Power Plant named Derrygreenagh Power.

Having been subject to their own planning consent, Substitute Consent is not being sought in respect of these developments and as such they are excluded from the Application Site boundary. These developments will be fully considered in the remedial EIAR, remedial Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (remedial AASR) and remedial Natura Impact Statement (remedial NIS) as part of a cumulative assessment which accompany the application for Substitute Consent.

Any development undertaken prior to the establishment of the formal Irish planning system with the enactment of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 1963 at the Application Site are considered exempt for the purposes of planning consent and did not require planning permission as outlined under the Planning and Development Act (1963). Thus, no formal planning applications were required or submitted for these structures.

A full list of the planning consents located within the five bog units have been included in table 1-2 Application Site Planning History.

Table 1-2: Application Site Planning History

Consenting Authority	Planning Reference	Description of Development	Final Grant Date	Address
ACP	319023	Combined Cycle Gas Turbine and Open Cycle Gas Turbine Thermal Power Plant, Electricity Grid Connection including 2 no. substations, and associated buildings, plant, site works, service and ancillary development.	28/04/2026	Lands within the townlands Knockdrin, Derrygreenagh, Derryarkin, Derryiron, Ballybeg, Coolcor, Barrybrook, Clonin, Togher and Coole, Co. Offaly
ACP	307278	Application for substitute consent in relation to Peat Extraction at Bogs in the Derrygreenagh Bog Group	Application Withdrawn on 14/01/2021	Bracklin, Co. Westmeath, Carranstown, Co. Meath and Co. Westmeath, Ballivor, Co. Meath and Co. Westmeath, Ballybeg, Co. Offaly
ACP	309112	Retention and continuation of development. Works for an existing biomass facility on a site of 14.34 ha. This site will be operational until 2030.	11/05/2021	Toar, Rathgarrett, Tyrellspass, County Westmeath
Offaly County Council	20/329	Drumman biomass facility. The development is for the storage and seasoning of biomass logs followed by chipping of the seasoned logs on a site area of 29.17ha. The proposed retention development consists of 1) a weighbridge (120 sq.M) and a weighbridge control station (7.75 sq.M). 2) a biomass storage area (6km of linear log storage space equating to 31,320 tonnes of wet logs), 3) a steel post and wire mesh fence with gates at the entrance 4) unpaved access tracks (6km in length) and 5) all ancillary works. The log storage area or log pile is linear with a diameter of c. 4m and up to a height of 4.1m. There is no storage of chipped biomass on site. Planning permission is sought for alterations to improve the existing access off the R400 including 1) surface the site access road approach to the R400 with an	10/06/2021	Drumman biomass facility, located within the townlands of Derrygreenagh & Knockdrin, Co. Offaly

Consenting Authority	Planning Reference	Description of Development	Final Grant Date	Address
		appropriate bound material and 2) provide a stop line and stop sign at the site entrance. Planning permission is sought for the continued operation of this development until 2030		
ACP	306236	Leave to apply for substitute consent for peat extraction	01/05/2020	Derrygreenagh Bog, Bracklin, Co. Westmeath, Carranstown, Co. Meath and Co. Westmeath, Ballivor, Co. Meath and Co. Westmeath, Ballybeg, Co. Offaly
Offaly County Council	18209	Derryarkin Sand and Gravel DAC for the construction of a weighbridge (90m ²) and 2 no. control rooms subject to 5 conditions.	09/08/2018	Derryarkin sand pit, Derrygreenagh, Rhode, Co. Offaly
Offaly County Council	15330	An existing 30m high telecommunications support structure.	02/03/2016	Derrygreenagh, Rhode, Co. Offaly
Offaly County Council	10391	Temporary planning permission (duration 10 years) – application running concurrently with Westmeath County Council planning application 10/4078. Planning permission is sought for permission to upgrade the existing site access, construction of a moto-cross circuit and ancillary infrastructure.	21/04/2011	Derrygreenagh, Rochfortbridge, Co. Offaly
Westmeath County Council	104078	Temporary planning permission (duration 10 years) for construction of moto cross circuit and associated infrastructure.	02/08/2011	Derryarkin, Rochfortbridge, Co. Westmeath
Offaly County Council	051113	Installation of a fixed processing plant for the production of blacktop on a site of 0.875 ha at existing sand and gravel quarry.	26/04/2006	Derrygreenagh, Rhode Co. Westmeath

Consenting Authority	Planning Reference	Description of Development	Final Grant Date	Address
Offaly County Council	04988	Retention of telecommunications mast	23/09/2004	Derrygreenagh, Co. Westmeath
Offaly County Council	02/172	Construction of an entrance to a sand and gravel extraction facility.	10/06/2002	Derrygreenagh, Co. Offaly
Offaly County Council	011163	Concrete batching plant, block yard, block storage area, site office building, effluent treatment system, ESB substation & bunded fuel storage tanks	16/10/2002	Derrygreenagh, Rhode
Westmeath County Council	01444	Extraction of sands and gravels.	23/01/2002	Derryarkin and Drumman, Co. Offaly and Westmeath
Offaly County Council	1925	An 87.6-hectare extension to the south-west, south and south-east of its existing sand and gravel put (within an application site of 146.1 hectares)	29/04/2019	Derrygreenagh, Knockdrin, Garr and Carrick townlands, Rhode, Co. Offaly
Westmeath County Council	124018	Permission for site access works to allow for the out loading of peat. These works consist of; access works at junction with L-1113 Tyrrellspass to Rathgarrett Road and construction of a new access road to facilitate peat out loading.	11/06/2012	Rathgarrett, Tyrrellspass, Co. Westmeath

1.7.1 Ancillary Infrastructure

There are several ancillary structures and features associated with peat extraction and ancillary activities at the Application Site. These include:

- Workshops;
- Works offices;
- Welfare Facilities;
- Vehicular and rail bridges;
- Local holding areas; and
- Railway infrastructure.

With the exception of most railway infrastructure, vehicular and rail bridges, and local holding areas, the remaining ancillary infrastructure is located outside of the Application Site boundary and as such substitute consent is not being sought in respect of this ancillary infrastructure. Nonetheless, to provide as detailed a description as possible of the Project, all of the ancillary infrastructure is described in Chapter 4.

The Derrygreenagh Works provided a central location for support services to the Drumman bog and adjoining bogs within the Derrygreenagh Bog Group and includes offices and welfare facilities such as a toilet and a canteen. The works are located on the eastern side of the R400, approximately 4 km southeast of Rochfortbridge, Co. Westmeath. The workshops and offices at Derrygreenagh Works were originally constructed in 1955, prior to the enactment of the *Planning and Development Act 1963* (i.e. 1 October 1964) and are therefore not included as part of this Substitute Consent application.

1.8 PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE REMEDIAL EIAR

The purpose of this remedial EIAR is to document the current state of the environment in the vicinity of the Application Site and to assess, in accordance with the requirements of the EIA Directive, the likely significant effects which have occurred, or which are occurring, or which can reasonably be expected to occur on the environment due to peat extraction and ancillary activities at the Application Site.

The remedial EIA is the assessment carried out by the Competent Authority, which includes an examination that identifies, describes and assesses in an appropriate manner, in the light of the particular characteristics of the case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 11 of the EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU), the direct and indirect effects of the Development on the following:

- (a) Population and human health
- (b) Biodiversity, with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC
- (c) Land, soil, water, air, and climate
- (d) Material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape
- (e) The interaction between the factors referred to in points (a) to (d)

This remedial EIAR provides the necessary environmental information to enable the competent authority to carry out its assessment of the peat extraction activities and ancillary works. The information required to be included in an remedial EIAR is prescribed in Article 5 and Annex IV of the amended EIA Directive and in Article 94 and Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). Further detail on the scope, methodology, and structure of the remedial EIAR is provided in Chapter 2 – Remedial EIA Methodology.

1.9 DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

This remedial EIAR has been carried out using the best information reasonably available in relation to peat extraction and ancillary activities and the receiving environment. While additional references are included throughout this remedial EIAR, the assessments are subject to limitations including, the availability, completeness, accuracy, age, and accessibility of historic data.

The Methodology section within each chapter outlines the specific approach taken to the impact assessment and identifies, where relevant, any instances in which data gaps or limitations have influenced the assessment.

1.10 VIEWING AND PURCHASING THE REMEDIAL EIAR

Copies of this remedial EIAR and accompanying remedial NIS will be available online, including the Non-Technical Summary (NTS), on the website of An Coimisiún Pleanála, under the relevant Planning Reference Number (to be assigned on lodgement of the application).

- An Coimisiún Pleanála: <http://www.pleanala.ie>

This remedial EIAR and all associated documentation will also be available for viewing at the offices of both An Coimisiún Pleanála and Offaly, Westmeath and Meath County Councils. The

remedial EIAR may be inspected free of charge or purchased by any member of the public during normal office hours at the following address:

- An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, St. Rotunda, Dublin 1, D01 V902;
- Offaly County Council: Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, R35 F893;
- Meath County Council: Buvinda House Dublin Road Navan County Meath C15 Y291; and
- Westmeath County Council: Áras an Chontae, Mount Street, Mullingar, N91 FH4N.

The remedial EIAR and remedial NIS will also be available to view online via the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's EIA Portal², which will provide a link to the planning authority's website on which the application details are contained. This EIA Portal was recently set up by the Department as an electronic notification to the public for requests of development consents which are accompanied by an EIAR.

² EIA Portal accessible

via: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/a1a85d92623147b191dd25a14b2571da>



