



Oughter Bog

Cutaway Bog Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan

2021

Addendum 1

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1. INTRODUCTION

Bord na Móna operates under IPC Licence issued and administered by the EPA to extract peat within the Boora bog group (Ref. P0500-01). As part of Condition 10.2 of this license, a rehabilitation plan must be prepared for permanent rehabilitation of the boglands within the licensed area. This report – *Oughter Bog Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan 2021 – Addendum 1* – should be read in conjunction with – *Oughter Bog Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan 2021*. This report – *Oughter Bog Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan 2021 – Addendum 1* - outlines the findings of the Appropriate Assessment reporting carried out in respect of proposed PCAS activities at Oughter Bog.

2. APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT REPORTING FINDINGS

An Appropriate Assessment Stage 1 Screening Report ¹was commissioned by Bord na Móna to inform whether the proposed PCAS activities at Oughter Bog had the potential to result in Likely Significant Effects on European Sites. The concluding statement of this report reads as follows:

*“The Screening Evaluation provided herein has examined the potential for any effects arising via source pathway linkages with regard to connectivity to designated European Sites (SACs and SPAs) within the zone of influence of all predicted Project impacts. An extended buffer zone of 15km was further considered, in line with NPWS guidance (DoEHLG, 2009), for evaluation of effects on any European Site which may arise associated with the proposed decommissioning and rehabilitation of Pollagh (sic) Bog, as required. There are a total of 6 European sites located within the 15km zone of consideration with an additional 2 European sites with a **downstream hydrological connection (*)**:*

1. Clara Bog SAC Site code 000572
2. Charleville Woods SAC Site code 000571
3. Ferbane Bog SAC Site Code 000575
4. Moyclare Bog SAC Site Code 000591
5. Clonaslee Esker and Derry Bog SAC Site Code 000859
6. Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA Site Code 004160
7. Shannon Callows SAC (*) Site Code 000216
8. Middle Shannon Callows SPA(*) Site Code 004096

*This Screening Statement has been prepared to provide sufficient objective scientific information in support of the proposed development, in order to allow an Appropriate Assessment determination in the context of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. The report has been prepared in order to evaluate the significance of potential effects on European sites from the proposed decommissioning and rehabilitation of Oughter Bog, as described in **Appendix C**, alone and in-combination with other developments. **Appropriate Assessment Stage One Screening of all European sites identified** evaluated that the potential for significant effects on the Special Conservation Interests or Qualifying Interests of **All (no. 8) European Sites** could be excluded.”*

Therefore following screening, an AA is not required for the Project as it is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any Site(s) as European Site(s) and as it can be concluded, on the basis of objective information, that the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is not likely to have a significant effect on any European Site(s).

¹ JOHN DERWIN BSc. & MSc. Agr PEATLAND ECOLOGIST (2021) *Appropriate Assessment Stage 1 Screening Report. Cutaway Bog Decommissioning and Rehabilitation Plan Oughter Bog, Co. Offaly*