

4<sup>th</sup> January 2020



Subject: Tree Felling in Howth Demense.

Dear 

I am writing in connection with your recent meeting with my colleague, Mr Rory Greene, Forestry Inspector, in relation to the felling of trees in Howth Demense.

Mr Greene has advised that a number of trees can be felled without the requirement for a felling licence. An extract from his report is contained below which includes a table of the trees affected and a map of the location. All trees felled require native trees to be replanted in or near the location of the felled trees

Mr Green has advised that 20 Oak (*Quercus robur*) saplings should be replanted in the vicinity of the areas cleared in June 2020 and to manage them for growth to mature trees. A map of the location of trees felled in June 2020 is contained in figure 2.

Replanting to be completed by the end of Spring 2021.

I would appreciate if you would confirm when all replanting has been completed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alan Sheridan', written over a horizontal line.

Alan Sheridan  
Felling Unit  
Johnstown Castle  
Wexford

**Extract from Report:**

Table 1 details the trees and their location using GPS coordinates in Irish Transverse Mercator; a commentary on their condition and the summary recommendation.

Figure 1 details the location of the trees as recorded using GPS and presented on Aerial Map

1. I observe a cohort of the trees to be a high risk of falling and they are trees A B E F G I. As the area where these subset of trees are located are regularly used by people for amenity purposes and the area receives a high volume of human traffic, I recommend
  - a. that the trees can be considered exempt under Section 19 (1) (c) (iv) of the Forestry Act 2014 and are required to be removed to mitigate a threat to a habitat or other important environmental resource, namely human habitat and the environmental ecosystem cultural service of recreation.
  - b. that replacement native trees are planted *in situ* (on or adjacent to the footprint of the felled trees) by the end of the Spring 2021 planting season to restore the visual amenity lost. The replacement trees are to be of the order of 10 to 12 cm girth trees and are to be maintained such that they grow to be established and form mature trees replenishing the woodland.
2. Tree D has a large branch bow overhanging a public road and high pruning is recommended over felling as the trees seems to be otherwise sound.
3. The trees C and H while displaying some evidence of decay require further information before a determination can be given if they can be felled under the same exemption as in point 1. To this end to assist in the requested exemption assessment they should be tagged and surveyed using a qualified arborist and to BS5837 standards. The report is to be supplied to the DAFM for further assessment. This process should be followed for similar situations where trees are deemed to be of similar risk to people or property.
4. Use of the exemptions outlined in point 1 used in this report are to be the exception rather than the norm and for the purpose of this woodland and assessment are focused on trees deemed to be of immediate risk to amenity users or adjacent property. The previous cease and desist order issued to the landowner is to be reinstated after the felling of the trees recommended in this report. Where a general thinning of the trees is required to manage the woodland in the ordinary course of woodland management then a felling licence should applied for as normal.

**Table 1 Trees Location Irish Transverse Mercator GPS coordinates and Recommendation**

Tree ID	GPS ITM	Species	Condition Notes	Recommend	Recommend Replanting
A	728269.25 738647.99	Pinus sp	Split at base and leaning	Exemption Fell	Yes Native Trees

B	728288.27 738660.86	Sycamore	Significant rot at the base ca. 30 %	Exemption Fell	Yes Native Trees
C	728279.04 738654.94	Sycamore	Rot at base obscured by ivy	More Detail	
D	728271.58 738825.41	Ash	Risk due to location and large branch bow overhanging road	High Pruning to make safe	
E	728222.44 739116.68	Sycamore	Already uprooted	Exemption Fell	Yes Native Trees
F	728217.28 739127.78	Pinus sp	Already uprooted and overhanging path	Exemption Fell	Yes Native Trees
G	728219.96 739144.33	Sycamore	Significant rot at the base ca. 30%	Exemption Fell	Yes Native Trees
H	728221.53 739165.08	Sycamore	Rot at base	More Detail Required	
I	727884.83 738560.8	Poplar sp	10 trees at Car park landscaping, protruding roots potentially causing trip hazard. Low value wildlife trees compared to established woodland trees elsewhere.	Exemption Fell	Alternative Landscape planting recommended but not required.



Figure 1 Map Location of the Trees

**Legend Key to Figure 2**

**A Laneway from housing estage**

**B Footpath prior tramway**

**C Entrance point to woodland 1 sycamore and 1 ash felled**

**D Felled Veteran Oak Tree**

**E End of track in woodland**

**F Lopped Sycamore**

**G Four felled trees in ditch**

**H Six sycamore trees felled**

**I felled sycamore**

**J multi stemmed sycamore**

**K Indicative Cleared area 7 trees felled (including I and J)**





Figure 2 Aerial Photo of Locations of Felling activities. Legend Key Next page.

