

Forestry Division Statement to the Forestry Appeal Committee

FAC Reference	FAC 659/2020
File Reference	TFL00477520
Scheme	Felling
Species proposed	
Area	10.10

Summary of application:

Date Submitted	11/03/2020
Date Application Advertised	
Referrals to referral bodies	CoCo, NPWS, Ecologist, Arch
Date Referred to Inspector	22/04/2020
Desk Assessment/Desk & Field Assessment	Desk only
Submissions Received	31/08/2020
Appropriate Assessment Screening	YES
Recommendation from Inspector	Approve
Decision	Approve
Date Decision Issued	06/08/2020
Date Decision Advertised	07/08/2020

Administrative Comments:

The decision was issued in accordance with our procedures, S.I. 191/2017 and the 2014 Forestry Act.

The Department is satisfied that all criteria as outlined in the following standards and procedures have been adhered to in making a decision on the application. Please see the statement from the Inspectorate.

Name: Martina Monaghan

Grade: HEO

Date: 24/08/2021

Grounds of appeal

Provide text of appeal

Statement from Inspectorate.

Assessment Criteria	
Was the AA screening procedure at the time of approval applied? (Y/N)	Yes
What version of the AA procedure?	15km Nov19
Standard Operating Procedures applied? (Y/N)	Yes

Taking into account the information supplied by the appellant, please provide a statement

Following the current DAFM AA Screening guidance document I carried out a 15km radius screening on the Natura 2000 sites in the area. I had reviewed the qualifying interests of the Natura 2000 sites in question and by using the latest information available to some Natura 2000 sites were screened out, the remainder have had an appropriate assessment report (AAR) and subsequently an appropriate assessment determination (AAD) has been carried out. Following the recommendation from the AAD I have recommended this licence to proceed. **(Statement dated 02/09/2021)**

In the meantime, I was carrying out a field inspection in the area on the 24/02/2021 and discovered that the forest area covered under the clearfell licence TFL00477520 had been completely felled while the licence was suspended and awaiting an FAC hearing. I then followed up internally and discovered that there was an error with this file in that the appeal was lodged on the 31st August, the Statement of Facts was issued on the 2nd September, but the felling section failed to notify the applicant that the licence should have been suspended until the 1st October 2020. The area is scheduled to be replanted in December 2021.

Name: Michael O'Brien

Role: District Inspector

Date: 25/08/2021