

ALLEGED ILLEGAL FELLING (AIF)

Deerpark Forest, Virginia, Co.Cavan

- **6th February 2021** - Member of public email felling Section regarding forest clearance at Deerpark Forest (See Appendix 2)
- **8th February 2021** – Felling Section email District Inspector with AIF details (See Appendix 2)
- **8th & 9th February 2021** – District Inspector requests further information (See Appendix 2)
- **10th February 2021** – Field inspection of AIF area.
- **11th February 2021** – Correspondance received from NPWS (See Appendix 2)

On the 10th of February 2021 I field inspected the AIF area adjacent to Virginia Rugby Club which is/was part of the Coillte Forest Estate. The area is a popular recreational area for families/walkers/runners, with parking facilities at the rugby club.

Field Inspection

I surveyed the area cleared of trees using GPS and took photographs (See Appendix 1) of the area. I noted the species of trees in the surrounding areas.

No tree felling operations were taking place during the inspection and the rugby club was closed.

Desk Assessment

The GPS co-ordinates were entered into IFORIS mapping to ascertain the area and footprint of the cleared area (See attached Maps). The area cleared is approximately 0.53ha (tree cover may reduce the accuracy of the GPS reading). The trees removed appear to be mature Norway Spruce and semi mature Ash and beech.

The cleared area is within Lough Ramor pNHA (site code 000008) and is proximate to at least 2 listed national monuments.

Recommendations

- Ascertain current ownership of cleared land.
- Issue cease and desist letter to land owner.
- Felling Section to confirm absence of valid Felling Licence for cleared woodland.
- Forest Service Archaeology shall be notified of tree felling adjacent to listed National Monument (if there is no valid Felling Licence).

- Current land owners shall be requested to account for tree clearance and reasons for tree felling.

When all of the above information is available, further decisions may be made on actions in relation to this AIF.

Jhan Crane

District Inspector

Forest Service

16th February 2021

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