



**Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland**

**Felling Section
Forest Service
Department of Agriculture & Food**

21st July 2022

FLP Application Reference- WW03-FL0086
Harvest Block Area- 3.18
County- Wicklow
Townland- Kilmurray, Merepark, Co.Wicklow

Dear Sir/Madam

The proposed clear felling refers to lands in the catchment of the Newtownmountkennedy river_020 which has a current WFD status of Poor and which must be improved to Good Status by 2027.

The Newtownmountkennedy river is under severe pressure from various sources and must not be subjected to any further activities that will exacerbate the status of the river.

The clear-felling raises concerns about suspended solids and nutrients entering watercourses resulting from forestry harvesting activities, posing a significant environmental threat to water quality.

Poor water quality will impact upon fish, benthic invertebrates, and aquatic flora and these are the primary biological elements used in the classification of waters in the context of the WFD.

IFI request that:

- Strict adherence to **The Forestry and Water Quality Guidelines** and **The Code Of Best Forest Practice** in order to protect the ecological integrity of surface water in the area.
- Sedimentation traps should be constructed at appropriate locations in advance of the felling operations and are maintained throughout the operation. A buffer zone at aquatic features of at least 10m should be preserved at all times.
- IFI personnel (matthew.carroll@fisheriesireland.ie) should be notified by the applicant/contractor at least two weeks in advance of the commencement date.
- Ground stability should be kept under constant review. The felling operation must not create unstable ground conditions or result in post harvesting ground instability.
- It is important that the applicant demonstrates that their proposed clear-felling does not contribute to a deterioration in downstream water quality.



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Matthew Carroll
Fisheries Environmental Officer
Inland Fisheries Ireland - Dublin

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Telephone: +353 (0) 1 8842651

EMail: matthewcarroll@fisheriesireland.ie

Address: 3044 Lake Drive, City West, Dublin 24, IRELAND.



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