

Felling Section
Forest Service
Department of Agriculture & Food

20th July 2022

FLP Application Reference- WW01-FL0122

Harvest Block Area- 20.96 ha

County- Wicklow

Townland- Ballynultagh

&

FLP Application Reference- WW01-FL0123

Harvest Block Area- 9.19 ha

County- Wicklow

Townland- Ballynultagh

Dear Sir/Madam

The proposed clear felling refers to lands in the upper catchment of the Ballydonnell Brook_010 which has a current WFD status of Moderate and which must be improved to a minimum of good status.

The Ballydonnell Brook is a tributary of the River Liffey which flows into Poulaphouca Reservoir, the main drinking water supply source for the greater Dublin area.

The clear-felling is in an area of peaty soils, raises concerns about peat deposits 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.

Matthew Carroll

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