

4

SERBD-2022-ENV03-OMG-
AIDAN HYNES

Report from Declan Cullagh Assistant inspector

Mr Aidan Hynes, [REDACTED]

Townland Derryduff, Co. Laois. River Delour

Date of offence September 30th, 2022

On the morning of the 30th of September 2022, I received a text message on my phone. Reporting of a digger is working in the Delour river since 04.00am near Coolrain, Co. Laois. I sent Fishery officer Gregory Roche to investigate the report. At proximity 11.00 Officer Roche confirmed to me by phone that the work was been carried out on the river Delour and he had stopped the work.

I then made my way to Coolrain to meet with Officer Roche and go to the area of which the digging had been done in the townlands of Derryduff. During this time Officer Roche had gathered both the phone numbers, names and addresses of the digger driver and landowner.

On arrival I could see large amounts of river gravel had been stockpiled on the green field. The gravel had been placed in areas where the topsoil had been stripped back in the low lying and dipped areas in the grass field. I then proceeded to where the gravel had been removed from the riverbed - it was clear to see that approximately 80m in length and 15m width of gravel was removed from the riverbed and stockpiled on the bank of the Delour River. There was large number of boulders that had been brought on site. These boulders were for the rock armouring the turn on this part of the river Delour. On further investigation the amount of gravel extracted from the river was approximately 80+tons. I believed this action was both a habitat and Environmental offence under fisheries legislation. I then ask Officer Oliver McGrath to join me in further investigation.

At a 15.00 Oliver McGrath joined both myself and Officer Roche on site we then viewed the work carried out on the river and the gravel extraction from the bed of the river, at this time I phoned Mr Aidan Hynes and asked him to join us in the field where the work had been done

On Mr Hynes arrival to the work site, I interduce myself and Officer Roche and Oliver McGrath Environmental officer. Officer McGrath Cautioned Mr Hynes the time now was 15.45 and then ask him for his name and address which he gave as Aidan Hynes, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Officer McGrath then explained that an offence had been committee and would he like e to explain why the works had been done.

Mr Hynes said that the main reason for the works was to create a bank to prevent the river flooding out on to his land and to stop the slipping and eroding of the existing bank. It was also to stop the neighbouring cattle crossing the river and then breaking into his land, Mr Hynes went on to say that he understood that there was a time frame for works to be carried out in rivers. Therefore, the digger had started early that morning to finish the work before the end of September.

When he was asked why the gravel was stockpiled in the field His reply was to fill up the low areas of the field and then back fill over with the topsoil.

I explained to Mr Hynes that this type of work would need approval and direction from Inland Fisheries Ireland, and it may also require planning permission. Mr Hynes was always courteous and very helpful in his answers and apologies for the work.

We then told Mr Hynes that we would be in touch in due course Mr Hynes left the field, Photos were then taken of the gravel and of the work area



River gravel stockpiled



Large Rock, for rock armouring and riverbed removed from channel



Fig 1 Delour River

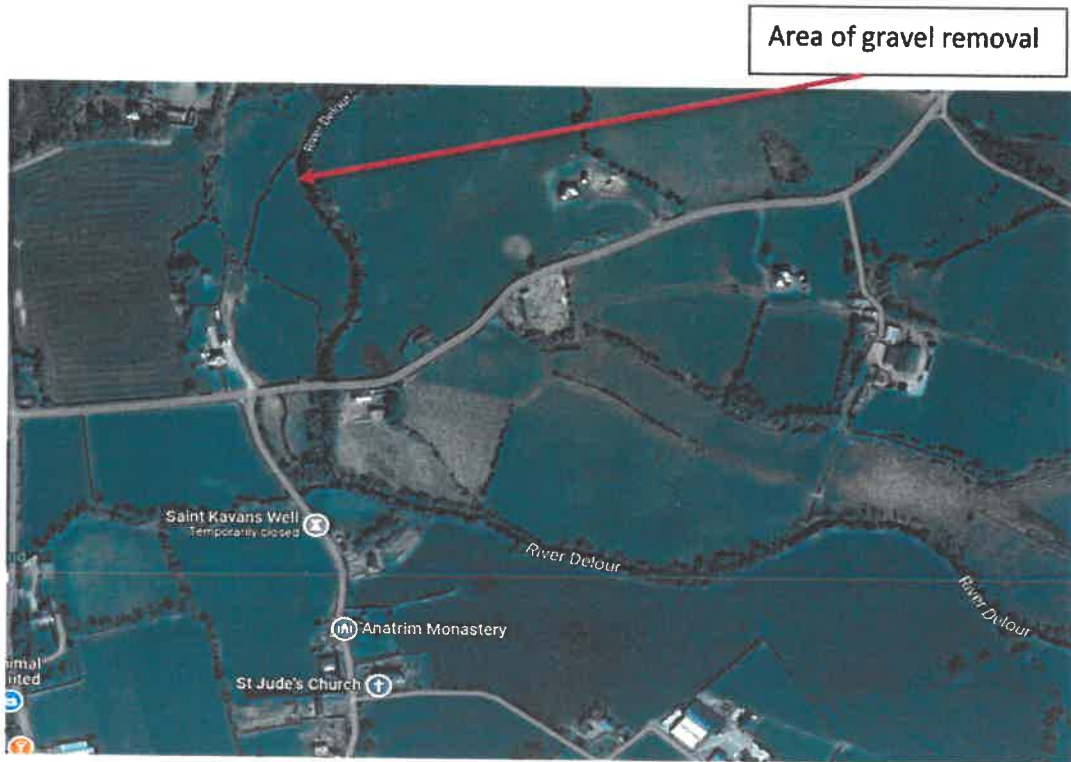


Fig 2 River Delour

Assistant Inspector

Declan Cullagh

Declan Cullagh

Date 29 October 2022