

Dunne, Seamus  
To Fahy, Orla; Collins, Kevin

Thu 08/02/2024 19:21

Can we discuss tomorrow.

**From:** Fahy, Orla <[Orla.Fahy@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Orla.Fahy@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 5:11 PM  
**To:** Collins, Kevin <[Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Cc:** Dunne, Seamus <[Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: Environmental Requirements for Afforestation - Other biodiversity considerations (page13)

Kevin

As discussed key sections that need to be revised (I am out of the office tomorrow so I have sent you my review so far. I will follow up on Thursday with additional points). Environmental considerations for RF and DIs will also need to be amended. Attaching my team's comments on previous draft for info.

- Title page – remove Working document.
- Page 8 Table 1 – revise as includes old definition of a relevant watercourse – makes reference to significant amounts of sediment and/or nutrients. Remove example of relevant watercourse
- Page 13 - Other biodiversity considerations – needs to be reworded
  - in relation to Marsh Fritillary (potential habitat is not just presence of Devil's bit scabious but also correct height, could take text from HNVf)
  - Potential sensitivities are represented by the following questions - given the misunderstanding in interpretation of the examples - delete reference to habitat in Annex IV question – delete all of Annex II question.
  - Rephrase “*An affirmative answer in each case will necessitate the submission of a report*” to something along the lines that where other biodiversity concerns are identified an ecology report may be required.
- Section 2.5.1
  - Habitats ➤ Areas overlapping with the Wetland Survey of Ireland **must not be planted**. Change to Areas overlapping with the Wetland Survey of Ireland must be assessed.
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Regards  
Orla

**Dr. Orla Fahy**  
*Head of Ecology*  
*Forest Service*

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**An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara**  
*Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine*

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**From:** Dunne, Seamus <[Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Sent:** 06 February 2024 13:33  
**To:** Fahy, Orla <[Orla.Fahy@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Orla.Fahy@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Collins, Kevin <[Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: Environmental Requirements for Afforestation - Other biodiversity considerations (page13)

Can this be prioritised, Ciaran said Brian sent out a lamprey survey report FIR last week. He's going to send it on.

**From:** Dunne, Seamus  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 31, 2024 10:52 AM  
**To:** Fahy, Orla <[Orla.Fahy@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Orla.Fahy@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Collins, Kevin <[Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** FW: Environmental Requirements for Afforestation - Other biodiversity considerations (page13)

**Orla,**

Just speaking with Kevin there and I suggested you might have a quick look at this in the first instance.

What changes can be made to the paragraph on page 13 of the Environmental Requirements for Afforestation.

**Kevin,**

Are these questions asked in IFORIS? Are changes required there also.

Can we discuss this afternoon, Brian has been looking for a response for some time now.

Séamus

**Page 13**  
**Other biodiversity considerations**

Other biodiversity issues can arise not directly addressed by the Environmental Considerations. For example, In areas within the range of the Marsh Fritillary butterfly, if a field assessment identifies that an area may be potential habitat, a survey for Marsh Fritillary is required. If larval webs are found, the area is excluded from the application. Potential sensitivities are represented by the following questions:

- Is there an Annex IV species (e.g. otter, Kerry slug and bats) or its habitat (if in the species range) known to be present or observed within the plot(s)?
- Is there an Annex II species (e.g. Killarney Fern, Yellow Marsh Saxifrage and River Lamprey) and / or its habitat known to be present or observed within the plot(s)?
- Is the application located on sandstone geology in West Cork or Kerry, as illustrated in Figure 1 of the Forest Service Forestry & Kerry Slug Guidelines?
- Is there a population of a species protected under the Flora (Protection) Order 2015 (S.I.356 of 2015) known to be present or observed within the plot(s)?

**An affirmative answer in each case will necessitate the submission of a report detailing the issue and setting out justification for the project to proceed in light of the sensitivity, and any relevant mitigation included**

**From:** Mahoney, Brian <[Brian.Mahoney@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Brian.Mahoney@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 11, 2024 4:20 PM  
**To:** Dunne, Seamus <[Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** Environmental Requirements for Afforestation - Other biodiversity considerations (page13)

Hi Seamus,

Can a response be provided to me query re 'other environmental considerations,' that I sent in October and again in November (see below). I haven't received any reply from Kevin Collins or Orla Fahy yet.

New afforestation applications are starting to come in, which require clarification of this issue.

Regards,  
Brian Mahoney

**From:** Mahoney, Brian  
**Sent:** 11 January 2024 16:15  
**To:** Collins, Kevin <[Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** Environmental Requirements for Afforestation - Other biodiversity considerations (page13)

Kevin,

A reminder on this request for clarification (see below).

Thanks,  
Brian Mahoney

**From:** Mahoney, Brian  
**Sent:** 16 November 2023 14:47  
**To:** Fahy, Orla <[Orla.Fahy@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Orla.Fahy@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Collins, Kevin <[Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Cc:** Dunne, Seamus <[Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Nugent, Ciaran <[Ciaran.Nugent@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Ciaran.Nugent@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Hona, Seppi <[Seppi.Hona@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Seppi.Hona@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: Environmental Requirements for Afforestation - Other biodiversity considerations (page13)

Colleagues,

A reminder on this request for clarification (see below).

Thanks,  
Brian Mahoney

**From:** Mahoney, Brian  
**Sent:** 17 October 2023 15:20  
**To:** Fahy, Orla <[Orla.Fahy@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Orla.Fahy@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Collins, Kevin <[Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Cc:** Dunne, Seamus <[Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Seamus.Dunne@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Nugent, Ciaran <[Ciaran.Nugent@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Ciaran.Nugent@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Hona, Seppi <[Seppi.Hona@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Seppi.Hona@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** Environmental Requirements for Afforestation - Other biodiversity considerations (page13)

Colleagues,

Further to the discussion yesterday. The section in the 'Environmental Requirements for Afforestation' document dealing with 'other environmental considerations,' states that if various species or their habitat are present, or observed on a site, that "an affirmative answer in each case will necessitate the submission of a report detailing the issue and setting out the justification for the project to proceed..."

The species mentioned include otters, river lamprey, marsh fritillary butterfly and bats, amongst others. I assume that is the Forestry and Otters guidelines are relevant, that a report re otters is required. I assume that is the site has aquatic zones or watercourses flowing into aquatic zones, that a report re river lamprey is required (The Inland Fisheries officer, Andrew Gillespie, has told me that lamprey breed throughout the Blackwater catchment, including the small first order streams) and that if the site has large veteran trees/ruined buildings, associated with hedgerows, which could provide roost sites for bats, that a report re bats is required.

I don't want to have to request reports via 'further information required' requests unless necessary. These species and habitats are very widespread, which would result in many applications requiring reports. I would have thought that the new 'Environmental Requirements for Afforestation' documents setbacks and requirements address any potential impact on these species? Clarification regarding this section is requested.

Regards,  
Brian Mahoney