

**From:** [Alleged Illegal Forestry](#)  
**To:** [Kirwan, Andrew](#); [Sheridan, Stephen](#); [Alleged Illegal Forestry](#); [Howlin, Margaret](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Potential unlicenced forest road, Devils Glen, Wicklow - AIR 6.24  
**Date:** Tuesday 4 February 2025 15:13:01

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Hi Andrew,

Thanks for this. File on this report is now closed.

Regards,

Eilish Kehoe  
Alleged Illegal Forestry Unit  
Forestry Division  
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine  
Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford, Y35 PN52

T: 053-9163400  
[www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)

-----Original Message-----

From: Kirwan, Andrew <[Andrew.Kirwan@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Andrew.Kirwan@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
Sent: Tuesday 4 February 2025 12:18  
To: Sheridan, Stephen <[Stephen.Sheridan@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Stephen.Sheridan@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Alleged Illegal Forestry <[AIF@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:AIF@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Howlin, Margaret <[Margaret.Howlin@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Margaret.Howlin@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
Subject: RE: Potential unlicenced forest road, Devils Glen, Wicklow - AIR 6.24

Hi All,

Just to confirm and close-out. The works Coillte were carrying out along the Vartry were not forest road works. They appeared to be installing recreational trails for foot/bicycle traffic.

Kind regards,

Andrew

-----Original Message-----

From: Sheridan, Stephen <[Stephen.Sheridan@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Stephen.Sheridan@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
Sent: Thursday 14 November 2024 10:59  
To: Alleged Illegal Forestry <[AIF@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:AIF@agriculture.gov.ie)>; Howlin, Margaret <[Margaret.Howlin@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Margaret.Howlin@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
Cc: Kirwan, Andrew <[Andrew.Kirwan@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Andrew.Kirwan@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
Subject: RE: Potential unlicenced forest road, Devils Glen, Wicklow - AIR 6.24

Hi Margaret,

I am sure Andrew will be back to you with that detail.

As I say due to the nature of the report it was more appropriate that Andrew or his team investigated this issue rather than myself. While Andrew kept me in the loop on this I am unsure of the exact detail so it is best that Andrew answers this I think.

If I can assist in any further way please feel free to get back to me.

Kind regards,

Stephen Sheridan  
District Forestry Inspector - Wexford / Wicklow

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

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-----Original Message-----

From: Alleged Illegal Forestry <AIF@agriculture.gov.ie>  
Sent: Thursday 14 November 2024 10:56  
To: Sheridan, Stephen <Stephen.Sheridan@agriculture.gov.ie>; Howlin, Margaret <Margaret.Howlin@agriculture.gov.ie>; Alleged Illegal Forestry <AIF@agriculture.gov.ie>  
Cc: Alleged Illegal Forestry <AIF@agriculture.gov.ie>; Kirwan, Andrew <Andrew.Kirwan@agriculture.gov.ie>  
Subject: RE: Potential unlicenced forest road, Devils Glen, Wicklow - AIR 6.24

Thanks Stephen

If Andrew concurs then I guess we can close this case down.

Could you guys provide your findings as to why we are to close so we have this for our records please?

Thanks guys

Mags

Regards

Margaret Howlin

Alleged Illegal Forestry Section, Forest Service

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An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Sheridan, Stephen <Stephen.Sheridan@agriculture.gov.ie>  
Sent: Thursday 14 November 2024 10:45  
To: Howlin, Margaret <Margaret.Howlin@agriculture.gov.ie>; Alleged Illegal Forestry <AIF@agriculture.gov.ie>  
Cc: Alleged Illegal Forestry <AIF@agriculture.gov.ie>; Kirwan, Andrew <Andrew.Kirwan@agriculture.gov.ie>  
Subject: RE: Potential unlicenced forest road, Devils Glen, Wicklow - AIR 6.24

Hi Margaret,

My colleague from the Environment Section Andrew Kirwan (CC'd) investigated this case at the time.

There was no further action required from DAFM following Andrews investigation and the case could be closed.

I am sure Andrew will correct me if I am wrong on that.

Kind regards,

Stephen Sheridan  
District Forestry Inspector - Wexford / Wicklow

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-----Original Message-----

From: Howlin, Margaret <Margaret.Howlin@agriculture.gov.ie>  
Sent: Thursday 14 November 2024 10:02  
To: Alleged Illegal Forestry <AIF@agriculture.gov.ie>; Sheridan, Stephen <Stephen.Sheridan@agriculture.gov.ie>  
Cc: Alleged Illegal Forestry <AIF@agriculture.gov.ie>  
Subject: RE: Potential unlicenced forest road, Devils Glen, Wicklow - AIR 6.24

Hi Stephen

Has there been any progress on this case ?

Regards

Margaret Howlin

Alleged Illegal Forestry Section, Forest Service

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[www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)

-----Original Message-----

From: Alleged Illegal Forestry <AIF@agriculture.gov.ie>  
Sent: Monday 29 July 2024 10:34  
To: Sheridan, Stephen <Stephen.Sheridan@agriculture.gov.ie>  
Cc: Alleged Illegal Forestry <AIF@agriculture.gov.ie>  
Subject: RE: Potential unlicenced forest road, Devils Glen, Wicklow - AIR 6.24

Hi Stephen

We have just opened a case for this . AIR 6.24 . Can you reference this in further correspondence.  
I wasn't sure if this was for you or for Karls team .

Regards

Margaret Howlin

Alleged Illegal Forestry Section, Forest Service

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara  
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[www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)

-----Original Message-----

From: Sheridan, Stephen <Stephen.Sheridan@agriculture.gov.ie>  
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 10:04 AM  
To: Felling Forest Service <Felling.ForestService@agriculture.gov.ie>; ForestryAppEnq <ForestryAppEnq@agriculture.gov.ie>  
Cc: Alleged Illegal Forestry <AIF@agriculture.gov.ie>  
Subject: RE: Potential unlicenced forest road, Devils Glen, Wicklow

Hi Therese,

Thanks for this.

I have spoken to my colleagues in the environment section and we are investigating this further.

Kind regards,

Stephen Sheridan  
District Forestry Inspector - Wexford / Wicklow

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

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-----Original Message-----

From: Felling Forest Service <Felling.ForestService@agriculture.gov.ie>  
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2024 3:35 PM  
To: ForestryAppEnq <ForestryAppEnq@agriculture.gov.ie>  
Cc: Alleged Illegal Forestry <AIF@agriculture.gov.ie>; Sheridan, Stephen <Stephen.Sheridan@agriculture.gov.ie>  
Subject: FW: Potential unlicenced forest road, Devils Glen, Wicklow

Please see below and attached regarding potential unlicenced Forest Road in Devil's Glen, Co. Wicklow.  
Can you please review and reply directly to [REDACTED]

Cc'ing AIF Section for info.

Kind regards,

Therese Murphy  
Felling Unit, Forestry

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

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2024 1:52 PM  
To: Felling Forest Service <[Felling.ForestService@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Felling.ForestService@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
Cc: Sheridan, Stephen <[Stephen.Sheridan@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Stephen.Sheridan@agriculture.gov.ie)>  
Subject: Potential unlicenced forest road, Devils Glen, Wicklow

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Hi

I would like to report a potential unlicenced forest road in construction adjacent to a sea trout spawning river in Devils Glen, Wicklow

The road is in two parts, with associated drainage into the Vartry river

Coillte have been notified, and say it is not a new road, rather reopening an old road. It has not been a road in the 25 years I have lived next to it. Regardless, it appears as a forest road and it's location will sterilise approx 500m of river bank (trout, kingfisher and otter habitat impacted). There is no obvious buffer that would be in place if this was a forest road. If construction continues with aggregate/drainage, this will expose sea trout spawning beds to predation (human and otherwise).

For context, it used to take me over an hour in waders to access those sea trout spawning pools, now it's 3 mins down the new forest road opened by the digger

In terms of mitigation, I would like DAFM FS to consider

- a) if the Coillte road is an unlicenced forest road
- b) if the contractor has to reinstate the vegetation / block public access to the spawning beds with brash etc
- c) block the drains and install working silt barriers to prevent run off from works into the river

Photos to follow via separate email

Regards



