

Environmental Emergencies/Incidents Summary 2021

No. of incidents	Location/ Forest Operation	Receptor	Significance
3	B5, CK15 - Lyre	Water & Soil	High
	B3, LM02 - Derrynahimmirk	Water & Soil	High
	CK25, Knockskagh	Water & Soil	M/H

Emergency Response Procedure

- **Issue:** Subsequent thinning that resulted in the alleged siltation of the adjacent river
- **Significance:** 8/10
- **Background:** IFI inspector visited the site on foot of a anglers compliant of discolouration of the river
- **Location:** B5, CK15, Lyre (c. 4.2 km from Tallow, Co. Waterford)
 - Size of impacted area: 14.29 ha
- **External Reporting:**
 - Reported to the BAU by the IFI on the 19th November 2021
- **Root Cause:**
 - Experienced forwarder operator did not follow best operational practice and direction from the Harvesting Forester in relation to the protection of soils and water.
- **Environmental Issues Identified:**
 - Siltation of the Glenaboy River river
- **Recommendations:**
 - **Site Pack** - turn Soils and Water section to BLUE due to hydrological connectivity to the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC 1.9km d'tream.
 - **Maps** - Aquatic zones to be shown better on the map, better map scale for the thinning operations and the definition of the raster detail background.
 - **Timing of Operations** - consideration should have been given to completing this operation during the Summer months
 - **Discussion with contractor on sub-optimal forest mgt practices** - inadequate utilisation of brush on the main extraction racks and at the location of bridge crossing, protection of watercourses, communication with FWM to flag site issues with site and identification of additional mitigation options, cessation of works , if deemed necessary, and follow instructions issued in the Harvest Site Monitoring forms.
 - **Monitoring** - Ongoing monitoring of silt traps to ensure that they are effective and identify weak spots that may need to be addressed with further installations as required.



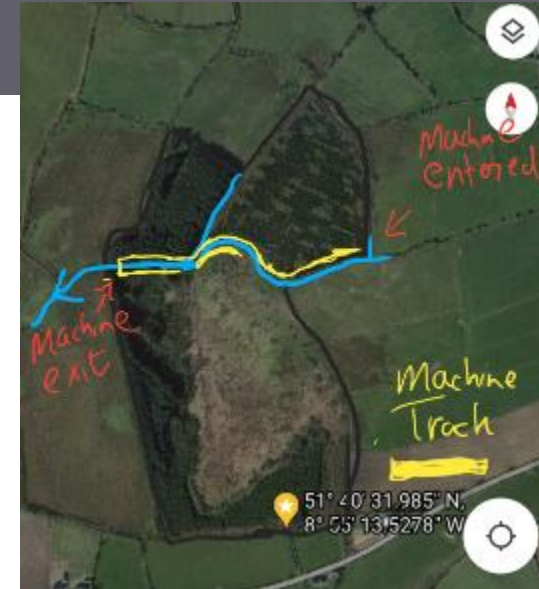
Emergency Response Procedure cont.

- **Issue:** Forest operations causing an alleged water pollution incident
- **Significance:** 8/10
- **Background:** Section 12 Notice under the **Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977** issued **by** Leitrim Co. Council to BAU 1
- **Location:** B1, LM02, Lough Melvin Forest, Derrynahimmirk property
 - Size of impacted area: 24.7 ha
- **External Reporting:**
 - Reported to the BAU by the Leitrim on the 6^h December 2021
- **Root Cause:**
 - Implemented mitigation measures were sub-optimal in portions of this very wet site.
- **Environmental Issues Identified:**
 - Harvesting debris and uncontrolled overland waterflow by the Derrynahimmirk river in high flow conditions over portions of the site.
- **Recommendations:**
 - A new silt curtain was put in place at the end of the drain created to carry the water from neighbouring property through the South East end of the site. A log damn was also placed in this drain to help trap any heavy silt or branches.
 - New silt curtains have been installed at the end of ploughed furrows prior to the water overflowing into the adjacent Derrynahimmirk river.
 - All loose brash and debris have now been removed from the stream.
 - Water samples were taken where the water entered our lands and where they left (awaiting full results)



Emergency Response Procedure cont.

- **Issue:** Un-authorized aquatic zone stream clearance works though Coillte's land
Significance: 7
- **Background:** Establishment contractor alerted the Establishment Mgr of un-authorized stream clearance of spoil and vegetation from the stream on a 2021 establishment site
- **Location:** CK25, Knockskagh
 - Size of impacted area: N/a
- **External Reporting:**
 - Reported to BAU 6 by establishment contractor
- **Root Cause:**
 - Un-authorized activity
- **Environmental Issues Identified:**
 - Machinery movement in the AZ sets backs dug out spoil and vegetation from the stream
 - The machine dug the banks in two different places to cross through the stream which has resulted in some of the Coillte site access paths being blocked
- **Recommendations:**
 - Under investigation by BAU 6 and Environment Officer



Environmental Emergencies/Incidents Summary 2022

No. of incidents	Location/ Forest Operation	Receptor	Significance
7	B6, CK24, Barnagowlane, Co. Cork	Water & Soil	High
	B3, LM09, Gubnaveagh, Co. Leitrim	Water & Soil	High
	B6, KY09, Dromalohurt, Co. Kerry	Annex 1 habitat	High
	B3, LM08, Urbal Barr, Co. Leitrim	Land slide	Medium
	B6, CK04, Gooseberryhill, Co. Cork	Water & Soil	High
	B1, LM01, Crumpaun, Co. Leitrim	Water & Soil	High
	B6, KY03, Lyracrumpane, Co. Kerry	Forest	High

Emergency Response Procedure cont.

- **Issue:** Un-authorized development of a 75m ROW area.

Significance: 6/10

- **Background:** Adjacent landowner wanted to extend the ROW to access their lands which was denied. However, it would appear they proceeded with this un-authorized road works.

- **Location: B6, CK24, Barnagowlane, Co. Cork**

- Size of impacted area: 75 M ROW

- **External Reporting:**

- Member of the public to Estates Team on 3/2/2022

- **Root Cause:**

- Unsanctioned extension of a ROW, installation of a water crossing point and development of turning area

- **Environmental Issues Identified:**

- The work includes depositing construction material to build up a direct crossing of an aquatic zone (EPA Order 1) that is a tributary of the Mealagh river.

- **Recommendations:**

- Establish with Coillte Legal section, who has the legal rights over the ROW.
- Contact the adjoining landowner who had approached Coillte about carrying out proposed works to see if they have knowledge of same and note the response.
- Based on the response from adjoining landowner, revert to Coillte Legal section to seek advice as to whether to proceed with a legal response or not.
- Notify the relevant regulatory authorities, i.e. Inland Fisheries Ireland of the incident.



Map 2 - Satellite image of Barnagowlane. Source: BlueSky Orthon 2016-2020 Coillte. A is where the ROW starts, B is the actual water crossing and C is the turning area.



Emergency Response Procedure cont.

- **Issue:** Section 12 Notice, LM09, Gubnaveagh, Co. Leitrim
- **Significance:** 7/10
- **Background:** Adjacent landowner wanted to extend the ROW to access their lands which was denied. However, it would appear they proceeded with this un-authorized road works.
- **Location:** B3, LM09, Gubnaveagh, Co. Leitrim (18.5 ha)
- **External Reporting:**
 - Leitrim Co. Council/Establishment Team site visit 10th May 2022
- **Root Cause:**
 - Mitigation in place not sufficient to prevent silt run-off from Establishment site
- **Environmental Issues Identified:**
 - Silt run-off into a tributary of the Aughacashlaun river
- **Recommendations:**
 - Preparation of Site Remedial Plan for Leitrim Co. Co.
 - Twelve additional silt traps and three additional silt curtains were installed on top of existing mitigation measures
 - Continue weekly water monitoring at predefined points, plus inspection of silt mitigation measures and maintenance of same
 - Hold monthly review meetings to assess efficacy of mitigation measures
 - Share findings as required with Leitrim Co. Co.



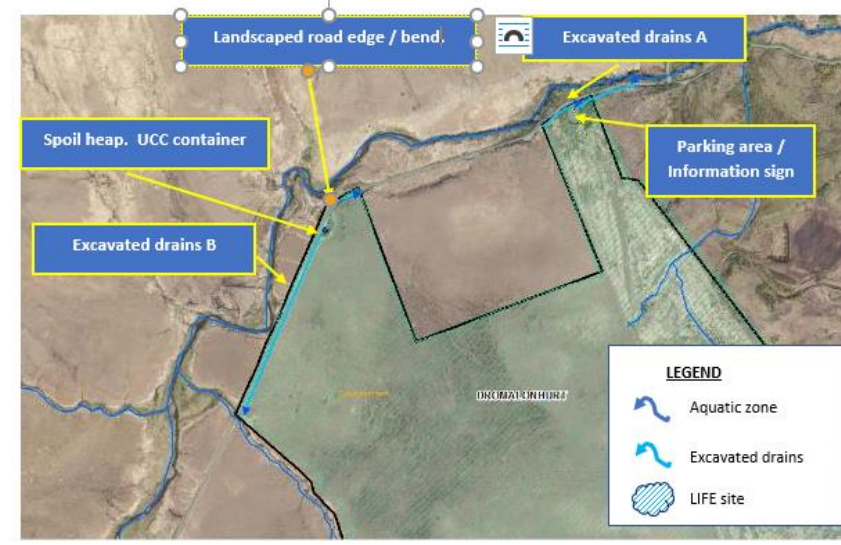
Emergency Response Procedure cont



- **Issue:** Unauthorised roadside drainage works adjacent to EU Life Dromalohurt Bog in Co. Kerry.

Significance: 7/10

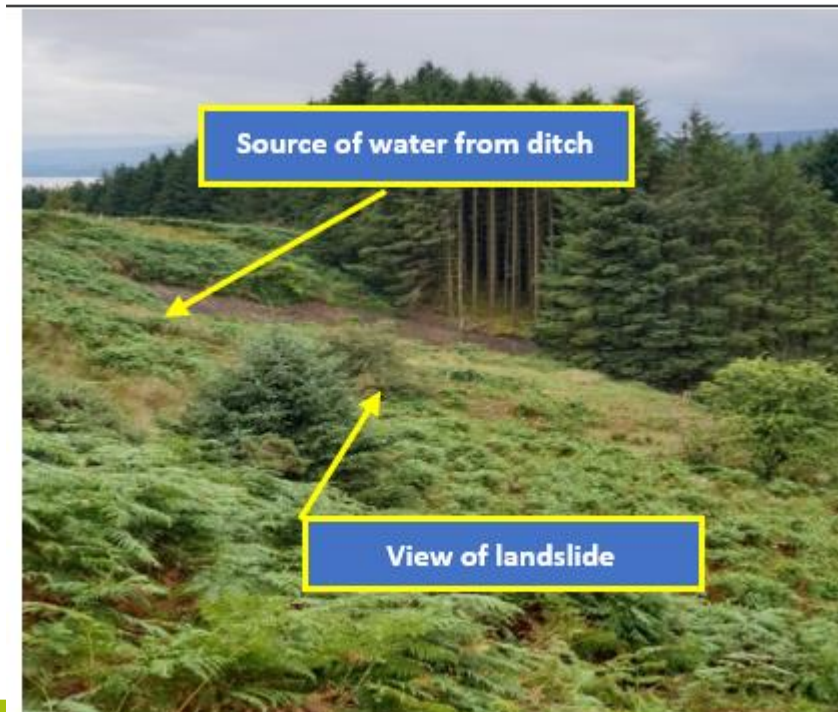
- **Background:** Roadside drains have been excavated adjacent to the EU-LIFE Nature site of Dromalohurt Bog in Co. Kerry.
- **Location:** B6, KY09, Dromalohurt, Co. Kerry (~470m)
- **External Reporting:**
 - Reported to AO'S by an interested stakeholder on the 12th June 2022
- **Root Cause:**
 - Excavation of drains adjacent to the county road on Coillte lands by a 3rd party without notice
- **Environmental Issues Identified:**
 - IpNHA and is classed as High Conservation Value Forestry (HCVF).
 - BioClass rating 2 with a potential rating of 1
 - Top 8 FWPM catchment, there is a population of mussels 2.7km downstream
 - [LIFE02NAT/IRL/8490 project](#) - Active Blanket Bog Restoration in Ireland that ran from 2003-2007 Dromalohurt Bog (101.9 ha)



- **Recommendations:**
- **Communications**
 - Establish who the 3rd party was that is responsible for the work.
 - Follow up communications with the 3rd party to convey the importance and location of the LIFE project – site meeting required.
 - Inform NPWS of unsanctioned work.
- **Assessment:**
 - Ecologist with expertise in Blanket bog to assess the impact of the work and if mitigation measures are required.
- **Operations:**
 - Short term - Install silt traps in the drains.
 - Medium term – follow up on mitigations recommended by contract ecologist.

Emergency Response Procedure Cont.

- **Issue: Landslide leading to silt run-off**
Significance: 3/10
- **Background:** Local stakeholder notified Coillte in October'21, followed by another stakeholder in the August 2022
- **Location:** B3 LM08, Ural Barr, Co. Leitrim
- **External Reporting:**
 - Coillte were notified on the 4/08/2022 by a stakeholder.
 - All statutory agencies notified
- **Root Cause:**
 - Landslide originating outside of Coillte land after a heavy rainfall event - spoil from the landslide entered the headwaters of the Yellow River
- **Recommendations:**
 - Short-term:
 - Notify Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI), Leitrim County Council (LCC) and Forest Service (FS) notified in November'21
 - Co-ordinated site visits by FS-DAFM and IFI
 - Implement mitigation works as agreed with IFI in November'21 as complimentary assistance to protect the water courses.
 - Medium term:
 - BAU Harvesting team to assess the possibility of the following;
 - (1) harvesting the site through cable extraction,
 - (2) partial clearance with no extraction or
 - (3) long-term retention will all be considered.
 - BAUs will also see about getting external specialist advise, if available.
 - Once a management plan has been drafted local consultation with the statutory and local stakeholders will be undertaken.



Emergency Response Procedure Cont.

- **Issue: Siltation of aquatic zone during harvesting (2nd Thinning)**
- **Significance: 10/10**
- **Background:** Routine inspection by IFI inspector when above issue noted
- **Location:** B6, CK04, Gooseberryhill, Co. Cork
- **External Reporting:**
 - Coillte were notified by the IFI and cautioned contractor and FWM, FS suspended the FL on the 14th October 2022 and remains to Q2'23
- **Root Cause:**
 - The combination of heavy rain, a poorly maintained main extraction rack and the removal of a temporary log crossing point caused debris and silt to ultimately discharge into adjacent aquatic zone
- **Key Environmental Issues Identified:**
 - Poorly maintained main extraction rack
 - Poor removal of a temporary log crossing over a deep drain causing debris and soil to enter the drains that were connected to the RW and the AZ.
- **Key Recommendations:**
 - Ongoing monitoring of the silt traps until the site has dried and the risk is averted.
 - Forward driver to attend ERA Refresher training & re-circulate the Brash Management Guidelines to Harvesting operators.
 - Better communication between harvesting operators, main contractor and forest works manager when a site starts to go awry to seek further instruction.
 - Raise the awareness of harvesting operational staff of the risks posed by the more frequently occurring downpours that are occurring.
 - More appropriate methods of deployment of temporary crossings to be agreed between harvesting contractor and harvesting team when crossing deep drains, i.e.
 - deploy a heavy-duty plastic culvert lengthways into the drainage channel and cover with brash material rather than use a temporary crossing point using logs.



Emergency Response Procedure Cont..

- **Issue: Siltation of aquatic zone during harvesting (Clearfell)**
- **Significance: 10/10**
- **Background:** Inspection by Co.Co. on foot of stakeholder compliant
- **Location:** B1, LM01, Crumpaun, Co. Leitrim
- **External Reporting:**
 - Coillte were notified by Leitrim Co. Co. and served a Section 12 Notice, FL temporarily suspended by FS on the 17th October 2022
- **Root Cause:**
 - Dry drain started to carry water from a previously unknown underground water source following a severe rainfall event leading to silt/sediment release into the Black River
- **Key Environmental Issues Identified:**
 - 13.5ha clearfell, gley soil type.
 - Slope is moderate on the lower section of the site but becomes steep towards the south to southwest portion.
- **Key Recommendations:**
 - Ongoing monitoring of water flow, check efficacy of silt traps and maintain same when required.
 - Recommence forwarding operations as soon as possible to make use of existing brush mats and supplementary brush available on site. Logs available on site will also be used to reinforce the main extraction rack.
 - Timing of the operation has had a considerable influence on the siltation event. Harvesting operations are restricted to the period outside 1st March to 31st August due to possible impacts on nesting birds associated with the Sligo/Leitrim Uplands SPA (Peregrine and Chough). Perhaps more consideration should be given to prioritisation of water sensitive sites while balancing the requirements for the protection of the listed birds.
 - Agree further site meetings with representatives from Leitrim Co. Council and the Forest Service to monitor effectiveness of remediation works and take on board any further recommendations.



Emergency Response Procedure Cont

- **Issue: Unsanctioned felling**
- **Significance: 8/10**
- **Background:** An area of approx. 4.5 ha's was identified where a unlicensed felling activity occurred in BAU 6. When the harvesting forester visited the site he found that the harvesting machine was in an area outside the licenced HU
- **Location:**
 - B6, Lyracrumpane, Co. Kerry
- **External Reporting:**
 - N/a. Issue identified by the FWM.
- **Root Cause:**
 - There was a miscommunication between the FWM and the operator at the pre-commencement meeting, where the boundaries of the licenced fell area were not clearly defined and understood.
- **Recommendations:**
 - Communications
 - Engage with the Forest Section on the unlicensed activity and agree a programme to regularise the situation
 - Issue a briefing note to all harvesting contractors and foresters around the importance of boundaries and map reading.
 - Operations
 - Where undefined boundaries are adjacent to HU's these should be clearly marked on the ground with X's on the boundary trees.
 - A site walk over with the harvester operator pre felling is essential to highlight boundaries
 - Priorisation of the installation STICKS onto all STC's before commencement

Environmental Emergencies/Incidents Summary 2023

No. of incidents	Location/ Forest Operation	Receptor	Significance
2	B3, LM09, Pottore, Co. Leitrim	Water & Soil	Medium to High
	B3, OY01, Blackwood	Habitat	Low to Medium

Emergency Preparedness and Response Procedure Reports

- **Issue: Traversing watercourses (RW, AW and drains) without proper temporary bridging and mitigations in place**
- **Significance: 7/10**
- **Background:** Twitter reports from SL alerted B3 establishment team
- **Location:** B3, LM09 - Pottore Property, Co. Leitrim
- **External Reporting:** N/a
- **Root Cause:**
 - Contractor did not adhere to standard mitigations and site monitoring was not adequate to pick up on these non-compliances and address them before site was completed.

- **Key Environmental Issues Identified:**

- Good planning work was done (deciding not to cultivate and species ch
- Field data collection was carried out and features were recorded for the site pack.
- A lack of understanding by the contractor/operator was evident, despite communication of details in the plan at pre commencement meeting. A tracked excavator traversed over 4 watercourses, including an aquatic zone, without the implementation of standard mitigations.
- The site works were carried out during an unusually dry spell in February 2023, a major factor in preventing a siltation issue.
- Site monitoring needs to be carried out, ensuring standards are met as part of good site management.

- **Key Recommendations:**

- The Establishment team in conjunction with the Environment Manager will undertake to provide further training, guidance and mentoring to the operator/contractor at the earliest opportunity, focussing on crossing point/silt traps.
- Crossing points on sensitive sites need to be agreed and marked on Safety and Environment map in site pack
- Site monitoring of sensitive sites needs to happen, especially where a tracked excavator is working.
- Install silt traps in roadside drain at crossing 1 and at the crossing of RW x 2.
- If access is required at crossing point 5, install the pipe at a suitable point above or below old crossing point.



Emergency Preparedness and Response Procedure Reports Cont.

- **Issue:** Silt pond overflow onto Coillte lands
- **Significance:** 5/10
- **Background:** During a period of prolonged heavy rainfall, Kilsaran Quarry silt pond overflowed and a large amount of water carrying silt flowed into Blackwood property.
- **Location:** B3, OY01, Blackwood, Co. Offaly
- **External Reporting:**
 - Member of the public on the 26/9/2023
- **Recommendations (summarised):**
 - Additional mitigation and enhancement of silt pond required
 - A clean up of the deep silt required to allow woodland vegetation recover.
 - A brief operation plan required prior to commencement of any remedial operations.



Environmental Emergencies/Incidents Summary 2024

No. of incidents	Location/ Forest Operation	Receptor	Significance
5	B5, TY19, Knockballiniry –Burst mains/road slippage	Water & Soil	High
	B2, MO19, Cloondaff, - Landslide	Water & Soil	Medium
	B3, OY03, Garryhinch – Flood Mitigation Works	Biodiversity habitat	Medium
	B3_LM9_Altakeeran_Landslide	Water & Soil	Medium
	B6_CK11_Gortnagishagh_non sanctioned drainage works	Water & Soil	Medium Low

Emergency Preparedness and Response Procedure Reports

- **Issue:** Burst high pressure water pipe adjacent to an EPA AZ order 2 (May 2024)
- **Location:** B5, TY19, Knockballiniry, Co. Tipperary
- **Background:** Forest road collapse due to a burst water mains (x3) over a period of c. 6 months
- **Significance:** 7/10
- **Issues noted:**
 - Significant volumes of material entering the A substrates
- **External Reporting:**
 - Inland Fisheries Ireland (to be reported)
- **Recommendations:**
 - Draft & agree communications protocol with IFI for reporting of environmental incidents
 - Determine availability of Úisce Éireann GIS network spatial files
 - Request Úisce Éireann to get an aquatic assessment of
 - the potentially impacted headwaters of the Glengalla River



Emergency Preparedness and Response Procedure Reports

- **Issue:** Landslide (August 2024)
- **Location:** B1, MO19, Cloondaff, Co. Mayo
- **Significance:** 5/10
- **Background:** Landslide 50m wide and 100m long on a peaty podzol (above road) to poorly drained mineral soil (below road) in early August and stopped short of young forest plantation. Silt was not apparent in the downstream AZ. The GSI landslide susceptibility rating for this area is somewhat inconclusive.
- **Issues noted:**
 - Blockage of forest road for 30m
 - Damage to BioClass 4m for grassland & heath
- **Root Cause:**
 - Cause of landslide is not overly apparent from the walk-over survey.
- **External Reporting:**
 - N/a
- **Recommendations:**
 - Clear the forest road – completed
 - Conduct water sampling downstream of the landslide == completed



Emergency Preparedness and Response Procedure Reports cont.

- **Issue: Un-authorized flood relief works (September 2024)**
(May 2024)
- **Location:** B3, OY03, Garryhinch, Co. Laois
- **Background:** Inter agency agreement (IFI, Laois Co Co & Coillte) on flood relief works in August. AA completed. Works progressed without sanction from Coillte & IFI and adhering to AA mitigations.
- **Significance: 6/10**
- **Issues noted:**
 - Deposited silt (c.40cm) deposited on Coillte setback & OWS
 - Site not left in a safe condition for public access
 - Failure of inter-agency agreement
- **External Reporting:**
 - Inland Fisheries Ireland, Laois Co. Co. & NPWS
- **Recommendations:**
 - Remediation plan needs to be agreed between Coillte, IFI and Laois Co. Council
 - Construct berm as agreed and make safe public access to fish.
 - Remedial works to be completed & LCC be billed for these works by Coillte.



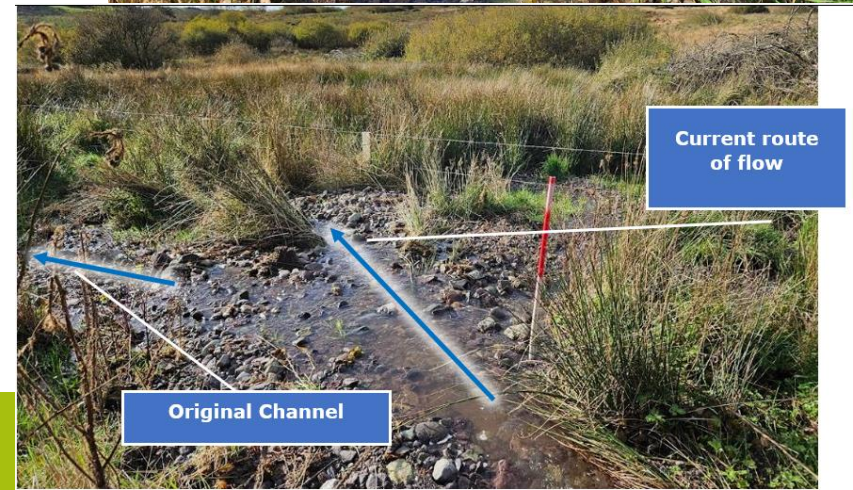
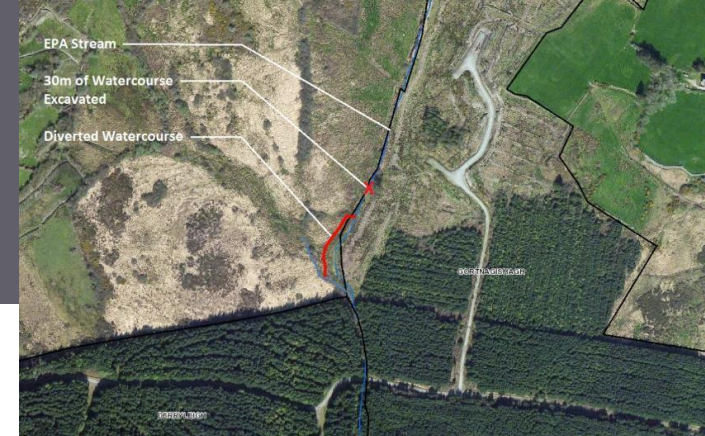
Emergency Preparedness and Response Procedure Reports Cont.

- **Issue:** Landslide (November/December 2024)
- **Location:** B3_LM09_Altakeeran
- **Significance:** Medium
- **Background:** Slide was triangular in shape, c.0.1ha, originating from open unplanted land with nat. regen. The slide moved down a steep bank for 22m onto the forest road that runs in parallel with the Yellow River. Some spoil settled on the riverbank in the setback area.
- **Issues noted:**
 - Local farmers had driven through the slide to access their lands.
 - Spoil temporarily stored at a wider section of road.
 - Spoil slipped into the setback but didn't enter the aquatic zone.
- **Root Cause:**
 - Possible impact from a rainfall event in on 28th Nov'24, equivalent to monthly rainfall amount for this time of year.
- **Recommendations (summarised):**
 - All remedial works to be done during dry weather.
 - Install silt mitigation measures in roadside drains.
 - Remove soil from lower side of road and deposit away from site and river.



Emergency Preparedness and Response Procedure Reports cont.

- **Issue: 3rd party non-sanctioned drainage works**
- **Location:** B6_CK11_Gortnagishagh
- **Background:** Request received in Feb '24 that water flowing from Coillte property into adjoining farmer's land be diverted. It transpires the landowner had got a contractor in Nov'22 to excavate a section of the AZ that bounded the two properties, which lead to the diversion of surface water onto his land.
- **Significance: Medium to low**
- **Site Visit Issues Noted:**
 - c. 30m of the stream bank had been excavated & weakened in high flow.
 - Diverted surface water filtered into wetland.
 - Aquatic zone was running clear.
- **Root Cause**
 - 3rd party excavation of EPA Order 1 AZ causing a blow out of gravel and debris that blocked the natural route of the AZ.
- **Recommendations (summarised):**
 - Leave the site undisturbed and monitor intermittently





Emergency Preparedness and Response Procedure Reports

Q2 Summary 2025



No of Incidents	Location/Forest Operation	Receptor	Significance
1	B5, TY19 Shanahan / Knockadav – unconsented trail development	Open Habitat	Medium

Emergency Preparedness and Response Procedure Reports Cont.

- **Issue:** Unconsented trail excavation
- **Location:** B5, TY19, Shanrahan & Knockadav
- **Significance:** 7/10
- **Background:** Short portion of unsanctioned track was constructed in 2023. A larger section of unsanctioned track (3.5 km) constructed in Oct / Nov 2024 that crossed into non-Coillte land.
- **Issues noted:**
 - Rhododendron foliage pickers an issue
- **Root Cause:**
 - Ongoing issues with trespass in locality
 - Barrier locks continuously cut
- **External Reporting:**
 - AIE request in Oct'24
- **Recommendations:**
 - Report to the Gardai.
 - Leave the track to vegetate over
 - Continue to monitor the area.

