

## **EIR Request (received 08 December 2023) - Reference: DFI/2023-0456**

It has been reported that the Manor House Hotel and Caravan Park, Killadeas, Co. Fermanagh have now extended the felling of trees to the whole complex and various access roads.

During spring 2023 there was decimation and removal of the native woodland at the front of the hotel which has been reseeded in amenity grassland. This location was cleared of native woodland known to host red squirrels, at the entrance to Manor House Hotel (south side) [Site 1 @ - 54.429796, -7.677173] and has not been replanted.

During 2023 (and possibly also 2022) there was also felling of trees some of which were probably 100s of years old at least at the north side of entrance to Manor Country House Hotel [Site 2 @ 54.431770, -7.678817] and at the rear access to the hotel complex south of Killadeas Priory Church [Site 3 @ 54.432240, -7.683597] and inside woodland to rear of Lough Erne Yacht Club [Site 4 @ 54.423789, -7.685820].

We understand that the works that took place in 2023 may not have been covered by felling licences or that Forest Service appears to have issued a retrospective felling licence for at least part of these works.

We believe all the 2022 and 2023 works should be investigated fully for felling licence, planning/consent breaches and why the native trees have been allowed to be removed and/or not replaced or replanted?

Members of the public have advised that tree-felling works have now extended further to their caravan park and the adjacent access roads. These are currently in progress.

- (i) Tree felling has been taking place within the caravan park at Site 5 @ 54.427094, - 7.678833 to apparently clear the site for more caravans.
- (ii) Tree felling and clearance for access road (of an already replanted woodland) at the rear entrance to the caravan park/rear entrance to yacht club Site 6 @ 54.425370, - 7.679842.

We would like to report all these activities and for them to be investigated for and evidence to be provided to us for:

- (i) Investigation into felling licence compliance and existence of felling licences and wildlife (red squirrel)/tree surveys for all these works [Site 1 - 6 inclusive].

Furthermore we seek evidence of:

- (ii) Confirmation of derogation from replanting as required under forestry legislation (at front of hotel) and/or details of planning permission for which this clearance of woodland pertains [Site 1].
- (iii) Investigation in to breach of planning permission for caravan park for removal of screening and trees which were to be retained as part of existing planning permission [Site 5].
- (iv) Investigation in to modification of waterways and drainage and culverting and roadways within the caravan park which may require planning permission and/or consent from Rivers Agency [Site 5].
- (v) Investigation in to breach of planning permission for exceedance of maximum numbers of permitted caravans on the caravan park for which trees are being removed [Site 5].
- (vi) Confirmation for the basis of destruction of ancient oak wood, replanting and subsequent clearance of replanted area [Site 6].

These works are reported to be in progress currently and we would urgently seek your team(s) to carry out an inspection and audit compliance at these locations related to both tree felling and planning permissions and consents.

We would like details and copies of any information actions and enforcement actions that arise and any outcome to the above investigations.

As a bare minimum surely the loss of woodland at these locations is surely to be offset by replanting rather than such extensive loss of native tree cover as required under the legislation?

## **Response (issued 11 January 2024)**

Thank you for your email of 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023, requesting information in relation to Manor House Hotel and Caravan Park, Killadeas, Co. Fermanagh.

In considering your request on behalf of the Department, I have determined that the information requested falls under the aegis of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR), as opposed to Freedom of Information Act 2000. Your request is for information that relates to activities, policies or plans that affect the environment. Section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act specifically excludes from consideration under that Act requests for what is deemed to be environmental information.

A guide explaining the Environmental Information Regulations can be found at:  
<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/foi-eir-and-access-to-information/guide-to-the-environmental-information-regulations/>.

The Environmental Information Regulations established general public rights of access to environmental information held by public authorities, similar to the general rights established under FOI. There is no provision for privileged access to information, it may either be released to the World at large, or it must be withheld. Any information provided in response to an information request (either FOI or EIR) is considered to have been placed in the public domain.

I am responding to question (iv) of your request, that is, "Investigation into modification of waterways and drainage and culverting and roadways within the caravan park which may require planning permission and/or consent from Rivers Agency [Site 5]. The other issues raised in your email are outside the remit of the Department.

The Department does not hold any records relating to question (iv) of your request.

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