

Guidance for Registered Foresters completing the Environmental Considerations for Forest Road (Working Document 19Dec23)

Please note the following:

1. This document sets out the various questions contained in the Environmental Considerations section of the Forest Roads Application screens on iNET. Each question is accompanied by guidance for the Registered Forester completing the section.
2. As is clear, significant changes have been applied to the Environmental Considerations section, compare to that under the previous Forestry Programme. This has been carried out in order to transform this section of the application process into the initial point where key environmental sensitivities are identified, and relevant actions are taken to address them efficiently and effectively.
3. This document is to be read in conjunction with Circular 27 / 2023 (issued on the 18th Dec.), which sets out how Registered Foresters do not need to submit various reports, even though such reports are specified under various questions and accompanying notes. A revised version of this Environmental Considerations section will issue in early 2024 with corrections, but in the meantime, Circular 27 / 2023 and this document set out the interim process for dealing with this issue, to enable applications to be submitted to DAFM for assessment.
4. Regarding questions in the Environmental Considerations section where the question and / or its accompanying note specify a report, but where the Guidance to the Registered Forester below states that a report is not required, the following applies:
 - a. In order to progress a forest road iNET application to submission, Registered Foresters will be required to tick the Report Attached checkbox for certain Environmental Considerations questions.
 - b. In the context of Circular 27/2023 and the Guidance to Registered Foresters, the Registered Forester can tick this Report Attached checkbox, in order to progress the forest road application to the next step of the forest road application process.
 - c. The forest road Submission Report, which can be generated after the forest road application has been submitted, will state that which reports are needed arising from the response to various questions in the Environmental Considerations section. However Circular 27/2023 and the associated Guidance for Registered Foresters in relation to where a report is not required also applies in this instance.
 - d. This arrangement will remain in place on an interim basis, until notified by DAFM.
5. The guidance text below lists by name the various layers on the iNET MapViewer that the Registered Forester can check when responding to the questions. Please note that the layers cited are not exhaustive, and the Registerer Forester may need to consult other sources of information to answer the question at hand.

Considerations: Project Length		Guidance for Registered Forester
1.1	<p>Is the length of the proposed road project 2000 metres or greater?</p> <p>Note: If Yes, the application must be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report.</p>	<p>If 'Yes', an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) must accompany the application.</p> <p>As stipulated in S.I. No. 191 of 2017, as amended, an EIA Report must be submitted with any forest road application, where the proposed length is 2,000 metres or greater.</p> <p>Schedule 4 of that same Statutory Instrument sets out the information to be provided by the Applicant in the EIA Report. Additional information may also be stipulated by DAFM.</p> <p>DAFM undertakes the EIA in accordance with the EIA Directive (as amended) and transposing legislation, taking into account the submitted EIA Report, other information submitted by the Applicant, and/or reports and advice prepared by DAFM specialists.</p>

Considerations: Water		Guidance for Registered Forester
2.1	<p>Is the project area greater than 5 ha and wholly or partially within an area identified as being sensitive for fisheries?</p>	<p>In relation to Qs. 2.1 and 2.2 only, consider the 'project area' as the forest served by the proposed forest road. Respond to this question accordingly after consulting the <i>Fisheries Sensitive Areas</i> layer on the iNET MapViewer.</p> <p>DAFM operates a protocol whereby forest road applications in areas deemed by Inland Fisheries Ireland as being sensitive, are referred to that body.</p> <p>Within these areas, the design and construction of the forest road, especially crossing points and sections proximate to aquatic zones, are of particular concern, and this sensitivity must be reflected and appropriately addressed within the forest road application. The 'source-pathway-receptor' model may be helpful in doing so. The 'source' represents the point at which pollution is generated (e.g. extreme rutting creating loose sediment, or a fuel depo, where accidental spillage might occur). The 'pathway' represents the mechanism whereby the pollution can reach the receptor (in the forest road context, the pathway is often existing forest drains and the newly-built roadside drains, and the adjoining aquatic zone that leads to the downstream SAC – both elements will carry the sediment to the SAC. The 'receptor' is the SAC, or more specifically, the qualifying interests and associated conservation objectives that are in danger of being negatively impacted, due to the upstream sediment release. Forest managers can eliminate or minimise the source and</p>

		<p>elements of the pathway that lie within the project area itself e.g. by ceasing operations during heavy rain, and / or the extensive use of silt traps).</p> <p>Referral to IFI takes place in relation to fisheries sensitive areas, and responses received are considered by DAFM as part of its assessment of the project.</p>
2.2	<p>Is the project area greater than 40 ha and wholly outside of those areas identified as being sensitive for fisheries?</p>	<p>In relation to Qs. 2.1 and 2.2 only, consider the ‘project area’ as the forest served by the proposed forest road. Similar to above, referral to Inland Fisheries Ireland takes place where the project area (as defined by the 50 m wide strip) is greater than 40 ha and the site is outside of those areas identified as fisheries sensitive.</p> <p>See the <i>Fisheries Sensitive Areas</i> layer on the iNET MapViewer.</p> <p>Guidance under Q.2.1 applies.</p>
2.3	<p>Is the project area greater than 10 hectares and within a catchment area of a Local Authority designated water scheme?</p>	<p>If ‘Yes’, concerns might arise regarding impacts on drinking water arising from the forest road project.</p> <p>As a result, referral to the relevant Local Authority is required.</p> <p>Within these areas, the design and construction of the forest road, especially crossing points and sections proximate to aquatic zones, are of particular concern, and this sensitivity must be reflected and appropriately addressed within the forest road application. The ‘source-pathway-receptor’ model may be helpful in doing so (see guidance under Q.2.1 for details of this model).</p>
2.4	<p>Is the project area within the Zone of Contribution or Source Protection Area for a drinking water abstraction point, or within the 250 metre buffer around a drinking water abstraction point?</p>	<p>If ‘Yes’, concerns might arise regarding impacts on drinking water arising from the forest road project.</p> <p>Within these areas, the design and construction of the forest road, especially crossing points and sections proximate to aquatic zones, are of particular concern, and this sensitivity must be reflected and appropriately addressed within the forest road application. The ‘source-pathway-receptor’ model may be helpful in doing so (see guidance under Q.2.1 for details of this model).</p> <p>See the following layers on the iNET MapViewer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Group Water Abstraction Points 250m;</i> • <i>Group Water Zone of Contribution;</i> • <i>Ground Water Abstraction Catchments;</i> • <i>Surface Water Abstraction Catchments;</i> and • <i>Water Abstraction Point 250m buffer.</i>

2.5	Is the project area within a High Status Objective Waterbody?	<p>The remainder of this section (i.e. Q.2.5 to Q.10) relates to the Water Framework Directive and specifically, the current River Basin Management Plan (RBMP). The responses to these questions will indicate the sensitivity of relevant river and lake waterbodies, including waterbodies with a high status objective, waterbodies at risk of decline, and waterbodies where forestry is listed as a significant pressure (either alone or together with other land uses) (as assessed by the EPA as part of its national characterisation of waterbodies, a process that feeds into the development of the current RBMP.)</p> <p>Consult the relevant layers on iNET and respond to each question individually.</p> <p>See the following layers on the iNET MapViewer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>High StatObj Water Body</i>; • WFD Forestry Pressure layer group; • WFD At Risk/Review Waterbodies layer group; • WFD Ecological Status Bad/Moderate layer group. • <i>EPA Rivers 13</i>; and • <i>Raster 1:5000</i>. <p>If the proposed forest road overlaps at any point along its length, with any of the WFD-related questions 2.4 to 2.10, particular attention is required in relation to the protection of water. Carefully consider forest road positioning, design and operational details. The 'source-pathway-receptor' model is particularly useful in this regard.</p> <p>Particular focus should be given to associated drains, which should never enter directly into an aquatic zone or into an existing relevant watercourse.</p> <p>Please note the following, which will be corrected on iNET & iFORIS in the near future:</p> <p>Q.2.5 should read: 'Is the project area within <u>the subbasin of</u> a High Status Objective Waterbody?'</p> <p>Q.2.6 should read: 'Is the project area within <u>the subbasin of</u> a waterbody where forestry is characterised as a pressure by the EPA (alone or alongside other pressures)?'</p> <p>Q.2.8 should read: 'Is the project area within or immediately upstream of <u>the subbasin of</u> a Lake Waterbody deemed 'At Risk' or subject to Review under the relevant River Basin Management Plan?'</p> <p>Q.2.10 should read: 'Is the project area within or immediately upstream of <u>the subbasin of</u> a Lake Waterbody the status of which has been classed as 'Bad' to 'Moderate' under the relevant River Basin Management Plan?'</p>
2.6	Is the project area within a waterbody where forestry is characterised as a pressure by the EPA (alone or alongside other pressures)?	
2.7	Is the project area within or immediately upstream of the subbasin of a River Waterbody deemed 'At Risk' or subject to Review under the relevant River Basin Management Plan?	
2.8	Is the project area within or immediately upstream of a Lake Waterbody deemed 'At Risk' or subject to Review under the relevant River Basin Management Plan?	
2.9	Is the project area within or immediately upstream of the subbasin of a River Waterbody, the status of which has been classed as 'Bad' or 'Moderate' under the current River Basin Management Plan?	
2.10	Is the project area within or immediately upstream of a Lake Waterbody the status of which has been classed as 'Bad' to 'Moderate' under the relevant River Basin Management Plan?	

Considerations: Birds and SPAs		Guidance for Registered Forester
3.1	<p>Is the project area partially or wholly within a SPA?</p> <p>Note: If 'Yes', the application may be accompanied by a Natura Impact Statement (NIS). See Circular 14 of 2020, adhering to the NIS template included as part of that circular.</p>	<p>Note the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If 'Yes', DAFM may seek further information. ➤ In relation to SPAs designated for breeding Hen Harrier, the Disturbance Operations Procedure will apply, excluding operations during the period 1st March to 15th August, inclusive. The necessary spatial check is undertaken by DAFM and if overlap occurs, the restriction will be applied as a condition of the forest road licence, if issued. <p>See the following layer on the iNET MapViewer: <i>NPWS – SPA</i>.</p> <p>Also regarding Hen Harrier, DAFM undertakes a spatial check regarding breeding sites elsewhere in the wider countryside, and will seek further information and / or apply the above timing restriction, if necessary.</p> <p>Note: Disregard the Note under this question. DAFM will seek a NIS or other type of report via a Further Information Required letter, if so required.</p>
3.2	<p>Is the project area wholly or partially within a Curlew breeding buffer?</p> <p>Note: If 'Yes', the application must be accompanied by an ornithological report, setting out justification for the project to proceed in light of this sensitivity, and any associated mitigation.</p>	<p>Due to the sensitive nature of this data, DAFM undertakes the required spatial check and a 'Yes' will appear automatically, if overlap occurs.</p> <p>Note: Disregard the Note under this question. DAFM will stipulate an Ornithological Report via a Further Information Required letter, if so required.</p> <p>Follow-up contact with DAFM may be necessary to establish the extent and nature of the overlap.</p>
3.3	<p>Is the project area wholly or partially within the foraging range of a Special Conservation Interest of a SPA, as per the Bird Foraging Table?</p> <p>Note: If Yes, the application must be accompanied by an Ecological Report.</p>	<p>Check the entries for forest roads in the current DAFM Bird Foraging Table, and answer 'Yes' or 'No' accordingly.</p> <p>See the <i>NPWS – SPA</i> layer on the iNET MapViewer, in conjunction with the Bird Foraging Tables in Circular 02/2020.</p> <p>Note: Disregard the Note under the question stipulating an Ecological Report. DAFM will seek an Ecological Report via a Further Information Required letter, if so required.</p>

3.4	<p>Is the project area wholly or partially within the part of any Hen Harrier High Likelihood Nesting Area (HLNA) that extends outside of a SPA designated for breeding Hen Harriers?</p> <p>Note: If Yes, the application must be accompanied by an Ecological Report.</p>	<p>Due to the sensitive nature of this data, DAFM undertakes the required spatial check and a 'Yes' will appear automatically, if overlap occurs.</p> <p>If 'Yes', the Disturbance Operations Procedure will apply, excluding operations during the period 1st March to 15th August, inclusively.</p> <p>Note: Disregard the Note under the question, stipulating an Ecological Report. DAFM will seek an Ecological Report via a Further Information Required letter, if so required.</p> <p>Follow-up contact with DAFM may be necessary to establish the extent and nature of the overlap.</p>
3.5	<p>Is the project area wholly or partially within the Current Distribution and Breeding Distribution for Hen Harrier, as recorded in the current NPWS Article 12 Report?</p> <p>Note: If Yes, the application must be accompanied by an Ecological Report.</p>	<p>Due to the sensitive nature of this data, DAFM undertakes the required spatial check and a 'Yes' will appear automatically, if overlap occurs.</p> <p>Note: Disregard the Note under this question. DAFM will seek an Ecological Report via a Further Information Required letter, if so required.</p> <p>Follow-up contact with DAFM may be necessary to establish the extent and nature of the overlap.</p>

Considerations: SACs and Other Designated Areas		Guidance for Registered Forester
4.1	<p>Is the project area partially or wholly within a SAC?</p> <p>Note: If 'Yes', the application may be accompanied by a Natura Impact Statement (NIS). See Circular 14 of 2020, adhering to the NIS template included as part of that circular.</p>	<p>Check iNET to see if the project overlaps with a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), designated under the Habitats Directive and transposing legislation to protect certain habitats ('Annex 1 habitats') and species ('Annex 2 species').</p> <p>See the layer <i>NPWS – SAC</i> on the iNET MapViewer.</p> <p>Note, referral to NPWS also takes place where overlap occurs, and DAFM considers any response received as part of its assessment of the application, which includes screening for appropriate assessment, and appropriate assessment, if required.</p> <p>Note: Disregard the Note under this question – DAFM will seek a NIS via a Further Information Required letter, if required.</p>

4.2	<p>Is the project area partially or wholly within a NHA?</p> <p>Note: If Yes, the application must be accompanied by consent from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage (i.e. a completed Notifiable Action Form) and an Ecological Report.</p>	<p>Under Regulation 19 of the Wildlife (amendment) Act 2000 certain works within National Heritage Areas (NHAs) require the permission of the Minister for Housing, Local Government, and Heritage.</p> <p>See the layer NPWS – NHA layer on iNET MapViewer.</p> <p>If overlap occurs, consult the relevant NPWS webpage for the NHA in question and download and submit a Notifiable Action Form to NPWS.</p> <p>Once a completed Notifiable Action Form is received from NPWS, this form must be submitted with the application. However, the Ecology Report mentioned in the Note beneath this question is not required. DAFM will seek it if required.</p>
4.3	<p>Is the project area partially or wholly within a proposed NHA, a Nature Reserve, or a National Park?</p> <p>Note: If Yes, the application must be accompanied by an Ecological Report.</p>	<p>Check each of these layers on iNET. If overlap occurs, consult the relevant NPWS webpages detailing the designated area. Amendments to the layout and design of the forest road may be required to address any sensitivities that arise.</p> <p>See the following layers on the iNET MapViewer: <i>NPWS – pNHA; NPWS – National Parks; O.S Discover 1:50,000.</i></p> <p>Note: Disregard the Note under this question – DAFM will seek a, Ecological Report via a Further Information Required letter, if required.</p>

Considerations: Freshwater Pearl Mussel (FPM)		Guidance for Registered Forester
5.1	<p>Is the project area partially or wholly within one of the top eight FPM catchments?</p> <p>Note: If Yes, the area within the SPA must be excluded from the application.</p>	<p>Check the ‘FPM Top Eight Catchments’ layer on iNET to see if overlap with any of the top 8 FPM catchments occurs. If so, particular care is needed regarding the layout and design of the road, to reflect the highly sensitive nature of this species.</p> <p>Please ignore the Note beneath this question – new forest road projects are <i>not</i> automatically excluded from these areas</p>
5.2	<p>Is the project area partially or wholly within the catchment of any of the other 19 SACs designed for FPM?</p>	<p>See the layer <i>NPWS – FPM Catchment</i> on the iNET MapViewer, and tick ‘Yes’ or ‘No’, as appropriate.</p>

5.3	<p>Is the project area within the 6 km zone associated with any of the other 19 SACs designated for FPM?</p> <p>Note: If Yes, the area within the buffer must be excluded from the application.</p>	<p>See the layer <i>NPWS – FPM 6 km Zones</i> on the iNET MapViewer.</p> <p>Please ignore the Note beneath Q.5.3 – new forest road projects are <i>not</i> automatically excluded from these areas</p> <p>If overlap occurs, submit a completed Form A and Form B with the application – see Site Assessment and Mitigation Measures, pages 40 & 41 of the Forestry & FPM Requirements (DAFM 2008).</p>
5.3.1	<p>Based on the criteria set out in the Forestry and FPM Requirements, are completed Forms A and B required?</p> <p>Note: If Yes, the application must be accompanied by a completed FPM Form A and Form B.</p>	

Considerations: Undesignated Annex 1 Habitats		Guidance for Registered Forester
6.1	<p>Does the project area traverse an area(s) having the characteristics of an Annex I habitat(s) (e.g. Semi-Natural Grasslands, Annex Woodland)?</p> <p>Note: If Yes, the application must be accompanied by an Ecological Report.</p>	<p>While in most cases, the route of the proposed forest road will be enclosed within the forest itself, which will typically involve spruce canopy. However, occasions may arise whereby the route crosses an area(s) having the characteristics of an Annex 1 habitat, outside of any SAC (e.g. where a section of the route passes through open Annex 1 habitat on its way to a nearby forest stand).</p> <p>As part of the necessary checks under this question, see the following layers on the iNET MapViewer: <i>Forest & Woodland Annex Habitat; Irish Semi-natural Grasslands Survey 2007-2012</i>.</p> <p>Tick ‘Yes’ or ‘No’, as appropriate.</p> <p>Please ignore the Note under this question – DAFM will seek an Ecological Report via a FIR letter, if required.</p>

Considerations: Archaeology and Built Heritage		Guidance for Registered Forester
7.1	Does the project area, ancillary features, or associated aggregate sourcing / quarrying contain or adjoin a listed archaeological site or monument?	See the following layers on the iNET MapViewer: <i>NMS – Sites and Monuments 07; NMS – Sites and Monuments 21.</i>
7.2	Does the project area, ancillary features, or associated aggregate sourcing / quarrying contain or adjoin a listed archaeological site or monument with intensive public usage, e.g. a National Monument in State or Local Authority Ownership, in Guardianship or with a Preservation Order, or an abbey, church, graveyard or children's burial ground?	<p>These are sites and monuments where there is likely to be a regular pattern of either local or tourist visits. These can include National Monuments, a monument near a 'Way-Marked Way' walking route or other walking route such as the 'Pilgrims Path series', a monument on a local tourist map or with important local religious or cultural significance and where there is regular or seasonal attendance.</p> <p>See the following layers on the iNET MapViewer: <i>NMS – Sites and Monuments 07; NMS – Sites and Monuments 21; O.S Discover 1:50,000</i> (the latter layer showing way marked routes and most monuments which are churches and graveyards).</p>
7.3	Is the project area adjacent, i.e. within 200m of a listed archaeological site or monument?	See the following layers on the iNET MapViewer: <i>NMS – Sites and Monuments 07; NMS – Sites and Monuments 21; O.S Discover 1:50,000.</i>
7.4	Is the project area within or adjoining an Archaeological Area, a Zone of Archaeological Amenity, a World Heritage Site, a site on the Tentative List of World Heritage Sites, or a historic battlefield?	<p>An 'Archaeological Area' means an area listed as such in the Register of Historic Monuments (RHM) under the National Monuments (Amendments) Act 1987. Consult the relevant NMS Monuments layers on iNET, as all such areas are captured in the NMS Monuments 2007 layer.</p> <p>A 'Zone of Archaeological Amenity' or 'Zone of Archaeological Potential' is an area that has been identified by the National Monuments Service as being important for the protection and preservation of an archaeological site or monument or group or related archaeological sites or monuments as well as the integrity of their setting or settings. The list is issued on a non-statutory basis to the various Local Authorities, which in turn incorporate them into their respective County Development Plan.</p> <p>Pending the preparation of a national spatial dataset, the relevant County Council Development Plan will need to be consulted in relation to both Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) and Protected Structures for certainty.</p>

		<p>A 'World Heritage Site' means a site inscribed on the World Heritage List under the UNESCO World Heritage Convention. A 'Tentative World Heritage Site' means a site the State considers demonstrates potential Outstanding Universal Value to humanity and is suitable for nomination to the World Heritage List. Details of the 'World Heritage Sites' and 'Tentative World Heritage Sites' in Ireland can be obtained here: Tentative Property Archives - World Heritage Ireland</p> <p>There are two main sources of information for battlefield locations: (i) battlefields listed by the National Monuments Service in its SMR database and its Historic Environment Viewer (HEV); and (ii) battlefields depicted on the OSI 1:50,000 scale Discovery Map. See the following layers on the iNET MapViewer:</p> <p>See the following layers on the iNET MapViewer: <i>NMS – Sites and Monuments 07; NMS – Sites and Monuments 21; O.S Discover 1:50,000.</i></p>
7.5	Does the project area contain or adjoin a Protected Structure or a building or structure in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage?	<p>Consult the relevant National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) layer on iNET.</p> <p>There is a considerable coincidence between buildings and structures listed in the NIAH and Protected Structures in the relevant County Council Development Plan.</p> <p>However, pending the preparation of a national RPS and rural ACA spatial dataset, the relevant County Council Development Plan will need to be consulted in relation to both Architectural Conservation Areas and Records of Protected Structures for certainty.</p>
7.6	Is the project area within or adjoining a rural Architectural Conservation Area?	<p>As with Protected Structures, pending the preparation of a national spatial dataset, the relevant County Council Development Plan may need to be consulted in relation to Architectural Conservation Areas.</p>

Considerations: Landscape and Amenity		Guidance for Registered Forester
8.1	Is the project area within an area identified in the relevant County Development Plan as being sensitive for landscape / amenity?	<p>Consult the <i>CDP – Landscape Jan 2023</i> layer on iNET, and where an overlap occurs, investigate supporting details in the relevant County Development Plan.</p>

8.1.1	<p>Provide details of the landscape sensitivity involved, citing the County Development Plan and section(s) / map(s) therein of relevance.</p> <p><i>Textbox here:</i></p>	<p>Give details in the free text box provided, describing the landscape sensitivity involved and citing the relevant section(s) / map(s) of the CDP.</p> <p>Where overlap occurs, greater emphasis may be needed on landscape design in relation to the forest road and its route.</p>
8.2	<p>Is there potential for the project to impact on any locally-important amenity that may not be officially designated but still used and enjoyed by the local community?</p>	<p>Respond based on local knowledge, including that of the Applicant and the Registered Forester, through direct experience, local papers, media, history, etc.</p> <p>If 'yes', provide details in the free text box provided (or alternatively, submit a report), describing the issue and detailing any proposed mitigation to avoid, minimise or eliminate impact on this sensitivity.</p>
8.2.1	<p>Provide Details</p> <p><i>Textbox here:</i></p>	

Considerations: Other Environmental Sensitivities		Guidance for Registered Foresters
9.1	<p>In addition to the various environmental sensitivities identified during the course of completing the above questions, are there any other environmental considerations pertaining to the proposed project area?</p> <p>Note: If 'Yes', the application must be accompanied by an appropriate report.</p>	<p>Environmental sensitivities may exist other than those detailed above.</p> <p>If so, answer 'yes' and detail in the free text box provided (or alternatively, in an appropriate report). Where relevant, set out the nature of the sensitivity, potential impacts that could arise resulting from the proposed road, and proposed mitigation to avoid, minimise or eliminate these impacts.</p> <p>Note, disregard the Note under Q.9.1 – DAFM will seek a report is required, via a Further Information Required letter.</p>

Considerations: EIA Screening Decision		Guidance for Registered Foresters
10.1	<p>Description of aspects of the environment that are likely to be significantly affected by the forest road project Considering:</p> <p>a) the characteristics of the project, as summarised above and detailed in the application; b) the location of the project, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas identified above that could be affected; and c) the type and characteristics of potential impacts; and where these matters are further elaborated upon in Schedule 3 of the Forestry Regulations 2017, are any of the following likely to be significantly affected by the project?</p>	<p>If 'yes' to any of the Qs. 8.1 to 8.7, the application must be accompanied by a report setting out how it is intended to prevent, reduce, or manage potential impacts from the project.</p> <p>The EIA Directive (as amended) permits Member States to make the determination whether or not certain classes of project require an EIA on a case-by-case basis. This includes forest roads and in Ireland it applies to all forest road projects less than 2,000 metres in length. (Forest road projects 2,000 m or greater must undergo an EIA, and DAFM requires the submission of an EIA Report with the application.)</p> <p>The EIA Directive (Article 4(4)) also requires Applicants for such projects to submit certain information about the project with the application, which DAFM must then have regard to when making that determination.</p> <p>The specific information requirements are set out in Annex IIA of the Directive and transposed by Schedule 1 of S.I. No. 191 of 2017. It requires of the Applicant to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Take into account the available results of other relevant assessments of the effects on the environment carried out pursuant to Union legislation other than the EIA Directive; <p>This could include: (i) the Water Framework Directive (e.g. waterbody status); (ii) the Habitats Directive (e.g. Conservation Objectives of a particular SAC); or (iii) the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) and whether local land use plans</p>
10.2	<p>Wetlands, riparian areas, or river mouths?</p> <p>Note: If Yes, the application must be accompanied by a Report setting out how it is intended prevent, reduce, or manage potential impacts from the project.</p>	
10.3	<p>Coastal zones and the marine environment?</p> <p>Note: If Yes, the application must be accompanied by a Report setting out how it is intended prevent, reduce, or</p>	

	manage potential impacts from the project.	(e.g. County Development Plans) contain specific reservations against the project type.
10.4	Mountain and forest areas? Note: If Yes, the application must be accompanied by a Report setting out how it is intended prevent, reduce, or manage potential impacts from the project.	➤ Compile the information taking into account the criteria set out in Annex III of the Directive and transposed by Schedule 3 of S.I. No. 191 of 2017. That schedule speaks to sensitivities which may arise from the characteristics of the project, the location of the project; and/or the type and characteristics of potential impacts.
10.5	NHAs, pNHAs, SACs, SPAs, Nature Reserves or National Parks? Note: If Yes, the application must be accompanied by a Report setting out how it is intended prevent, reduce, or manage potential impacts from the project.	<p>At their discretion, the Applicant may also provide a description of any features of the project, and/or measures envisaged, to avoid or prevent what might otherwise be significant adverse effects on the environment. DAFM is entitled to take such details into account.</p> <p>The information submitted by the Applicant is intended to assist DAFM in assessing the project as to the need for a sub-threshold EIA in the light of the selection criteria laid down in Annex III / Schedule 4.</p>
10.6	Environmental quality standards, laid down in EU legislation and relevant to the project, or in which it is considered that there is such a failure? Note: If Yes, the application must be accompanied by a Report setting out how it is intended prevent, reduce, or manage potential impacts from the project.	<p>However, it is a 'good faith' assessment and submission by the Applicant. Responsibility ultimately rests with DAFM to ensure all relevant information requirements are fulfilled before making its determination.</p> <p>See the following layers on the iNET MapViewer: <i>Irish Wetlands</i>; <i>EPA Rivers 13</i>; the NPWS and NMS layers groups; <i>O.S Discovery 1:50,000</i>; and the <i>Latest</i> imagery.</p>
10.7	Densely populated areas? Note: If Yes, the application must be accompanied by a Report setting out how it is intended prevent, reduce, or	

	manage potential impacts from the project.	
10.8	<p>Landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance?</p> <p>Note: If Yes, the application must be accompanied by a Report setting out how it is intended prevent, reduce, or manage potential impacts from the project.</p>	
10.9	To the extent of the information available, are any residues, emissions or waste expected to arise from the project?	<p>Information on Waste, Emissions and Residues</p> <p>A processing residue is a substance that is not the end product(s) that a production process directly seeks to produce. It is not a primary aim of the production process and the process has not been deliberately modified to produce it.</p> <p>In the Industrial Emissions Directive, an ‘emission’ is defined as the direct or indirect release of substances, vibrations, heat or noise from individual or diffuse sources in the project, into air, water or land.</p> <p>EU law requires that all waste must be treated in an environmentally sound manner. Waste is defined as any substance or object which the holder discards or intends to or is required to discard.</p> <p>Examples of waste recovery include: (i) recycling; (ii) use as a fuel or other means to generate energy; or (iii) land spreading as a fertiliser if done properly in accordance with a plan.</p> <p>Examples that are not waste include: (i) uncontaminated soil and other naturally occurring material excavated in construction operations for certain use on the site of origin; and (ii) saw dust that the holder plans to use</p>
10.9.1	<p>Specify in the text box below, the types of residues, emissions or waste</p> <p><i>Textbox here:</i></p>	
10.9.2	<p>Are any significant effects on the environment likely from those residues, emissions or waste from the project?</p> <p>Note: If Yes, the application must be accompanied by a Report setting out how it is intended prevent, reduce, or manage residues, emissions or waste from the project.</p>	

		<p>beneficially, or which the holder intends to sell for use for animal bedding or to make MDF.</p> <p>The foregoing may include, but are not limited, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Planting bags, which may be recovered for re-use by the nurse. ➤ Oil and oil containers, which are required to be stored correctly and removed following operations. ➤ Fuel and fuel containers, which are required to be stored correctly and removed following operations. ➤ Any other fluid containers, which are required to be stored correctly and removed following operations. ➤ Lop-and-top and brash created or used during the operational phase of the project, which can be re-used as a nutrient source. <p>If 'yes' to Q.8.8, will the residues, emissions or waste produced have a significant environmental effect.</p> <p>If so, a report is required, detailing measures that will be taken to prevent, reduce, or manage the residues, emissions or waste outlined above.</p>
10.10	<p>To the extent of the information available, are any significant effects on the environment expected to result from the project through the use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity?</p> <p>Note: If Yes, the application must be accompanied by a Report setting out how it is intended prevent, reduce, or manage any significant effects on the environment expected to result from the project through the use of natural resources, in</p>	<p>Using the available information regarding the site and surrounding area, combined with the intended project works and submitted documentation, answer the question to the best of your ability.</p> <p>If 'yes', the application must be accompanied by a report setting out how it is intended prevent, reduce, or manage any significant effects on the environment expected to result from the project through the use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity.</p>

	particular soil, land, water and biodiversity.	
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Considerations: EIA Screening Decision		Guidance for Registered Forester
11.1	In coming to the conclusions on the likelihood of significant effects on the environment resulting from the project, has account been taken of any mitigation measures intended to avoid or effectively reduce impacts?	In <u>your</u> assessment of the project's influence on the environment, have you taken into account proposed mitigation measures to influence your assessment? Mitigation measures include any planned actions to reduce the environmental effects of the project.
11.1.1	Are the mitigation measures referred to standard mitigation measures which have been incorporated into the project design?	Note: Standard mitigations are those outlined in a forest policy documents issued by DAFM, in the individual scheme documents, and also in any associated requirements, standards and guidance issued by DAFM.
11.1.1.0	Which of the following standard mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project design? (Note, specifics regarding widths, locations, etc. must be identified on the submitted Biodiversity Map.)	
11.1.1.1	Water setback(s), in relation to aquatic zones, relevant watercourses, water-related hotspots, and water	See the following layers on the iNET MapViewer: <i>EPA Lakes 13; EPA Rivers 13; Water Abstraction Point 250m</i>

	abstraction points, on and adjoining the project area.	<i>buffer; Group Water Abstraction Points 250 Buffer; Raster 1:5000.</i>
11.1.1.2	Habitat setback(s), in relation to existing habitats on and adjoining the project area (including hedgerows).	
11.1.1.3	Archaeology setback(s), in relation to archaeology and built heritage features on or adjoining the project area.	
11.1.1.4	Appropriate design and implementation of water crossing point(s).	
11.1.1.5	Landscape design consideration(s) in terms of road alignment.	
11.1.1.6	Planting of native broadleaves as appropriate.	
11.1.1.7	Appropriate use and positioning of ancillary features including: associated aggregate sourcing / quarrying; spoil handling, stockpiling and deposition; and the location of water attenuation features.	
11.1.1.8	Road alignment and configuration relative to	See the following layers on the iNET MapViewer: <i>Water Mains Network; Water Mains Network (lateral).</i>

	known water mains infrastructure.	
11.1.1.9	Road alignment and configuration relative to known power line infrastructure.	See the following layers on the iNET MapViewer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the ESB / Other Buffers layer group; and the ESB High/Medium/Low Voltage Lines (August 2022) layer group.
11.1.1.10	Road alignment and configuration relative to known gas line infrastructure.	See the Gas Network Infrastructure (July 2022) layer group on the iNET MapViewer.
11.1.1.11	Road alignment and configuration relative to other critical infrastructure features.	
11.2	Have any non-standard mitigation measures been incorporated into the project design? <i>Textbox here:</i>	A non-standard mitigation is any mitigation that is not outlined in the forest policy, in the individual scheme documents, and also in any associated requirements, standards and guidance. If 'yes' to 11.9.2, specify the non-standard mitigation measures involved, and identify on the submitted Biodiversity Map.
11.2.1	Specify the non-standard mitigation measures involved, and identify on the submitted Biodiversity Map.	

end