

Note from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food

Re : Tree Felling Licences

Developers Please Note :

With certain exemptions, it is an offence, under the Forestry Act 1946, to fell trees without a felling licence having been granted by the Forest Service. Failure to obtain a felling licence when necessary, may result in a criminal prosecution.

If a planning permission issued is in respect of an area located within the boundaries of a town, borough or city council area, then a felling licence is not required. However, with very few exceptions, if it is proposed to fell trees anywhere else, a licence is required, irrespective of whether planning permission is held or not.

In cases where a landowner is convicted of illegal felling, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food makes a legally binding order to replant the trees that have been felled. A replanting order may affect the landowners right to proceed with the building development, or may cause the owner to suffer a substantial extra cost of having to buy alternative planting land. Not obtaining a tree felling licence when required can have serious consequences.

Therefore, developers are advised to contact the Felling Section, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford – Tel: (053) 9163400 before undertaking any tree felling.